

INFORMATION SHEET FOR POTENTIAL BIARI CONVENERS

(To supplement CFP issued May 2014)

In 2009, with the co-sponsorship of Santander Universities, Brown launched the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI). Between 2009 and 2012, a total of over 500 promising young scholars from the global South, representing over 70 countries, have gathered on Brown's campus to participate in two-week institutes. Led by conveners from Brown's faculty, and with the participation of visiting faculty from universities around the world, participants shared their work with one another and met with leading figures in their field, in an intensive workshop-like setting. The residential program offers a rising generation of the world's academic leaders a distinctive international experience in Providence. On a larger scale, through a variety of alumni activities, BIARI also promotes collaborative research and learning beyond Brown.

A primary goal of BIARI is to generate sustained interaction, rather than the come and go of an academic conference. Each institute provides the opportunity for sharing new research, learning from established leaders in the field, and exploring the field's canonical questions and materials from the perspective of various national and local traditions. In appropriate cases, lab experience or instruction in new research methods can be part of the institute program. Past conveners and participants have also identified the pedagogical impacts—in terms of knowledge transfer regarding curricular design, readings and resources, and classroom practice.

In 2009-2014, BIARIs have been offered on eight themes: in Development and Inequality, Population and Development, Ethnicity, Conflict and Inequality, Critical Studies in the Global Humanities, Theater and Civil Society, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Water, Energy and Digital Information in the Global South; Climate Change, Global Health (HIV/AIDS), Human Security/Humanitarian Response, and Global Governance. Funding includes stipends for lead and co-convenors; travel, honoraria and food and accommodation (where necessary) for visiting faculty (including Brown-based contributors); and the full travel, accommodation and tuition costs for all accepted applicants. The BIARI team provides logistical assistance with publicity, the participants' application process, provision of materials, and all travel and on-campus arrangements. Past BIARIs have included between 25 and 60 participants, and between 10 and 20 visiting speakers, including Brown faculty.

Institutes are designed to:

- promote cutting-edge research within a field or discipline
- demonstrate new approaches to the field—including interdisciplinary approaches
- encourage a reconsideration of the field's canonical questions and works from multiple international perspectives
- apply scholarship to topics of pressing global concern
- generate concrete follow-on activities (especially by providing support for applicants to generate seed grant and residency proposals)

Past experience has indicated that participants particularly value:

- Coherent, focused reading assignments, with adequate time for discussion
- Presentations by leading figures in the field, with opportunities for q and a
- Participant presentations with peer and convener feedback
- Break-out groups, with opportunities for participants to identify and work on shared ideas (especially seed grant proposals)
- One-on-one time with conveners and/or visiting faculty
- Concrete directions for collaborative work to build on the residential experience
- Genuine diversity—in terms of discipline, country of origin and gender—among participants and speakers

Convener responsibilities include:

- Assembling a two-week syllabus of lectures, readings, seminars, workshops and performances around their topic, appropriate for early career scholars
- Identifying and contacting visiting lecturers and faculty, from Brown and beyond
- Designing selection criteria for participants (September-October)
- Helping advertise the BIARI by distributing information through existing networks (November-December)
- Reviewing applicant pool and making recommendations on acceptance (usually January-February, via online system)
- Being present and engaged during BIARI (2 weeks in June)
- Providing brief synopsis of BIARI activities (Summer), and guidance on alumni seed grant and residency applications

By offering a sustained locus for engagement and ongoing networking BIARI will assist scholars from the areas less well represented in global debates in making themselves heard. For those of us in the United States, the opportunity to engage with these young scholars as they develop their ideas, and to learn from the various perspectives they will bring to their disciplines will be of real significance. This effort is particularly pertinent in the current moment as Brown is deepening its academic links in China, India, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa—recognizing that these countries are producing a rising cadre of intellectual leaders who will have a global presence and should be in global conversation.

In collaboration with institutional partners in the U.S. and abroad, we aim to identify the most promising young scholars, build a network for ongoing research collaboration, and recruit leading scholars as mentors for the workshops themselves. At the same time, we hope the institutes will open the door to new relationships with the world's expanding network of excellent research and teaching institutions.

For details on how to express interest, please see the call for proposals, or contact biari@brown.edu.