

## *Intergenerational Dynamics*

**Deadline for applications: 23:59, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Across political and societal debates, members of different generations often appear in contrast or even in conflict, with simplified narratives of identity and purpose. However, in a contemporary interconnected world, tradition may play an increasingly smaller role in determining identities, social roles and power dynamics. Whilst each age cohort presents specific shared characteristics and tendencies, a nuanced study of intersectionality, individual identity, and changing societal dynamics may help us identify common social values across generations and assist in tackling the world's most pressing issues collaboratively.

UCL Grand Challenges' special initiative of *Intergenerational Dynamics* provides the opportunity for researchers across UCL to identify topics that require cross-disciplinary attention as a basis for further research, for problematising current debates, and considering critical issues.

### THEMES

Themes that could be considered under this special initiative include:

- Cross-generational 'wicked' problems: complex and interconnected issues such as the climate emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic, or the provision of universal basic services, affect stakeholders across multiple generations and require long-term concerted efforts to make any progress. However, they provide a unique opportunity for social change and collaborative thinking to set equitable goals. Contemporary framings of social values, inequalities, ideological divides, and current access to political or mediatic power will shape society for years to come, with huge consequences for the future lives of many.
- Evolving family dynamics: family structures and roles, and people's identity within those, are more complex and diverse than ever before and pose new questions at individual and societal level. For instance, the traditional understanding of an individual's journey through life stages is increasingly questioned, in favour of bilateral and lifelong learning models centred around wellbeing and fulfilment. Community and support networks also play an important role in combatting loneliness and childless ageing.
- Generational studies: as the world evolves, so we re-evaluate the models we employ to understand it. There is much progress to be made in the field of generational studies and associated disciplines, for instance in light of the massive quantities of data now available to researchers through longitudinal cohort studies and personal digital devices. Globalisation and technological progress allow us to broaden our definition of age and generations across periods and cultures. Academia can pioneer new ways of thinking about age, understanding the complexity and heterogeneity of cohorts, and highlighting previously invisible stereotypes or inequalities.

### FUNDING

Applications for projects costing up to £10,000 will be considered under this call.

Due to the UCL fiscal year end of July 31<sup>st</sup>, all expenses must be identified and invoiced by that date, with costed activities taking place by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

Please note the following are exempt from funding under Grand Challenges schemes:

- Activities that will incur costs after 31 July 2022. Use of awarded funds cannot be deferred to a later date
- Equipment costs
- Studies in basic science or research that is exclusively lab-based
- Article processing costs (publication fees)
- Staff 'buy-out', maintenance fees or bench fees

Awards can be used to support cross-boundary projects and activities that generate societal impacts, this may include (but is not limited to):

- Research or policy workshops
- Symposia or conferences
- Reports
- Articles or comment pieces in peer publications or media channels
- Preparatory or exploratory research towards larger grant applications
- Public and community engagement activities
- Videos and reports focused on policy or teaching curriculum development
- Research-led performance/public art-based outputs, including documentary films

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

First Applicants must be UCL-based researchers holding academic positions or postdoctoral appointments in academic Faculties. [NB Doctoral students are not eligible to stand as lead applicants, but can be funded as project research assistants].

Second Applicants can be either UCL staff (researchers in academic Faculties or Professional Services) or external partners – either academic (i.e. at another university) or non-academic (e.g. at a Local Authority, NGO, community or business organization).

## **ADDITIONAL COLLABORATORS**

These can be from within, or external to UCL. We strongly welcome and encourage external partners, including third sector organisations, policy, think tanks, industry, and charities. If not standing as 'Second Applicants' they can be shown as 'Additional Collaborators'.

## **STRATEGIC LINKING POSSIBILITIES ACROSS UCL**

Grand Challenges special initiatives also act as a means to partner with other UCL initiatives and central offices. For Intergenerational Dynamics, applicants may wish to align work with Co-Production Collective, UCL Culture, UCL Public Policy, The Age Innovation Hub, UCL Health of the Public, UCL Institute for Healthy Ageing.

## **ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS**

Applications will be assessed by panels composed of members of the Grand Challenges Working Groups from UCL Academic and Professional Services departments, and members of the Grand Challenges team.

The scoring criteria will include:

- Quality of the application and originality of topic and/or approach
- Cross-disciplinary and cross-boundary (academia to civil society) strengths of the collaborating Applicants and any external partners
- Societal relevance and potential to deliver significant positive impact
- Extent to which the proposed activities can be delivered within the timeframe and budget

Funding decisions will be announced between late January and mid-February 2022, to enable access to awarded funds between 1 March and 31 July 2022.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

By submitting this form, applicants indicate their agreement if successful to:

- Provide a short report to GC at the end of the academic year to describe activities, outputs, and impact.
- Permit GC to publicise the immediate, medium, and long-term outcomes attributable to funded projects.
- Acknowledge Grand Challenges support in publications or external communications, using our [visual identity guidance](#).

To submit your application, please fill in the application form and submit via the [online platform](#).

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Nina Quach ([n.quach@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:n.quach@ucl.ac.uk)).