



**Grant Applications and Awards  
Rules and Guidelines**

**15 March 2010 Call**

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## 1. Introduction

EDDA is an interdisciplinary Center of Excellence in critical contemporary research, with special emphasis on equality and diversity; transnational politics and security; the social state; sustainability and development. EDDA, which is an independent research institute hosted by the Center of Humanities within the University of Iceland, is a venue for collaboration between scholars, research institutes, government institutions, and private enterprises and organizations in Iceland and abroad. By hosting visiting professors and offering fellowships to post-doctoral, Ph.D., and pre-doctoral students, EDDA aims at becoming a leading research institute, employing a variety of theoretical and empirical approaches. In its strategic programme in 2010-2011, EDDA (as the acronym for Equality, Diversity, Development and Advancement) rests on three research areas: (1) *Historical, Cultural, and Discursive Representations of Equality and Difference* – focuses on the genealogies and trajectories of levelling and pluralising discourses. (2) *The Social State, Political Reform and Civil Society* – examines factors that impact socio-economic conditions and the effects of economic crises on political and constitutional reforms, civil society, and protests movements; (3) *“Reconstruction” Discourses after Systemic Breakdowns: Security, Justice, Memory and Geopolitics* – deals with questions of how post-crash/post-traumatic discourses are constructed through various practices of categorization and definition, including security, transitional justice, politics, comparative “First” and “Third” World discourses, and geopolitics.

## 2. Types of Grants – Application Deadlines

EDDA allocates the following types of grants:

- Project Grants
- Post-Doctoral Fellowships
- Ph.D. Fellowships
- Pre-Doctoral Fellowships

Grant applications will be accepted with two deadlines each year: 15 March and 15 November. Applications received after the deadline will not be processed. Special application forms are issued for each type of grant. The forms can be accessed on EDDA homepage, [www.edda.hi.is](http://www.edda.hi.is).

## 3. Specification of the Grant/Fellowship Applications: 15 March 2010 Call

Applications should specify and locate research proposals within EDDA’s research areas.

### **Research Area I: Historical, Cultural, and Discursive Representations of Equality and Difference**

EDDA’s first research area – Historical, Cultural, and Discursive Representations of Equality and Difference – focuses on the genealogies and trajectories of levelling and pluralising discourses. Icelandic conceptions, metaphors, images of equality, differences and national identities, as well as their international/transnational theoretical and political contexts, will be analyzed in order to gain a deeper

understanding of their underlying motivations. Special emphasis will be given to how the crisis sheds light on the limitations of recent equality models and calls for actual and potential reconfigurations. Such an approach includes questions of what kinds of notions of difference have been conducive to the demands of the so-called neoliberal economy. Demands for equality and articulations of differences have traditionally had a questioning or subversive force, opening up possibilities for a plurality of perspectives and paving the way for new meanings. Another theme deals with how notions of gender have permeated different discourses in politics, human, social, natural sciences and biotechnologies. How have body and nature been gendered, and how does gender figure in pre- and post-crisis popular, corporate, and political cultures? A further focus is on the implications for cultural criticism and redefinition of politics in times of crisis and societal reconstruction. Finally, questions will be raised as to which norms of justice can be used to understand contemporary debates that touch upon cultural assimilation/integration/exclusion of immigrants and minority groups. Do we have egalitarian obligations towards past and/or future generations, and if so, on what conception(s) of equality are these obligations based?

### **Core Themes:**

- 1) *History and tradition*: Analysis of models of equality and conceptions of difference in Icelandic culture and society, past and present. Socio-political implications of attempts to define and redefine social, gender, and cultural identities.
- 2) *Transnational challenges*: Analysis of gender, differences and equality in discourses of social justice and power that address the tension-ridden relationship between national identities and transnational socialization processes, such as Europeanization, from historical and contemporary perspectives. How do new representations of multiculturalism, and growing emphasis on the active participation of different groups in society, transform ideas about social justice?
- 3) *Deconstruction and reconstruction in human, social and natural sciences*: Studies of repressive and of emancipatory elements in gendered conceptions in different academic disciplines. Cultural representations of nature and the body in sciences and technologies. How do deconstructive and reconstructive discourses illuminate the past and open new venues for the future, and how does that lead to productive scholarship that is relevant in times of crisis?
- 4) *Crisis and post-crisis narratives*: How is language used to produce and reproduce, instrumentally, political realities? Special attention will be devoted to moral categories in the political sphere, such as lies, truth-regimes, corruption, and abuse of government power, and to gendered representations of power and the state of “hegemonic masculinity” in an Icelandic “reconstruction” setting.
- 5) *Justice and equality*: How are societies to ensure justice for their citizens in the contemporary pluralistic state, where many conceptions of a well ordered society compete? Is equality between generations important? And if so, how should such an intergenerational justice - ranging from equality of chances between generations to environmental issues, and from possible “duties towards the dead” to “obligation towards future generations” – be conceived?

