Race and Identity Matters (RIM)
One-Day Symposium
Call for Applications

With generous support from the New England Humanities Consortium (NEHC), and from the Provost's Office at Colby College, the Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities is proud to launch Race and Identity Matters (RIM), which seeks to build a mutually supportive, intellectually stimulating network between scholars working on race and identity across all eleven NEHC campuses. The first step to launching this network is a:

One-Day Symposium
University of Connecticut
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, February 29th, 2020

At this first RIM meeting, the focus is on highlighting the range of work on race and identity at NEHC schools, and allowing individual scholars to recognize potential areas for collaboration. To that end, 10 of the accepted scholars will be invited to prepare a 5-10-minute presentation on their current or proposed research project. Each presentation will be followed by 15 minutes of discussion where the audience discusses the research idea/plan (it will not be possible for more than 10 people to make presentations, but we hope that others will be happy to join in the conversation and forge links with like-minded researchers).

Logistics
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner (optional) will be provided.
- All successful applicants will receive a travel stipend.
- We have limited funds to pay for hotels for the nights of February 28th and/or 29th. Priority: those whose home institutions are too far away to permit same day travel.

Application Deadline: December 6th, 2019
RIM: Rationale & Key Elements

Despite a shared focus on Race and Identity, scholars in the Humanities approach their subject from a host of different disciplines, often through different languages, concentrating on very different communities, and engaging with time periods that stretch from antiquity to the present. As a result, such scholars can feel very much alone. This initiative will strengthen research by bringing potentially isolated scholars together, both physically and electronically, to review, respond to, and make use of each other’s work. By building a community and network, it will act to stimulate, provoke, and encourage new ideas. The very diversity of disciplinary backgrounds will offer new perspectives.

Key Elements
The first step is the One-Day Symposium (February 29th at UConn).

The subsequent step is the RIM Summer Institute (May 26th-28th at Colby College). A major focus of this Summer Institute will be work-shopping essays or book chapters in progress. Stay tuned for more information, but mark your calendars now!

An accompanying element will be a RIM Scholarship in NEHC classrooms project. Connecting scholarship to the classroom, RIM scholars at all eleven NEHC schools will be invited to submit a teachable article or chapter that they have written to a google folder, along with a suggestion on how to incorporate it into a class discussion, seminar, etc. Participants will then be invited to consider ways that these articles could be employed in their own classes, sharing their thoughts in the Google folder. This step will be of particular value to early career scholars seeking to gain attention for their work, and for more advanced scholars who are nonetheless new to this field. Everyone, however, will benefit from the opportunity to consider fresh pedagogical options. This kind of connection between research and teaching will have multiple benefits. For example, it could lead to the creation of an NEHC speaking circuit for RIM scholars, further enhancing the links between partner institutions, strengthening the network of scholars, and enriching the learning experience of students across New England.

Our hope is that the RIM network will also help address the problems of recruitment and retention of faculty by giving them a sense of belonging in an extended, intellectual family within NEHC.

Finally, we hope that every NEHC member institution will be represented in this network, and we will take that into account when selecting the participants for both the symposium and, later, the summer institute.