AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship – Prosecuting Piracy in Peacetime: Crime, Empire, and the High Court of Admiralty, 1607-1618

Start date: 1st October 2020

Application Deadline: 5pm, 21 June 2020

Interviews will take place during the week commencing 20 July 2020, either in person or by video conferencing, depending on circumstances.

The University of Reading and The National Archives are pleased to announce the availability of a fully funded collaborative doctoral studentship from October 2020 under the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme.

This project will investigate the role of the High Court of Admiralty in the early development of the British Empire, contributing to scholarly debates about the place of law and crime in imperial systems by using an under-researched series at The National Archives.

This project will be jointly supervised by Dr Richard Blakemore, University of Reading, and Dr Daniel Gosling, The National Archives, and the student will be expected to spend time at both the University of Reading and The National Archives, as well as becoming part of the wider cohort of CDP funded students across the UK.

Project Overview

By studying the criminal branch of the High Court of Admiralty, the project will explore the relationship between law, crime, and empire in the early modern maritime world. The project will focus on the early seventeenth century, a period when England, Scotland, and Ireland were first united under one monarch in James VI and I, and when British commercial and colonial activities expanded in Ireland, the Americas, the Mediterranean, Africa, and India, establishing both exchange and conflict with a greater range of communities and cultures around the world. While James also made peace with other imperial powers, his government struggled to control its seafaring subjects, many of whom did not abandon the plundering habits they had previously adopted in wartime.

The High Court of Admiralty, as the primary institution for prosecuting piracy and other crimes committed at sea, offers a unique opportunity to examine this important moment in British imperial and maritime history from multiple perspectives. The project will combine history from above and from below, a methodology well-suited to legal records which were directed by state policy but also, especially in the detailed witness statements of this court, preserve a remarkable diversity of voices. Witnesses and litigants in the court included pirates, merchants, and sailors, their families, members of other maritime trades, and people from beyond Britain – such as seafarers from Islamic North Africa who were accused of piracy. The project will therefore integrate institutional, political, and social history to investigate this court as both an instrument of empire and a site for imperial confrontations (whether between Britain and its own subjects or involving other communities).

Within the scope of the project's stated objectives, the student will be encouraged to develop the research agenda and questions to follow their own interests, and (under the guidance of the supervisors) will design and implement the research programme. The student will also receive

extensive training in both archival practice and historical scholarship, as well as being introduced to newly developed techniques from digital humanities.

Research questions can include:

- How did the criminal branch of the High Court of Admiralty function, and who came into contact with it?
- How did the British imperial government use criminal prosecutions in the High Court of Admiralty to impose control over their seafaring subjects, and to exert power in a highly contested maritime space?
- What was the lived experience of individuals involved in, or targeted by, this legal system, and how did their actions shape that system?
- How can the criminal records of the High Court of Admiralty be used most effectively, and made available to a wide and diverse audience?

Details of Award

CDP doctoral training grants fund full-time studentships for 45 months (3.75 years) or part-time equivalent. The studentship has the possibility of being extended for an additional 3 months to provide professional development opportunities, or up to 3 months of funding may be used to pay for the costs the student might incur in taking up professional development opportunities.

The award pays tuition fees up to the value of the full-time home/EU UKRI rate for PhD degrees. Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level for 2020/21 is £4,407.

The award pays full maintenance for UK citizens and residents only. The National Minimum Doctoral Stipend for 2020/21 is £15,285/year, plus a CDP maintenance payment of £600/year and a partial London weighting of £1,000/year.

Further details can be found on the UKRI website

https://www.ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/

The student is eligible to receive an additional travel and related expenses grant during the course of the project courtesy of The National Archives worth up to £1000 per year for 3.75 years (45 months).

The project can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis.

Eligibility

- This studentship is open to UK/EU students who meet the residency requirements set out in the UKRI Conditions of Research Council Training Grants: https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/

- We want to encourage the widest range of potential students to study for a CDP studentship and are committed to welcoming students from different backgrounds to apply.

- Applicants should ideally have or expect to receive a relevant Masters-level qualification, or be able to demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting. Suitable disciplines are flexible, but might include Archaeology, Archives, History, Literature, and Law.

- Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interest in the archives sector and potential and enthusiasm for developing skills more widely in related areas.

- As a collaborative award, students will be expected to spend time at both the University and The National Archives

NB. All applicants must meet the AHRC's academic criteria and residency requirements. See:

https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/

Project details and how to apply

Applications should be sent by email to Dr Richard Blakemore at r.blakemore@reading.ac.uk. You must include the reference TNACDP2020 as the subject of your email.

Applications should include the following:

- A CV detailing relevant education and employment;
- A transcript of undergraduate and postgraduate degree results or predicted results (where appropriate);
- A personal statement of not more than 1,000 words, outlining your experience of academic research and/or your relevant professional experience, why you are suited to undertake this project, and what approaches you would take to conduct it;
- Two references (at least one from an academic referee).

If you have questions or would like to discuss your application, you are encouraged to contact Dr Blakemore and Dr Gosling (Daniel.Gosling@nationalarchives.gov.uk) in advance.

The successful candidate will be eligible to participate in CDP Cohort Development events.

All new CDP students will be expected to attend the CDP Student Launch Event on Monday 21st September 2020 at the British Museum