



**THE NORTHERN NETWORK FOR MEDICAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH (NNMHR)  
NEW NETWORKS IN CRITICAL MEDICAL HUMANITIES FUNDING SCHEME**

**Round Two (2023)**

**Background**

In 2022, The Northern Network for Medical Humanities Research (NNMHR) launched the first round of the New Networks in Critical Medical Humanities Funding Scheme. Four networks were awarded funds of up to £2500 each to support events, activities and the development of resources.

The networks selected for funding in the 2022 round were:

- Broadly Conceived
- Ends of Knowledge: Critical University Studies and the Medical Humanities
- Neurodivergent Humanities
- Nonhuman Animals in the Medical Humanities Network (NAMHN)

The NNMHR has a strong national and international reputation as an interdisciplinary hub for researchers, practitioners and artists working in the critical medical humanities. Through a dynamic programme of events for early career researchers, and congresses held at Durham, Leeds, Sheffield and online in 2021, the NNMHR has been successful in engaging over two thousand researchers at all career stages and from all the disciplines contributing to the field. Collaboration and moving across disciplinary boundaries is increasingly important to generating new frameworks, scholarship and practices within critical medical humanities research.

Shifting the focus from small research projects and individual fellowships, the **New Networks in Critical Medical Humanities Funding Scheme** enables the NNMHR to identify and support emerging networks of researchers committed to the innovative development, complication and expansion of the field. These networks will involve early career researchers in leading or coordinating roles, and will help catalyse new ideas, methodologies, collaborations and areas of further investigation within the critical medical humanities, nationally and internationally. We welcome proposals for new networks as well as applications from established networks seeking to support new activities or initiatives.

The New Networks in Critical Medical Humanities Funding Scheme is made possible by a Discretionary Award from Wellcome Trust [UNS128916].

## Details of the 2023 round

For the 2023 round, the NNMHR invites applications for grants of up to £2500 to support networking activities for up to two years (2023-2025). All awarded funds must be claimed and spent by the end of August 2025.

Costed networking activity may include, but is not limited to:

- collaboration events and activities of core network members (including travel)
- collaboration and scoping events with relevant stakeholders
- scholarly outreach and public engagement initiatives
- core resources for collaborative research activity (including technological resources)
- costs associated with plenary speakers or keynote events
- costs associated with any publications emerging from the network in the duration of the award
- Staffing costs in the form of stipends or hourly payments for unwaged or precarious workers including but not necessarily limited to artists, activists, representatives from charities or similar organisations. If the ECR network leader named on the grant is not currently in full-time paid employment, funds may be requested to support their salary costs (on an hourly paid or fractional basis) for time spent coordinating network activities. Hourly paid staffing costs must be administered by the host institution in line with their own policies around casual employment. If the ECR network leader named on the grant is not currently in full-time paid employment, funds may be requested to support their salary costs (on an hourly paid or fractional basis) for time spent coordinating network activities. Salary costs must be administered by the host institution in line with their own policies around casual employment.

Costs that are not eligible for funding include:

- teaching buy-outs, fellowships, or personal payments for individual or group research time
- technology and computing resources for individual use

Prospective applicants will be able to attend an online workshop to explore what makes a successful research network, to reflect upon the benefits and limitations of online working, to address barriers to access, and to share best practice.

The NNMHR will support successful applicants by offering them mentoring, helping them to establish the public profile of their network, and inviting them to showcase the activities of their network at the annual NNMHR congresses and through regular contributions to [The Polyphony](#). The NNMHR will provide regular informal opportunities for the individuals running critical medical humanities networks to share their experiences and ideas, reflect on what is working and what is not, and identify areas of synergy and potential collaboration.

The NNMHR will agree with successful applicants an approach to evaluation prior to the commencement of funded activity. As they will engage and develop different constituencies and intellectual agendas, networks require space to experiment, as well as flexibility in the definition of what counts as 'success'.

## Administration of the Award

At least one applicant within the proposed network **must** be affiliated to an institution willing to administer the grant. Contact details for this applicant (if someone other than the lead author) and their institution, as well as a brief letter of support from their institution confirming that they are willing to administer the award as detailed below, must be provided.

The administering institution must be able to bear the cost associated with the grant in the first instance; requests for reimbursement of costs will be made to Durham University (representing the NNMHR) on a quarterly basis, with evidence of spend in arrears. Any unspent funds will remain with the NNMHR. Please note that the NNMHR are not in a position to dispense this grant as a lump sum upfront.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants can come from any discipline or sector engaged in critical medical humanities research, working anywhere in the world. Applications will only be considered from groups of two or more individuals working collaboratively. In order to ensure that the network supports the career development of its coordinators, at least one applicant in this group must regard themselves as being early career (broadly defined as not having yet taken up a permanent post).

