



Call for Graduate Fellows Working on Writing Projects Behind and Beyond Bars

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

Memoir as a Tool for Movement Building and Deep Change

*Applications due Sunday, August 20, 2023
Interview invitations will go out Friday, August 25
Interviews take place the week of August 28*

In partnership with Humanities NY and the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook University, Herstory Writers Network is seeking to engage a new cohort of graduate fellows in literature, writing and public humanities, in piloting and refining a new online curriculum designed to be used asynchronously by people impacted by the carceral ecosystem.

Up to eight fellows, chosen competitively, will participate in a nine-month online inter-generational facilitator training institute, to enable them to incorporate innovative, empathy- and action-based practices into their current academic work, activist endeavors, and research projects, with the overarching goal of using memoir to change hearts, minds, and policy, one story at a time. We are seeking fellows who already have projects in carceral and carceral-adjacent settings underway, who are looking for new avenues to explore in using writing as a tool to change hearts, minds, policy, and/or systems, along with people who are still finding their way into the field.

Begun through a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, "Writing Beyond the Curriculum: Reimagining the Carceral Ecosystem" makes use of an empathy-based approach to sustained narrative writing that is being used in an ever-widening variety of settings behind and beyond bars. The project rapidly expanded to engage several cohorts of fellows in the creation of body of literature uniting people experiencing imprisonment, people in re-entry, prison families, people experiencing involuntary institutional through the psychiatric system, court involved youth, allies among judges, court advocates, corrections officers, policy makers, academics, prison abolitionists and much more.

This work is rooted in the deep-seated belief that writing at its best can conquer oppression. It can change hearts, minds and lives, and even policy sometimes. With each new cohort of fellows and working facilitators we see change and expansion in the pedagogy and practice of Herstory Writers Network, a community writing project that was born 27-years ago to ensure that the stories of marginalized and oppressed people might be shared in a way that could disrupt power structures, while creating a vibrant, ever-growing grassroots literature to be cherished, circulated, and taught.

This year's fellowship program will focus on developing workshops in partnership with existing human rights and human service organizations, academic institutes participating in prison reform, networks of prison families, healthcare organizations looking for new ways. We will be particularly interested in establishing new branches of our project:

- In partnership with a prison or jail
- In partnership with judges, probation and/or parole officers to create a body of narrative writing designed to change hearts, minds or policy

- Workshops with prison families and people in re-entry
- Workshops with people experiencing psychiatric institutionalizations.

Each fellow will initiate an ongoing writing project using the Herstory method during the course of the nine months. Following a 13-week hands-on training practicum, the fellows will take on field placements in which they will use Herstory's online curriculum, incorporating their discoveries into the curriculum website and exploring opportunities for its asynchronous use on a larger scale. They will participate in outreach and impact research as the project expands.

Throughout the training period, fellows will receive intensive mentoring from Herstory to enhance their pedagogical skills, literary practice, and professional development. Herstory will offer ongoing opportunities for publication, editing, transcription and translation, and archiving. The overarching goal is to provide each fellow with tools to lead their own community-based memoir writing groups and gain a deeper understanding of community-engaged pedagogies. Fellows will have an opportunity to participate in the development of online webinar and process materials for national and international dissemination. .

Special consideration will be given to candidates working with projects that advance the theory and practice of community writing, advocacy and the healing arts in carceral justice contexts. Fellows must have the flexibility in their current projects to incorporate Herstory's method into their current work, activists endeavors, and research projects.

Timeline

Fall 2023: Fellows will attend 13 weekly online training sessions (Thursdays 10:30-1:30 ET, beginning Sept. 7) to learn Herstory's method and begin their own memoir projects. They will meet regularly with the Herstory Writers Workshop's director and senior facilitators to develop their workshop facilitating skills and engagement in Herstory's ongoing projects. Each fellow will be helped to develop a personalized set of goals that align the opportunities of the training Institute with each individual's interests, strengths, and career plans, and create a specific plan to achieve these goals.

Winter 2023-2024: Fellows will work with Herstory mentors to develop and integrate Herstory-style writing workshops into their existing carceral justice projects and practices.

Spring 2024: Fellows will facilitate their own memoir writing workshops while receiving practicum support, completing their own memoir projects, and engaging in larger scholarly conversations on carceral justice through presentations or publication.

Throughout the project period, fellows will work closely with mentors from across Herstory's network to strategize how the stories generated by this project will be disseminated through online and print publication and public readings in order to make the pedagogy and its practice available to an ever-widening audience. They will play an active role in designing new ways to use story-based strategies for change.

Mentors will also help connect fellows to various publication opportunities, including the possibility for future work with the Herstory project as it continues to evolve and expand. They will be able to use the experience, knowledge, and skills they have gained through the training institute to pursue research and produce scholarly articles in the fields of public humanities and community-engaged writing.

To learn more about Herstory Writers Network, we invite you to visit www.herstorywriters.org

To learn more about the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook University, we invite you to visit <https://www.stonybrook.edu/humanities/>

Application for The Herstory Fellows Institute

Name _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Current Student: MA___ PhD___ Other_____

o FT___

o PT___

College or University/Department/Program: _____

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be in good standing as graduate students or currently employed as junior faculty.
- Applicants must be able to participate in ALL aspects of the 9-month Fellows Institute.

Selection Criteria:

- Alignment of applicants' backgrounds and experiences with the goals of the program to diversify the workforce in the arts, culture, health, and education sectors.
- Relevant skills/experience.
- Applicants' articulation of how the internship advances their academic and/or career goals.
- Passion for writing, interest in people and their stories, and commitment to social justice reform.

Possible Applicant Interests (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racial Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Restorative and Transformative Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQIA2S+ Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harm Reduction and Drug Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Trafficking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Abolition | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants' Rights and Border Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Sex Workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling and the Healing Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children of the Incarcerated | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Rights and Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community and Public Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness |

Other:

See next page for submission Instructions:

Submission Instructions

Applications are due by 11:59 pm ET on August 20, 2023

Please email the following materials to eduncan@herstorywriters.org and chad.seader@wmpenn.edu with subject line Herstory Fellows Institute Application 2023-2024.

Completed Application Form

Letter of Support from a graduate advisor or department chair specifying how the work will enhance the applicant's area of study or from a community, institutional, or organization partner for your proposed fellowship project.

Application Essay (500-600 words): Explain how your background, skills, interests and career goals make you a good fit for this fellowship (refer to relevant selection criteria listed above).

Writing Sample: Please attach to your application a writing sample of 1500-2000 words (creative, analytical, fiction or nonfiction are acceptable).