



WINSTON-SALEM
STATE UNIVERSITY



August 10, 2023

Dear UNCSA faculty, WSSU faculty and Interested Community Members,

I am happy to announce that the Spatial Justice Studio at the Center for Design Innovation (SJS@CDI) will be accepting Faculty/Community Fellows applications for the 2023-2024 academic year. The Faculty/Community Fellows program is open to all faculty at UNCSA and WSSU, as well as interested community members. This year's program will allow past fellows to reapply for funding to continue their research into issues of spatial justice impacting the community.

The Spatial Justice Studio seeks to establish and sustain interinstitutional, interdisciplinary, and inter-sectoral programs that bring faculty, students and the community together across disciplines into diverse experiences to develop meaningful solutions to issues related to *spatial (in)justice*. The SJS will explore alternative possibilities for urban areas and ways of achieving more equitable urban futures through active research agendas, engaged teaching practices and community based participatory research which will lead to the creation/regeneration of equitable, functional and sustainable communities for all.

This letter explains a significant opportunity ***for up to three (3) selected Spatial Justice Faculty/Community Fellows***, whom we will sponsor with an up to \$4,000 stipend this year on top of your salary (Details to follow at the end of this letter).

“Spatial justice refers to general access to public goods, basic services, cultural goods, economic opportunity and healthy environments through fair, inclusive and efficient spatial planning, design and management of urban and rural spaces and resources” (Rocco 2014, 14).

The SJS@CDI has been established to explore a myriad of topics related to spatial justice including: What is spatial (in)justice? What does spatial (in)justice look like? What are the challenges to achieving spatial justice in our cities? How do we create more spatially just places? These are big, complex questions without easy answers.

Faculty from any department at UNCSA or WSSU or local community members who have a background in data analysis, survey research and have a special interest in better understanding spatial justice are encouraged to apply for a SJS Faculty/Community Fellow position for this year. Past Faculty and Community Fellows are also encouraged to apply for funding to continue their research. We are looking for creative, open-minded and engaged faculty/community members--previous experience with this type of question is not a requirement.

New SJS Faculty/Community Fellowship proposals should state a clear, simple research questions or outline a community-based project that is related to spatial (in)justice. Applicants should make sure that the research proposal or project will be able to be accomplished within the funding

timeline (2023-2024 Academic Year). Past SJS Faculty/Community Fellows should answer the same questions and also explain how an additional year of funding will be utilized. Specific attention should be given to the sustainability of the research and the potential for accessing outside grant dollars.

Below is a list of potential topics/research ideas that may lead to successful fellowships¹:

Uneven distribution of resources, uneven development	Just sustainability, sustainability for whom	Smart cities
Local Government Boundary Change	Gerrymandering	Access to Healthcare
Access to Education	Spatial Mismatch Hypothesis	Environmental (in)justice
Brownfields	Locally Unwanted Land Uses	Air/Water Pollution
Food Deserts	Urban Heat Islands	Gentrification
Gated Communities	Climate Change	Transportation Planning

¹ Please note that this list is not exhaustive and other suitable ideas will be given full consideration.

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The timetable:

- **Submit by September 29, 2023.** Interested Faculty and Community Members may submit fellowship proposals care of Dr. Russell M. Smith (smithrm@wssu.edu), following the submission guidelines below. The Spatial Justice Studio Lead will finalize all fellowship appointments.
- **October 2 - October 13, 2023.** SJS Faculty/Community Fellows Review Committee will meet and rank the proposals.
- **October 16, 2023.** Up to three (3) selected SJS Faculty/Community Fellows are announced. They will work through 2023-2024 academic year with a research project or community-based project.
- **December 15, 2023.** SJS Fellows file first preliminary report to the SJS Faculty Lead that outlines progress/activity made on their research/project to date, and plans for next semester.
- **April 30, 2024:** SJS Fellows file second preliminary report to the SJS Faculty Lead that shows the progress/activity made on their research/project to date.
- **September 2024.** SJS Fellows will present their results in a symposium where the public is invited to hear and comment on the results. Date to be determined.

Research Proposal or Community Based Project guidelines:

In your proposal, please include these components:

- 1) Introduction and Spatial (in)Justice Related Research Question/Community Based Project,**
- 2) Background and Motivation for Proposal/Project,**
- 3) Research Methodology or Project Timeline/Overview,**
- 4) Proposed use of students, benefits to students,**
- 5) Expected output or products (local op-eds, conference presentations, local talks to community groups, peer reviewed journal articles, policy pieces, community meeting, grant submissions, etc.)**
- *6) For past fellows, please make sure to include a discussion of the long term sustainability of your project and it's potential for attracting outside funding!**

Any additional material is welcomed. Proposals need not include lengthy literature reviews and should be limited to 5 pages or less.

Proposals are due, emailed to me, at **smithrm@wssu.edu** by COB, September 29th. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please include in the subject line: **SJS Fellow Proposal**.

You are also invited to participate in a virtual event on **September 6th at 11am** to learn more about the Fellows program and to hear presentations from last year's cohort of SJS Fellows. You can register in advance for this meeting at <https://wssu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErd-gggD4rHdYS3-0yw6PwezG5-AYcWolt>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Best,



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