UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PACIFIC RIM RESEARCH PROGRAM

CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND GUIDELINES
Academic Year 2014-2015

PACIFIC RIM RESEARCH PROGRAM
Administered by the Center for Global, International, and Regional Studies
University of California, Santa Cruz
1156 High Street
303 Social Sciences 1
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Telephone: 831.459.2833 • Fax: 831.459.5900 • Email: pacrim@ucsc.edu

Also available at: http://pacrim.ucsc.edu/
PACIFIC RIM RESEARCH PROGRAM
Executive Committee 2013-2014

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Professor Sabine Frühstück
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies
UCSB

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SANTA CRUZ CAMPUS
Professor Danilyn Rutherford
Department of Anthropology

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Edith B. Allen
Department of Botany and Plant Sciences;
Center for Conservation Biology
(UC Riverside)
I. INTRODUCTION

The University of California (UC) Pacific Rim Research Program (PRRP) supports collaborative research by UC faculty, graduate students, and their colleagues at other institutions. Inaugurated in 1986 as part of a University-wide Pacific Rim initiative, it was renewed in 2009 as a Multicampus Research Project/Initiative (MRPI). More than 750 projects have been funded since the inception of the Pacific Rim Research Program. More than 500 University of California faculty, 250 graduate students, and well over 350 scholars from institutions on both sides of the Pacific and in both northern and southern hemispheres have worked under PRRP auspices.

Funded by the Office of the President and administered at UC Santa Cruz, the PRRP is governed by an Executive Committee of faculty representatives from all UC campuses. Due to the change of leadership at UCOP, the 2014-2015 competition will be limited to an Advanced Graduate Minigrant competition.

II. SCOPE

The Pacific Rim Research Program promotes the study of the Pacific Rim as a distinctive region. For the purposes of this Program, the term "Pacific Rim" encompasses all areas and nations that border the Pacific Ocean, including Southeast Asia and East Asia, Australia/New Zealand, the Pacific islands, and Pacific Latin America. The states and nations bordering the Pacific Ocean are densely linked by patterns of historical contact, geology, trade, investment, international agreements and conflicts, migration, environmental and disease vectors, and the incessant flow of ideas and cultural practices.

The Program places priority on research that is new, specific to the region, and collaborative -- reaching across national boundaries and bridging academic disciplines. Proposals may come from any discipline in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, public health, or some combination thereof. Research may focus on humans in relationship to the built or natural environment, transcultural and historical constructions of the human, human-nonhuman interactions, cultural geography, transnational migrations, economic expansion, regional agricultural development, environmental health and human disease, or other themes. Proposals should address questions that contribute to an understanding of the Pacific Rim region as a whole.

III. CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

Advanced Graduate Minigrants support graduate students—the next generation of scholars. Proposals will be evaluated for scholarly merit, originality, purpose, relationship to existing research, theoretical framework, methodology, qualifications and role of each investigator and collaborator, adequacy of available resources, justification for the budget, anticipated scholarly products, tentative schedule, and plan for dissemination of the research results.

In addition to these features, successful proposals ordinarily include the following:
Investigation across national, cultural, linguistic, and/or regional boundaries.

Focus on interactions, flows, or major issues affecting the Pacific Rim region.

Multi-disciplinary, multi-regional research is encouraged. Studies of single countries may be funded if the proposal articulates broader regional significance. “Collaboration” is broadly defined and need not be required in all aspects of the research.

Studies of flora, fauna, diseases, minerals, and other natural phenomena that occur in the Pacific Rim will be considered only if they significantly enhance understanding of the Pacific Rim and its peoples. Such proposals will receive more favorable consideration if they address cultural, social, or policy issues.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposals with campus research office staff or faculty representatives on the University-wide Executive Committee to evaluate appropriateness to the Program. The Pacific Rim Research Program does not normally support proposals focused solely on Mexico and the United States. Investigators on such proposals are encouraged to explore funding opportunities offered by the UC MEXUS program.

