

CREST Residential Fellowship Application Cover Sheet
Academic Year 2011-2012

Name CATHERINE CAVANAGH
Rank PROFESSOR
Department ENGLISH
Campus address Dolan Hall, room 6
Campus phone [REDACTED] Home phone [REDACTED]
Email address [REDACTED]
Previous CREST Residential Fellow? NO If yes, give year _____
Title of Research Project IMAGINARY and REAL Motherlands:
IRISH AND KASHMIRI INTERSECTIONS

Application materials:

- a. One copy of proposal narrative of roughly 1,500 words with cover sheet attached. Proposals should describe the project clearly and concisely for a multidisciplinary evaluation panel and address its relevance to current directions of research in the field. Please double-space proposals and use a 12-point type.
- b. One copy of bibliography not to exceed one page.
- c. One copy of *curriculum vitae*

Note to department heads:

- a. Residential Fellows will be released from one course during the fellowship year.
- b. This semester will tentatively be Fall 2011 or Spring 2012 (please circle one)

Department Head signature Catherine Cavanagh
Printed CATHERINE CAVANAGH

If appointed in two departments:

Additional Department Head signature _____
Printed _____

Signature of Applicant Catherine Cavanagh

Applications must be received by Friday, February 11, 2011

Please mail to:

Dr. John Williams-Searle, Director
Center for Citizenship, Race, and Ethnicity Studies (CREST)
The College of Saint Rose
432 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203-1490

Proposal for a CREST Residential Fellowship in 2011-2012

Catherine Cavanaugh, Professor of English

Scholarly Context:

My project, tentatively entitled "Imaginary and Real Motherlands: Irish and Kashmiri Intersections" involves research into several Irish and Kashmiri/Indian poets and visual artists. I will explore how issues of postcolonialism, exile, gender, and aging intersect in their aesthetics and ethics. The relevance of postcolonialism, exile, and gender to current literary research and to the interests of CREST needs little explanation. There is also an emerging interest in the relationship between gender and aging, as evidenced, for example, by the special issue on aging of the *National Women's Studies Association Journal* in 2006.

Research Design

In "Imaginary Homelands," Salman Rushdie explains that when exiles or emigrants or expatriates [like himself] look back, "we will not be capable of reclaiming precisely the thing that was lost; . . . we will, in short, create fictions . . . imaginary homelands" in which "the mundane acquire[s] numinous qualities." Such is the case in the poetry by two exiled poets, Seamus Heaney and Agha Shahid Ali. Heaney was born and raised in Northern Ireland and expatriated to the Republic of Ireland in 1969. Agha Shahid Ali, who often referred to himself as a "triple exile," was born in India, spent his childhood and was educated up to his bachelor's degree in Kashmir, and came to the U.S. to study for his Ph.D. He lived in the U.S. (with annual visits to Kashmir) from 1975 until his death in 2001. Both Ali and Heaney write in the language of the colonizer, English, although both continue to evoke their native tongues, Irish and Urdu, in sound and form in their poetry.