

Wrigley Institute 2022 Faculty Innovation Research Awards

The USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies is pleased to announce our 2022 *Faculty Innovation Research Awards*, offering awards up to \$50,000 each in support of USC faculty research that improves our knowledge about, or offers solutions for, global environmental and sustainability challenges. The purpose of these awards is to provide funding for established or new and high-potential research activities by tenure-track and RTPC USC faculty members aligned with the institute's three new interdisciplinary Research Centers.

The Wrigley Institute's Research Centers each merge the expertise of Wrigley Institute core faculty, full-time senior scientists, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students to generate data and intelligence aimed at helping to solve the world's most pressing environmental problems. These centers cover distinct but interrelated themes:

1) Center for Earth & Environmental Systems

Focused on the natural systems that combine to form our environment, the Earth and Environmental Systems center investigates phenomena and develops scientific insights about our changing planet. Drawing on the latest research in fields such as marine biology, oceanography, microbiology, geology, and terrestrial ecology, we will improve our understanding of the environmental changes that may imperil our future.

2) Center for Applied Environmental Solutions

From climate change and biodiversity loss to wildfires and ocean acidification, our world's environmental challenges are manifold and growing. The Applied Environmental Solutions center serves as the Wrigley Institute's research and development hub for solving these and other sustainability issues. The work in this center turns science into action by testing the feasibility of new ideas and determining how to convert them to workable practices and technology.

3) Center for Social Transformation

Scientific insights and menus of solutions are of little value if people can't understand or won't deploy them. The Wrigley Institute's Center for Social Transformation addresses the challenges and opportunities posed by our collective human condition. Drawing on methods and insights from the social and behavioral sciences, as well as from the arts and humanities, researchers in this center seek applied insights about how people think, what they believe or perceive, and how they behave.

For 2022, each proposal must align with one of the three above centers. Applicants can be either single investigators, or a collaborative team (≥ 2) of investigators working within or across USC departments or colleges. Research funded under this program should yield scholarly publications and other forms of high-impact outreach during the 24 months that an award is held. Funds will be directly transferred into faculty research or departmental accounts, and must be spent within 24 months of receipt. Allowable expenses include support for graduate students and/or post-doctoral fellows, equipment for collecting or analyzing data (excluding personal computers), and other direct research expenses. Funds may not be used for faculty salaries or conference travel. Awardees agree to provide short annual reports to the Wrigley Institute in Years 1 and 2. Successful candidates will be identified as Wrigley Institute Affiliated Faculty Members.

For more information, please contact Jessica Dutton, Wrigley Institute Associate Director for Research & Engagement, at jmdutton@usc.edu.

To apply for a *Faculty Innovation Award*, please submit a research proposal through the Wrigley Institute's online application portal at <https://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/faculty-innovation-award/>.

Proposals are due on or before March 31.