

CKS Workshop

How to Write a Strong Research Proposal



Dr. Jenna Grant
University of Washington

Attend via Zoom Meeting only!

This short workshop for Cambodian scholars will cover key points about applying for research grants and fellowships at CKS and elsewhere.



**REGISTER
NOW!**



November 05, 2021

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

(Cambodia Time)



Organized by:
Center for Khmer Studies



plan for workshop

I. Introductions- name, discipline/area of work, current position

II. The research proposal

III. Reference letters

IV. Exercises

University of Washington, Southeast Asia Center

SOUTHEAST ASIA CENTER
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

GIVE NOW

W

ABOUT / ACADEMIC PROGRAMS / CONNECT WITH SEAC / COVID-19 RESOURCES / EVENTS / FLAS FELLOWSHIPS

PEOPLE / RESOURCES / UW LUCE-SEA

SEAxSEA Film Festival

SEAxSEA Film Festival

2018 edition

2019 Edition

2020 Edition

2021 Edition

SOUTHEAST ASIA CENTER

Henry M. Jackson School of
International Studies
University of Washington
Box 353650
Seattle WA, 98195-3650

✉

seac@uw.edu

☎

(206) 543-9606

📠

(206) 685-0668

🏢

Room 303 Thomson Hall

SOUTHEAST ASIA
CENTER STAFF

2021 SOUTHEAST
ASIA X SEATTLE
FILM FESTIVAL
ONLINE, MAY 10-JUNE 4

presented by:

W SOUTHEAST ASIA CENTER
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
Henry M. Jackson School
of International Studies

The SEAxSEA Film Festival is part of the Southeast Asia Center's mission to actively organize Southeast Asia-related programs, and features films that explore Southeast Asia in its diversity, emphasizing underrepresented communities and youth-produced visions of the past, present, and future.

2021 edition

2020 edition

2019 edition

2018 edition

 > Academic programs > Degree programs

Degree programs

Bachelor of Arts Degree

Students at the University of Washington may work toward a [Bachelor of Arts Degree in Asian Studies, Southeast Asia concentration](#). The degree is earned through the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.

Minor in Southeast Asian Studies

Students may choose to [minor in Southeast Asian](#) studies while majoring in another area.

Master of Arts Degree

The [Master of Arts program in Southeast Asian Studies](#) offers students a framework within which to carry out the interdisciplinary study of the peoples and nations of insular and mainland Southeast Asia. Graduate students can also specialize in Southeast Asian Studies while pursuing a Master's in another academic department.

Ph.D. Degree

The [Jackson School of International Studies PhD program](#) combines the School's strength and expertise in area studies with foundational fields such as Peace, Violence & Security. Graduate students whose research interests focus upon Southeast Asia may consider this new and innovative program which is tailored for scholars and practitioners who want to develop deep knowledge of areas in the context of specific contemporary global themes, policy challenges, and real-world problems. It combines an intensive research tutorial system with specific coursework to allow doctoral candidates to finish in 3-4 years.

Graduate students can also focus study and research on issues within Southeast Asia while pursuing a PhD in another academic department. Currently, students with Southeast Asia interests are pursuing advanced degrees in [Anthropology](#), [Asian Languages and Literature](#), [Architecture](#), [Comparative Literature](#), [Ethnomusicology](#), [Geography](#), [History](#), [Forestry](#), [Public Health](#), [Law](#), [Linguistics](#), [Political Science](#), [Social Work](#), and [Sociology](#). Students interested in pursuing advanced degrees in these departments and colleges should refer to the list of core Southeast Asia [faculty](#) and confer with them directly about procedures and requirements for admission into these programs.

plan for workshop

I. Introductions- name, discipline/area of work, current position

II. The research proposal

III. Reference letters

IV. Exercises

read selection criteria

- project description
 - academic and/or professional record (CV, transcripts)
 - reference letters
-
- nature and significance of project in terms understandable to a non-specialist audience
-
- follow word and page limits

learn about the funding organization and its goals

[NEWS & EVENTS](#)[PROGRAMS & FELLOWSHIPS](#)[PUBLICATIONS](#)[LIBRARY](#)[ABOUT](#)[DONATE](#)

Research Center Mission

The Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) promotes research, teaching and public service in the social sciences, arts and humanities in Cambodia and the Mekong region.

CKS seeks to:

- Promote research and international scholarly exchange by programs that increase understanding of Cambodia and its region
- Strengthen Cambodia's cultural and educational structures and integrate Cambodian scholars in regional and international exchange
- Promote a vigorous civil society

CKS is a private American Overseas Research Center supported by a consortium of educational institutions, scholars and individuals. It is incorporated in the state of Delaware, USA. It receives partial support for overhead and American fellowships from the US Government. Its programs are privately funded.

