FIELDWORK RESEARCH GRANT IN ANTHROPOLOGY
COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

DEADLINE: Monday, April 24, 2023 at noon

The Barnard Anthropology Department is pleased to announce the 2023 Fieldwork Research Grant in Anthropology. This competitive grant was created through a generous gift from an anonymous donor and is designed to support ethnographic or archaeological research undertaken in anticipation of a Senior Thesis in Anthropology. It is open to all declared Anthropology majors at Barnard, primarily for field research during the summer between one's junior and years, although exceptions may be made depending on personal circumstances. Applicants must submit a PDF their proposal following the format provided below. Proposals should be emailed to Prof. Sharp at lsharp@barnard.edu **no later than Monday, April 24 at noon with the following subject heading: "RESEARCH PROPOSAL – [your last name]."** In past years, awards have ranged from $200 to $1000, depending on the availability of funds. Only proposals with a strong fieldwork component (ethnographic or archaeological) will be considered. Funds are not intended for archival research, per the donor's request. **This competition is open only to students majoring in Anthropology (all major tracks are eligible)**.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Your proposal, as outlined here, should follow the format required by many funding agencies. You should aim for a clearly written proposal that outlines in specific terms what you hope to do. It should be well organized and eloquent, but jargon-free. The language should be strong and confident (when possible, state "I will..." instead of "I hope..." or "I wish..."). Your full proposal (maximum 7 pages, including all parts noted below) must include **all** of the following sections by the due date in order to be considered for this competition:

I.   Cover Sheet (1 page, single-spaced)

II. Project Proposal (2 pages, double-spaced)

III. A Detailed Budget (1 page, single-spaced)

IV. Bibliography (1 page, single-spaced)

V.   Human Subjects Protection Statement (1-2 paragraphs, double-spaced)

All materials must be typed, with one-inch margins, in 12 point type. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your advisor or Prof Sharp.

I. Cover Sheet (1 page)

The Cover Sheet should include the title of your proposal, your name, the date of submission, and a brief abstract or summary of your proposal in no more than 150 words. The *proposal title* should state clearly the focus of your research. Poetic titles are fine, but beware: you don't want to use something that is so obscure that the review committee cannot identify your purpose. The *abstract* should comprise a brief and straightforward description of your project, identifying the most important feature(s), aim(s), and goal(s) of your research. In addition, the abstract should identify your informants, datasets, archives, and/or methods.

II. Project Proposal (2 pages, double-spaced)

The project proposal should provide the reader with a clear overview of the research you plan to undertake. It should include the following parts:

a. <u>Introduction</u>: Begin with a paragraph that introduces the reader to your topic. The opening sentence should be particularly strong and clearly state your research topic right from the start. In the remainder of the paragraph, briefly identify the problem(s) (or phenomena) you wish to investigate and your understanding of its/their anthropological significance.

b. <u>Background</u>: Your second paragraph should be a brief summary of what is known or what research has already been accomplished on your topic by other researchers. Include a short literature review (identifying the most relevant texts for your topic and making their significance clear) and a statement about what it is you might add to the existing literature. The sources cited in this section should be included in your bibliography. In addition, you may want to discuss your biographical position within the project (as an active participant, new member, complete outsider, etc.).

c. <u>Research Description</u>: This is the meat (or tofu) of the proposal, a comprehensive explanation of its purpose and objectives. Consider these questions: Why do you wish to investigate your topic? What makes it so compelling? What sorts of questions and/or hypotheses drive your research? What do you want to accomplish? Be realistic! Be sure to include information on WHERE you will do your research and WHO and WHAT will be the focus of your work. As in all grant competitions, we will be paying special attention to the links between your core research questions and the data you intend to collect to answer these questions.

d. <u>Methodology</u>: This is often the hardest part of the proposal to write, even for seasoned anthropologists. Please be specific and detailed in your description of your data collection plans and methods. Because this grant focuses specifically on field research, your methods must be strong and clearly articulated.

    If *ethnographic*, interviews and participant-observation will most likely be central to your research. (This does not mean, however, that you should necessarily limit yourself to these methods—other categories of data collection may be helpful, too.) How, where, and when will you undertake participant-observation? During interviews, how many informants will you need? How will you identify them, and how will you categorize them (i.e. by socioeconomic parameters such as gender, age, ethnicity, age, class, etc.)? Present a reasonable scope of ethnographic activities in accordance with your resources at the time.

