

NDSU OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

RCA UPDATE

October 8, 2018

Bradley Benton

October 2018 RCA Researcher of the Month

Brad Benton's office is nestled in the middle of Minard Hall at NDSU. His space is a traditional collegiate setting that features bookshelves packed with a formidable library of tomes, historical architecture prints and classical artwork on the walls, and an antique Sony radio tucked in the corner. Benton himself is a genuinely welcoming person who is interested in finding the commonalities that all people share, which makes him a living example of the type of research work that drives him. He's a comfortable conversationalist who listens and engages with equal vigor and he makes a mean cup of tea.



Benton is the October RCA Researcher of the Month. He's a scholar, writer, and researcher in NDSU's college of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. He received

his Ph.D. in History from UCLA and his MA in Latin American Studies from Tulane University. He's been recognized with the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Outstanding Research Award and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for his translations work and from the Fulbright Commission to conduct research in Spain.

He is the author of a recently published book, *The Lords of Tetzcoco: The Transformation of Indigenous Rule in Postconquest Central Mexico* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017) and has collaborated on the editing and translation of other works. *The Lords of Tetzcoco*, volume 104 in Cambridge's prestigious and long-running Latin American Studies series, tells the story of native leaders in one Mexican town during the Spanish conquest in the 16th century. Benton sees the book as his most significant research contribution to date.

Benton looks for the human commonalities in his research. He believes that everyone has the same flaws and drives regardless of the time period in which they live and that sometimes the reasons behind these motivations can become fuzzy. In his book, he examines the colonization of the indigenous people in Mexico. His research shows that the old narratives describing native groups as merely powerless victims just isn't accurate. Instead, many of the native people were more like partners to the Spaniards in creating the new societal models that followed the conquest.

Benton believes historians have a duty to challenge generally-accepted truths like this. "History is not black and white, but gray," he says. "Humanities scholars are comfortable within these gray areas throughout history and we like to explore the tension that exists in them." He challenges his students to think critically about commonly held historical narratives, to look beyond the oversimplifications that tend to plague them, and to see the ways in which people across time and place share a common human experience.

For Benton, research has been a critical part of his career development and he believes his research both informs and influences the stories he incorporates in his teaching. In researching *The Lords of Tetzcoco*, Benton spent time in historical archives located in Mexico (at an UNESCO site that was previously a federal penitentiary) and in Spain (at the Archive of the Indies in Seville). The 500 year old documents he examined were written in both Spanish and the native Nahuatl (Aztec) language. The handwriting, however, was as difficult to understand as the languages. Benton both anticipated and welcomed this challenge as deciphering handwriting is a skill he has nurtured, studied, and taught.

While he notes that working as an historian can be solitary work, Benton also remembers fondly the friendships he made in the archives with the other researchers from across the globe and how he has maintained them after returning home. As a scholar and researcher who values people, Benton appreciates learning about what binds people to each other. Benton puts this belief in action with his students by opening up his network of contacts to them. He sees this as a benefit to all involved as it creates an ever-widening group of potential collaborators.

Brad Benton is a historian and scholar who values his network of peers and colleagues and the people who lived the histories of which he is so enamored. He is our October Researcher of the Month.

[View the RCA Researcher of the Month Archive >>](#)



The **NDSU Institutional Review Board (IRB)** oversees research conducted with human participants. The IRB is comprised of 15 members including both scientists, non-scientists, community representatives, and a prisoner advocate. The IRB, or human subjects review committee, as it was first called, was established in 1967 when President Loftsgard signed NDSU's first Institutional

Assurance with the Public Health Service. The NDSU IRB reviews approximately 300 research protocols per year. To learn more, visit the [IRB webpage](#).

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California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP): Global Challenge to Prevent Breast Cancer

The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP) has launched its first-ever [Global Challenge to Prevent Breast Cancer](#). This is a competition to encourage researchers and non-researchers alike to share transformative ideas for research on the primary prevention of breast cancer. Winners will influence \$15 million in grant funding to be disseminated by CBCRP over the next five years, get a cash prize, receive feedback on their idea, and have the opportunity to present it to prominent leaders in the field. The Global Challenge to Prevent Breast Cancer will award two grand prizes of \$5,000 each. One grand prize will be reserved for the most compelling idea presented by an advocate, patient, consumer, activist, layperson, or anyone else who is not a researcher or scientist. Another grand prize will go to the strongest idea presented by a researcher. All applicants will receive high-level comments on their proposed eligible idea from prominent researchers and advocates on the Evaluation Panel, based on the three criteria in the [scoring rubric](#): boldness, impact, and relevance. Finalists will have the opportunity to present their idea to prominent leaders in the field at a meeting in early 2019.