While a focus on critical medical humanities research is essential, the scheme recognises that research takes place in spaces beyond the academy and can be carried out within a wide range of professional, artistic and community contexts. Applications from researchers from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and from people who identify as disabled or who have lived experience of illness will be strongly encouraged.

## **Assessment Criteria**

Applicants will be free to determine the nature and scope of network activity within the [Wellcome Trust's overall guidelines](#), and can use funds to cover the costs of network coordination. It will not be a requirement that networks generate discrete research outputs or applications for further funding; however, applicants must be able to identify some broader goals for the network beyond simply exchanging ideas, and to show how participation will benefit those involved in the network's coordination and activity.

Applications will be assessed against the extent to which they:

- further a critical medical humanities approach to health-related research
- have the potential to impact positively on the people engaged, whatever their background, role, profession, status or career level
- involve early career researchers in coordinating or leading roles
- take intellectual risks or propose experimental ways of working
- are committed to inclusivity and have identified strategies to achieve this
- embrace interdisciplinarity as part of their approach to their chosen theme/s
- address the sustainability of the proposed collaboration and/or the topic at hand beyond the life of the grant (this could take a number of forms including ECR career development, or how the network might exist or evolve in the future)

Applications will be assessed by a panel made up of members of the NNMHR Steering group.

Please note:

- While we will take into account matters like representation and diversity among the people and topics involved, the actual size of your network is not included in the assessment criteria. This is intentional. We want to see the best and most innovative ideas that the critical medical humanities have to offer. These might involve any number of people from any location/s in the world. Key questions addressed by these networks can impact local through to global settings and contexts, the most important

thing is bringing the right people together to do that. Interdisciplinarity matters, but how you achieve this is up to you.

- Networks can work to broad or narrow themes: what matters is the furthering of knowledge and practice around approaches to thinking about health.
- The aims of individual networks might include the production of scholarly outputs but this is not essential. We are interested in bringing together new communities of thought and practice and how you seek to address issues within the field of critical medical humanities is up to you. We are happy to consider all types of activity that might positively impact the field.

## Application Process

Applicants should send their completed application form and institutional letter of support by 5pm (UK time) on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to Dr James Rákóczi at [james.rakoczi@durham.ac.uk](mailto:james.rakoczi@durham.ac.uk).

The institutional letter of support is to confirm that the institution is willing and able to bear the cost associated with the grant in the first instance; requests for reimbursement of costs will be made to Durham University (representing the NNMHR) on a quarterly basis, with evidence of spend in arrears.

The NNMHR Steering Group will review the applications and aim to notify all applicants of the outcome by the end of June 2023.

As described in [Wellcome Trust's Grant Conditions](#) it is important to note that:

- NNMHR requires that all funded networks comply with the legal, ethical and risk-based processes of the institution administering the grant. NNMHR also reserves the right to refuse any expenditure or event that does not meet adequate health and safety or ethical compliance standards
- Grant holders must inform NNMHR if planned activities and/or expenditure needs to change significantly within the duration of the award
- Any unspent funding will remain with the NNMHR at the end of the grant period.

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## Frequently asked questions:

### ***How much are the awards?***

*Each award is for up to £2500.*

### ***How many awards will be made?***

*We are likely to make four or five awards in this round.*

### ***Our network was awarded funding in the 2022 round. Can we apply again for more funding to develop our network further?***

*No, we have decided to prioritise funding a wider selection of networks rather than give additional funds to networks that have already received support from the NNMHR.*

### ***We applied for an award in the last round, but were unsuccessful. Can we apply again?***

*Yes!*

**How will the award be made?**

At least one applicant within the proposed network **must** be affiliated to an institution willing to administer the grant. Contact details for this applicant (if someone other than the lead author) and their institution, as well as a brief letter of support from their institution confirming that they are willing to administer the award as detailed below, must be provided.

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**I'm not quite ready to apply for this funding yet. Will there be another opportunity to apply for new network funding in the future?**

We are unlikely to be able to offer further rounds of funding after 2023.

**Further Information:** For informal enquiries or advice about your eligibility for the scheme, please contact Dr James Rákóczi at [james.rakoczi@durham.ac.uk](mailto:james.rakoczi@durham.ac.uk).