

Fellowship Call Falsifying the Future

2024/25

The Institute for Advanced Study

jointly with
the Democracy Institute
and
the Blinken OSA Archivum

at Central European University

**Deadline for Application:
21 September, 2023**

The Institute for Advanced Study (IAS CEU) together with the Democracy Institute (DI) and the Open Society Archives (OSA) at the Budapest site of CEU are pleased to launch their joint call for applications for its fellowship program *Falsifying the Future* for the academic year 2024/25.

The three Budapest-based units of CEU invite applications for their joint fellowship call. In various capacities, the Democracy Institute, the Institute for Advanced Study and the Open Society Archive are engaged in a multi-year research, teaching, and public program series on issues related to historical revisionism. The present call focuses on one important aspect of revisionism, the projection of either a fearful or reassuring future with an eye on immediate political profiteering.

We invite scholars and artists from all disciplines and artistic fields who are interested in exploring the extrapolation of the consequences of ideologically or politically selected events of the past and the present, or misrepresentations and revisions of history, in the service of constructing an invented, ideologically sanitized and politically marketable future.

Going beyond textual narratives, many of these revisionist projects have visual and spatial dimensions as well. A spectacular manifestation of this manipulation concerns the urban landscape of illiberalism. Highly ideologized projections of the past and the future are employed for the purpose of destroying the public

sphere by reframing the symbolic and spatial setup of key urban sites. Recent examples range from Kossuth Square and the Castle district in Budapest to Skopje 2014, or the New Parliament House in New Delhi. We are interested in receiving applications which aim at discovering and analyzing the tools, techniques and methods of both the creation, visual and spatial representation, and the ways of transmission of a politically bespoke future.

The joint call is addressed to scholars, artists and media professionals who study the attempts of ideologically motivated groups, politicians, experts, or public figures who present to the public either an apocalyptic dystopia or a politically therapeutic utopia, based on no or misrepresented facts. We look for applicants willing to critically examine and reverse-engineer the process whereby a desirable future is created to gain or maintain the support of a political base, by creating fake continuities, sacrificing realism, direct perception, common sense and evidence for the hope of a comfortable, fake future without contradictions and uncertainties. The call has no regional preference.

Fellowships are available in all research areas of the social sciences and humanities, broadly defined and for artists of all fields of practice. Fellowships run for the full 9-month period (October-June), for the 3-month short fall semester (October-December), the 5-month fall semester (October-February) or the 6-month spring semester (January-June).

The cooperating institutions select fellows for this special fellowship program which runs under the overall umbrella of the Budapest site as part of the intellectual program on the study of illiberalism. Fellows are chosen through a rigorous selection process, which includes stages of pre-selection and peer reviews as well as a final decision made by an independent, interdisciplinary, and international selection committee. The Institute and her partners are committed to the pursuit of cutting-edge interdisciplinary scholarship and will seek innovative research proposals. Young scholars with demonstrable promise of excellence will be considered; established senior scholars are expected to have solid records of first-rate scholarship. Scholars at risk are encouraged to apply. A primary criterion for selection is the expectation that each fellow's stay at the Institute will yield original and significant research results in conversation with other fellows working on the broad topic of *Falsifying the Future*.

IAS CEU is an independent Institute for Advanced Study based at the Budapest site of Central European University. CEU operates at two locations, with the main campus in Vienna and several research institutes and centers in Budapest. Located in the heart of one of Central Europe's most attractive cities, IAS CEU seeks to benefit from this new arrangement (a consequence of the forced relocation of the teaching programs in Vienna) and to be part of the rich

academic life and research generated in both places. The Budapest site hosts, apart from the IAS, a part of the bi-campus CEU Library, the Blinken OSA Archivum (OSA), the Democracy Institute, various research groups of the Department of Cognitive Science, the Center for Ethics and Law in Biomedicine, and the Summer University (SUN) in partnership with the Open Society University Network.

The Budapest site provides a stimulating environment in which fellows can devote themselves to research and share their work with peers both at the Institute and the other units of the University in Budapest and Vienna, through weekly seminars and other community programs. Fellows have access to all CEU facilities, including seminar and conference space, computer services, and library resources. They benefit from CEU's vibrant international atmosphere, its strong regional ties in Central and Eastern Europe, and its international scholarly networks. CEU facilitates the fellows' engagement with CEU and with Hungarian and Austrian, regional and international scholarly communities by encouraging collaborative projects, organizing joint public lectures and related activities.