    If *archaeological*, your methods might include survey, excavations, artifact analyses, and/or interviews. Much archaeological fieldwork is undertaken in teams; in this case, you must describe the field school, research expedition, or other forms of collaboration. Other archaeological fieldwork takes place in laboratories where primary artifacts are located; in this case, you should clearly describe the collections you will be studying, the facility in which they are housed, any special equipment needed for your analysis, the means by which you will be sampling the collection, and so on. Still other archaeological fieldwork involves interviews with descendant communities: here, your methodological description should parallel those of

ethnographic projects. Whatever sort of archaeological research you propose, it is important to identify the data you intend to produce—maps, counts of animal bones, measurements of sherds, iconographic patterns, etc.—and how these data relate to your research questions. Also, how much time will be needed to accomplish your goals?

Whatever your project, you should be able to articulate how your methods address the research questions you have identified.

e. <u>Time Table</u>: Describe the schedule you will set for yourself over the course of the weeks and/or months to follow in such a way that it is clear you can complete the project successfully in the time allotted. Two or three sentences will suffice.

f. <u>Special Qualifications</u>: This section is optional, and should be brief if you choose to include it (again, only two or three sentences). This is where you may wish to stress your language fluency if you plan to conduct research in a language other than English; your technical training if you plan to conduct, say, zooarchaeological or ceramic analyses; where you plan to live while conducting research; and/or any contacts you already have that you feel will help you conduct a successful project.

g. <u>Conclusion</u>: Provide a brief paragraph summarizing the project; take a moment, too, to express your confidence in carrying out this proposed work.

III. Budget (1 page maximum, single-spaced)
On a separate page, itemize the expenses you expect to incur during your research and justify each category in a sentence or two. Keep in mind that this grant does not cover salary but, rather, is designed to assist you with, for example, travel costs, housing and food, writing, computer, and/or photographic supplies, etc. You are required to submit receipts at the end of your research period, so please be certain to keep these in a safe place.

IV. Bibliography (1 page, single-spaced)
Be sure to include not only scholarly book titles but also up-to-date articles and/or book chapters (again, from academic sources). In most cases, your authors should be anthropologists or, more generally, social scientists. In composing this bibliography, follow AAA guidelines (for instructions see a current issue of the journal *American Anthropologist*). All citations within you proposal must be accompanied by an entry in the bibliography.

V. Human Subjects Protection Statement (1-2 paragraphs, double-spaced)
This section is where you should address the ethical issues relevant to your project. If your project is *ethnographic*, how are interviewees and/or others put at risk as a result of your activities? Who are the human subjects relevant to your project? Who (what types or categories of people) will you involve? Will any minors be involved? Or any other vulnerable or stigmatized populations? How will you select participants? How will you acquire consent—written or oral—to do your fieldwork, or to interview people? How will you protect their identities? (A common strategy includes the use of pseudonyms for people and locations.) Where will you store your data to protect people's privacy? If your project is *archaeological*, in what ways might your intended activities affect descendant communities or disturb potentially sensitive landscapes? What will happen with the materials with which you work?

In short, use this section to consider where your responsibilities lie and to whom (such as fellow students, other ethnographers, anthropologists more generally). What will you do to avoid causing harm? What are the risks associated with your project? Under what circumstances, if any, might anyone (interviewees, yourself, acquaintances and their kin, etc.) involved in your research be put at risk? What are the short- and long-term effects of your research? How do you plan to mitigate these risks? Strike a balance between being brief yet thoughtful.

If you plan to undertake interviews as part of your research, **please also include a 1-paragraph statement** that you will use to describe your project to informants. Specify whether you intend to read this aloud to informants or have them read it themselves. Remember that you must be honest about your intentions; you must also make it clear that all participation is voluntary and that participants have the right to suspend, terminate, or withdraw from the study and/or questioning at any time. They also have the right to refuse to answer any of your questions during the course of the interview. Finally, make it clear that pseudonyms will be used to protect identities. At the end, leave room where you can both sign and date the form or, depending on the nature of your research, where you (at least) sign and date the form, using a code name for each person, so that you have a record that informed consent was given.

If you will be conducting your research in a language other than English, please provide the statement in the field language, followed by an English translation. These forms must be stored in a safe place; you may not conduct an interview if you have not first acquired informed consent.

In instances involving funded ethnographic projects, you will be required to draw up a preliminary "interview schedule"—that is, an anticipated list of approximately ten open-ended questions that you will use when interviewing research participants. Please consult with a faculty member before leaving for the field.

All students—ethnographers and archaeologists—must complete RASCAL/CITI human subjects certification before departing for the field. Please note that if you are funded you may not begin your project (and funds will not be released to you) until you have completed the RASCAL/CITI tutorial on-line. Details on how to do this are in an envelope posted on the bulletin board in the Department suite.