## Research Area II: The Social State, Political Reform and Civil Society

EDDA's second research area – The Social State, Political Reform and Civil Society – examines factors that impact socio-economic conditions and the utilization of natural and human resources, such as those producing more complex inequalities (gender, age, class, ethnicity, etc.). A key topic addresses the imbalances between social and economic diversity as well as their interrelationship with sustainable economies, the social state and entitlements. Another theme explores economic crises, with a special reference to that in Iceland, from the perspective of political and constitutional reform. To what degree do profound economic changes stimulate or retard political change and what social forces play leading roles in such processes? The subject will be explored through an examination of the role of such entities as political parties/movements, business and labour interests, and/or social movements. A third topic deals with the academia in contemporary society and its critical, passive and “specialist” functions. It also deals with the interrelationship between institutions of higher learning, the government, and the private sector. Finally, the focus is on civil society and political action, with emphasis on manifestations of social protests, their ideological content and the social make-up of participants from domestic and transnational perspectives.

### Core Themes:

- 1) *The social state and the welfare system*: The role and future prospects of the social state and the welfare system following the global economic crisis. The research pays specific attention to the impact of finance/economic crises on various social groups, gender, equality and diversity discourses, the labour market, and immigration/emigration. While Iceland will be used as a reference point, transnational and comparative perspectives are encouraged.
- 2) *The socio-economic crisis, political and constitutional reforms*: How do crises, such as that experienced in Iceland, promote or stymie political and constitutional reforms? The research includes questions that deal with the convening of constituent assemblies, the role of national referenda in democratic societies, and the locking and unlocking of ties between party political interests and private economic interests. These issues will be explored from transnational, comparative and European perspectives.
- 3) *The role of academia*: The role of the University and intellectuals in pre-crash and post-reconstruction narratives in Iceland and abroad. The focus is on how academics serve ruling ideologies, resist them or register passivity through silences. This theme ties in with questions of societal and individual factors, facilitating or constraining critical interventions, of public representations of academics and their societal position vis-à-vis the state. It also engages problems associated with the moral authority of academics, their standing in society, and the exercise of self-introspection and self-criticism.
- 4) *Civil society and political action*: What kind of possibilities and obstacles do domestic and transnational protest movements represent – whether they take the form of anti-government resistance (like the so-called “pot and pan revolution” in Iceland) or environmental degradation contestation (such as controversies over hydropower projects in Iceland)? What is the social make-up of such movements? In what way do they represent popular protest and political interests? What kinds of compromises are

being made within these movements? What is the role of performativity – and the way identity is passed or brought to life through discourse such as authoritative speech – and of cultural symbols (including representations of the “spectacle”) in protest movements.

### **Research Area III: “Reconstruction” Discourses after Systemic Breakdowns: Security, Justice, Memory and Geopolitics**

EDDA’s third research area – “Reconstruction” Discourses after Systemic Breakdowns: Security, Justice, Memory and Geopolitics – deals with questions of how post-crash/post-traumatic discourses are constructed through various practices of categorization and definition. First, how has the economic collapse in Iceland and its widespread societal effects blurred the lines between “developed” and “developing” countries? While identifying itself with “First World” discourses, Iceland is, simultaneously, going through what has traditionally been classified as “Third World” experiences due to its dependence on an IMF bailout. A redefined security agenda – through the post-Cold War stripping of the security concept of its exclusively military connotations and of incorporating into it factors, such as human security, societal security, financial security, pandemics, climate change, civil conflict, financial security, and environmental concerns – has not only renewed attention on transnational power politics in various “rebuilding” and “reconstruction” settings but also created new venues for looking critically at established “First World”/“Third World” inequalities, differences, interactions, and identity formations. Second, Iceland is – like other countries with a “troubled national past” – engaged in a societal reckoning through retributive justice and truth-seeking. The “struggle for memory” has already begun, entailing conflicting historical narratives, truths, and cultural representations. The process of redefining national identities also ties in with Iceland’s current critical engagement with Europe and the European Union as a political, cultural, and social project as well as a geographic entity. Finally, in contemporary geopolitics, a transnational jockeying has begun – with the participation of Iceland – to carve out a role in the (re)-territorialization of the “North”, with a focus on the Arctic as a natural-resource base and as a potentially contested political terrain. It raises questions of how to define and “claim” the “North” in terms of “cultural heritage” and mythmaking, gendered images, sovereign demands, economic interests, international regimes, and securitization/desecuritization discourses.

