

# THE UNCF/MELLON FACULTY SEMINAR

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY PRIOR TO PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

We welcome your interest in applying to the UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar!

**The 2024 Mellon International Faculty Seminar**

**July 14-24, 2024**

***Comparative Carnival Through the Diasporic Lens: International Setting of Brazil***

The UNCF/Mellon Programs are pleased to offer the 2024 Faculty International Seminar in Brazil (Salvador and Rio de Janeiro). This year's seminar will be an immersive experience that centers the logics and logistics of carnival in order to both compare and engage with the various Afro-Diasporic practices, traditions, and cultures that connect us within the Black transatlantic, across histories and colonial powers. From the Americas (including the Caribbean) to the United Kingdom, the 2024 Seminar in Brazil contributes to the robust international conversations that center carnival practices as intrinsic to subversive acts of resistance, while calling for attention to race and gender (in)equalities within Black transatlantic communities. As a process of reclamation, in response to histories of human trade, enslavement, conquest, and environmental transformation, Carnival occurs throughout the year with many observing Catholic liturgical dates (Lenten and Christmas periods), work stoppages (Labor Day or Boxing Day), harvest seasons (Crop Over/Kadooment Day in Barbados) and emancipation days (Mashramani in Guyana).

Because Brazil is one of the few countries that is known for its robust carnival culture, this comparative carnival seminar will examine how Black transatlantic carnival and festival arts emerge from the margins of society producing analogs across Lusophone, Anglophone, Francophone, and Hispanophone spaces. We will also invest in humanist research and pedagogies that are methodologically distinct, while combining knowledge production from academic institutions with community knowledge-holders. In turn, the seminar will support faculty members in developing a deeper understanding of the culturally entangled knowledge(s) and practices of carnival across the Black transatlantic. In particular, we will underscore how these variegated carnivalistic iterations manifest themselves in literature, poetry, visual art, and performance, as well as in qualitative research. In effect, professors of art, performance, humanities, the humanistic social sciences, visual, and/or material culture are invited to apply to join a peer-supported learning community devoted to creating innovative pedagogies that engage with Caribbean and African Diasporic carnival culture(s). Applications are equally welcome from educators interested in talking about forms of African cultural retention throughout human history. This seminar understands the significance of cultural respect and diversity; we further recognize the intelligence and wisdom different beliefs and practices add to the study of Afro-diasporic carnival practices. Faculty are therefore encouraged to revisit their religious tolerances in the interest of mutual respect, accountability, and communal engagement. Participants in this peer-supported learning community will convene for a 10-day program across two cities: Rio De Janeiro and Salvador.

**MELLON FACULTY SUMMER SEMINAR DATES: JULY 14-24, 2024**

## ELIGIBILITY

The Mellon Faculty Seminars were conceived as enrichment opportunities for faculty who teach at the **member colleges and universities of the United Negro College Fund**. The Selection Committee invites applications from **tenure-track and tenured faculty trained or teaching in Mellon disciplines and fields**. The Mellon Faculty Seminars will be composed of both junior and senior scholars who hold faculty appointments at UNCF institutions. Preference will be given to junior faculty scholars whose teaching and scholarship can be enhanced by participation in this seminar.

Faculty projects may contribute to scholarly knowledge in a discipline or field, or to the general public's understanding of scholarship in the academy. The work of recipients should result in publication, exhibition, curricular reform or some other concrete product. Like the Faculty Seminars, projects must be based in Mellon supported fields and disciplines. These fields and disciplines are:

- *Anthropology and Archaeology*
- *Area/Cultural/Ethnic/Gender Studies*
- *Art History*
- *Classics*
- *Geography and Population Studies*
- *English*
- *Interdisciplinary Studies: Interdisciplinary areas of study may be eligible if they have one or more Mellon fields at their core*
- *Film, Cinema and Media Studies (theoretical focus)*
- *Musicology, Ethnomusicology and Music Theory*
- *Foreign Languages and Literatures*
- *History*
- *Linguistics*
- *Literature*
- *Performance Studies (theoretical focus)*
- *Philosophy and Political Theory*
- *Religion and Theology*
- *Sociology*
- *Theater (non-performance focus)*

## THE AWARD

The award covers the expenses associated with participation in the Mellon Faculty Seminar. The award includes the following for each seminar participant:

- One round trip ticket to/from Brazil and all associated travel expenses
- **A private room and some meals during the period of the faculty seminar. Participants will be expected to cover the expenses of some of their meals as indicated on the Seminar schedule.**
- \$500.00 for a book allowance in order to purchase required reading materials for the seminar
- \$500.00 for a book allowance for course development and research

If selected, faculty members are required to participate in all activities associated with the Mellon Faculty Seminar, including excursions to historical sites.

