

American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming
Fellowship for the Study of 20th Century American Popular Culture

The University of Wyoming's [American Heritage Center](#) (AHC) invites applications for the Fellowship for the Study of 20th Century American Popular Culture through March 31, 2021. The fellowship aims to support a 20-day research stay at the AHC. Funding is available to late postdoctoral investigators and new faculty (those at or below the rank of Assistant Professor) who will use materials from the AHC's premier holdings in American popular culture.

Research Fields

The AHC's performing arts collections are among the largest and most significant found nationally. Particular strengths include the papers and records of producers, directors, actors, musicians, and scriptwriters. Regarding the cartoon and comic book industry, AHC collections are unique in documenting the composers, editors and writers of these industries increasingly recognized by scholars as having a significant impact on the nation's popular culture. Vis-à-vis authors, the AHC collects the papers of Western fiction and poetry writers with an emphasis on Wyoming writers. There are also significant papers of modern science fiction authors. Additionally, the AHC collects materials pertaining to the "Western image" as represented by writers, artists, film makers, and others.

Topics that could draw on the collections' strengths are many. They might include pre-code era films such as *Baby Face* (1933) starring Barbara Stanwyck; behind-the-scenes look at Stan Lee's and Jack Kirby's creation of the hit comic book characters, the Fantastic Four; the life story of Harry S. Ackerman, the "dean of television comedy," or Robert Bloch, the author of *Psycho* and other crime, horror, fantasy and science fiction; immigration issues faced by western film and television actor Duncan Renaldo, aka "The Cisco Kid;" and the work of Anne Hummert who, along with husband Frank, was a leading creator of soap operas during the 1930s and 40s;

Features of the Fellowship

The fellowship includes a \$3,000 stipend. Fellows will be in residence at the AHC for one month (20 business days) over a 15-month period after notification. For in-residence research of less than 20 days, the stipend will be pro-rated.

As a direct result of the Fellowship award, Fellows are expected to prepare a precis outlining sources consulted, how those sources shaped the research findings, and how the Fellow will incorporate this information into a final product. Credit the AHC in subsequent publications and provide copies to the AHC of final publication or work.

Payment of Stipends

The Fellow will receive the stipend at the end of their stay and receipt of the precis. No advances will be authorized.

Fellows are responsible for arranging their transportation, lodging, and meals during residency. Travel directions to Laramie, Wyoming, University of Wyoming campus maps, and possible lodging can be found here: www.uwyo.edu/admissions/visit/.

Application

Proposals for the 2021 Fellowship Program (no more than two single-spaced pages) should include a personal statement of purpose, the project parameters, and specific reference to how the AHC's collections will significantly contribute to the ultimate success of the proposed project. In an attachment to the proposal, please also include the applicant's CV; a timeline outlining the plan of research and dates for anticipated products; and names and contact information of three references.

Proposals will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed project draws upon the collections of the AHC.
- The research project's potential contribution to the understanding of western politics and politicians in American history.
- The potential for professional presentation and/or publication upon completion of the Fellow's research.
- The applicant's ability to complete the research project in a timely fashion.

A selection committee composed of AHC staff and University of Wyoming faculty will choose each year's Fellow. The recipient will be informed by e-mail.

Please email all application materials by March 31, 2021, to AHC Archivist Leslie Waggener at lwaggen2@uwyo.edu.

Information about the American Heritage Center

The AHC is a public research institution located on the campus of the University of Wyoming in Laramie. The AHC houses collections of local, regional and national significance. Its holdings emphasize the American West, from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century. It has extensive collections in military history, popular entertainment (including Hollywood and comics), mining and petroleum, as well as the environment and natural resources. The AHC also serves as the University of Wyoming's manuscripts repository, rare books library, and university archives. With more than 90,000 cubic feet of material and 3500 collections, the AHC stands among the largest non-governmental repositories in the nation. To learn more about the AHC, please see www.uwyo.edu/ahc/.