

Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography – 2018 Application: Narrative Questions

Applicant Name:

Rare Book School is expanding the scope of its programs beyond its traditional focus on Anglo-American bibliography and special collections librarianship, and the SoFCB is part of that initiative. The Society encourages applications from individuals with significant personal experience in, or engagement with: communities that are underrepresented in the academic, library, and museum professions; communities and institutions that are underresourced; and topics currently underrepresented in the fields of book history and bibliography. In answering these narrative questions, please consider including information in your answers, as you find it appropriate, about your experience or engagement in these areas, and the ways it has shaped your research, teaching, and professional engagement in bibliography, book history, and your academic field(s) of study.

Please prepare your responses to the narrative questions using this fillable PDF form. Once you have completed the form, upload it to the Narrative Questions section of the online application.

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1. Please provide a brief description of your research. This may take the form of a completed or proposed dissertation, monograph, thesis, critical edition, digital humanities project, peer-reviewed articles, exhibition, catalog, or other scholarly work. What original contributions are you are making to your field? Which investigative methods have you found most fruitful for your work to date? If your research engages with broader publics or has been collaborative, please describe how this engagement and/or collaboration enriches your intellectual goals, methods, and results. (3000 character limit)

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2. Please tell us about your experience of graduate education. If you are currently a graduate student, describe how graduate school has shaped your scholarship and professional development to date, and comment on how you think your program could be enriched. If you have completed your graduate studies, explain how the program you attended has influenced your scholarship and your professional life so far. Could it have prepared you better for your current position? If so, how? (2000 character limit)

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3. Why do you want to join the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography? What personal, professional, and pedagogical aspirations could participating in the Society help you fulfill? What aspects of the Society's activities attract you most, and why? How do you imagine your participation in the Society changing the course of your intellectual and professional development? In answering these questions, please elucidate how the Society fits your understanding of yourself and your hopes for the future. (3000 character limit)

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4. Rare Book School coursework is a core component of the Junior Fellows program. Please list three (3) RBS courses that you would most like to take, and tell us why you have chosen these particular courses. How might you share what you have learned with broader audiences, through teaching, curation, publication and other public-facing activities? Also, if you have previously attended RBS, what did you gain from your earlier experience, and how will your new course of study at RBS continue your scholarly development? (3000 character limit)

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5. How do you hope your interactions with the Rare Book School community (which includes curators, booksellers, collectors, academics, conservators, librarians, book artists, and others with an interest in the book) will influence your scholarship and teaching? What would you hope to contribute to this community, and how would you hope to shape its development through your participation in the Society of Fellows? If you wish, describe a course you would like to see at Rare Book School in the future. (3000 character limit)

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