

THE D.K. WILGUS FELLOWSHIP IN COMPARATIVE BALLAD & FOLKSONG STUDY

at the
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PURPOSE: To foster the study of folksong and vernacular music, continuing the scholarly tradition exemplified by Professor D. K. Wilgus—an influential ballad scholar whose extensive papers rest in UNC’s Southern Folklife Collection. This fellowship facilitates research in areas as diverse as narrative themes in international balladry, the relationships between Irish and American ballads and folksongs, the blues ballad, and the interplay between field-collected and commercially recorded music (all realms that particularly interested Professor Wilgus). The proposed project may be ethnographic or archival; whatever the topic, the applicant should consider musical as well as textual evidence, and give full attention to both commercial and field-recorded materials. Whenever relevant, we encourage applicants to employ the comparative or geographical-historical method in their study, following the example set forth by Professor Wilgus and his students.

We offer this year’s awards fully aware of the ways that the pandemic impacts research of all kinds, and imposes special demands on our students. Consequently, we invite creativity, while promising that we will assess these proposals with a special measure of flexibility.

ELIGIBILITY: UNC students working toward the MA or PhD in any discipline relevant to the study of ballad and folksong, including American Studies, Anthropology, Art, Communication Studies, English, Folklore, History, and Music.

AWARDS: The Wilgus Fellowship provides a stipend of up to \$5,000 to cover research expenses including but not limited to travel, lodging, living expenses, research supplies, and up to half the cost of durable equipment. Award recipients may be asked to present their work as part of the American Studies Colloquium, usually with two years of the award date.

TO APPLY: Applicants must provide:

- a CV (2-page maximum)
- a second document consisting of:
 - a proposal that describes the research to be undertaken and explains its significance and impact (750 words maximum)
 - a line-item budget that pertains *only* to the proposal request
 - a brief, bullet-point project timeline for the period covered by the proposal
 - a brief bibliography of works with which the research engages
- a letter of endorsement from the thesis or dissertation advisor

Application materials should be submitted as email attachments (one email from the student with CV and second document; one email direct from advisor with endorsement letter) to the Director of Graduate Studies, Department of American Studies amstdgs@unc.edu.

DEADLINE: Applications for the Fellowship must be submitted by 4 pm on the third Tuesday in April. The Fellowship will be awarded in early May, and funds may be expended any time within the following twelve months.