Department of French
Grants & Fellowships Workshop
Fall 2021
Why apply for a grant/fellowship?

• To extend the life of your dissertation funding package
• To cover travel to archives/for fieldwork. GSAS will usually ‘top off’ an external fellowship
• Applying helps you to define and present your project
• Grants and fellowships are important to building your cv
What should I apply for? How can I find out about opportunities?

• There are many kinds of grants and fellowship, including small/collective project grants. Building from smaller to major grants is a good strategy.

• Many grants are available from sources at Columbia.

• Identifying relevant opportunities means taking the time to do research: set aside a few hours to make a list of grants to apply for now & in the future.

• It may be too early for you to successfully present a project. That’s fine -- but consider when you will be ready to apply and how this timing will fit into your program.

• Use our collaborative document as a point of departure:
  https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fFS3m8GytU7sBj3xhGpMQW6Zjhqm7zF1E9RiiAv6XBl/edit

• Subscribe to listservs such as H-France, Francofil.
General Advice

- Plan as far in advance as you can (!)
- Apply for several fellowships/grants at once - success is always somewhat arbitrary and faculty don’t mind sending similar letters of recommendation to multiple sources
- If at first you don’t succeed…. try again (with a revised version)
- Read the guidelines carefully to make sure you are eligible
- Most websites of funders provide lists of current/past winners & their projects
- Non-US citizens are unfortunately at a disadvantage. Look for funding targeted to students from your country/region
- Get feedback on your application materials from your advisers and the DGS
General writing advice

• Be as clear as possible. Avoid/explain specialized terminology. Remember that you are likely communicating with people outside your field.
• Make your project stand out. Explain how it is original & distinctive.
• Explain the stakes of your research.
• Show why you need the award and exactly how you will use the resources/time.