

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Overcoming Divides for a Green Global Europe

The Council for European Studies (CES) and the World Society Foundation (WSF) are committed to engaging participants from underrepresented communities by bringing researchers from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East with other Europeanists through the WSF-CES “Future of Europe Digital Lab” (FEDL). The FEDL is a year-long program that provides a collaborative space where interdisciplinary scholars from these regions discuss their research about Europe with other Europeanists. The outcome of the FEDL is a joint publication in the form of an edited volume that is based on a defined theme where each chapter is authored in pairs that are comprised of one scholar from the Global South and one scholar from the Global North. The FEDL is understood as an opportunity for cross-pollination and for the development of transnational and interdisciplinary research exchange that incorporate and make visible new voices in the field of European Studies. It also aims at making space for Global South expertise in solving Europe’s challenges. Moreover, the FEDL expects that each team works on a project that fits in one of the following interdisciplinary combinations: 1) the humanities and social sciences; 2) the humanities and hard sciences; 3) social sciences and the hard sciences.

The Fellows selected for the Digital Lab work closely with the editors starting with 1) an initial concept proposal that is followed by 2) a short research article to be published on *EuropeNow* (CES’ flagship online journal), before 3) the development of the final book chapter and/or special issue journal article.

All FEDL Fellows will receive a one-year CES membership, conference fee waivers as well as access to one of CES’ Research Networks.

As part of the FEDL Fellows are expected to:

- Take actively part in and present ongoing work in biweekly Lab peer review meetings
- Present their work at the **2022 CES Lisbon Conference** (FEDL Fellows will be automatically selected to participate). The in-person conference component will be subject to the COVID-19 situation. Fellows from Global South institutions whose papers are selected will be awarded travel grants in full or in part. The assessment of these travel grants will be competitive. If selected for a travel grant, accommodation and travel will be provided for one author per accepted conference paper by using the most economical travel route. The conference is supported by the World Society Foundation (Zurich, Switzerland), the Council for European Studies at Columbia University (CES), and the Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal). For more information on the conference and for updates, please visit www.councilforeuropeanstudies.org

Further, FEDL Fellows will have the opportunity to work closely with the Lab leadership to refine their presentation skills and teaching skills in order to:

- Develop and participate in a **CES Insights Webinar**. These virtual gatherings will bring together experts from CES' expansive network to discuss a variety of topics of pressing concern in contemporary Europe.
- Deliver a **virtual masterclass** to undergraduate or Master's students at one of CES' partner institution (CES will assist with finding appropriate departments in collaboration with fellows).

The WSF Writing Awards:

Fellows are also eligible to compete for three supplementary major **writing awards**, totaling \$10000.

- The first prize winner will receive \$5000 plus travel and accommodation to the CES annual conference:
- The second prize winner will receive \$3500 plus travel and accommodation.
- The third prize winner will receive \$1500 plus travel and accommodation.

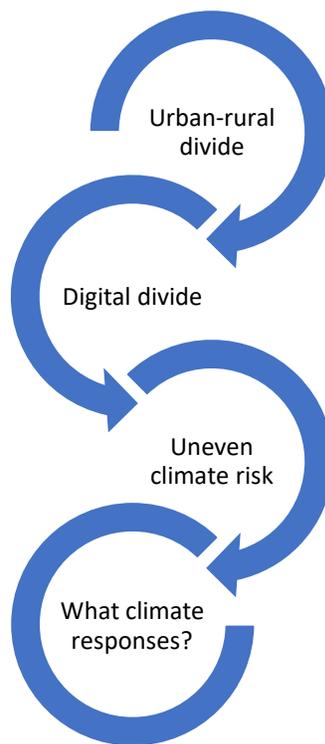
The three prize winners will further receive conference fee waivers for the 2022 event, as well as two-year CES memberships and access to two Research Networks of their choice.

Prize winners will be selected among Fellows by a judging panel based on the quality of the book chapter/journal article produced through the lab and the level of participation in lab activities.

In addition to the three WSF Writing Award winners, a limited number of travel grants will be allocated in full or in part to all other FEDL Fellows. The assessment of these travel grants will be competitive and evaluated by an expert committee.