#### **Core Themes:**

1) *“Reconstruction”/“(re-)state-building” discourses in Iceland and other countries with a troubled or violent past:* A comparative approach can draw on concepts and conceptions, such as transnational politics; securitization; military/civil cooperation or divide; civil society; gender, equality/inequality; the role of international organizations and dependency; neo-colonialism/post-colonialism; democratization; development, peacekeeping and peace-building; post-conflict reconstruction; and human rights.

2) *The politics of memory and transnational justice:* Using post-crash Iceland as a reference point, the focus will be on competing memory discourses to account for the construction of “truth regimes” as part of attempts to establish “post-traumatic” and foundational cultural and political myths/narratives. Another topic will be the role of trials, investigative/truth commissions and “truth reports” as societal mechanisms to “come to terms with the past” and to address the question of culpability. It involves moral categories, such as the role of perpetrators, victims and bystanders; the notion of “societal healing” or “national reconciliation”; transnational historical and cultural comparisons between Iceland

and other nations having experienced a “troubled past”; and questions of selectivity when it comes to retributive and restorative justice.

3) *The idea of contemporary Europe and Iceland’s relationship with the European Union*: Special attention will be devoted to Icelandic European identities, whether political, cultural, social, or security-related. In practical terms, it involves Iceland’s EU application and its potential place in Europe and within the EU’s foreign and security policy agenda. This includes, among other things, research on EU projects in the fields of peacekeeping, development, and post-conflict reconstruction from ideological, gendered, economic, and cultural angles.

4) *Political, cultural, and territorial discourses in the “North”*: A focus will be on two areas: (a) Northern identity politics and historical cultural myth-making and narratives, involving, for example, masculine, racist, and imperial frontier narratives; (b) the geopolitics of the Arctic and Iceland’s status and role in this “region-to-be” from political, historical, military/security, legal, environmental, and gendered perspectives. Factors located in this analytical framework include geopolitics, governance, climate change and the environment, cooperative/confrontational discourses, “indigenous people” and legal sovereign claims.

#### 4. Applications and Eligibility Rules

EDDA supports specific research projects of individuals, research teams, universities, research institutes, and private enterprises. Coordinators must have completed their studies at internationally recognized research universities and have research experience. The academic supervisor shall be responsible for the project management of student research grants.

##### a) Project Grants

EDDA project grants are funded for maximum one year, with a possibility of extension (a new application is, then, required together with a progress report), and amount to a total of 25-75% of the total eligible project cost. Each project shall have clear objectives and well-defined milestones. The projected costs should be justified and the expenditure of the grant defined. It should be stated who will carry out each part of the project, with precise details on costs and financing. In addition, the anticipated gains and impact of the project should be listed. EDDA reserves the right to review the rules on funding levels should changes be made to project plans.

##### b) Post-Doctoral, Ph.D. and Pre-Doctoral Fellowships

One of EDDA’s main objectives is to be a venue for promising and accomplished individuals by providing them with grants to work on their projects in their graduate studies or as post-doctoral researchers.

**Post-Doctoral Fellowships** are intended for scholars who have completed their Ph.D. degrees in the past five years and plan to establish themselves in a research field supported by EDDA. The fellowships are allocated for up to twelve months, with the possibility of extension, and they are exclusively intended to pay the salaries and employment-related expenses. The salary structure is based on the University of Iceland Research Fund guidelines, but EDDA reserves the right to make some adjustments to the salary structure if budgetary constraints call for it. Salaries and employment-related costs for post-doctorial fellows for the year 2010-2011 is 356,000 ISK per month. EDDA will not pay for any additional costs already covered by the post-doctoral fellowship. A request by a fellow for a transfer between institutions shall be submitted to EDDA; the continuation of the fellowship will be subject to its approval.

**Ph.D. Fellowships** are intended for doctoral students. The fellowships are allocated for up to twelve months, with the possibility of extension, and they are exclusively intended to pay the salaries and employment-related expenses. Salaries and employment-related costs for Ph.D. fellows for the year 2010-2011 is 312,000 ISK per month. EDDA will not pay any additional costs already covered by a Ph.D. fellowship. A request by a fellow for a transfer between institutions shall be submitted to EDDA; the continuation of the fellowship will be subject to its approval.

