



Wenner-Gren Foundation

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Research in the Age of Covid-19

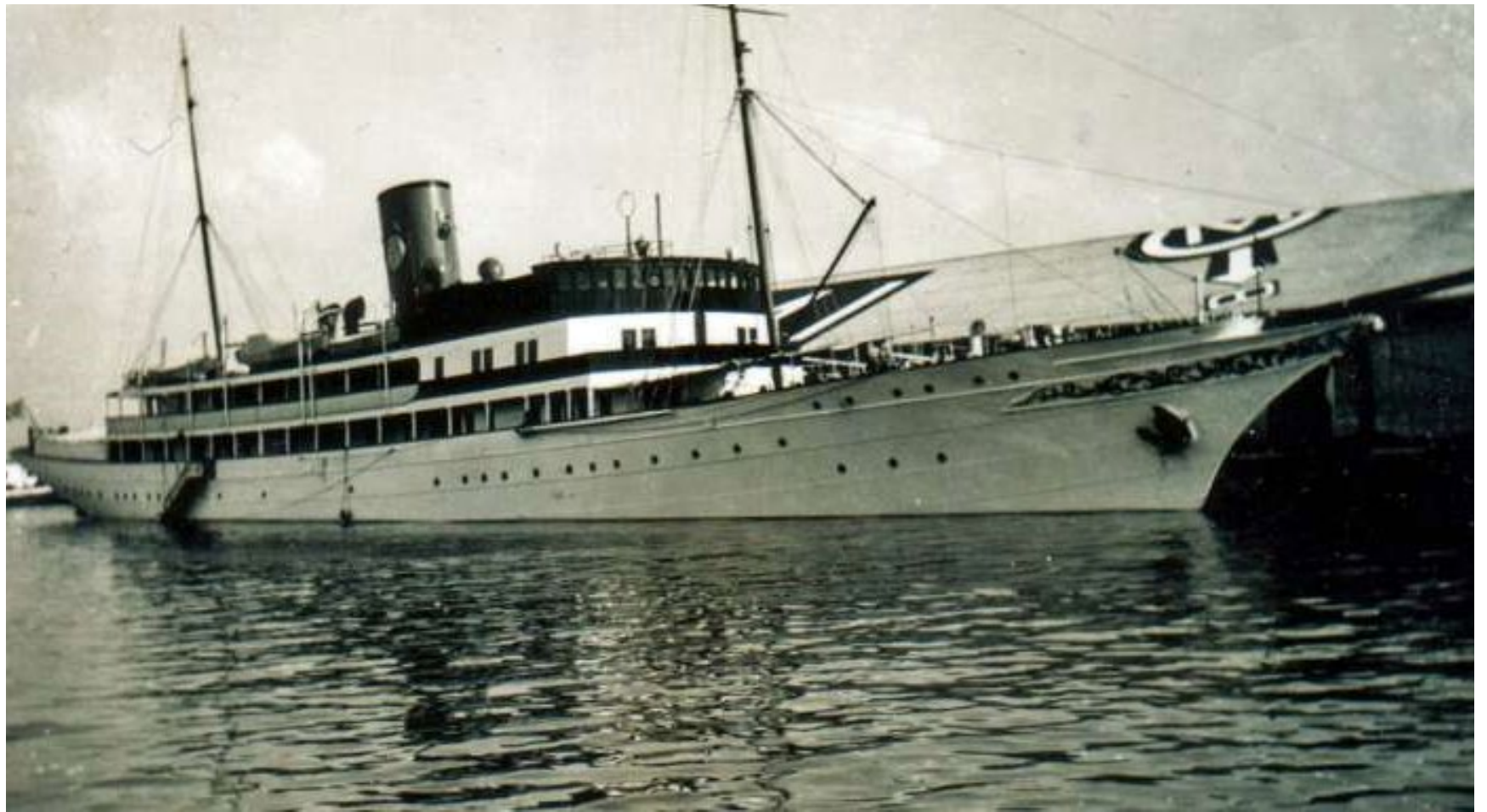
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Wenner-Gren's Response to Covid-19

- Extended review process for Nov. 1 applicants.
- Project redesigns for active grantees.
- Cancelled May 1 deadline for DF, PPhD.
- Doubled Hunt fellowships.
- Virtual Workshop Grants
- Global Initiatives Grants.
- Engaged Research Grants.
- Ethics, Methods, Questions Conversation.













Mission Statement

The Wenner-Gren Foundation is committed to playing a leadership role in anthropology. We help anthropologists advance anthropological knowledge, build sustainable careers, and amplify the impact of anthropology within the wider world. We dedicate ourselves to broadening the conversation in anthropology to reflect the full diversity of the field.

Advancing knowledge. We invest in researchers within the discipline's many subfields and specializations. We fund the best work in the field.

Addressing precarity. We play an active role in nurturing and safeguarding anthropology as a career and a discipline. We help anthropologists demonstrate the value of their discipline by developing new ways to put anthropological skills and insights to work.

Amplifying impact. We work to cultivate anthropological ways of thinking beyond the discipline. We are committed to promoting anthropology as a resource for addressing contemporary problems. We give anthropologists the skills and platforms they need to reach broader audiences and to affirm the value of anthropology in a rapidly changing world.

Fostering inclusion. We foster inclusive conversations by supporting anthropologists with different backgrounds, perspectives, methods, and commitments. We are committed to a vision of anthropology that celebrates its global diversity and honors the ethical obligations born of anthropological work.

Intellectual Challenge

Demonstrating, not promising.

Knowing the difference between an object of study and an object of observation.

Triangulating. Identifying multiple routes for getting at a question.

Methodological Challenge

Knowing the difference between what you can do and what you can't do.

Recognizing that the online interview is not the only answer.

Thinking historically, contextually, comparatively.

Learning from other researchers, allies, and critics.

Ethical Challenge

Paying the cost of entry.

Not wasting people's energy and time.

Reckoning with debts born of research.

Reckoning with harms research can do.

Rethinking Research Projects

How COVID-19 has affected the **focus of your investigation**.

How the **evidence** you need to collect to answer your research question has changed – and how you will go about collecting and analyzing it.

How COVID-19 might impact your **budget**.

How COVID-19 might impact your **timeline**.

New Type of Research Focus

Covid-19 related changes

Methodology related changes

Changes reflecting the interests and commitments of participants

New Type of Research Focus

Robust in the worst-case scenario. You can't travel or use conventional research methods.

What would you learn?

New Kinds of Evidence

Archival work

Comparative work

Epistolary work

Existing field notes and data sets

Grey literature

Media analysis

Museum collections

Online interviews and observation

Etc.

New Approaches to Ethics

Consent and access.

Risks to participants

Risks to others affected by your research

Debts to participants

Recognition of participants as co-producers of knowledge

New Kinds of Budgets

Living expenses
Research assistance
Dependent care
“Gifts for informants”
Internet access for participants
Equipment for participants
Transcription and translation
Reproduction costs
Postage
Etc.

New Timelines

Flexibility on extensions

Flexibility on contents of final reports

Flexibility on reallocations of funds

- We want to support anthropological research.
- We want to support precarious scholars.
- We want to honor our ethical obligations.
- We are taking the long view.
- We have faith in current generation of researchers.
- We will learn from current generation of researchers.