Application deadline: January 7, 2019

DeGregorio Family Foundation: Gastric and Esophageal Cancer Research

The [DeGregorio Family Foundation for Gastric and Esophageal Cancer](#) seeks to promote and facilitate collaborative research on the pathogenesis, early diagnosis, and treatment of upper gastrointestinal malignancies. To that end, the Foundation has issued a [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for its ninth annual funding opportunity for gastroesophageal malignancies. Through the RFP, grants of up to \$250,000 will be awarded in support of innovative, high-quality translational and bench research that improves the understanding of the biology of these diseases, identification of potential novel therapeutic targets, and/or the development and evaluation of novel biomarkers for early diagnosis and treatment. Pre-clinical research, basic mechanistic studies, genomic/epigenomic studies, and epidemiologic studies are eligible for support. To be eligible, investigators must be associated with an academic or medical institution possessing tax-exempt status. Research projects must not be funded currently under a separate mechanism.

Application deadline: November 7, 2018

DOE: Advanced Technologies for Recovery of Unconventional Oil and Gas Resources

The Department of Energy is providing [advanced notice](#) that it intends to issue a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) titled *Advanced Technologies for Recovery of Unconventional Oil and Gas Resources – DE-FOA-0001990*.

Prospective applicants to the FOA should begin developing partnerships,

formulating ideas, and gathering data in anticipation of the issuance of this FOA. It is anticipated that this funding opportunity announcement will be posted to Grants.gov and FedConnect (www.fedconnect.net) in November 2018.

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James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation: Fellowships

The [James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation](#) provides mid-career grants to those working in preservation, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, materials conservation, decorative arts, architectural design and history, and related fields. The Foundation is accepting applications for its 2019 Fitch Mid-Career Fellowship and Samuel H. Kress Mid-Career Fellowship programs.

1. [Fitch Mid-Career Fellowship](#): Research grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded to one or more mid-career professionals who have an academic background, professional experience, and an established identity in one or more of the following fields: historic preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, architectural history, and the decorative arts. The foundation will consider proposals for the research and/or the execution of the preservation-related projects in any of these fields.
2. [Samuel H. Kress Mid-Career Fellowship](#): Research grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded to one mid-career professional whose research project relates to the appreciation, interpretation, preservation, study, and teaching of European art, architecture, and related disciplines, from antiquity to the early 19th century, in the context of historic preservation in the United States. Potential Kress Fellow projects could include the

exploration of shared European and American influences in style, design, materials, construction techniques, building types, conservation and interpretation methodologies, philosophical and theoretical attitudes, and other factors applicable to preservation in both Europe and America.

To be eligible for either fellowship, applicants must be mid-career professionals in historic preservation or a related field, including architecture, landscape architecture, architectural conservation, urban design, environmental planning, archaeology, architectural history, and the decorative arts. In addition, applicants must be a legal resident or citizen of the United States.

Application deadline: November 2, 2018



Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety: Pilot Projects Research Training Program

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 are available to occupational health and safety (OHS) researchers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Areas of OHS include industrial hygiene, occupational and environmental health nursing, occupational and environmental epidemiology, occupational and environmental medicine, injury epidemiology and safety, ergonomics, toxicology, health physics, and occupational health psychology. The [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#) is applicable only to educational institutions and targets

1. newly-independent principal investigators (PIs);
2. experienced PIs pursuing OHS as a new direction for research; and
3. doctoral research trainees working under the supervision of a PI.

