Listening in a Polarized World: Request for Proposals 2022

Please contact llpw@templetonworldcharity.org if you have any questions about this request for proposals or anything listed in this document.

Goals of this RFP

The goal of RFP is to understand the underlying mechanisms of polarization and depolarization, with clear and measurable indicators of these mechanisms. The full challenge statement for this request for proposal can be found [here](#) or in [Appendix 1](#) of this document.

Successful applications will be required to utilize open science practices and agree to participate in collaborative research.

Why we are making this an open and collaborative initiative

TWCF recognizes that an open, collaborative approach involving global, interdisciplinary teams will achieve more reproducible and innovative outcomes. We have structured this RFP as an open and collaborative funding call with three main goals:

1. To accelerate discovery. TWCF believes that collaboration accelerates research outcomes and that open sharing of research outputs fuels collaboration. The exchange of ideas, especially across disciplines, improves the likelihood of higher-quality results.
2. To increase equity. TWCF has embraced a global commitment to support projects wherever they can have the greatest impact. It is crucial for this vision that the outputs of our projects are openly accessible to anyone with an internet connection, free of charge, and regardless of affiliation.

3. To learn. By studying our experience making this initiative an open and collaborative initiative, we aim to hone and implement more best practices across our funding programs.

Application Guidance

The application guidance in this document will guide you through completing the application. The instructions for each field are included in this document.

Supplementary Requirements for this RFP
As stated in the goals section above, this is a funding call for open and collaborative research, and the successful applicants will be required to share outputs of their research as indicated in Appendix 3, and they will be expected collaborate with the funding cohort by sharing and discussing early/null findings and team resources with members of the LLPW research cohort, as well as ongoing and meaningful intra- and inter-team communication as the research progresses.

Using Fluxx, the Grant Management System

This application will be completed on Fluxx, our grant management system. If you have not registered yet, please go to this link: https://templeton.fluxx.io/apply/llpw_rfp_loi. Once you register, you should receive an email within 24 hours from "Templeton Portal" with information on next steps and how to access the application form.

How to add collaborators to Fluxx

Up to two people can access and edit the same application form. Based on the user status and organization of the collaborator, please follow one of the three scenarios listed below:

1. **The collaborator is not a part of the same organization as the first user.** Email techsupport@templetonworldcharity.org and ask that a user is created. Provide the following information: The full name, the email address and the employer of the collaborator. Once tech support has confirmed that this user has been created, the primary user of the application form should be able to add this collaborator as "Project Administrator" within the "Organization" subsection of the application form on Fluxx.
2. **The collaborator is not yet a Templeton Fluxx User AND they are the same organization as the primary user.** Ask a collaborator to register on Fluxx via this link: https://templeton.fluxx.io/lois/new?utf8=%E2%9C%93&lang=en&commit=Create+an+Account. Once they have registered, and received the next step email, the primary user of the application form should be able to add this collaborator as "Project Administrator" within the "Organization" subsection of the application form on Fluxx.

3. **The collaborator is already a Templeton Fluxx User BUT they are NOT with the same organization as the primary user.** Email techsupport@templetonworldcharity.org and ask that a user is created. Provide the following information: The full name, the email address and the employer of the collaborator.

<u>Contract Signatory and Grantee Representative Users</u>

You will also see options to add users to the Contract Signatory and the Grantee Representative Roles in the Organization subsection of the application form. If you see the appropriate person in the drop-down box of these fields, you can select this person. **However, this will not be a requirement until after the downselection stage of this RFP.** If you do not add a person at this stage, or the name of the person is not in the dropdown, we will give you instructions at a later stage to complete this (and also help you to get people added to these roles).

The following section outlines the questions and provides instructions for completing the questions.

Project Details

Project Start Date. *Please indicate the anticipated start date for your project in mm/dd/yyyy. Projects must start by December 31st, 2023.*

Project Duration (Must be a whole number). *Please enter the project's duration in months. After saving this form, the system will calculate an end date based on this information. The project duration should not be greater than 24 months.*

End/Close Date

Project Title. *Project Title should be clear, concise, and easily understood by an educated non-specialist. A few tips for writing a strong project title are: (a) keep it short; (b) avoid generic words; (c) leave out unnecessary words; (d) use active verbs; and (e) focus on the outcome.*

Executive Summary. *Executive Summary is a brief statement written for educated non-specialists setting out the aim of the project, why the project is needed, project activities, outputs to be produced by the project, and anticipated impact. A research project should also summarize specific hypotheses, arguments, methodology, and relevance to the field. You do not need to include information about the project team or organization in your Executive Summary. We strongly recommend that you write the Executive Summary after you have completed the rest of the proposal.*

Relation to Sir John Templeton's Donor Intent. This section should provide a high level overview of how the project goals relate to The Foundation's interests. Successful applications should aspire to making new scientific discoveries related to how we can promote human flourishing in the context of polarization. This could include research to understand the underlying

mechanisms of polarization and depolarization, with clear and measurable indicators of these mechanisms. We recommend that you read Appendix 1 before answering this section. *For more information on the broader topic of donor intent, the TWCF website has links to selected published works by Sir John Templeton at the bottom of the Our Founder page. This RFP relates to the Big Questions funding category.*

Project Description*The Project Description is perhaps one of the most important parts of your proposal. It should provide a specific, concrete, concise, and detailed plan of all the activities below that are relevant to your project (or any activity not mentioned below). Please define and explain technical terms when they first occur, especially terms which are used with a specific meaning within the proposal.* ***Applicants should exclude their names and affiliations from the project description document. We intend for the external review process to be double-blinded, but we will not be able to anonymize these documents once submitted.***

A research project should be described to the normal standard of a national or international funding agency. In most cases of academic research projects, this should include a literature review, hypotheses, and methodology, publication, dissemination, target audience, other activities. The literature review should give necessary background information for aspects of the project in which reviewers may not be experts themselves and give confidence that the applicants are knowledgeable in the topic areas. The research methodology should provide a clear and concise picture of how the project will be conducted, including what equipment will be used, what specific steps will be taken, data analysis plans.

Budget

Currency: USD

Maximum Request Amount: USD 250,000

Budget Template. *You will be asked to complete a budget template similar to this one.*

Budget Limitations & Extra Allowances:

Limitations
  ● *Overhead. The Foundation will approve an added component for overhead within the budget, which is no more than (fifteen) 15%. Overhead costs are general overhead and administrative expenses that support the entire operations of a grantee and are incurred for common or joint objectives. Expenses that would be incurred regardless of whether the grant is funded are often indicative of overhead costs. This additional component can be applied to all direct costs. Any overheads which are a part of sub-contracts should be included in the Overhead section of the budget. The Foundation welcomes proposals that request a lower percentage for overhead costs.*

- *Travel and Lodging for the Personnel Employed by the Legal Organization and One Additional Instructor can be completely underwritten by the Foundation for all project activities. However, the Foundation has much stricter limits for the travel and lodging costs associated with anyone who is not employed by the Legal Organization, such as a Project Co-Leader at another institution or a conference presenter from another institution. The details of this limitation are complicated and this form has been designed to handle various cases. In general TWCF does not fund projects with budgets that exceed 10% travel and lodging costs for persons not employed by the Legal Organization. Please note that TWCF will not pay for first class or business travel.*
- *Open Access Journal Publishing Fee. Please refer to the Foundation's Open Access policy on the website https://www.templetonworldcharity.org/open-access-policy to see what publishing fees can and cannot be covered with TWCF funds*

Extra Allowances
- *Disability Accommodation. Supplement funds of up to USD 10,000 (beyond the USD 250,000 maximum) can be included in the budget request to cover disability accommodations, making it possible for the project team member to perform the essential functions associated with their role in the project. The accommodations requested must be directly related to the performance of the proposed role on the research project and must be appropriate for the disabilities of the individual. Include this cost in the budget section "Other".*

Classroom Teaching. *In the currency indicated above, please enter the total amount of this request that will be spent on classroom teaching. This amount can be found as a calculated cell in the "Budget Summary" tab of the Budget template that was uploaded above.*

Additional Funding Description. *If you have listed additional funding. Please list the names of other sources of funding for this project, the amount provided by each source, and whether or not each source of additional funding has been secured, and if not what your plans are for securing each source of potential additional funding.*

Additional funding must be included in the relevant cell(s) in your budget spreadsheet, and must support components that are integral and specific to the activities described in your Project Description. Qualifying sources of additional funding include funds from other philanthropic organizations, in-kind support from the employers of project personnel, or donated time of project members. The following should not be included as sources of additional funding: funds for purchasing equipment not solely used for the proposed project; funds to cover costs for activities associated with but not specifically a part of the proposed project; donated overheads or "full economic costs" above TWCF's limit of 15%; support for activities that will occur before or after the project".

A Letter of Support, Award Letter, or equivalent, specifying additional funding, is required if ANY of the following apply:

- ○ *The additional funding is both secured and required by TWCF policy, such as when a project requires at least 50% of co-funding to be eligible for follow-on or renewal funding or to be compliant with travel and lodging restrictions.*

- ○ *It is in the form of a financial (not in-kind) contribution from a specific contributor and is the only reasonable means to complete a specific output listed in the proposal.*

- ○ *A letter is otherwise requested by TWCF program staff.*

Real Estate, Endowments, Art? *Will any of the funds that you are requesting be used either (a) for the purchase of land, or the purchase or construction of a building, (b) to establish or support an endowment of any kind, (c) to fund artistic productions or purchases, or (d) to purchase equipment that is not a vital and necessary component of the project?*

Flow of Funds. *Other than the country within which the Legal Organization is located, please provide the name of the country or countries to which grant funds would flow, or within which grant funds would be expended, or with which the Project Director or Project Co-Director (if there is one) have an affiliation.*

Outputs

Outputs are important, specific and quantified products or events to be produced from your project's activities within the duration of the grant that are (more or less) under direct control of the Project Director and project leaders. Outputs are those products that are necessary for the changes that you intend for your project to make—that is, your project's Outcomes. For example, you will have direct control over writing and submitting a manuscript for publication; this therefore constitutes as an Output. However, the choice to publish an article is up to the discretion of the editor and is not entirely in your control, and publication should be discussed in the next section in relation to the Outcomes that you wish to achieve.

Include as Outputs only those which will have been achieved before the end of the grant. Rather than providing a list of every Output, please consolidate Outputs that have the same subcategories and list each subcategory as a single output. The list should be concise and clear, thus allowing you and TWCF to know exactly what products you are committed to producing through your project.

Important note: In the aim for this to be a collaborative funding cohort, the planned and actual outputs of all funded projects will be shared amongst and made available across the cohort of funded projects.

For each output added, you will be asked the following questions:

- **Output Title**
- **Output Category** (see Appendix 1 with the list of outputs categories and subcategories)
- **Output Subcategory** (see Appendix 1 with the list of outputs categories and subcategories)
- **Audience.** *Who is the intended audience of the Output?*
- **Deliverables Description.** *What will be delivered as proof of completion?*
- **Output Quantity.** *If combining multiple, similar deliverables into a single Output entry (as encouraged above), enter here the number of deliverables for this entry—e.g. "3" for three research articles.*
- **Completion Month.** *Within how many months after the start date do you expect to deliver all outputs in the entry.*
- **Sharing this Output.** *If the output is an article, dataset, code, software, or protocol, please explain here how you plan on sharing the output. TWCF requires that these outputs be placed in a "FAIR" repository (See this website to learn about FAIR principles and identify FAIR repositories). Please see our full guide on the sharing requirements for this funding call in Appendix 3 Open Research Requirements and Recommendations. If your application is approved for funding, you will be required to share journal articles, datasets, codes, software and protocols.*

Outcomes

Outcomes: Outcomes are the expected changes or impact that will result from the project's Outputs within five years of the completion of the project. Some of these changes may manifest themselves before the end of the grant, while others may not be fully achieved until after the end of the project, and may depend on factors beyond the project team. Outcomes should describe what the success of this project would look like.

List and describe the project's Outcomes, and identify indicators of change that can be used to assess the extent to which the Outcome has been achieved. The indicators should be specific, objective, identifiable and measurable. Please describe each outcome sufficiently precisely such that in years to come it will be possible to judge whether or not they have been achieved. Avoid vagueness when identifying outcomes. For example, "People will be more open-minded" is not an appropriate indicator. More appropriate indicators would be "Surveys of public opinion will show that at least 70% of those who are surveyed perceive science and religion to be compatible and complementary." Likewise, "Experts in the field will accept this new research paradigm" is not sufficiently specific; rather, "At least ten journal articles will be accepted in peer-reviewed journals such as..." or "At least 50 citations in peer-reviewed journal articles of research directly funded by this grant" are more appropriate Outcomes. Make informed and reasonable estimates. In many cases, a combination of Outcome indicators will be needed to show whether or not an Outcome has been achieved. It may be helpful to contrast Outputs and

Outcomes: Outputs represent the items that will be delivered to TWCF if the application is approved, while Outcomes are the short-term and long- term effects that are expected to come about as a result of the outputs. TWCF is also enthusiastic about the dissemination of scholarly research in ways that impact secondary audiences, downstream from the primary audience in whom the impact of the Outputs are more direct.

If a project is funded, you should be prepared to report on the progress you have made towards the Outcomes; as such, please list only the most important indicators (no more than 2 Outcomes) that you can track and report to TWCF throughout the project.

For each outcome, you will be asked the following questions:
- **Title**
- **Description**
- **Short-Term Indicators.** *Indicators of success, expected to be noticed within 12 months of the closure of the grant.*
- **Long-Term Indicators.** *Indicators of success, likely not observed until beyond 12 months of the closure of the grant.*

Team Members

In this section, all Team Members must be entered according to their respective roles. Role options include: Project Director (required), Co-Director (if applicable), Known Team Member (if applicable), and Unfilled Role (if planning to hire). Keep in mind while assembling your team that the most successful teams are those whose members are amenable to open communication and collaborative work.

The **Project Director (PD)** is responsible for managing the project as a whole, and serving as the ultimate authority on all matters internal to the project. Keep in mind while assembling your team that the most successful teams are those whose members are amenable to open communication and collaborative work. We strongly encourage applicants to include only a single Project Director, but allow up to one additional person to serve as **Project Co-Director (PCD)** where there is a strong specific case. In such cases, the Project Director and his or her Co-Director share executive authority over the project. Note: A Project Co-Director who is outside the Project Director's institution must indicate his or her institution and provide a letter of support from their institution.

In addition to the Project Director and the Project Co-Director, include any **Known Team Members**, in which a person will dedicate more than 10% of their time to the project, or else are named in the budget and are receiving more than USD 5,000 from TWCF. Examples include leaders of subprojects (i.e. "project leaders"), post doctoral researchers, graduate students, research assistants, etc. Project Leaders may provide direct oversight and leadership of

sub-components of a project, but they (and other personnel under their leadership) do so under the general oversight of the Project Director(s).

In addition to the Project Director (required), Project Co-Director (if applicable), and any other Known Team Members, include any **Unfilled Roles** in which a person will dedicate more than 10% of their time to the project. In each case, specify how they will be appointed. The percentage of time committed to the project should be given as an average over the duration of the project.

For each team member, you will be asked the provide the following:
- **Team Member Role** (Project Director, Project Co-Director, Other Known Person, Unfilled Role)
- **Role Description** (only Other Known Team Member or Unfilled Role)
- **Plan to Fill Role** (only Unfilled Role)
- **Professional Title** (Project Director, Project Co-Director or Other Known Member only)
- Prefix (Project Director, Project Co-Director or Other Known Member only)
- **First Name** (Project Director, Project Co-Director or Other Known Member only)
- Middle Name (Project Director, Project Co-Director or Other Known Member only)
- **Last Name** (Project Director, Project Co-Director or Other Known Member only)
- **Nationality** (Project Director or Co-Director only)
- **Employed by Legal Org?** *Is this person (or will this person be) employed by the legal organization? Note: Being employed by the legal organization generally means they are your main employer and pay for your benefits.*
  - If No, **Employer.** *As this Team Member is not employed by the Legal Org, please name the Team Member's employer.*
  - If No, **Employer Paid by Legal Org?** *Will funds be flowing from the legal organization to this employer?*
- **Work Address** (Project Director or Co-Director only)
- **ORCID ID** (Project Director or Project Co-Director only) *If this person does not have an ORCID iD, please register for one [here](). ORCID, which stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID, is a free, unique, persistent identifier (PID) for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities. It helps with name disambiguation and serves as a record of research activities and affiliations. ORCID also connects to institutional, funder and publisher systems, thus reducing the burden of data entry in multiple systems.*
- **TWCF Relationship?** (Project Director or Project Co-Director only) *To the best of your knowledge, is this person a TWCF Trustee, Officer or Staff Member, or related to a TWCF Trustee, Officer or Staff Member as a spouse, sibling, child or parent?*
- **CV** (for the Project Director, Co-Director (if applicable), and any known team members.
- **Letter of Support (LoS)** is also required from any known personnel if any of the following apply:

- ○ The known Team Member is a Project Co-Director or a subproject leader, and is not employed under the Project Director, Project Co-Director, subproject leader, subcontractor (such as an external service provider) or subgrantee.
- ○ The known Team Member is dedicating more than 10% of their time to the project, and is not employed under the Project Director, Project Co-Director, subproject leader, subcontractor (such as an external service provider) or subgrantee.
- ○ The known Team Member is named in the budget, and is receiving more than USD 5,000 from TWCF, and is not employed under the Project Director, Project Co-Director, subproject leader, subcontractor (such as an external service provider) or subgrantee.
- ○ A letter is otherwise requested by TWCF program staff.

Additional Organizations

Additional Orgs? *Are there any additional organizations for this project? An additional organization is defined as a sub-grantee or sub-contractor that will receive a significant amount of money and deemed to be crucial to the project.*

For each additional organization added, you will be asked to provide the following information:
- **Organization Name**
- **Street Address, City, Country, Region, Post Code**
- **Primary Contact.** *Please provide the full name of the primary contact for this organization.*
- **Org Role.** *Briefly describe the role that this organization will play in the project.*

Open Research

Experience Sharing Research Outputs and Collaboration.
For this initiative, TWCF requires the open sharing of journal publications, datasets, protocols, codes, and software and encourages the posting of preprints, and sharing of lab and field resources. For this funding call, TWCF is seeking applicants willing to conduct research using a collaborative approach, which engenders insights and methods that transcend the disciplines represented in the initiative. This would involve sharing and discussing early/null findings and team resources with members of the LLPW research cohort, as well as ongoing and meaningful intra- and inter-team communication as your research progresses.

If applicable, describe 1) instances where you have engaged in "open" activities (such as making articles open access and sharing data/code according to FAIR principles), 2) examples of how your open research outputs have been used by others in your discipline, in other disciplines, and/or outside of academia (include DOIs if possible), and 3) plans to engage in open activities in the future consonant with the Foundation's policies regarding publication and dissemination. 4) Describe past and/or present collaborative projects amongst your team investigators (100 words max), list up to five publications and/or presentations resulting from the above described

collaborative work and based on this experience, what are your perspectives regarding organizational structure, modes of communication, incentives or removal of disincentives, to promote innovation and transformative discovery on this project (100 words max)

Preregister project?
Please indicate that you understand that you will be required to preregister your project, if it is selected for funding.

Awardees of this RFP will be required to preregister all empirical elements, including both quantitative and qualitative/mixed methods. Preregistrations should be shared under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license to enable sharing and reuse. Preregistration will not be required until later in the application process (after the proposal has been downselected). We will let you know if and when it is time to preregister the research project. At this point, we will also offer a training session to support you with preregistration if you would like additional support.

Important note: In the aim for this to be a collaborative funding cohort, the preregistration of all funded projects will be shared amongst and made available across the cohort of funded projects by TWCF.

Charter Compliance

TWCF Authority? *To the best of your knowledge, will a TWCF Trustee, Officer or staff member (or a member of their immediate family) have authority over or responsibility for the grant? If yes, please name these individuals, and explain how they will have authority over the grant.*

Renewal or Follow-Up? *Is the work of the proposed project similar to, or does it further expand the work of, an active or closed grant with the applicant (or applicant's Legal Organization) received from TWCF? If yes, provide, to the best of your knowledge, the following information about any grant that applies: project title, grant identification number, grant amount, grant end date, and a very brief synopsis of the project activities. Then, explain how this proposed project is similar to, builds on, furthers, or expands the work of the active or closed grant.*

Submitted Elsewhere? *Has this proposal, or a substantially similar proposal, been submitted to another organization for funding? If yes, what is the status of the previously submitted proposal?*

Politically Exposed Persons? *Can any of the persons involved with the project, including Senior Officers and Board Members, whether employed by the Legal, or Parent Organizations, any additional organization(s), or any of the sub-grantees (if any), be classified as a "Politically Exposed Person"? Politically Exposed Persons are defined as individuals who hold or have held, in the preceding year, important public positions, such as heads of state; heads of government; senior officials in the executive, legislative, administrative, military or judicial branches of a government, whether elected or not; senior officials of major political parties; and senior executives of government-owned corporations. If yes, please provide details about the classification of this person (or persons) as a Politically Exposed Person.*

Organization Information

The organization form (found under "ORGANIZATIONS") is a separate form from the grant request form and will also need to be submitted.

Please provide information about the organization that would, if your proposal is successful, receive the grant award from TWCF.

If this organization has been awarded a grant in the past, it is likely that it is already in our system and you will not have to provide more information other than confirming that the details are still correct.

If it is an organization that the Foundation has not granted to before, the following information will be requested:

- Organization Name
- Also Known As
- Street Address, City, State/Province, Country, Postal Code
- Website
- Organization Structure
- Tax Class
- Tax ID
- Registration Number
- Mission Statement
- 50% Funding? *Did the Organization receive 50% or more of its annual funding in any one of the last three years from any combination of Templeton Religion Trust, Templeton World Charity Foundation Inc., or John Templeton Foundation?*
- Parent Organization

Board Members or Shareholders
If the organization is not a university or accredited college, the application form will also ask for the following information for each Board Member and/or for each Shareholder owning more than 25% of total shares.
- First Name
- Middle Name
- Last Name
- Politically Exposed? *Is this person classified as a "Politically Exposed Person?" Politically exposed persons are defined as individuals who hold or have held, in the preceding year, important public positions, such as heads of state; heads of government; senior officials in the executive, legislative, administrative, military or judicial branches of a government,*

whether elected or not; senior officials of major political parties; and senior executives of government-owned corporations.

Corporate Governance Documents

If the organization is not a university or accredited college, the application form will also ask for the following documentation:

- If a Not for Profit:
    - Certificate of Incorporation or Equivalent
    - Memorandum and Articles of Association, or Equivalent
    - Evidence of Charitable Status

- If a for-profit:
    - Certificate of Incorporation or Equivalent
    - Memorandum and Articles of Association, or Equivalent
    - Certificate of Good Standing or Most Recent Audited Financial Statement
    - Register of Officers, Register of Directors, or Equivalent
    - Register of Shareholders

Other questions about the Legal Organization

TWCF Relationship? *To the best of your knowledge is the President, any Chief Executive Officer, or Head of this Organization a TWCF Trustee, Officer or Staff Member, or related to a TWCF Trustee, Officer or Staff Member as a spouse, sibling, child or parent? If yes, please provide details of the relationship, and the name of the TWCF Trustee, Officer, or Staff Member.*

PD Employed by Legal Org? *Is the project director employed by the legal organization? If no, please provide a letter of support from the Project Director's employer. The letter should come from the director of the employing organization (or someone of similar role), and should confirm the employer's support for the time that the Project Director would spend leading the grant activities outlined in this proposal.*

How TWCF will decide which proposals to fund

Fully submitted proposals will go through four rounds of review before final approval:

1. Completeness Check. A completeness check of each submission will be conducted by TWCF staff/advisors. All entries that pass the completeness check will move forward to the next round. Completeness check criteria will be:
   - ☐ All questions are answered adequately.
     - ☐ Project Description section completed with appendices attached (if applicable)
     - ☐ Budget section completed with correct Budget Template Attached
     - ☐ At least one entry completed for the Output section
     - ☐ At least one entry completed for the Outcomes section
     - ☐ At least one entry completed for the Team members section with CV attached as required
     - ☐ The entire application contains all related entries and supporting materials
     - ☐ Proposal has been submitted and confirmed
   - ☐ Applicant is a part of a research institution or university.
   - ☐ Ensure that the project description is anonymized

2. Internal Review. Entries passing the completeness check will go through a round of internal review conducted by TWCF staff/advisors. All entries that pass the internal review will be sent to external reviewers. Internal review criteria will be:
   - ☐ The project leader and the project team have the subject and practical knowledge and expertise required to carry out the project effectively
   - ☐ The host institution is appropriate and able to provide the necessary support
   - ☐ The budget is feasible for the work proposed in the project description.
   - ☐ The budget is compliant with our policies
   - ☐ The project aligns well with Sir John Templeton's Donor Intent
   - ☐ Willingness to engage in open and collaborative research practices
   - ☐ Entries include Outputs with plans on how they will be shared aligned with Appendix 3 - Open Research Requirements, Recommendations for this RFP
   - ☐ Entries respond to the Challenge Statement appropriately (Find the Challenge Statement here or in Appendix 1 of this document)

3. External Review. Entries passing the internal review stage will be sent to external reviewers. External reviews will be managed by the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). We have instructed AIBS to source external reviewers from various disciplines with expertise that align with submitted proposals. We aim to source reviewers globally with a geographic distribution that reflects that of the applications

being reviewed. The anonymized project descriptions, outputs and outcomes will be shared with External Reviewers (we intend for the external review process to be double-blinded). Reviewers will only score and comment on the Project Description, Outputs and Outcomes section using the noted criteria below and will not review or consider other typical criteria like personnel, environment/facilities, or budget. (See [Appendix 4 - External Reviewer Evaluation Criteria](#) for the full questions and scoring).

4. Lottery. Any proposal with an Overall Quality score of 1 by at least one reviewer will be declined. Then, the lowest scoring proposals as dictated by the distribution of scores will be declined. The rest of the proposals will be randomly selected to be considered for approval. The remaining proposals will be screened for any outstanding opportunities to also be considered for approval. The rest of the proposals will be declined.

5. Approval. This phase is not competitive. All proposals that make it to this stage will have a budget allocated and will be funded subject to approval by the foundation's trustees, satisfactory compliance review, and successful negotiation of a grant agreement.

Appendix 1 – Challenge Statement: Models and Measurements for Mapping Polarization Globally (M^{3}PG)

Goal

Polarization is a critical obstacle to human flourishing. TWCF's Listening and Learning in a Polarized World (LLPW) initiative will support research for new scientific discoveries that can help humans flourish in a world confronted with increasing polarization. The ultimate goal of this first LLPW RFP is to understand the underlying mechanisms of polarization and depolarization, with clear and measurable indicators of these mechanisms.

The outcome of this research is expected to advance the knowledge base for researchers seeking to measure and map polarization between and within societies and cultures. Ultimately, the aim is to discover culturally relevant polarization preventative and mitigating innovations.

Opportunity

Sir John Templeton, founder of Templeton World Charity Foundation, believed that "the free and friendly competition of ideas" enables the truth to "more easily emerge." This is critical for societal progress because "humans flourish best in a system of life that stimulates novelty, innovativeness, and individuality and that rewards new approaches, new concepts, new inventions and new and better ways of thinking about life and its ultimate ends and concerns." While diversity of ideas, opinions, beliefs, and interests of a group or society is usually a healthy driver of advancement, extreme polarization often restricts free and friendly competition of ideas and can therefore be a powerful barrier to achieving societal progress and human flourishing.

The term polarization is used in a variety of contexts with different meanings. A base working definition of polarization is a state in which the opinions, beliefs, or interests of a group or society no longer range along a continuum but become concentrated at opposing extremes.
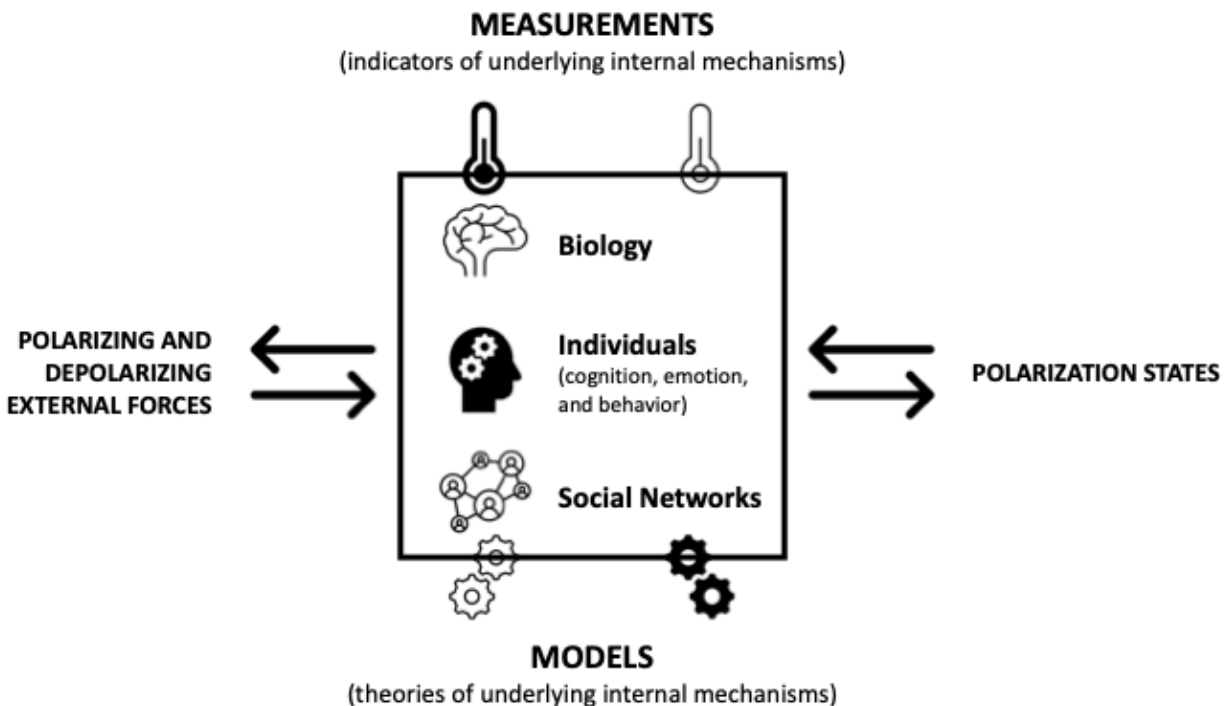
This RFP is an opportunity to assess the research to-date and to advance models and measurements of the underlying mechanisms of polarization in order to make progress towards the prevention and mitigation of polarization. The essential question to answer is: what are the internal underlying mechanisms of individuals, and their biology and social networks, leading to states of polarization (or depolarization) under the influence of external sociocultural forces? And, what are the measures to assess whether these mechanisms are in play?

Roadblocks

- Polarization research is largely siloed into different disciplines, often disconnecting theory and measurement. Research literature on conceptual frameworks and experimental findings are often isolated, hampering shared learning.
- Research and practice are not integrated and often do not inform each other.
- The term polarization is used in a variety of contexts with different meanings, often without a common understanding of the definition and kind of polarization studied.
- Research in some global regions is meager, partially due to lack of research capacity and funding. This has resulted in a current research base that is focused on Western cultures and dominated by Western perspectives.

The Challenge

The challenge is to generate new and improved theoretical models and measurements of the underlying mechanisms of polarization. Models and measurements will be designed and tested to be applicable to cross-cultural comparisons of polarization.

MEASUREMENTS
(indicators of underlying internal mechanisms)

Biology

POLARIZING AND DEPOLARIZING EXTERNAL FORCES

Individuals
(cognition, emotion, and behavior)

POLARIZATION STATES

Social Networks

MODELS
(theories of underlying internal mechanisms)

Definitions and examples for each element of this diagram can be found below in the Definitions and Examples section of this document.

Successful proposals will have several essential components:

MODELS (theories of underlying internal mechanisms)

- They will generate, modify, validate, or falsify models (theoretical representations of the mechanisms of polarization) which provide insights into detailed underlying internal mechanisms of polarization and will illuminate key root causes.
    - Mechanisms are internal to the system and may be defined at a variety of levels, including social networks, individual psychological factors (cognitive, affective, or behavioral), or underlying biology.
    - Mechanisms can be protective or aggravating (internal or social) factors for the polarizing or depolarizing effects of external sociocultural forces.
    - Contextual variables may come into play (e.g. topic, group composition, rules of interaction).
    - Part of the challenge may be the need to devise appropriate methods and platforms for evaluating models.

MEASUREMENTS (indicators of underlying internal mechanisms)
- Successful proposals will provide specific measurements which can be used to experimentally probe the mechanisms.
- These measurements should not only provide indicators of the existence of these mechanisms at play (similar to disease biomarkers), but may also allow for probing of the strength of the effect.
- Each proposal should have at least one quantifiable measurement, but can include qualitative research and mixed-methods to help understand each measurement.

POLARIZING AND DEPOLARIZING EXTERNAL FORCES
- While polarizing and depolarizing external forces may be integral to the model, with a systems perspective, these forces can be seen as the inputs, or feedback loops, that the internal mechanisms may transform into the output of states of polarization.

CROSS-CULTURAL
- Polarization is a concept of global significance but has mostly been studied in a Western context. We are particularly interested in work capable of advancing our ability to differentiate between the universal and the particular cultural and individual components of the human experience of polarization. While the work supported by this grant is not expected to comprehensively map the indicators across different countries or cultures, funded research should be tested in two or more cultural contexts (within or between societies) and carefully consider how measurements selected are best utilized for cross-cultural studies and mapping of polarization.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY
- Successful proposals will bring multidisciplinary expertise to the work required to achieve robust, integrative models and measurements applicable to cross-cultural mapping. In addition to the requisite theoretical and experimental competency, expertise

relevant to cross-cultural studies may require advisors or collaborators from other disciplines.

Proposal Eligibility Checklist

- Does the proposal include a literature review that situates the proposal in relation to relevant conceptual and empirical work?
- Does the proposal seek to generate, modify, validate, or falsify one of more theoretical models of polarization through empirical work in two or more cultural contexts.
- Does the theoretical model focus on mechanisms of polarization at one (or more) of the following three levels: biology (neuroscience), individual (cognitive, affective, or behavioral), or social networks?
- Does the proposal seek to identify, develop, and/or rigorously evaluate measures of the proposed mechanisms at play?
- Does the proposal seek to identify universal and culturally specific mechanisms of polarization?
- Does the proposal provide a working definition and scope of polarization for the model and measurements? Clarity is required to understand whether models and measurements are specific to the type of polarization of interest or applicable to polarization generally.

Requirements

Proposed projects are required to:
1. Utilize open research practices as described in the application guidelines, including the submission of a detailed preregistration.
2. Agree to participate in a collaborative research network that engages cross-disciplinary discussions, with initiative grantees forming the core of the learning community.

Preferences

While this initiative is focused on research, research informed by practice is also encouraged. This may include building research questions informed by practitioners or partnering with practitioners for measurement development or validation. This may help to ensure that projects will contribute to the knowledge base for research on the fundamental understanding of polarization informing prevention and mitigation in a global context.

Researchers from institutions around the world and those with global expertise are invited to apply. Preference will be given to proposals that emphasize the majority world and do not focus exclusively on high income countries.

Not of Interest

- Work that exclusively looks at polarizing behavior without a strong integration of theory and measurement is not of interest.
- Proposals may focus on a specific polarization issue, but the primary research objective needs to be targeted to achieve an integrated understanding of models and measurement. Work with the primary lens focused on a particular polarization issue or on cultural differences in polarization, without a fundamental understanding of models, is not of interest.
- The primary focus of proposals should not be on the development of innovations or creating resources and platforms to spread awareness of innovations, although it may be a secondary goal.
- Proposals should not explicitly aim to promote one side of a polarized topic.

Definitions and Examples

Lists of examples below are meant to be illustrative and are not comprehensive. Proposals may focus on forces, models, measurements, and states of polarization not included in the lists.

Polarizing and Depolarizing External Forces
Sociocultural inputs, or feedback loops, that polarization mechanisms may transform into the output of states of polarization.

- Communication of information (including values, opinions, perspectives, moral and emotive appeals, social signals, misinformation, and disinformation)
- Group dynamics (including affect, in-group vs. out-group, and conversation dynamics)
- Media (including mass media, social media algorithms, and propaganda)
- Cultural context
- Extremism, violence, peacemaking, and mediation
- Collective wisdom, moral narratives, and public discourse
- Governance (including freedom and protection)

Models (Theories of Underlying Internal Mechanisms of Polarization and Depolarization)
Models are theoretical representations of the mechanisms of polarization and depolarization, and describe how mechanisms operate in relation to polarizing and depolarizing forces.

- Listening, attention, persuasion, and communication
- Learning (cognitive, social, and emotional)
- Intellectual humility
- Curiosity and cognitive flexibility
- Trust
- Cultural evolution
- Identity and affiliation
- Agency

- Social dynamics (including the effects of networks and groups on beliefs and behavior)
- Worldview (including spiritual and religious beliefs)
- Critical thinking and argumentation
- Values (including collectivist and individualistic)
- Character virtues (including humility, kindness, and charity) and vices (including pride, greed, and wrath)
- Emotion and stress (including anxiety, fear, and loneliness)
- Cognitive biases
- Pluralistic ignorance
- Social conformity

Measurements (Indicators of Underlying Internal Mechanisms of Polarization and Depolarization)
Measurements are measurable indicators directly related to the specific mechanisms in the theoretical models.

States of Polarization
States of polarization are those in which the opinions, beliefs, or interests of a group or society no longer range along a continuum but become concentrated at opposing extremes (Miriam Webster definition).
- Affective polarization
- Ideological polarization
- Political polarization
- Opinion polarization
- Social polarization
- Elite polarization
- Mass polarization
- Party polarization
- Pernicious polarization
- Benign polarization
- Perceptual polarization
- Socio-political polarization

Appendix 2 – Output Categories and Subcategories

Category	Subcategory
Education & Training	Curriculum or Course
	Manual or Workbook
	Training Activity
	Other
Event	Conference or Symposium
	Launch Event or Dissemination Activity
	Public Lecture
	Recurring Event
	Workshop or Seminar
	Other Event
Multimedia	Marketing and Communications
	Podcast
	Social Media Campaign
	Software or App
	Video, Film, Documentary
	Website
Proposals & Prizes	Execution of a Subgranting Contract
	Full proposal submitted to a Funder
	Prizes
	Request for Proposals
	Other
Publication or Academic Output	Book

	Book Chapter
	Conference or Poster Presentation
	Edited collection of scholarly essays written or submitted for publication
	Preregistration
	In principle acceptance of a registered report
	Dataset
	Lab and field resources
	Policy Brief
	Popular essay, article or op-ed piece
	Preprint
	Protocol
	Scholarly monograph written or submitted for publication
	Special issue of a journal
	Submission of a peer-reviewed journal article
	Tools and instruments
	Trade book
Tools and Instruments	Adaption and/or validation of measurement tool
	Creation of a new scale or measurement tool
	New experimental paradigm

Appendix 3 – Open Research Requirements, Recommendations for this RFP

This funding call requires project teams to:

- Preregister your experiment (if you have one). *Preregister all empirical elements, including both quantitative and qualitative/mixed methods. We encourage grantees to preregister their studies by using the Open Science Framework platform (OSF), or similar public registry (e.g., AsPredicted.org, ClinicalTrials.gov). Preregistrations should be shared under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license to enable sharing and reuse.*
- Share Journal Publications. *All journal publications must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo. They must be published under a Creative Commons attribution licence (CC-BY).*
- Share Datasets. *Submit **datasets** to a [FAIR](#) (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data repository that 1) Assigns a globally unique and persistent identifier (such as a DOI or Accession number); 2) indexes the dataset, metadata, and persistent identifier in a reliable, searchable resource. All relevant dataset files must be described by adequate metadata. Examples of data repositories include Zenodo, Dryad, or subject-specific data . repositories. Assign a CC-BY or CC0 license. Note that sharing protected health information (PHI) or electronic protected health information (ePHI) is not encouraged unless the data can be fully anonymized.*
- Share Software and Applications. *Maintain original **code and software** developed for use in TWCF-funded research in a reliable code repository, such as GitHub. Reliable code repositories are services that are supported by the coding community and allow for easy export of code. TCWF encourages sharing code used in data analysis reported in the preprint or research article.*
- Share Protocols. *Share **protocols** used in original research in an appropriate repository, such as Zenodo, with a persistent identifier and CC-BY or CC0 license.*

We encourage you to:

- Post Preprints. *Post a **preprint** with a CC-BY license before or at the time of submission of an article to a journal in a suitable preprint server that 1) does not put up a paywall or other barrier to access; 2) Assigns a digital object identifier (DOI) to each preprint; 3) Allows the assignment of a CC-BY license.*
- Share your Lab and Field Resources. *Register lab and field **resources** used in original research work, such as cell lines, antibodies, novel instruments, and other tangible items, with an appropriate research resource repository. Reliable repositories for resources include Addgene, animal model databases, and other services found through SciCrunch that assign a Research Resource Identifier (RRID) and provide others with information on how to find or use the resource if possible.*

Appendix 4 – External Reviewer Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by three external reviewers. Each proposal should be evaluated on its own merit. Reviewers will consider the three core review criteria of Potential for Impact, Innovation, and Research Design & Methods in the determination of scientific and technical merit of each proposal, as well as commenting on the overall quality of the proposal when taken as a whole, and will assign a separate score for each of these review criteria using the scale below:

- 1 Low quality, even if substantially revised
- 2 Low quality, but with substantial revisions could be high quality
- 3 Moderate quality, and with minor revisions could be high quality
- 4 High quality, with or without the suggestions mentioned

The primary basis for your assessment should be the information given in the proposal itself and supporting documentation (outputs and outcomes). Please focus your attention on the aspects of the project that you are in the best position to evaluate, and describe in your view what are the key strengths and weaknesses of the project as it is presented.

For each criterion, reviewers will provide evaluative comments on the proposal. Please explain why you think the proposal deserves a particular criterion score. For each criterion, please be thorough and describe completely the proposal's strengths and weaknesses. Please provide sufficient detail to explain why an aspect is considered a strength or a weakness. Please feel free to provide specific suggestions to address concerns (clear recommendations for how the project can be improved and strengthened). Provide enough detail so that the Foundation can understand the reasons for your comments and scores.

Please do not use bullet points in your comments. Define all acronyms in first use. Please write using complete sentences.

Please remember:

- It is NOT necessary to describe the aims in great detail; and
- It is NOT helpful to cut and paste text from the application; your expert opinion of the application is what is needed.

Potential for Impact: What impact can reasonably be expected from the project, and how effective and beneficial is this impact likely to be? What potential is there for increasing scholarly or public understanding of the subject area of the project, and for influencing opinion leaders?	
Score:	1 = Low quality, even if substantially revised. 2 = Low quality, but with substantial revisions could be high quality. 3 = Moderate quality, and with minor revisions could be high quality. 4 = High quality, with or without the suggestions mentioned below.

Comments (Required):

Innovation: How does the proposed project relate to the current state of the field, including other work that has been conducted or planned? Is it asking new questions as well as seeking new answers? What capacity does it have to break new ground?	
Score:	1 = Low quality, even if substantially revised. 2 = Low quality, but with substantial revisions could be high quality. 3 = Moderate quality, and with minor revisions could be high quality. 4 = High quality, with or without the suggestions mentioned below.

Comments(Required):

Design and Methods: Are the project's assumptions justified by evidence (including citations of scholarly work if applicable), and is there a persuasive rationale for why the project is needed? How well are the hypotheses or objectives, aims, experimental design, methods and analyses developed and integrated into the project? Does the proposal describe designs, methods, procedures, and/or activities that are carefully planned and appropriate for the project's objectives? Are plans for data collection, analysis, storage, and dissemination adequately addressed? Does the proposal fulfill the Open Research requirements for all valuable research outputs including preregistration documents, peer-reviewed publications and preprints, datasets, code, software, protocols, and research materials? Are these plans realistic and effective?	
Score:	1 = Low quality, even if substantially revised. 2 = Low quality, but with substantial revisions could be high quality. 3 = Moderate quality, and with minor revisions could be high quality. 4 = High quality, with or without the suggestions mentioned below.

Comments (Required):

Overall quality of the proposal: Taking the proposal as a whole, what is your judgment of its quality and potential? This could include the following considerations: How enthusiastic are you about this project? Is there anything about the project that you would like to highlight that may not be captured in the criteria above?	
Score:	1 = Low quality, even if substantially revised. 2 = Low quality, but with substantial revisions could be high quality. 3 = Moderate quality, and with minor revisions could be high quality. 4 = High quality, with or without the suggestions mentioned below.

Comments (Required):

CONFERRAL

After submitting their review, assigned reviewers will be able to view each other's scores and comments for a proposal during the conferral period of the review process via the SCORES interface. This will be done within a 36-48-hour period after the requested preliminary critique submission deadline. The purpose of conferral is just to allow the assigned reviewers to view each other's critiques and make changes to your own review if you would like. The conferral process is not intended to move reviewers to consensus. A text field will be provided for final comments on conferral.

Final Thoughts: Once you are done with conferral, please provide a brief synopsis of your actions (if your scores/comments remained the same and why; or if you changed any score/comments and why)
Comments (Required):