To: College of Arts and Sciences Faculty  
From: Peter Starr, Dean  
         UJ Sofia, Associate Dean of Research  
Date: November 11, 2014  
Re: Book Incubators

The College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce a book incubator program to enhance the impact of scholarly publications, broadly defined as increasing the influence on the field, expanding the appeal to a larger audience, improving the chances for publication by a prestigious press, or any combination of these. These half-day events will bring together author-selected discussants, internal and external to American University, to critique manuscripts or portions of manuscripts before they are submitted.

The College will support up to 4 book incubators each year. The $3000 allocated per incubator (which can be supplemented by external funding, a department, a program, a Research Expense Account, an Individually Designated Faculty Research Account, etc.) may be used for catering, mailings, discussant travel, or any other valid expenses associated with the event. The College will handle all of the logistics for the incubators, including travel arrangements, room reservations, catering, and the photocopying and mailing of manuscripts.

Applications for an incubator should include a short summary of the project and its expected impact on the field, information about the publication (publisher if known, expected submission date, number of chapters that will be reviewed in the incubator, etc.), and a list of discussants (usually one per chapter or section) that the author expects to invite to the event.

Applications should be submitted to the CAS Associate Dean of Research at casresearch@american.edu. Decisions about funding will be made by the Dean in consultation with the Associate Dean of Research. Priority will be given to books that will contribute to tenure and/or promotion files, and to those manuscripts likely to count more heavily in the tenure and promotion process, such as single-authored monographs.