



Diversifying and decolonising conflict photography: an exploration of how accompanying textual information can influence the reading and understanding of photographs

AHRC PhD studentship in collaboration with Cardiff University and Imperial War Museums

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded PhD at Cardiff University. This is offered under the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership programme. The partner institutions are Cardiff University and IWM. The studentship will be supervised by Dr Tom Allbeson (School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University) and Helen Mavin (IWM) and co-supervised by Professor Claire Gorrara (School of Modern Languages, Cardiff University). The studentship begins on 1 October 2020 and is fully funded at standard AHRC rates for 45 months full time (or part-time equivalent) with the potential to be extended for a further 3 months to provide professional development opportunities.

Closing date for applications: 15 May 2020

Anticipated start date: 1 October 2020

The Studentship

The IWM Photograph Archive is an internationally significant collection that supports understanding of the causes, course, and consequences of modern conflict from multi-national perspectives. It includes material illustrating the experiences of both civilians and military participants. Using material from across the IWM collection, this project will critically examine the language used to describe and contextualise collections. It will focus on the portrayal of diverse experiences within the context of war and conflict during the 20th century and how original captions and museum-ascribed descriptions have consciously or unconsciously supported colonial narratives and influenced audience understandings.

Photographs taken during conflict – whether taken with an ethnographic point of view, a private diaristic function or a commercial imperative – continue to be defined for decades by the textual framing that adhere to them. Some of these linguistic forms are literally attached to photographs by the originators of pictures (typed out and stuck on, along with an institutional stamp and reference number), while others become attached to them subsequently by others (neither photographer nor photographic subject, but editor, cataloguer or archivist). Such captions, labels and descriptors include vital factual detail (e.g. dates, locations, names), but can be read today as reinforcing discrimination in its many forms.

Historical analysis of conflict imagery should tackle the institutional and publication contexts through which a photograph passes and by which it is made visible and meaningful. The accompanying layers of language are a vital element of the cultural constellation of ideas,

words and other images that determine a photograph's significance at the time of its original circulation and subsequently. Analysing this constellation of factors requires an interdisciplinary approach drawing on cultural, visual, linguistic and literary studies, as well as material culture.

The studentship offers flexibility, allowing the student to define the scope of the research within the broad aims outlined here. For instance, the student may choose to address a range of photographic examples that span the height of the British Empire at the time of the First World War, the Second World War, wars of decolonisation and the onset of the Cold War. It is likely that the following issues will be important to the student in selecting the most insightful and productive range of case studies through which to tackle these research aims:

- Place:- A range of case studies drawn from different spheres of international relations including Anglophone countries, European nations and colonized territories
- Institutions & publications:- A selection of conflict imagery from across specific sites of image-text relations, such as the IWM Photograph Archive, commercial publications utilizing military-generated imagery (e.g. *Illustrated London News*, *The War Illustrated*), and official publications for military or citizenry including both English-language examples and other European languages (e.g. *Parade*, *Blick in die Welt*)
- Themes:- Examples that illuminate the interrelation of militarism, colonialism, tourism and citizen-science in soldiers' experience and documentation of twentieth-century conflict

It would be anticipated that there would be critical engagement with other photograph collections and archives, both in the UK and overseas. We welcome applications from candidates who can work with material in languages other than English.

Funding

Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the scholarship covers tuition fees and a grant (stipend) towards living expenses for 45 months (3 years and 9 months) full time 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. 3 to 6 months of the funded period should be spent on professional development and not on research for the thesis.

The award pays tuition fees up to the value of the full-time home/EU UKRI rate for PhD degrees. The 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, plus a partial London weighting of £1,000/year, and a CDP maintenance payment of £600/year.

For more information visit: <https://www.ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/>

In addition, the student is eligible to receive up to £1,000 a year from IWM and will also be eligible to apply for internal funding at the School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University to support archival visits and the delivery of academic conference papers.

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.

Nationality Requirements

Applicants must have a relevant connection with the UK to qualify for a full AHRC award, i.e. they must have been ordinarily resident in the UK throughout the three-year period preceding the date of application, or have settled status in the UK. Candidates from EU countries are eligible for full awards if they have been resident in the UK, for education or other purposes, for at least three years prior to the start of their programme. Candidates from EU countries who have not resided in the UK for three years prior to the start of their programme will normally be eligible for a fees-only award. Non-EU candidates who have not been ordinarily resident in the UK for the last three years, or who were resident wholly or mainly for the purposes of education, are not eligible to apply.

How To Apply

Applicants will need to satisfy AHRC eligibility requirements including Masters-level advanced research training or equivalent professional experience. Applicants will be assessed on the basis of their academic record and research potential, the strength of their covering letter, and the overall fit of their proposal with the aims of the research project outlined above. All offers are subject to passing the university's admissions requirements.

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. For more information visit: <https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/researchfundingguide/>

Applicants should submit the following via email:

- Covering letter outlining their suitability for the studentship (max. one page)
- Curriculum vitae (max. two pages)
- Sample of writing from either academic assignment/publication OR museum interpretation/publication (1,500 to 8,000 words)
- Proposal outlining how they would approach the research project (max. 1000 words)
- Transcripts of undergraduate and masters qualifications (or evidence of equivalent)
- Details of two academic referees

Complete applications should be submitted by email to the School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University (JOMECSupport@cardiff.ac.uk) by no later than **5pm on Friday 15 May 2020**. All documents should be submitted in either a MS Word or PDF format.

Please note, we are not requesting that applicants provide written statements from referees at the time of application. However, please ensure your referees have been informed of your application in case we wish to contact them prior to interview.

We particularly encourage applications from BAME, LGBTQ+ and disabled candidates (who are currently under-represented within both the higher education and museums sectors) and from those who can work with languages and cultural materials other than in English.

Interviews are scheduled to be held on Friday 29 May 2020. Owing to current public health measures to tackle coronavirus, interviews will be held online.

Further Enquiries

For further enquiries, feel free to contact Dr Tom Allbeson (allbesont@cardiff.ac.uk) or Helen Mavin (hmavin@iwm.org.uk).