



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



The University of
Nottingham

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The photographs of people who were victims of Nazi persecution: building a collection; interrogating its meaning

AHRC PhD Studentship in collaboration with Imperial War Museums (IWM) and The University of Nottingham

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded PhD at the University of Nottingham: “The photographs of people who were victims of Nazi persecution: building a collection; interrogating its meaning”. This is offered under the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership programme. The partner institutions are the University of Nottingham and IWM. The studentship will be supervised by Professors Elizabeth Harvey and Maiken Umbach at the University of Nottingham, and Rachel Donnelly of IWM. This full-time studentship, which is funded for three years at standard AHRC rates, will begin on 1 October 2017.

The Studentship

This project will consolidate IWM’s collections relating to the Holocaust through collecting, copying and documenting the photographs that exist of the families of former Jewish and non-Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors, and will produce a PhD which will reflect on these collections and determine new meanings from them. Yaffa Eliach’s *There once was a world*, Noam Shenker’s *Reframing Holocaust Testimony* and other works have addressed this kind of material to some degree, but there has yet to be an in-depth academic study based on the photographs of Holocaust survivors who made their home in the UK.

The project would involve continuing an existing IWM initiative to collect the photographs of the pre-war lives of families whose possessions and/ or testimony have been given to IWM. The resulting collection would mean that the present project to create new Holocaust Galleries (due to open in 2020), the learning programmes that will support them and future interpretations of the Holocaust at IWM will be backed up by a high-quality, well-researched collection of images.

Similar photographs can be seen in exhibitions across Europe, the US and Israel, and are increasingly being shown and interpreted on websites (Virtual Shtetl on the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews website being a recent example). The IWM project would offer the opportunity for the student to connect with these other initiatives, and to import best practice to IWM, as well as adding to the sum of knowledge on this subject through our own webpages.

Research areas might include: early twentieth century studio photography in Central and Eastern Europe, including families’ preferences for particular activities to be recorded and how and whether this differed according to different occupations/ religious beliefs/ regions; a study of how photographs of families have been used in museums and other displays, including the thinking behind those displays and how they have been received; and an examination of the journeys which the photographs themselves took and how they have been viewed, discussed and treated by the families concerned. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Photographic Archive will be a source of advice and information, as will The Wiener Library, The National Holocaust Centre and Museum, Yad Vashem and the USC Shoah Foundation.

Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the scholarships cover tuition fees and a grant (stipend) towards living expenses. The national minimum doctoral stipend for 2017/18 has been set by Research Councils



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UK as £14,553 plus £550 additional payment for Collaborative Doctoral Students. For more information visit: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/skills/phdstudents/fundingandtraining>.

Students are also eligible to draw additional funding from a Student Development Fund to support the cost of training, work placements, and other development opportunities that will benefit the student's doctoral research and future career development.

In addition, the student is eligible to receive up to £1,000 a year from IWM towards travel and related research expenses.

How to Apply

Applicants should have a First Class or Upper Second Class degree in history or art history and an MA at distinction or merit in a relevant discipline, including museum and heritage studies. Preference will be given to applicants with fluency in a relevant foreign European language and a demonstrable knowledge and interest in Jewish studies AND/OR the history of photography.

Applicants must be a resident of the UK or European Economic Area (EEA). In general, full studentships are available to students who are settled in the UK and have been ordinarily resident for a period of at least three years before the start of postgraduate studies. Fees-only awards are generally available to EU nationals resident in the EEA. International applicants are normally not eligible to apply for this studentship.

Applicants should submit via email a single MS Word or PDF document which includes a curriculum vitae (no more than 2 pages), a brief letter (no more than 2 pages) outlining their motivation and qualification for the studentship, a sample of writing (c. 3000 words) and the names and contact details of two academic referees. Please send this document to the email address ss-pgr-upw@nottingham.ac.uk no later than 5pm on 7 April 2017. Please ensure the subject line of your email appears as 'surname, first name – IWM/Nottingham studentship.'

Informal enquiries may be directed to rdonnelly@iwm.org.uk; elizabeth.harvey@nottingham.ac.uk, or maiken.umbach@nottingham.ac.uk.

Interviews are scheduled to be held in London on 17 May. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete an application for PhD study in the Department of History to <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/how-to-apply/apply-online.aspx>