In order to stimulate the dissemination and interrogation of themes and questions central to the Mellon Faculty Seminars, upon their return, seminar participants are required to present their Mellon supported research in colloquia and conferences.

## TRAVEL TO BRAZIL

This program is not suitable for persons who have had recent surgeries or who have chronic medical conditions that impair their motor abilities. In addition, the terrain in Salvador is not friendly to persons with mobility challenges. Please be advised that all selected participants will be required to submit documentation from their physician indicating that they are able to travel and navigate a difficult terrain. All citizens of the United States and certain other countries traveling to Brazil are required to have a valid passport and a visa. There are currently no required immunizations for entry into Brazil. Applicants should be advised that the physical, cultural and linguistic environment of Brazil may be challenging. Partners, spouses, children and others may **not** accompany seminar

participants during the seminar. Seminar participants may arrange for partners, spouses, children and others to travel to join them during the final days of the Seminar and at their own expense. Seminar participants must consult with the UNCF/Mellon Programs office **prior** to making arrangements for others to join them in Brazil.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Applications must be typed and must consist of the following materials.**

- ☐ A completed application form (please save electronic files as follows: LastName, FirstName Mellon 2024; e.g., *Spence, Cynthia Mellon 2024*)
- ☐ A one-page abstract that summarizes the project's purpose, goals and objectives
- ☐ A one-page detailed description of the project that contains mention of the importance of the project to the applicant's disciplinary field of inquiry as well as the impact of the project upon pedagogy
- ☐ A full discussion of how the applicant's current teaching and/or scholarship is related to the theme and content of the seminar (2 pages maximum)
- ☐ A current curriculum vitae
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation (please forward this link to your recommender):  
<https://forms.gle/rWkPN4G82jmZU7BfA>
- ☐ A letter from the Provost **or** Dean of Faculty confirming the applicant's status as a tenure track or tenured member of the faculty

Please note that all eligible applicants may be interviewed by the Selection Committee via telephone or Zoom during the selection process. The Programs Office will contact all eligible applicants in advance to schedule the interviews.

Applications are reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee of specialists and scholars. Abstracts and project descriptions should be written with the composition of the Selection Committee in mind.

## **DEADLINE**

The deadline for the 2024 Mellon Faculty Seminar applications is **January 31, 2024**. Applications are considered once each year. Applications must be received electronically no later than the deadline. Please email applications to [info@uncfmellon.org](mailto:info@uncfmellon.org) For seminar information, applicants may contact Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence at [cspence@spelman.edu](mailto:cspence@spelman.edu).

**For further information, please contact our programs office at 404.270.5685. Additional information is also available on our website: [www.uncfmellon.org](http://www.uncfmellon.org)**

THE UNCF/MELLON FACULTY SEMINAR

# APPLICATION

DEADLINE: January 31, 2024 (RECEIPT)

## APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of Specialization: \_\_\_\_\_

UNCF Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cellular phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-Binary Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Applicant's Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list your most recent publications.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how long you have been teaching at your current institution.

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Please indicate the courses that you are currently teaching at your institution.

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\_\_\_\_\_

Have you received any curriculum development grants? If yes, please indicate the source of the funding and title(s) of your curricular initiative(s).

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Please list any faculty development experiences in which you have participated. Please indicate dates and locations.

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## REFERENCE

Please provide the name and complete address of the persons who will be submitting recommendations on your behalf. Physical letters are not required; the recommendations should be completed via this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/rWkPN4G82jmZU7BfA>

Name of Referee: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please remember to:

- Include your institutional statement confirming your status as a tenured or tenure-track faculty member,
- Attach the requisite supplementary files (see application checklist), and
- Send the recommendation link to the persons writing on your behalf:  
<https://forms.gle/rWkPN4G82jmZU7BfA>