CKS is the first member institution of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) in Southeast Asia.



address these goals in your project statement



NEWS & EVENTS PROGRAMS & FELLOWSHIPS

Research Center Mission

The Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) promotes research, teaching and public service in the social sciences, arts and humanities in Cambodia and the Mekong region.

CKS seeks to:

- Promote research and international scholarly exchange by programs that increase understanding of Cambodia and its region
- Strengthen Cambodia's cultural and educational structures and integrate Cambodian scholars in regional and international exchange
- Promote a vigorous civil society

How does your research increase understanding of Cambodia and its region?

How will you strengthen cultural and educational structures in Cambodia?

How will you participate in regional and international scholarly exchange?

How will your research support civil society?

project statement

General points

Why you, and not another applicant?

What does your work promise to add, or change, in understandings of Cambodia and the region?

Is what you propose doable? Do you have the experience and training to complete this project?

Check spelling and grammar

Reviewers are doing this on top of their regular work. They may have very little time to read, it may be late at night... Try to be clear and straightforward.

structure your project description with sub-headings supplied by funder

In the project description, CKS requests the following information:

- Rationale for project
- Research methodology
- Anticipated results
- Timetable

To make it easier for reviewers to find this information, use these terms as the titles of sections of your project description.

rationale

- Rationale for project
- Research methodology
- Anticipated results
- Timetable

rationale

what is your research question?

why is this research important?

how does your project relate to existing research on this topic?

what new knowledge does your project seek to contribute?

research methodology

- Rationale for project
- Research methodology
- Anticipated results
- Timetable

research methodology

how will you do your research?

- interviews
- ethnography
- archival research
- participatory research
- text, media, or discourse analysis
- surveys
- maps
- analysis of skeletal remains using X technique, Y technology

anticipated results

- Rationale for project
- Research methodology
- Anticipated results
- Timetable

anticipated results

what do you expect to find?

remember: you do not know what you will find, do not write your proposal as if you already know the answer.

timetable

- Rationale for project
- Research methodology
- Anticipated results
- Timetable

timetable

what is your schedule for completing the research? for example:

- January - February: archival research at Bophana Centre in Phnom Penh
- March-April: fieldwork and interviews in Banteay Meanchey province
- May-June: fieldwork and interviews in Oddar Meanchey
- July: follow-up archival research and interviews in Phnom Penh; preliminary data analysis

plan for workshop

I. Introductions- name, discipline/area of work, current position

II. The research proposal

III. Reference letters

IV. Exercises

reference letters

CKS asks for three letters from people qualified to write about:

- your academic experience
- your professional experience
- your proposed research

reference letters

whom should you ask to write a letter?

- your MA or PhD advisor
- senior colleagues who know you and your work. It is best if at least one person is an expert in Cambodian and/or Southeast Asian Studies and can write about how your research contributes to Cambodia Studies, and at least one person is an expert in your sub-discipline (postcolonial history, medical anthropology, urban studies, etc.) and can write about how your research contributes to those fields.

when should you ask?

at least two weeks before the letter is due, if not **one month**. It takes two hours minimum to write a good letter, and many people do not have this chunk of free time, they need to plan ahead.

reference letters

what information should you give to your letter-writers?

- (close to final) **draft of your project statement**
- your **current CV**
- if possible, **meet in person or on the phone** with the letter-writer to explain your research, update them on what you have been working on and your career goals
- if it is not possible to meet, give a brief explanation over email of your research and career goals
- a link to or copy of publications

reference letters

what should letter-writers write about in their letters?

- introduce themselves (position, areas of expertise) and their relationship to you
- discuss your research proposal
- discuss your publications, work on committees, or in professional scholarly organizations
- discuss any public scholarship (talks for the general public, radio, interviews, service, etc.)
- mention any awards or honors
- discuss your strengths, using specific details (Rouen is able to design and conduct independent research, for example, her project on X...)

reference letters

Letter-writers should **not** write about personal or private issues unrelated to your research, such as health, relationships, family, ethnicity, etc.

Gender bias is a problem in reference letters; people tend to use more positive words and more specific details in letters about male candidates, leading readers to rank male candidates higher

plan for workshop

I. Introductions- name, discipline/area of work, current position

II. The research proposal

III. Reference letters

IV. Exercises

exercise: write your rationale

Answer these questions in 1-3 sentences. Write this down! You will share it with others later.

what is your research question?

why is this research important?

how does your project relate to existing research on this topic?
what new knowledge does your project seek to contribute?

exercise: write your research methodology

how will you do your research?

1) list the methods you will use

- interviews; ethnography; archival research; participatory research; text, media, or discourse analysis; surveys; maps; other methods?

2) what data will you get from these methods?

3) how do these data help to answer your research question?

thank you!

keep in touch: jmgrant@uw.edu

good luck!