While every effort is made to ensure that a range of disciplines, areas, and campuses are represented on the final awards list, the final criterion for an award is the excellence of the proposal.

Students may apply for a maximum of $5,000. The Advanced Graduate Minigrant Fellowships program will award 10 or more grants for 2014-2015.

V. RESEARCH SCHEDULE

Grants are awarded on a fiscal-year basis (July 1 - June 30). Grant recipients should consult with Program staff regarding specific scheduling questions.

VI. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

The Pacific Rim Research Program has at least three members of the system-wide PRRP Executive Committee review, rank, and comment on each proposal. Letters informing applicants of their award status will be e-mailed to all applicants. Announcements are usually made in mid-May.

Each applicant electronically submits their application at: http://pacrim.fastapps.uchri.org

Proposals will be due online by Friday, February 21, 2014.

VII. REPORTING

Advanced Graduate Minigrant Fellowship recipients must submit a brief report (400 words) on completed projects to the Program Office by December 1st in the year the
The project is completed. The report should be suitable for dissemination to a general audience. Appended to the report should be a list of research activities, names of all participants including research assistants, copies of publications generated by the project, and a brief financial report. Notification of publications that appear after the reporting deadline should be provided to the Program Coordinator when they become available.

Unexpended funds at the project’s conclusion must be returned to the Program Office. Failure to submit a final report or return unexpended funds will jeopardize future grant eligibility.

The Program maintains a web archive. Research results described in progress reports and final reports, as well as in publications submitted to the Program, may be published in synopsis form.

The PRRP participates in the UC California Digital Library’s (CDL) e-Scholarship repository Program and welcomes submissions of working papers, articles, conference proceedings, and other scholarly materials to be electronically published under the PRRP’s auspices. For more information about the repository, please refer to the CDL’s website: http://repositories.cdlib.org/escholarship/.

**VIII. PROPOSAL FORMAT**

Application information and documents include:

- Applicant's Title (Mr., Ms.)
- Applicant's Name:
- Department:
- E-mail address:
- Project Title:
- Requested amount:
- Narrative proposal
- Itemized budget
- Narrative budget
- CV (2 page limit)
- Letter of recommendation from primary advisor
- Other funding applied to or forthcoming
- Transcripts (unofficial copies accepted)

**Narrative Proposal:** Project descriptions for Advanced Graduate Minigrants should describe the purpose of the proposed project, relationship to existing research, Pacific Rim focus, theoretical framework, methodology, anticipated scholarly products, tentative schedule, and plan for dissemination of the research results (max. 800 words). A bibliography of not more than half a page should follow the project description. Proposals should be written in language accessible to non-specialists.

**Letter of Recommendation:** One letter of support is required from the student’s faculty advisor evaluating the soundness and originality of the project, the work and potential of the graduate student applicant, and the likelihood that the student will advance to candidacy prior to the grant period.
**Budget:** An itemized budget and detailed narrative budget justification must be submitted with the proposal. Pacific Rim Research Program funds may be used for direct costs. The budget should follow the following guidelines:

a. Student fees and non-resident tuition. Advanced Graduate Minigrants are intended for direct support of graduate student research; they are not intended for UC student fees and tuition. Graduate student applicants are encouraged to seek withdrawn or planned leave of absence status during extended field trips where permitted by campus regulations.

b. Field Research Travel: should include destination, purpose, number of trips, economy-class airfare, daily food and lodging expenses, and number of days covered. The applicant should make every effort to obtain the most reasonable rates. The PRRP does not use federal per diem rates.

c. Meetings/Conferences: should include purpose, number of participants, potential participants, and details of meeting-related expenses. Conference travel to professional meetings to disseminate research is not eligible for funding.

d. Research Supplies: may include acquisition of data (specify type of data), project-specific expendable supplies, and consulting fees (with justification and not to exceed $500 per person) to non-UC collaborators when necessary to obtain technical services. Funding for durable general-purpose equipment such as computers and video cameras is usually not allowed. Research assistance is not allowed.