Objectives of Research Clusters
The Program for Transborder Communities (PTC) Research Cluster Seed Grants support academic year-long collaborative efforts by Arizona State University (ASU) faculty interested in pursuing a research program focused on transborder communities and critical social, cultural, economic, political and environmental processes occurring at the intersection of borders and society. The research clusters are mechanisms for triggering discussion that lead to exchange, cross-fertilization and collaboration across disciplines, with emphasis on Latinx and transborder communities in the US-Mexico borderlands. Ultimately, research clusters are expected to result in a self-sustained research program by leveraging funding from external funding sources.

ASU is committed to advance the knowledge and research capabilities of the dynamic and increasingly integrated Arizona-Sonora region and it is pursuing this goal in collaboration with the Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), El Colegio de Sonora (COLSON), the Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo (CIAD) and El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF). The main focus of the 2018 PTC Research Cluster Seed Grants is the Arizona-Sonora borderlands and its communities, yet applications focusing on other borders and transborder communities are also welcome.

Research clusters may receive up to $7,500 per cluster to cover workshops, seminars, travel, and or research materials. Each research cluster will also have available up to $1,500 to invite a non-ASU visiting fellow who will work with the research cluster throughout the academic year. Each research cluster is expected to work with PTC staff in selecting and formally inviting this non-ASU faculty who will be part of the PTC Fellows program.

During the course of the year of funding, research clusters are expected to pursue an attainable work program, work closely with their PTC fellow, and establish a presence as an active research team. The funds and support provided by PTC should result in at least one research proposal linked to a particular external funding source. Deliverable is a grant proposal submitted for consideration to an external funding entity within twelve months of receiving the award. In addition to the research proposal, grantees will be required to submit a half-way progress report, a final report due 60 days after the funding period end date, participate in the PTC seminar series, and acknowledge/credit PTC’s support in publications and other activities produced by the research cluster.

Eligibility
This cycle is open to ASU faculty who are eligible to submit grants to external funding agencies and doctoral students working with faculty in the social sciences and humanities at any of the ASU campuses. We encourage proposals involving at least one faculty from the Arizona-Sonora Inter-university Alliance (ASI Alliance) institutions: Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), Colegio de Sonora (COLSON), El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo (CIAD), and Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora (ITSON). Proposals including faculty from Northern Arizona University (NAU) and the University of Arizona (UofA) will be given special consideration.

Review process and selection criteria
Up to three research clusters grants will be awarded. Submitted proposals will be peer-reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee using the following criteria:

- Robustness and consistency of cluster’s work plan (goals, activities, calendar, and implementation).
- The investigators’ and team’s capability to undertake the research cluster goals.
- Potential for funding from external agencies

Research Cluster Funding Information
Awards are for a 12-month, fiscal year period and no extension will be granted. Allowable expenses are travel reimbursements, including field and archival research; research materials and supplies; and/or external services provided by independent contractors not affiliated with ASU. Non-allowable expenses are meals/food/water/drinks not associated with in travel status per diem.
Application Submission Instructions

The deadline for the PTC 2019 research cluster applications is **Friday, June 14, 2019 at 5 p.m. MT.** Please submit one electronic copy of the application materials (preferably PDF format) to ptc@asu.edu. For additional information, please email PTC at the email address above.

1. **Name, Academic Rank, Academic Unit of Each Applicant. (List faculty lead/ PI first.)**

2. **Title of Proposed Research Project:**

3. **Project Narrative:**
   - A two-page description of the work to be done (approximately 750-1,000 words) including goals, activities, strategies, and participants, as well as the contributions of the proposal to the understanding of transborder communities and processes along the US-Mexico border region and/or other borders.
   - A list of relevant bibliographic references.
   - A description of the specific expertise that each participant brings to this project, not to exceed one page for all participants (approximately 500 words).
   - A one-page statement (approximately 500 words) about how you will utilize external faculty expertise to conduct the project, with particular emphasis on the contribution of the PTC fellow to the goals of the project and substantive activities to be performed by the fellow over the term of the grant for feedback and/or consultation.
   - A timeline to accomplish the goals of the proposal, not to exceed one page (approximately 500 words);
   - A budget narrative of how research cluster will spend funds throughout the funding period, not to exceed one page (approximately 500 words).
   - A two-page C.V. for each participant.

4. **External Funding:**
   - one-page statement (approximately 500 words) describing the external funding agencies that the research cluster will apply to, the external agency deadlines, and why these funding agencies are appropriate for this project.

**Signature of the applicant(s)*:**

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**Signature of the unit head(s)*:**

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*Signature of the applicant indicates that the applicant agrees to submit a proposal for external funding through ORSPA, or Limited Submissions, if applicable. PTC seed grant recipients agree to pursue external funding exceeding the value of their PTC award and to include the School of Transborder Studies as a Unit in their allocations on relevant ASU forms when they apply for external funding. Seed recipients agree to allocate a minimum of 4%. This rate may increase if there is significant STS/PTC staff or faculty involvement anticipated during pre-award or post-award phases of the project. Once received funding exceeds that of the PTC seed grant, recipients will allow a nominal amount of allocations to STS (1%) for tracking purposes for all grants related to their PTC funded research.