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KING'S
College
LONDON

Encounters with Empire, 1939-1945

AHRC PhD Studentship in collaboration with Imperial War Museums (IWM) and King's College London (KCL)

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded PhD at King's College London: 'Encounters with Empire, 1939-1945'. This is offered under the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership programme. The partner institutions are KCL and IWM. The studentship will be supervised by Professor Ashley Jackson (KCL) and Alan Jeffreys (IWM). This full-time studentship, which is funded for three years at standard AHRC rates, will begin on 1 October 2019.

The Studentship

The project will study the experience and the 'voice' of soldiers and civilians across the British Empire during the Second World War. There is a growing body of scholarship on the imperial and global nature of the war. For example, the 14th Army that defeated the Imperial Japanese Army in the Burma campaign comprised 340,000 Indian troops, 100,000 British and 80,000 African. The British and Indian contribution has been well covered by historians at the expense of the African contribution, and the story of the fighting formations has overshadowed that of 'rear echelon', or labour, units. Similarly the civilian experience is under-studied and therefore a fertile area for research. The project would assess and deepen the literature on the experience of colonial men and women involved in the war effort as combatants, uniformed workers, and civilians, giving a state of the art summary of the field by engaging with literature addressing all non-dominion parts of the Empire. As its original research contribution it would employ new material to document the experience of colonial subjects involved in an imperial war effort.

The primary research material would be the oral histories and documents at IWM, ranging from the Private Papers of Isaac Fadoyebo, Royal West African Frontier Force, to the oral history interview with Lieutenant General Stanley Menezes, Indian Army. The project would also investigate visual and material artefacts such as photographs, posters, films, journals and souvenirs. Material relating to the Empire is still being actively collected, and the student would have the opportunity to contribute to this process.

The project offers the opportunity to examine the British Empire as a whole over the war period, and to analyse its legacy. The precise nature of the project would be made clear during the first year but there are a number of questions that could be addressed. Did the experience differ dramatically across the different theatres of the Empire? Were there similarities in the civilian experience for such purposes of Air Raid Precautions? How effective was the high command across the empire? How effective was the Ministry of Information propaganda campaign in the countries of the Empire? Why are the labour companies forgotten? Why has the home front experience across the Empire received such scant attention in comparison with the British home front?

These and other questions could be looked at using IWM material and that held at institutions such as the British Library, The National Archives, Rhodes House Library University of Oxford (eg Colonial Records Project and King's African Rifles papers), and the Royal Commonwealth Society Library at the University Library Cambridge. At KCL, the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives and the FCO Library held in the Foyle Special Collections Library would also be of use. The oral history archive of the former British Empire and Commonwealth Museum (currently under the stewardship of Bristol City Council) might yield important new sources. The project might also embrace the wider Commonwealth through



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the holdings of institutions such as the National Library and Archives of Singapore, and might attempt, depending on the student's interests, an audit of such holdings.

The student would be involved in the major 'Globalising Britain's War' project currently being devised by KCL and IWM, and the activities of the Sir Michael Howard Centre for the History of War at KCL, IWM's academic and public programmes, and specially-devised workshops supported by both institutions. The student will join a vibrant and active community of scholars researching aspects of the British Empire's war experience, which is connected in turn to a global network of scholars and institutions.

Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the scholarships cover tuition fees and a grant (stipend) towards living expenses. The national minimum doctoral stipend for 2019/20 has been set by Research Councils UK as £17,009 (including £2000 London Weighting Allowance) 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 and will be able to apply for internal KCL funding to support archival visits and the delivery of academic conference papers. The student, who will become a member of KCL's Defence Studies Department in the School of Security Studies, part of the Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy, will also be eligible to apply to relevant KCL sources of funding and support.

How to Apply

Applicants should have an excellent academic record at undergraduate level and a master's degree, or relevant experience, and will need to satisfy AHRC eligibility requirements including master's-level advanced research training or equivalent. Applicants will be assessed on their academic record and research potential. The successful applicant will need to apply direct to KCL's School of Security Studies Ph.D programme and satisfy its admission 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.

Applicants should submit via email a curriculum vitae (no more than 2 pages), a sample of writing, a brief letter outlining their qualification for the studentship, transcripts of undergraduate and master's qualifications, and two academic references to Jessica Carden (jessica.carden@kcl.ac.uk) in the KCL School of Security Studies by **no later than 5pm on 19th May 2019**.

Please note it is the responsibility of applicants to request references from their referees and ensure that they have been received by this deadline. All documents should be submitted in either a MS Word or PDF format. Please ensure the subject line of your email appears as 'surname, first name – IWM/KCL Jackson studentship.'

Interviews are scheduled to be held in London on **03 June 2019**.