

**THE LEITNER AWARDS
FOR UNCOMMON ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATIONS**

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT for Pilot Grant Opportunities

DEADLINES

REGISTER INTEREST IN APPLYING: **March 7, 2018**
RECEIPT OF LETTERS OF INTENT: **April 23, 2018 BY 5:00 PM EST**
FULL PROPOSALS: **June 1, 2018 by 5:00 PM EST**

To: Research and Teaching Faculty at Yale University
From: Dean Indy Burke, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
Subject: Interdisciplinary Collaborative Pilot Projects in Environmental Research and Teaching

Purpose:

The School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES) at Yale University announces the opportunity for funding for projects that respond to six initiatives identified in the [F&ES Strategic Plan](#): (1) climate change; (2) urban systems and the environment; (3) environmental communications; (4) environmental data science; (5) environmental justice and environmental health; and (6) interdisciplinary team teaching.

Hallmarks of these F&ES initiatives are:

- *Climate Change* – Climate Change will impact all living beings, the environment, and the fabric of our social, cultural, economic and political ways of life. It is a formidable, overarching global sustainability challenge, creating an urgent and growing need for interdisciplinary scholarship, education, and communication.
- *Urban Systems and the Environment* – Urban systems are becoming ever-more central to both environmental challenges and their solutions. Finding ways to inform and influence thoughtful urban environmental management will be key to a sustainable future.
- *Environmental Communications* – Effective communication, collaboration and negotiation are essential for solving environmental problems.
- *Environmental Data Science* – There are unexplored opportunities for leveraging data, digital technology, remote sensing, geographic information systems, and computation to generate new knowledge about people and their environment in order to inform a sustainable future.
- *Environmental Justice and Environmental Health* – Issues associated with justice, social equity, and human health are inextricably linked to all environmental problems, including urbanization and climate change, toxic chemicals and pollution prevention, energy production and use, air and water quality, access to open spaces, and many more.
- *Interdisciplinary Team Teaching* – training students to become highly adept interdisciplinary thinkers capable of understanding the language of multiple disciplines, and bridging ways of thinking.

Funding Available

This RFP will support proposals for teaching and research. We anticipate awarding grants of up to \$25,000 and \$75,000, respectively. Research proposals must support at least one of the six initiatives described above from the [F&ES Strategic Plan](#). Applications that propose new courses should be targeted at one of the initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan.

Projects will be carried out collaboratively and **MUST** include one PI from the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and at least one co-investigator from another Yale unit (e.g., all FAS, other professional or art schools). All grant funds must be expended within 24 months of the award.

Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Allowable costs: Salary and fringe for faculty, research assistants, postdocs, and students; data collection and analysis; software; instrumentation; syllabus development; dissemination of findings (e.g., symposia, publication fees).

Unallowable costs: General office supplies (e.g., computers, printers), meals, travel, attendance to conferences, indirect costs.

Eligibility

Research and Teaching Faculty at Yale University, as well as research scientists of Yale University, who have full-time appointments at Yale University are eligible to apply for funds to support (a) new research initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications to be submitted by the research team or a peer-reviewed publication, or (b) the development of new courses that are adopted into the F&ES or undergraduate college curriculum. One-time lectures or workshops will not be considered.

Projects will be carried out collaboratively and **MUST** include one PI from the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and at least one co-investigator from another Yale unit. Applicants must demonstrate (a) intent to apply for national research funding within a defined timeline, (b) intent to publish in a peer-reviewed scholarly science publication; or (3) new research or course material that could not be achieved without the collaboration. Preference is to support new, uncommon collaborations and thus to fund a new cross-campus team. If the team applying has already worked together, the researchers must justify that the proposed plan will constitute a significant departure from past work.

Postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and research associates **are not eligible** to apply or be named as Co-PIs for these pilot grants. Applications must be the work of the PIs, and for the benefit of the PIs' own research programs. Applications written primarily by graduate students or others in the PIs' names will not be considered.

Applications must be for work that will foster interdisciplinary collaborative environmental research at Yale that will markedly assist in: the submission of new, substantial, external grant applications, to be submitted by a specified target date; new published work; and/or the development of a new course.

Letters of Intent and Application Process

Step 1: By March 7, Send a brief email to [Gai Doran](#) indicating your interest in applying. This does not commit you to submitting an application; we will share a list of those interested with those who register to help you identify potential collaborators.

Step 2: Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (2-page limit) via email as a Word or PDF attachment to Gai Doran (gai.doran@yale.edu) **no later than Monday, April 23, 2018**. The letter should identify the project or course title; PI names, and their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, department affiliations, and positions; and the names of key collaborators. The letter should provide a brief outline of the proposed research project or course, including an estimate of total project cost, and describe how it will meet the review criteria (below).

Step 3: Applicants who have submitted letters of intent that meet the review criteria will be invited to submit full applications, which will be **due on Friday, June 1, 2018**.

Review Criteria

Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of the research plan based on internal reviews
- Importance of the research question
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially proposals testing new methodologies, theories, and/or new domains in need of pilot data
- Composition of the research team (cross-disciplinary work will be given preference)
- Relevance of the work to the mission of the F&ES Strategic Plan

Information Session

A special information session to inform the Yale community further about the F&ES Strategic Plan and to respond to any questions concerning this RFP will be sponsored by F&ES on March 29, 2018. A separate announcement with more details will be distributed to faculty in late February.

We welcome inquiries about this opportunity. Please contact:

[Karen Seto](#), Senior Associate Dean for Research, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

[Gai Doran](#), Director of Research, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies