OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

June 2023

The Polycrisis – Collapse and Cultural Resilience

BACKGROUND
Human impacts on the biosphere and the ways in which we organize our societies are driving complex, dynamic processes of destabilization. The simultaneous disruption of so many societal and natural systems present a perfect storm of instability and the reaching of irreversible tipping points. In response, the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation has set aside $3 million for projects that might help us understand, mitigate, or govern what we might understand as the polycrisis.

OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVES
All projects should help understand, mitigate and/or govern the polycrisis.

Further, projects should pursue at minimum one of the following objectives:
- foster interdisciplinary and/or inter-domain collaboration and field-building efforts;
- develop tools;
- develop strategic planning or decision frameworks;
- promote leadership; and/or
- enhance social and psychological resilience capacities to deal with the polycrisis.

CRITERIA
The foundation wishes to identify projects meeting the following criteria.

1. Scope: are both visionary and action-oriented; are clear on how their deliverables will help meet the objectives outlined above; are applicable to multiple geographies and are scalable if they are locally focused.

2. Approach: integrate the dynamics of multiple biophysical and socio-political systems undergoing crises simultaneously; build on cross-cutting and transdisciplinary collaborations and knowledge domains.

3. Duration and size of funding: The foundation will only support convenings/conferences, capacity-building grants, or one- or two-year pilot projects. We are looking for projects with budgets up to a maximum of $400,000 beginning in the early spring of 2024. Additional funding will not be available as this is the fourth and final call for proposals within this program area. It is therefore important that results and outcomes are achievable without the need of additional later funding.

4. 501(c)3 status or equivalent non-US status: As a private US foundation, VKRF is only allowed to fund projects that are hosted by qualified non-profits with US 501(c)3 status or non-US organizations that go through the Equivalency Determination process. We are not
able to fund individuals, for-profits, or non-profits without audited financial statements. Contact the VKRF office for more information.

**THE FOUNDATION FAVORS**
The foundation favors projects that:

- incorporate a biocentric lens and consider all life equally important;
- use a systems approach to address root causes and achieve change;
- honestly assess and attest to the scale, complexity, and urgency of addressing the polycrisis;
- are based on original thinking, creative ideas, and experimentation;
- have international significance and perspective, even if they are locally based; and
- are clear on how their deliverables will help decision-makers, communities, and practitioners understand and address systemic risk.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. **Two tier process:** The application process is two-tiered. Applicants are first asked to submit a two-page Letter of Inquiry, supplemented by a maximum two-page budget and a copy of the applicant’s 501(c)3 certification or non-US equivalency as well as a copy of the applicant’s latest audited financial statement. Based on the Board’s evaluations of the received Letters of Inquiry, a limited number of applicants will be invited to send in full proposals. You can find detailed guidelines for submitting Letters of Inquiry here: https://vkrf.org/content/guidelines-submitting-letters-inquiry

2. **Deadlines:** The deadline for submitting Letters of Inquiry is end-of-day Eastern Daylight Time September 5, 2023. On September 29, 2023, a limited number of applicants will receive invitations to send a full proposal. Those who are not invited to submit a full proposal will be informed on September 30, 2023. The deadline for the submission of full proposals is October 20, 2023.

3. **How to submit:** All submissions should be sent to grants@vkrf.org. The foundation will not entertain proposals that are submitted to individual staff members.

Questions can be forwarded Executive Director Irene Krarup at ikrarup@vkrf.org. Please note that the office is closed during the month of July.