CALL FOR THE 2022 FEDL COHORT

Research Theme for Overcoming Divides for a Green Global Europe



The theme for the 2022 FEDL program engages with how the **digital divide** interconnects with the **rural-urban divide** to produce different capabilities and differentiated solutions in addressing and mitigating **climate change** in Europe. In particular, the project is interested in fostering a dialogue between Global South and Global North to learn from the Global South in the shaping of a future Europe that is more sustainable, equitable, and just. To this effect, comparative studies are encouraged.

Questions we would like to ask:

- What role does the digital divide between rural and urban areas play in the designing and outcomes of climate action planning?
- How do the answers to the first question vary when we compare the Global North with the experience of the Global South?
- What can the Global North learn from the Global South in this debate?

We seek to engage in an understanding of how climate mitigation efforts may or may not create opportunities to alleviate the digital divide at the same time, and vice versa, the ways in which fixing the digital divide may trigger enhanced politics of sustainability globally? In other words, is addressing the rural-urban digital divide a necessity or part of the solution for addressing climate change.

In some regions, urban dwellers and “eco-elites” are often considered more open and forward thinking than their rural counterparts when it comes to sustainable living and adaptation. Rural communities, on the other hand, are often stereotyped as clinging to traditional ways and relying on extractive activities, such as wood/forestry, fishing and intensive agriculture for their livelihoods, all of which present challenges with regard to sustainability and resource use. It has become clear that rural areas are quite concerned with sustainability because their livelihoods precisely depend on it and are actively implicated in climate change mitigation, from replanting hedges to adapting industrial agriculture to new norms that take climate change into account. We expect that, with the expert cohort of our 2022 FEDL Fellows, we will question, and perhaps debunk, some of the established pre-conceived ideas about rural=backward and urban=forward thinking, to show a more nuanced picture through addressing the many layers in the discussion over climate change mitigation. We are also interested in highlighting how the rural and the urban conceive of their respective roles in the proposing of solutions based on their different “local”, as well as how the rural and the urban collaborate in designing climate plans.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a two-people team (one person from the Global South and one person from the Global North). ONE application per team.
- The Global South scholar must be habitually based in the Global South (temporary visiting professors/post-docs currently in the Global North are eligible)
- All must have already received their PhDs.
- PhDs must not have been received more than 5 years prior to the submission deadline

Application Requirements (please abide strictly by the word count requirements):

- Description of the research project (750 words) that explains how pertinent the project is to the 2022 FEDL theme and how it advances the state of knowledge on the topic. The proposal needs to 1) clearly state a main argument(s); 2) convey a sense of the answers to questions posed; 3) offer a concrete methodological approach.
- Concrete explanation of how the work conducted is interdisciplinary (500 words)
- Provision of a PDF for one previous published single-author article in a peer review journal, written in English (one for each person in the duo team).

Selection Process:

A selection committee, organized by both organizations, will review applications.

Twenty-five finalist teams will be selected to participate in short Zoom interviews with the committee, which is comprised of two representatives from WSF, the FEDL Director and its Academic Officer.

Finalist teams will be asked to provide the names for two references for CES to seek out recommendation letters (two letters for each person in the two-people team).

Higher priority will be given to projects that combine a theoretical discussion with new empirical findings (case-studies are encouraged).

Fifteen Fellow-teams will be selected out of the twenty-five finalists.

Submissions will be accepted from **Friday, September 24 until October 30, 2021.**

Applications should be submitted via **Formsite** here.

The selection committee will notify applicants about its decision by **January 15, 2022.**

Once admitted in the FEDL, Fellows will be expected to provide:

- 1) An initial concept proposal for a book chapter (2-3 pages): **Due by February 1, 2022**
- 2) A *EuropeNow* digest piece (1500-2000 words): **Due by March 1, 2022**
- 3) Book chapter (or special issue article) will be due by **June 1, 2022** to be considered for the Writing Award

Notification of acceptance for the book chapter (or special issue article) will occur by **September 15, 2022.**