



MSU C4I Weekly Newsletter

January 18th, 2022

C4I News & Events

We're continuing to program virtual events and opportunities here at MSU C4I through Spring 2022. If you are interested in giving a virtual webinar or presentation, please email Dr. Michael O'Rourke (Director of C4I) at orourke51@msu.edu.

The MSU C4I Affiliate Faculty List is Here!

The MSU C4I Affiliate Faculty web page directory has now been launched. Be sure to check out the excellent affiliate scholars [here](#).

We Need YOUR Help!: MSU C4I Website Survey

We here at MSU C4I are working on updating our website. If you have a few minutes to spare, please take our survey which can be found [here](#).

MSU CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARITY
University Interdisciplinary Colloquium

SPARTAN STUDIOS: LESSONS FROM PROTOTYPE INTERDISCIPLINARY, EXPERIENTIAL COURSES

Jan. 21, 2022

ELLIE LOUSON

CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING INNOVATION
LYMAN BRIGGS COLLEGE

2022 University Interdisciplinary Colloquium w/ Dr. Ellie Louson

"Spartan Studios: Lessons from Prototype Interdisciplinary, Experiential Courses"

1-21-2021
12PM-1PM EDT via Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/96411904159>
Passcode: msuc4i

Since 2018, MSU's Hub for Innovation has been running a pilot project to facilitate interdisciplinary, experiential courses. We hoped to offer undergrads the chance to work alongside students and faculty members from across campus on "real-world" problems that resist siloed solutions. Now known as Spartan Studios, this project has witnessed benefits and transformative outcomes for its participants. We also faced big challenges, including instructor teams having to teach differently, bureaucratic barriers to unsiloing undergraduate education, and COVID-19. This talk will share our best resources and tips for improving interdisciplinary, experiential teaching and extend the conversation around interdisciplinary education at MSU.

Meet the 2022 TGFP Team

Congratulations to the new 2022 Transdisciplinary Graduate Fellows:

- Jonny Abdal - Philosophy (1st year)
- Nicole Huff - English (2nd year)
- Antoinette Shirley - Forestry (4th year)
- Linnea Vicari - Community Sustainability (1st year)

The partner for this edition of the TGFP is the Capital Area Sustainability Partnership (CASP), which is a regional network of governments, non-profits and academia dedicated to promoting best practices that demonstrate environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social responsibility.

Our three CASP representatives are the following:

- Heather Douglas - Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University
- Cliff Walls - Environmental Sustainability Programs Planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
- Lori Welch - Sustainability Manager, City of Lansing

Toolbox Dialogue Initiative Creates New Service Center

The [Toolbox Dialogue Initiative \(TDI\) Center](#), a new service center within MSU's College of Arts & Letters, is a one-of-a-kind organization that provides philosophically based capacity-building services to research and practice groups locally, nationally, and internationally.

Established in June 2021 and led by Executive Director Michael O'Rourke and Associate Directors Dr. Edgar Cardenas, Dr. Chet McLeskey, and Dr. Marisa Finkus, TDI Center uses dialogue-based workshops to help members of teams, larger organizations, and communities communicate more effectively with one another and improve their ability to collaborate. For more information, click on the link above.

For C4I Affiliates

The first C4I Affiliate Faculty Mixer is just two days away! If you want to attend the Zoom meeting, please click the following link:

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99838872046>
Passcode: 598632

The mixer is scheduled for 90 minutes, with the first 30 or so for (very brief) introductions and then information about small grant opportunities for C4I affiliate faculty. (We'll record that part of the meeting for people who can't join us for the session.) We'll then spend the rest of the time in various breakout rooms organized by theme. We'll have additional breakout rooms available for people who would like to have focused conversations, e.g., about possible grant projects.

C4I Seed Grant Program Announcement

The MSU Center for Interdisciplinarity (C4I) will be awarding 3 seed grants of up to \$10,000 each to teams pursuing humanities or arts-based research projects that are inter- or transdisciplinary in nature. These grants are meant to launch imaginative, innovative, and explicitly inter- or transdisciplinary projects that center the arts and/or humanities. Proposed projects must have a C4I Affiliate Faculty Member as the project leader.

C4I understands 'inter- or transdisciplinary' to refer to projects that either combine different ways of knowing from within the academy (i.e., interdisciplinary) or from both within the academy and from outside of it (i.e., transdisciplinary). As seed grants, we expect the funded work to lead to future inter- or transdisciplinary efforts that expand project outcomes.

Application materials (as listed below) must be submitted in the order below as one PDF file ("ProjectLeader-NAME_C4I Seed Grant Application.pdf") to c4i@msu.edu by 11:59PM EST on January 31, 2022:

- Project abstract (maximum length: 200 words)
- Brief, 2-page Curriculum Vitae for each team member
- Project description (maximum length: 2000 words)
- Detailed budget narrative that specifies expenses and expenditure timeline (1 page)

Applications will be evaluated by a committee consisting of C4I Leadership based on the following criteria:

1. Inter- or transdisciplinary nature of proposal: what different ways of knowing are combined in the project, and how are they combined?
2. Description of how humanities and or the arts are centered in the work: what humanistic or artistic perspectives are involved, and how do they provide a foundation for the project?
3. Innovative and imaginative thinking: how does this project differ from existing projects, and how will it change how we think about its topic?
4. Reasonable and manageable expenditure plan: how do the planned expenses support the project, and is there a spending plan that is manageable within the term of the funding period?
5. Dissemination plan: how will the project team disseminate the results of the project, and what is the audience for the project?
6. Potential for future success: what does success look like for this project? (This can include, but is not limited to, future funding from extramural sources.)

Notifications of the committee's decisions will be sent by February 14, 2022. Selected awardees will have their project abstracts published on the C4I website. Grants will be for the period from 2/14/2022 to 5/30/2023. Grantees will be required to provide C4I with a project report on 5/30/2023; this report will also be posted to the C4I website. Grantees will charge project expenses to a C4I subaccount that is home to the grant funds. Unspent funds will revert to C4I on 8/15/2023.

Please direct questions about this program to Michael O'Rourke, Director of C4I, orourke51@msu.edu.



Our email address is:
c4i@msu.edu

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