**Pre-Doctoral Fellowships** are intended for students, who have completed their MA/MS and are preparing for their Ph.D. studies. The fellowships are allocated for up to six months. Salaries and employment-related costs for pre-doctoral fellows for the year 2010-211 is 298,000 ISK per month. EDDA will not pay any cost already covered by a pre-doctoral fellowship. A request by a fellow for a transfer between institutions shall be submitted to EDDA; the continuation of the fellowship will be subject to its approval.

## 5. Costs

The cost model used for each project application should be made on a total costs basis similar to general practices in the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union. Special forms in Excel is available on EDDA's website ([www.edda.hi.is](http://www.edda.hi.is)) as part of the application documentation. Applicants shall affirm the contribution already secured, signify plans for funding from other sources than the EDDA Center, and state the amount which has already been applied for.



### **a) Salaries and Employment-Related Costs**

EDDA follows the guidelines of the University of Iceland in relation to salaries and employment-related costs. The following table shows the maximum salary and employment-related costs recognized by EDDA as part of project costs for applications submitted in 2010:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Maximum Salaries and Employment-Related Expenses per Month</b>
Research Scholar/Scientist 1 (e.g. Professor)	ISK 634,000
Research Scholar/Scientist 2 (e.g. Associate or Assistant Professor)	ISK 445,000
Post-Doctoral Student	ISK 356,000
Ph.D. Student	ISK 312,000
Pre-Doctoral Student	ISK 298,000

EDDA neither pays for overtime nor for salaries of those who are simultaneously receiving full pay for other work. Also, the rate for contracted work cannot be used as a reference in the calculation of salaries.

### **b) Operational Expenses**

This part shall consist of the sum of all the necessary supplies for the project with the exception of items coming under overhead or facilities. Applications cannot be made for the purchase of equipment.

### **c) Travel Expenses**

This part consists of the sum total of travel and subsistence expenses (field work, meetings and conferences). All travel and how it relates to the project should be justified in detail. Allowance for air travel will not exceed the costs of round-trip, economy airfares.

### **d) Contracted Service**

This part contains work which is not carried out by the participants in the project while being necessary for its progress.

### **e) Overhead and Facilities**

The EDDA Center does not fund costs of overhead or facilities or any surcharge on salaries beyond employment-related expenses.

## 6. Accounting

Amounts and expenses budgeted must be consistent with the cost accounting practices used in accumulating and reporting costs. The EDDA Center reserves the right to arrange for an audit to be carried out on the accounting of the project.

## 7. Applications – General Instructions

Specific application forms are needed for each type of grant. All applications and supporting documents should be in English. The application documents are available on the EDDA website [www.edda.hi.is](http://www.edda.hi.is).

## 8. Evaluation Process

All applications are subjected to a peer-review process, with specific criteria for project evaluations. The Selection Committee oversees the selection process in consultation with Icelandic and foreign academic specialists in the relevant subject fields and makes a shortlist of projects on the basis of peer-review evaluations. The Academic Board of EDDA makes the final grant decisions based on the Selection Committee's recommendations, the Center's academic priorities, and budgetary considerations.

The Evaluation Criteria for Grants are as follows:

1. Project Relevance to EDDA's Goals
2. Academic/Scientific Value
3. Purpose, Creativity, and Originality of the Project
4. Scholarly Methods, Project Planning, and Time Frames
5. Multi- and Inter-Disciplinary Implications and Various Forms of Research Collaboration, involving Academics, Policy Makers, and/or Institutional and Corporate Actors
6. The Quality of the Project Management, Individual Participants, and Resources/Facilities
7. The Impact of the Knowledge Production on Academic Research and Societal Developments and/or Government Policies

## 9. Distribution of Payment and Progress Reports

Research grants are provided from one up to three years pending an annual progress project review. EDDA concludes a grant agreement with the grantee within two months from the allocation. Continuation is dependent on periodic projects evaluations. Annual reports, interim, and final reports, are required to verify the quality of the research, working documents and research results, measured against the project vision, objectives and quality requirements of EDDA.

## 10. Terms and Conditions

- Grantees/Fellows are required to abide by the existing rules, regulations and laws of those countries where the EDDA-funded research takes place, and, if applicable, obtain themselves the necessary work permits, involving, for example, ethics committees, and academic/science committees or governments agencies.
- Grantees/Fellows should indicate – in all printed materials, scholarly findings, and publications – the part of the work made possible by a grant from EDDA – Center of Excellence.
- Grantees/Fellows should submit to EDDA – Center of Excellence copies of all publications of EDDA-funded projects. The Center is also permitted to use their scholarly results and publish them in its publications in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. In all such cases, EDDA will acknowledge the authorship of the work. EDDA will in no circumstances make available research results to a third party without the author's explicit permission.