Application deadline: November 30, 2018

National Pork Board: Air Emission Study & Other Topics

The Pork Checkoff Sustainability Committee solicits proposals to conduct an evaluation of the representativeness of [air emissions monitoring data collected from swine operations](#) under the National Air Emissions Monitoring Study (NAEMS) relative to emissions from the predominate swine production systems in use today. If emissions today are likely to be materially different than those monitored under NAEMS, the evaluation should also then estimate the nature and size of the change in emissions today relative to the NAEMS results. There is no funding limit for submitted proposals but the budget request should be appropriate and justified for the work proposed. Researchers are encouraged to find matching funds or in-kind contributions to the project.

Application deadline: October 18, 2018

The National Pork Board currently has an additional [General Call for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) for research on other topics related to swine production and animal science.

Application deadline: October 16, 2018

NIH: Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (P20) - Limited Submission Program

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express

interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NIH COBRE : [Notify RCA](#) by 10/22/2018, 5:00 p.m. if you intend to apply.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funds Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence program (COBRE / [PAR-18-266](#)) supports thematic, multidisciplinary centers that augment and strengthen institutional biomedical research capacity. This is accomplished by expanding and developing biomedical faculty research capability and enhancing research infrastructure, including the establishment of core facilities needed to carry out the objectives of a multidisciplinary, collaborative program. Only institutions in IDEA (EPSCoR) states are eligible to apply. These centers are led by *NIH-funded investigators* with expertise central to the theme of the grant proposal. The centers promote collaborative, interactive efforts among researchers with complementary backgrounds, skills and expertise. In some instances, COBRE support facilitates the development of new, disease-specific research centers or augments the capability of existing centers. Researchers supported through COBRE are expected to compete independently for external peer-reviewed grant support.

Each COBRE center includes:

- A principal investigator who is an established biomedical research scientist with expertise central to the research theme of the center, has an active research laboratory, has relevant peer-reviewed funding and has demonstrated administrative leadership and mentoring experience.
- Three to five individual research projects—each supervised by a single junior investigator—that stand alone but share a common thematic scientific focus.
- At least one mentor for each junior investigator, and a development and mentoring plan addressing how the junior investigators will transition to competitive grant support from NIH institutes and centers or other Federal or non-Federal agencies or organizations.

A list of currently active COBRE centers is available [here](#) (PDF). NDSU has had three previously funded COBRE centers, one each in the Departments of Chemistry, Psychology, and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Letter of Intent deadline: December 25, 2018 (30 days prior to deadline); Final application deadline: January 24, 2019.

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NSF: Topical Materials Research Program

Research supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) [Division of Materials Research \(DMR\)](#) focuses on advancing fundamental understanding of materials, materials discovery, design, synthesis, characterization, properties, and materials-related phenomena. DMR awards enable understanding of the electronic, atomic, and molecular structures, mechanisms, and processes that govern nanoscale to macroscale morphology and properties; manipulation and control of these properties; discovery of emerging phenomena of matter materials; and creation of novel design, synthesis, and processing strategies that lead to new materials with unique characteristics. These discoveries and advancements transcend traditional scientific and engineering disciplines. The Division supports research and education activities in the United States through funding of individual investigators, teams, centers, facilities, and instrumentation. Projects supported by DMR are essential for the development of future technologies and industries that meet societal needs, as well as preparation of the next generation of materials researchers. This solicitation applies to the following six [DMR Topical Materials Research Programs](#) that fund research and educational projects by individual investigators or small groups:

1. Biomaterials (BMAT),
2. Condensed Matter Physics (CMP),
3. Electronic and Photonic Materials (EPM),
4. Metals and Metallic Nanostructures (MMN),

5. Polymers (POL), and
6. Solid-State and Materials Chemistry (SSMC).

It does not apply to the following two DMR Topical Materials Research Programs, which have their own solicitations: Ceramics (CER) ([NSF 16-597](#)) and Condensed Matter and Materials Theory (CMMT) ([NSF 16-596](#)).

