

The Religion in Mississippi History Research Fellowship

Made possible by a grant through Lilly Endowment's Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative.

The Religion in Mississippi History Research Fellowship encourages and supports research in the study of Mississippi's religious history and culture at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The program seeks to nurture upper-level graduate and doctoral students to increase their life-long interest in history, and to promote continued academic and public appreciation of the study of religious history in Mississippi.

One research fellowship with a stipend of \$5,000 will be offered, and the recipient is expected to be in residence for a minimum of two weeks during the summer to conduct research in the archival collections held at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson, Mississippi. At the conclusion of their stay, the Religion in Mississippi History Research Fellowship recipient will be asked to give an informal yet professional presentation and submit a summary report on the fellow's research findings.

The stipend may be used to cover travel, accommodations, and other expenses during the recipient's time researching at the archives. (Ineligible costs include computer equipment, hardware, or software; childcare, and photo framing/matting.) The stipend will be paid in increments, with the final payment given upon submission of the summary report.

The Lilly Endowment, Inc. and MDAH will have the opportunity to utilize the product(s) if they are deemed appropriate and of benefit to the sponsoring parties.

Please visit our FAQ page for more information about conducting research in the many archival collections at MDAH using the online catalog and at the William F. Winter Building.

Important Dates:

- **Application Deadline:** March 1, 2024
- **Selection Announcement:** by early April 2024
- **Summer Research Term:** Minimum 2 weeks, May–September

Submit the application packet electronically to lheller@mdah.ms.gov or by mail to
Laura Heller, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Religion in Mississippi History
Research Fellowship Program, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571

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2024 Fellowship Application Form

Application Deadline: March 1, 2024 (5:00 p.m. CST)

Applicant's Name _____

Applicant's Institution _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Please include the following items in the application package:

1. Fellowship Application Form

2. Proposal (no more than five pages, typed, double-spaced)

- Describe the proposed research topic, methodology, use of MDAH holdings, and research product(s).
 - Explain how this research will utilize the primary resources at MDAH and explain why the MDAH holdings are appropriate to this research. Indicate by series and title the specific holdings to be used.
 - Explain the research methodology to be used for this project. Include a brief description of preliminary research and a selected bibliography of works that directly influence the proposal.
 - Include a description of the intended product(s) which may include a paper, dissertation, article, book, lecture, exhibit, broadcast, and/or website.
- Indicate your anticipated schedule.
- Indicate your estimated expenses (travel, housing, and other research expenses).

3. Curriculum Vita

4. Two letters of recommendation (Submit directly to Laura Anne Heller at address below)

The fellowship recipient will be selected and notified no later than April 30, 2024.

Submit the application packet electronically to lheller@mdah.ms.gov or by mail to
Laura Heller, Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Religion in Mississippi History
Research Fellowship Program, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Eligibility

The Religion in Mississippi History Research Fellowship recipient must be an upper-level student enrolled in a graduate program at an accredited college or university, or a faculty member early in their academic career.

Selection Criteria

Scholastic contribution

- How will this proposed work contribute to the scholarly research on religious history in Mississippi and/or the nation?
- What is the potential of this applicant to contribute to new and unexplored understandings of history, movements, and changes in religion in Mississippi?
- How will this proposed work contribute to scholarly research on history of religion or cultures of faith, and contribute new understandings of this overall topic?
- How will the product promote or encourage future study of the topic?

Proposed research topic, methodology, use of MDAH holdings, and research product(s)

- How will this research utilize the primary resources at MDAH? How appropriate are collections on religious history and other holdings at MDAH to this research?
- What is the proposed research methodology?
- How innovative is the proposed research?
- What is the overall quality and clarity of the proposal?
- Is the product appropriate to the research topic?

Anticipated schedule

- Is the schedule reasonable and does it include adequate research time on-site during the two-week minimum stay?

Estimated expenses (travel, housing, and other)

- Are expenses reasonable and in accordance with the guidelines presented?

Curriculum Vita

Sample of work (20 pages maximum)

Two letters of recommendation

- Letters must be received by the application deadline.
- Letters may be sent electronically to lheller@mdah.ms.gov or by mail to Laura Heller, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Religion in Mississippi History Research Fellowship Program, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571