
Solicitation for Proposals

UIC's Chicago Area Study Initiative

2011 Faculty Investigator(s)

DEADLINE: MONDAY, NOV 9, 2009

Description of the CAS Initiative

The Chicago Area Study (CAS) is an annual study that collects data on race and ethnicity in Chicago. Funded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, its purpose is to

- **collect original social science data** that inform policymaking and social science theory
- **provide hands-on methods training** to students in both survey and qualitative methods
- **fund (and seed) UIC faculty research** on race and ethnicity in an urban context

These goals are accomplished through an annual, year-long funding/grant and training program, in which the faculty investigators who are selected both accomplish their research objectives, and in the process train graduate students to design, test, implement, and analyze the study and its findings.

Each year the method of inquiry alternates between survey and qualitative methods, as does the specific topic of the study and the faculty investigator. Yet each CAS provides accurate and credible data on race/ethnicity in the Chicago area, high quality, practicum-based research methods training for UIC students, and research funds, research assistance, and course release for UIC faculty investigators.

Description of the 2011 CAS Faculty Research Grant

We are currently seeking proposals from individuals or research teams interested in being the Faculty Investigator (FI) for the 2011 Chicago Area Study. For the 2011 CAS, we seek a faculty member who is prepared to engage in a qualitative investigation (e.g., in-depth interviews, focus groups, observations, etc.). Competitive proposals will outline a research project that

- (1) is limited in scope (can be accomplished in a two semester practicum);
- (2) can meaningfully involve graduate students in the process of research design, data collection, and analysis; and
- (3) focuses on a research topic that addresses issues of race/ethnicity in an urban context.

The FI(s) would also commit to participating in the instruction of a two-semester research methods practicum course offered through the sociology department (with cross-listings possible in the FI(s) home department), and open to graduate students throughout UIC.

Description of the 2011 CAS Practicum

The practicum sequence begins with a course offered in the Spring 2011 semester and concludes with a course offered the following Fall semester of 2011. The Director of the CAS will serve as the lead instructor for the Spring 2011 course, providing the core of the research methods instruction. However, the FI(s) are expected to participate in course development, attend course meetings, and provide substantive leadership in the development of the research project. The FI(s) are the sole instructors for the fall semester practicum course,

which focuses on analysis of the data collected in the Spring/Summer. Collaborative projects and inter-disciplinary proposals are welcome and encouraged.

Eligibility

Tenured or tenure-track faculty with full-time appointments at UIC are eligible to apply.

Individuals are encouraged to attend a proposal preparation workshop on October 15th at 10:00 am in 1250 University Hall to learn more about this initiative, discuss if and how their project might work within its structure, and get advice on preparing their proposal. Alternatively, individuals may contact the director, Professor Maria Krysan (krysan@uic.edu) with any questions.

Award

The FI for the 2011 Chicago Area Study will receive:

1. Research funds to support the data collection. A maximum of \$20,000 from the CAS initiative will be available to support the FIs research project. There will be an initial (unconditional) award of \$8,000. FIs who apply for external funding to supplement the project will be awarded an additional \$2,000 (regardless of whether the proposal is successful). FIs who are successful in raising external funds will have the direct costs of any funds raised, matched dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$10,000.
2. A graduate student assistant in the Spring 2011 semester to support the research/training effort; and
3. Release from teaching two courses.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated on:

1. Methodological or substantive importance of the proposed project and its contribution to the understanding of race/ethnicity in an urban context;
2. Quality and feasibility of the proposed design within the CAS structure;
3. Likelihood that the research will be completed during the practicum sequence;
4. Potential for securing external funds; and
5. Ability to provide meaningful training for students.

Submission Materials

To be considered, please submit the following:

1. A 5-7 page (excluding bibliography, tables, budgets and appendices) proposal that includes the following elements:
 - a. Statement of the research problem, indicating the substantive and methodological importance of the research.
 - b. Description of the fit between your research goals/needs and the goals/needs of the CAS initiative as described above.
 - c. An assessment of the feasibility of the research project within the structure of the Chicago Area Study, as described above (e.g., time frame, graduate student involvement, etc.).
 - d. Identification of any unique problems that may be encountered in the research.

2. Project Budget and Budget Narrative. In constructing your budget, be sure to include all costs associated with data collection and processing. Include in the budget any funds you would use to pay graduate students for additional work during the summer as well as expenses for data collection during the practicum itself. Students are not paid for research conducted while enrolled in the practicum, but any expenses required for the students to conduct the research during the course must be included in the budget. It is expected that you will seek additional external sources of funding for your project. Efforts (successful and unsuccessful) will translate into additional CAS funding for the project. Thus, in developing the budget for your project, it is understood that the research expenses may exceed the initial \$8,000 award. Therefore, please indicate how the scope of the project will increase or decrease depending on the outcome of your efforts to secure additional funds.
3. List of potential sources of external funds. Please identify likely sources of external funds for your project, and include a brief description of what components of the project they are likely to fund and how the addition of these funds will enhance the scope and quality of the research project.
4. A current curriculum vita for all faculty members on the project.
5. A letter of support from the unit or department head of the FI's. Included in this letter of support should be a statement that the department, if the application is successful, will allow at least one of the FIs (if there are multiple FIs) to teach the second semester CAS practicum course (on data analysis), which can be cross-listed in the FIs home department, as one course in their teaching obligation for the AY 2011-2012.

Submission Date

Proposals are due on **Monday, November 9, 2009**. Successful applicants will be notified no later than **December 2, 2009**. Please e-mail an electronic version (in one PDF file) by 5pm on November 9, 2009 to Professor Krysan (krysan@uic.edu). The receipt of the application will be acknowledged; if you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 hours of submission, please contact Professor Krysan.