We are pleased to announce the inaugural round of a grant program for advanced doctoral students at the University of Maryland who are engaged in research using qualitative or mixed (qualitative and quantitative) methods in their dissertation studies. Preference is given to applicants who have successfully passed their dissertation proposals, have completed data collection, are preparing for data analysis, or are in the writing stages of the dissertation. Emphasis is placed on dissertations that explore the intersections of race, gender, ethnicity and dimensions of structural inequalities as they shape the construction and representation of complex social relations.

CRGE is an interdisciplinary research center, which promotes intersectional scholarship through original research, mentoring, and collaboration. CRGE's work explores the intersections of race, gender, ethnicity, and other dimensions of inequality as they shape the construction and representation of identities, behavior, and complex social relations.

CRGE’s Qualitative Research Interest Group (QRIG) is a working group composed of faculty and graduate students who are engaged in enhancing knowledge and utilization of qualitative/mixed methods in research and teaching. QRIG seeks to elevate the profile of qualitative methodologies at UMD through programs designed to facilitate collaborative research and inquiry. QRIG programs include a lecture series showcasing important and path-breaking qualitative scholarship, conferences and workshops on qualitative methods, and a program of research seed grants for early career faculty and doctoral candidates conducting qualitative and mixed methods intersectional research.

The Program:

This seed grant provides $1,000-$2500 for doctoral candidates to fund data analysis costs for dissertations that primarily use qualitative research methods (including: participant-observation, in-depth interviews, focus groups, life histories, or ethnographies with human subjects) or mixed qualitative and quantitative methods. The investigator may request funds for research equipment (e.g., recorders), transcription, data analysis software such as NVivo or Atlas TI, data analysis...
training (e.g., NVivo workshop), a statistics consultant, or editor. Travel for data collection and participant incentives will **not** be funded.

**Eligibility:**

Applicants must:
- Be doctoral candidates at UMD.
- Have successfully defended the dissertation proposal.
- Conduct a dissertation where the *primary* focus of the data collection is on the meaning of events in the lives of study participants (i.e., an interpretative approach) rather than collecting data that measure the frequency of events (i.e., a survey approach).
- Complete the CITI training in Social/Behavioral research with human subjects.
- Have secured Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for dissertation study by February 1, 2016.
- Be committed to the goals and mission of CRGE.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to:
- Submit a proposal for a dissertation that is intersectional in its approach (i.e., examining how one or more dimensions of structural inequality affects the lived experiences of individuals or groups).

**Application Requirements:**

The grant application consists of:
1. A brief description of the dissertation study, no longer than five (5) pages in length (with a 12-point font). It should be addressed to “non-specialists.”
2. A justified budget that proposes funding of a sum between $1,000 and $2,500. Award amounts will depend on the number and quality of grants approved. Funds may be used for direct research costs related to data analysis. Please provide a clear budget justification. What is money being used for and why?
3. Timeline for completing and defending the dissertation.
4. Letter of support from dissertation chair, confirming the approval of the dissertation proposal.
5. Current CV.

**Application Preparation Guidelines:**

It is important that submissions offer a clear roadmap of research strategies to conduct the proposed study. The guidelines below may be useful in the proposal preparation:

1. Explain the intellectual question you plan to engage. Briefly summarize current knowledge in the field, based on a review of the literature.
2. Explain why this question is important. What are the intellectual debates in your field that are relevant to this proposed study? Offer a thorough description of the intellectual context of your study.
3. Briefly summarize the innovative aspects of the dissertation study.
4. Clearly define the participant sample, data collection procedures, and analytic processes of your study.
5. Are you experiencing any difficulties with conducting the dissertation? Explain to the committee how you are addressing them.
6. Identify your long-term career goals after completing the dissertation.

Optional: If you wish, you may attach a one-to-three page (maximum) appendix, which offers additional details of the dissertation, or other supplemental details. No preliminary data are required for this proposal but may be included as an appendix if available.

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<th>Submitting the Application:</th>
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<td>Please submit an application with a cover sheet with name, department, mailing address, email address, and phone, and the title of your dissertation. Please also include a brief (i.e., 150 words) abstract of the dissertation on the cover sheet. As noted above, the complete application package consists of a five-page proposal, justified budget, timeline, letter of support, IRB approval letter for the dissertation project, and CV. For questions, contact Dr. Michelle Espino, CRGE Research Associate at 301-405-2860 or <a href="mailto:mespino@umd.edu">mespino@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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Please deliver one hard copy of your application and e-mail one electronic copy of your application by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2016 to:

Ms. Wendy Hall  
Program Management Specialist  
Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity  
1208 Cole Student Activities Building  
College Park, MD 20742  
hallw@umd.edu

Review Process:

The Executive Committee of the Qualitative Research Interest Group will review proposals. Reviewers will provide an impact score on the overall quality of the research as well as the potential of the research to lead to preliminary data for inclusion in a submission of a proposal for external funding.

The executive committee understands, of course, that qualitative research is emergent. However, it is reasonable for you to give the committee a sense of the contours of your dissertation including who, what, when, where, and how you are conducting the dissertation research.

Timeline:

Awards will be announced in March 2016. Research activities can be planned for the spring, summer, or fall 2016; funds will be dispensed by March 21, 2016.

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<th>Announcement Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
<td>Announce QRIG Dissertation Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1, 2016 at 4pm</td>
<td>Proposals Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal Review Committee Meeting</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Announce QRIG Awards</td>
<td>March 21, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Disbursed</td>
<td>March 21, 2016</td>
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**Post-Award Requirements:**

Awardees are expected to submit a brief report by the end of the fall 2016 semester summarizing their completed dissertation research and a budget report on use of funds. Grant recipients are also expected to make a presentation on their research to the QRIG group, interested faculty, and students within one year of receiving funding.

**Qualitative Research Interest Group Executive Committee:**

**Joseph Richardson**, Chair, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies  
**Ruth E. Zambrana**, Director, CRGE & Professor, Department of Women’s Studies  
**Michelle M. Espino**, Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education  
**Kevin Roy**, Associate Professor, Department of Family Sciences  
**Jennifer Danridge Turner**, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership  
**Mia Smith Bynum**, Associate Professor, Department of Family Science  
**Kimberly Griffin**, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education  
**Thurka Sangaramoothy**, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology