Call for Proposals

Announcing the Third Annual Social Innovation Summer Scholars’ Writing Retreat

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>June 1-4, 2020</th>
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<td>Where</td>
<td><strong>Bread Loaf Campus</strong>, Middlebury College, Vermont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$450 USD for room and board (lodging and several meals)</td>
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| Application Timeline | • First Deadline: March 2, 2020 (priority consideration)  
                   • Second Deadline: March 30, 2020  
                   • Notification of Acceptance: By April 6, 2020 |

Social innovation and changemaker scholars, join us for several days of dialogue and writing at Ashoka U’s third annual Social Innovation Summer Scholars’ Writing Retreat.

The Social Innovation Summer Scholars’ Writing Retreat is a multi-day, lightly facilitated retreat designed to help you advance your research and writing goals alongside a community of peers with similar interests from across the globe.

The retreat is being held in collaboration with Middlebury College at its Bread Loaf Campus in beautiful rural Vermont. It will take place from Monday, June 1 (starting early afternoon, approximately 1 PM) through the morning of Thursday, June 4 (concluding approximately 12 PM). In addition, Middlebury College will be hosting its annual June Forum on Social Entrepreneurship. Writing Retreat participants will be listed on the June Forum program, with their permission, and will have an opportunity to discuss their writing projects with June Forum participants in a series of small roundtable conversations during mealtimes.

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Retreat Overview:

**Who:** An intimate group of writers and researchers advancing social innovation scholarship from any discipline -- faculty (any rank and appointment), aspiring faculty (graduate students, post-docs), senior administrators and staff involved in social innovation – with something important to say. Applications are encouraged from Ashoka U Changemaker Campuses, but applicants need not be affiliated with a Changemaker Campus. Space is limited.

**What:** Through a lightly facilitated format, you’ll work alone and with others for several hours a day. In the evenings, enjoy salon-style conversation, share intellectual trajectories, fertilize and nurture new ideas. Build a community of scholarly practice. We aim to support all types of scholarly, reflective and creative writing projects: research articles, book manuscripts, and/or reflective essays on social innovation topics or campus social innovation efforts.

**Why:** Ashoka U defines social innovation as a “methodology to create social value and potentially economic value at the systems-change level, which addresses the root cause of a problem. It includes
new strategies, concepts, ideas and organizations that address social needs of all kinds — from working conditions and education to community development and health.”

Our goal is to support your individual scholarship, in community with other scholars, while also advancing the growing field of social innovation in higher education. You're invited to join this community of practice within the emerging field of social innovation education as it is strengthened by writing projects that investigate, document, and build research-related scholarship.

**Costs:** $450 USD. Registration includes accommodation (a private room on the historic Bread Loaf campus with communal bathrooms) and dinners on Monday and Tuesday evenings, breakfast and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday. Writing Retreat participants will be responsible for dinner on Wednesday and breakfast on Thursday. At this stage, we are not able to offer financial aid, so applicants are encouraged to secure funding support from their home institution, if possible.

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**Proposal Overview:**

**The Application Process:** Please follow [THIS LINK](https://www.tfaforms.com/4787481) to complete an online application form. The priority deadline is **March 2, 2020**, with a secondary deadline on March 30, 2020. All applicants will be notified of their status by April 6, 2020.

**Criteria for Selection:** The primary criteria for selection will be the writers’ commitment to advance social innovation scholarship in higher education and across society more generally. We will also seek distribution and representation across disciplines and geographies. While applicants do not need to be from Ashoka U Changemaker Campuses and we seek a diverse group of participants, priority may be given to qualifying Changemaker Campus applicants.

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**Logistical Overview:**

**Retreat Format and Additional Details:** The facilitator will offer both structured and unstructured formats to support your writing:

1) Structured sessions will be facilitated within a shared common work area. Timings will be approximately: five rounds of 50-minute focused writing sessions interspersed with 10-minute reflective or guided pauses.

2) Feedback sessions will allow you to share ideas with colleagues to advance your writing process at various stages.

3) Writing Retreat participants will be listed on the June Forum program, with their permission, and will have an opportunity to discuss their writing projects with June Forum participants in a series of small roundtable conversations. No formal presentation will be required.

**Daily Schedule:**

- Breakfast and lunches are unstructured, though using the time to brainstorm with other writers is encouraged.
- Snacks and coffee are available throughout the day.
- Mornings: Choose to follow the structured writing approach, or follow your own writing rhythm.
- Afternoons: Stay in the flow of your writing or take a break to join others for recreation and leisure.
• Dinner: May include unstructured times and/or opportunities to come together with the writing community to reflect on the day, share intellectual trajectories and salon-style conversation over our evening meal.
• Evenings: Join in the Middlebury Forum events and writers in salon-style conversations, based on final scheduling.
• Our minimum requirements are: Do your own work, show up for the evening meal, and be collegial!

*Middlebury College will be hosting its Middlebury June Forum on Social Entrepreneurship concurrently at Bread Loaf. Holding the Writers’ Retreat in parallel to its annual event helps us keep costs low while enabling opportunities for networking with June Forum attendees. Check out lovely Bread Loaf campus here: http://www.middlebury.edu/blse/campuses/vt.

For More Information:
Contact Ashoka U’s Emily Lamb (elamb@ashoka.org) and facilitator Garrett Broad (gbroad@fordham.edu).

Please circulate this announcement to changemaker colleagues and social innovation writers on your campus and at other institutions.
## Changemaker Writing Retreat 2020 Application Questions

**PLEASE SUBMIT ONLINE.**

Apply here: [https://www.tfaforms.com/4787481](https://www.tfaforms.com/4787481)

*Applications submitted via email will not be accepted.*

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1. **Project Topic Title** (15 word limit):

2. **Project Description**: Describe your research question(s) and primary research themes. Use jargon-free language, please. (500 word limit)

3. **Underlying Theories or Disciplines**: As a simple frame of reference for other participants, please briefly list or identify any theories or disciplines from which your work draws. (250 word limit)

4. **Field Contribution**: How does your project relate to or support the advancement of social innovation in higher education? Access Ashoka U’s definition of social innovation here. (250 word limit)

5. **Feasibility**: What have you done so far to advance this writing project? What outputs do you expect to generate by the Retreat in June 2020? (250 word limit)

6. **Community Contribution**: How will you and your project contribute to the retreat experience for other participants? What are you seeking to learn from participation in the retreat? (250 word limit)