



Council of American Overseas Research Centers/Carnegie Corporation of New York Fellowship

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**“The Maghrib from the Peripheries: Conflict and Cooperation around the Commons”**

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**Deadline:** November 15, 2024

**Required Documents:**

- Application Form (see below)
- Curriculum Vitae (3 pages max.)
- Research Proposal (2-5 pages), which must include:
  - Description of intended output of field research conducted in the context of the program (e.g. dissertation chapter, article, book chapter)
  - An explanation of how the program theme, “the commons,” fits into their overall thesis
- Proposal Abstract (250 words max.)

**Optional:**

- Writing Sample (2-10 pages, must be published or of publishable quality)

Documents may be submitted in English, Arabic or French. Applicants are encouraged to submit in the language of their scientific production.

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**What are the commons and where do they fit within the diverse landscape of resource management systems in the Maghreb?**

The concept of the commons can be briefly summarized according to a few simple criteria:

- The “commons” refers to collective property belonging to the members of an organized group, be it a tribe, a social group, or a collectivity of any sort
- Conditions of access and rules of exclusion to the resource in question are the exclusive prerogative of the community or of its representatives
- The resource in question is indivisible and cannot be accessed by those outside of the community
- Rights to usage of the resource can be “private” but are always limited to members of the community
- Rights to the commons are transmitted by birth and are transmissible through lineage, assuming conformity to other criteria of belonging imposed by the community

Despite the relative clarity of these criteria, when it comes to defining concrete cases, the commons are significantly more elusive. Why? Several possibilities present themselves: either the concept of the commons is confused with that of resources “*in common*”; or it is grouped within the broader category of “collective property”—as opposed to “private property”—, which misleadingly implies a preponderant role for laws and rules defined by the State, an institution entirely absent from the definition of the commons; or, simply, because there are very few currently-existing commons that have not been divided or privatized.

This program is designed to bring together a group of young scholars capable of examining these difficult questions on the basis of their own research. Through training workshops and the funding of field research, program participants will explore the complexity of the question of the “commons” as well as other collective resource management systems.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this 2-year fellowship program is to foster the research of early career social science scholars who are citizens of either Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, or Tunisia, who work on topics related to the theme of the commons in the Maghreb. Fellowships are designed to serve scholars who are currently enrolled in a Master’s or Ph. D. program, or those who have completed their Ph.D. in the past ten years.

In general, applicants’ research should deal with the ways in which **commons have been either preserved, destroyed, revived, or introduced** in a North African context. They may deal more particularly with:

- Interactions between social actors with different traditions of property rights (e.g. national law, religious doctrine, and customary practices concerning land and property)
- Natural resources and the local, national, and other multi-scalar claims over their distribution patterns
- Contemporary local and trans-national debates, discussions, and contestations over property and natural resources

**Award:** This fellowship provides around \$3,000 in yearly stipend for living and travel expenses incurred during field research. The program includes a series of curated lectures as well as workshops catered to the fellow’s research interests and professional needs.

**Engagement:** Over the course of the 2-year program, fellows are expected to participate in:

- 16 online lectures
- 5 workshops, of which one virtual, two in Tunis, and two more in the field (location to be announced)
- Final manuscript fit for publication as a master’s or dissertation chapter, article, or chapter for an edited volume
- 1 podcast, where they will discuss their research interests and findings

As part of the program, fellows will be strongly encouraged to publish their research. Supervising head researchers will provide guidance for the process of research publication.

**Selection Process:** Applications will be reviewed by a multi-national scientific committee of head researchers. Applications will be judged according to the scholarly significance of the research proposal, the feasibility of research design, and the applicant’s research background.

Only complete applications will be considered. Please send your completed application to: [fellow@caorc.org](mailto:fellow@caorc.org)

**Notification of Selection:** November 25, 2024

**First Workshop Date:** December 2024 (online), exact date to be announced.

**Program Duration:** November 25, 2024 - September 30, 2026

**APPLICATION FORM**

1. PERSONAL DATA

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Title	Given (First) Name	Middle Initial	Family (Last) Name
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Mailing Address

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Home Phone	Office Phone	Fax
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Email Address

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Date of Birth (day/month/year)	Citizenship	Gender
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2. PROFESSIONAL DATA

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Current Position/Rank

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Institutional or Organizational Affiliation

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Current Field of Research/Study

3. ACADEMIC DATA

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Highest Academic Degree Obtained	Date Obtained Degree
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Degree-Granting University/College

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Degree Field of Study

Additional Colleges and Universities Attended

College/University	Field of Study	Degree

Foreign Languages and Proficiency

Language	Years of Study	Level of Proficiency

Title of Proposed Research Project:

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4. PASSPORT/NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD

Please attach a scanned image of your passport or national identity card (must include full name, photo, and date of birth).