Fellows of this program receive a monthly stipend and accommodation in the Raoul Wallenberg Guesthouse, located in the Castle district. Fellows are expected to reside in Budapest during their fellowship year, participate in the intellectual life of the Institute, and pursue their research agenda.

Eligibility, qualifications, experience

- Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent in the social sciences or humanities *at the time of their application*. Artists should hold a relevant university degree.
- Only those with publications in internationally recognized scholarly outlets will be considered. Artists should provide a commensurable strong track-record.
- Junior fellows must have obtained a Ph.D. degree issued in 2016 or later and must apply for the junior fellowship. Candidates who obtained their Ph.D. before 2015 are considered "senior" and must apply for the senior fellowship.
- Former full time CEU employees and students are not eligible to apply for 5 years after the end of their studies/contract (degrees must have been received and contracts must have ended by December 31, 2018 or earlier).
- Part-time/temporary employees of CEU are not eligible for 1 year after their contract ends (their contract must have ended by August 31, 2022 or earlier).

- Former fellows of IAS CEU are not eligible to apply again for a period of 7 years. Applications at an earlier stage may be considered only in exceptional cases.
- Reapplication is possible only 3 times within a period of 5 years.
- Applicants are expected to be able to communicate fluently in English as this is the working language of the Institute and CEU.

Terms and conditions

Senior Fellows receive a net monthly stipend of 2,600 Euros, Junior Fellows receive a net monthly stipend of 1,500 Euros, and Artists in Residence 2,000 Euros to help support their stay in Budapest. In addition, all fellows and their families receive housing at the Raoul Wallenberg Guesthouse (<http://ias.ceu.edu/raoul-wallenberg-guesthouse-0>). Utilities at the Guesthouse will be charged to the Fellows. Fellows are also responsible for their own travel and health care provisions.

How to apply:

The deadline for application is **21 September, 2023**.

All applications must be submitted through our online application system.

Step 1: Prepare your **application package**: create a **single pdf file** no larger than 12 MBs containing all your application documents. The name of the pdf file should contain your name and the type of fellowship you are applying to. Example:

Smith, Evelyn_JBC_Junior OR Taylor, Judith_JBC_Senior OR Rodriguez, Jose_JBC AiR Application pdf

Your **application package** should contain the following documents. Only applications using the requested format and word counts will be considered for review:

1. A letter of intent (max 1,500 words)
2. The abstract of your research project (max. 150 words)
3. A description of your research project (min. 1,000 - max. 2,500 words; the reference list is not included in the word count)
4. A CV (max. 5 pages)
5. References: for junior applicants ONLY: the name and email address of two referees (for potential reference).

Application packages submitted by Artists should contain the following:

- Cover letter indicating how the fellowship is beneficial for the artistic project (max. 3 pages)
- Abstract of the project (max. 400 words)
- Project plan which describes a concrete project that can be developed while in residence, identifying any technical support needed (max. 1,500 words, not counting references; possible additional video material)
- CV (max. 4 pages), including a list of published works and/or portfolio (the selection committee might request samples at a later stage)

Step 2: Go to the **Application Form** for the Academic Year 2024/25 at:

https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_sso.go?IAS-JOINT-BUDAPEST_APPLICATION-cX8fQOej1ug5mNF2Fmq

and fill in all your data as required.

Step 3: As a final step, **upload** your application package (pdf file), and **submit** your application.

Please note that you cannot save your work and continue filling in the form at a later time, so you are asked to submit your application when you have all information and materials ready! Incomplete forms, or applications submitted in any other way than what is described in this Call will not be considered.

Upon successful submission, you will receive an automated email confirmation of receipt of your application.

All applications must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. (CET) on 21 September, 2023.**

Successful candidates will be informed between February and March 2024. All others will be notified of the result of the evaluation process by the end of April 2023 the latest. **Please kindly note that the IAS will not share the results of the evaluation process (reviews, scores) with the applicants.**

For further information regarding your application and for more info on IAS CEU, please visit: <http://ias.ceu.edu>. Questions and comments may be sent to IAS_applications@ceu.edu.

CEU is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion.

The privacy of your personal information is very important to us. We collect, use, and store your personal information in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. To learn more about how we

manage your personal data during the application/selection process, please kindly refer to our Privacy Notice at:

<https://ias.ceu.edu/sites/ias.ceu.edu/files/attachment/basicpage/1011/keeiaspnfinal.pdf>