Proposals accepted until: November 1, 2018

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NSF Dear Colleague Letter: Cybersecurity Socio-Technical Interdisciplinary Collaborations

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) program aims to promote research on the fundamentals of security and privacy as a multidisciplinary subject that will lead to new ways to design, build, and operate cyber systems, protect existing infrastructure, and motivate and educate individuals about cybersecurity. With this Dear Colleague Letter (DCL), NSF is announcing its intention to encourage the submission of [Early-Concept Grants](#) for Exploratory Research (EAGER) proposals that foster excellent interdisciplinary research in the SaTC domain to be carried out in early-stage collaborations between one or more Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) researchers and one or more Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) researchers. Note that this DCL is focused on collaborations of principal investigators (PIs) who have not previously jointly received a SaTC award. Many scientific and practical challenges of security, privacy, and trust have sociotechnical dimensions, making it important to encourage interdisciplinary collaborations among researchers from the disciplines represented in NSF's CISE and SBE directorates on topics that draw on the strengths of each researcher. Some of these topics are suggested

in the most recent SaTC program solicitation ([NSF 18-572](#)), but other topics relevant to the SaTC program are also welcome. NSF anticipates funding up to 10 EAGER awards pursuant to this DCL, subject to the availability of funds and quality of proposals received.

Applications due: December 12, 2018

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F&A Distribution: Institutional Policy and Split Between Colleges

NDSU's policy manual [section 813](#) provides for indirect cost allocation of 42% back to the primary generating college or unit. Unless there is an agreement to the contrary, that allocation is disbursed to the PI's college/unit as expenditures accumulate. When multiple colleges are involved in a project, there is often an agreement to share the allocation with the other participating colleges/units. This is done via an internal agreement between the colleges/units. Information to keep in mind:

- An internal agreement is only needed if the allocation of the generating college/unit's 42% will be shared with other participating units and there won't be split budgets.
- The only signatures required on the internal agreement is that of each participating units lead official (Dean, Director, VP). PI and Co-PI signatures are not required.
- There is no central requirement that the internal agreement be done at the time of the initial proposal, but it needs to be completed prior to award set-up and the start of expenditures.
- In circumstances where split budgets will be set up and there is no internal agreement to the contrary, the F&A automatically follows the

direct costs. This is perhaps the most common sharing of the generating college/unit's 42%.

Please contact Sponsored Programs Administration at ndsu.research@ndsu.edu with questions.



NCURA Workshop: Partial Scholarship Support Still Available for Staff

A one-day workshop providing concepts, strategies, and best practices for pre-award and post-award management of sponsored research is being hosted by the University of North Dakota (UND), on October 19, 2018, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Experienced National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) speakers will provide the instruction on “Sponsored Programs Essentials,” which will be an introduction to the lifecycle of sponsored research administration. Research administrators from central and departmental offices will benefit from the workshop. Early-bird registration is \$175, and includes lunch. The office of the Vice President of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) will provide a limited number of partial “scholarships” for interested NDSU staff to attend. The RCA office will cover \$100 of the registration cost, and provide pooled transportation. The partial scholarships are available on a first-come basis. If you are interested in attending this conference, please contact Val Kettner by October 10, 2018: val.kettner@ndsu.edu or 231-9608.



USDA-NIFA: Stakeholder Feedback on Priorities in Research, Education, and Extension

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) [announces](#) its stakeholder listening initiative “NIFA Listens: Investing in Science to Transform Lives.” This stakeholder listening opportunity informs the research, extension and education priorities of NIFA, which has the mission of investing in and advancing agricultural research, education and extension to solve societal challenges. For the purpose of this opportunity, *Agriculture* is defined broadly and includes research, extension, and education in food, fiber, forestry, range, nutritional and social sciences, including food safety and positive youth development. This listening opportunity allows stakeholders to provide feedback on the following questions:

- “When considering all of agriculture, what is the greatest challenge that should be addressed through NIFA's research, education, and extension?”
- “In your field, what is the most-needed breakthrough in science/technology that would advance your agricultural enterprise?” and,
- “What is your top priority in food and agricultural research, extension, or education that NIFA should address?”

Ways to provide feedback:

- **Online Input:** Online submission of stakeholder input to the target questions will be open through 5:00 p.m. Eastern time November 30, 2018.
- **In-person Listening Sessions:** A full-day listening session is scheduled for **Thursday, October 25, 2018, in Minneapolis, MN.** Other sessions will take place in Hartford, CT (October 11), New Orleans, LA (October 18), and Albuquerque, NM (November 1).

To register for online submission or in-person session attendance,
visit <https://nifa.usda.gov/nifalistsens>.



Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

[Contact Us](#)



The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.

You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.

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