



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Call for Proposals: ISERP Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Seminar (IIGSS)

The theme for the Fall 2024 IIGSS is “Identity: The Power and Limits of Identity in Shaping Communities and Political Action.” This theme would explore how individual and collective identities can influence political participation and community involvement. Ideally, papers would explore identities such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, etc, while also looking at both identity’s strengths and limits.

During this semester, we will organize four panels of presentations, taking place between September 25th and December 12th. We will group 2 or 3 papers with similar themes into one panel. Final dates and times will be announced closer to the first presentation. We expect seminars to take place in-person in accordance with University guidance, provided campus risk levels for COVID-19 remain low and that campus remains open to students. However, we will honor requests from presenters to present virtually, and all seminars will retain a virtual component to allow those who cannot be on campus to participate. Presenters will speak for the first half-hour, and then the remainder of the session will be dedicated to questions and conversation; if requested, professors can be invited from other disciplines to provide comments and advice for the presenting student. In addition, this semester’s IIGSS series will strive to include talks from professors across the disciplines, as well as provide a happy hour at the beginning of the semester.

Interdisciplinarity has long been encouraged among the social sciences as a means of rethinking contemporary social questions that exceed the scope of traditional disciplinary approaches. Yet, there is still little consensus about what interdisciplinarity might look like and what its practical limits and possibilities might be. This seminar, sponsored by the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), seeks to foster a conversation across the social science communities at Columbia to discuss the diverse ways in which interdisciplinarity can be mobilized. The goal of the seminar series is to explore how interdisciplinary approaches can contribute to and enrich traditional disciplines and what such interdisciplinarity demands from them.

This Call for Proposals is open to graduate students in the social sciences and related disciplines at Columbia University. We seek contributions from scholars who are actively trying to incorporate

interdisciplinary approaches and methods in their work, and who centralize the interdisciplinary component in their project proposal. Students have the opportunity to present papers on a range of topics and methods including, but not limited to, the social sciences, humanities, arts and culture, policy, and security. In addition to providing the opportunity to present works-in-progress, the seminar will foster discussion across disciplines and fields, creating opportunities for collaborative research.

The **2024 Fall submission guidelines** are as follows:

1. In order to qualify, papers should further the efforts of ISERP and the IIGSS to develop collaborative and interdisciplinary research and methods. Collaborative projects by students in different disciplines are especially encouraged.
2. To apply, please email applications to the IIGSS Committee at iserp-iigss@columbia.edu **by Friday, September 18th, 2022 at 5:00PM EST**. Final decisions for papers to be presented at the workshop will be announced by **September 25th, 2022**.
3. Applications should include:
 1. *A Research Proposal*. Research proposals (300-500 words) should focus primarily on the interdisciplinary method at hand and include a brief description of how the project will enhance traditional disciplinary approaches and benefit from participation in the IIGSS. Research proposals will be judged by the IIGSS committee composed of doctoral students from 5 social science departments. Therefore, ensure that research proposals can be understood by those outside of your own field.
 2. Four key words for your proposal.
 3. *Curriculum Vitae* or *Resume*.

Selected presenters will be encouraged to emphasize in their presentations the way in which a need for interdisciplinarity emerged from the consideration of their object of study. In particular, they will be encouraged to discuss how specific analytical and methodological challenges were overcome and dealt with by recurring to methods and theories coming from allied disciplines different from their own. Given the online format of the presentations, presenters are highly encouraged to prepare PowerPoint slides (these do not need to be included in the original submission). If selected, presenters are also expected to attend the other seminars in the series.

Please format all filenames using “Lastname - Proposal” and “Lastname - CV” (e.g., “DiPrete - Proposal”, “DiPrete and Connelly - Proposal”, or “DiPrete - CV”).

The **ISERP Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Seminar (IIGSS)** seeks to promote inquiry that crosses geographic, temporal, or disciplinary boundaries, by creating new opportunities for dialogue among graduate students in the social sciences, and by exploring new methodological and research approaches. The IIGSS is organized by a committee of doctoral students. The Committee consists of: Zarino Lanni (Anthropology), Dany Niangar (Political Science), Zheng Fu (Sociology), Hazel Richards (History).