

AHRC-funded Collaborative PhD Studentships

Department of Geography, School of Geography, Archaeology and Earth Resources, University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus and Porthcurno Telegraph Museum.

Following the award of an extended programme of AHRC Collaborative PhD Studentships, the University of Exeter, in partnership with Porthcurno Telegraph Museum, is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified applicant for a doctoral studentship for three years commencing on 1 October 2009. A further appointment will be made in October 2010.

The overall theme of the extended programme is “Themes in the Historical Geography of Communication: the Eastern Telegraph Company to Cable and Wireless, 1869-1945”. Of the three PhD projects identified under this broad theme, one started in October 2008 (Visual Culture and the Making of Corporate Identity) and one of the remaining two will commence in October 2009 (in discussion between the supervisors and the successful candidate). The remaining projects are outlined below:

Entwined business and imperial histories:

Principal supervisor - Dr Nicola Thomas; 2nd supervisor – Professor James Ryan

The entwined histories of business, commerce and ‘informal’ empire will be explored through the case study of the British companies associated with supplying and maintaining telegraph communication to China. It is anticipated that this research will contribute to the understanding of the cultures of informal empire in China; the place of science and technology within the imperial project; and intersections between imperialism and commerce in a Chinese context. This project will provide new insights into the history of empire, focusing on the ways in which commercial and political imperatives entwined in the business of global communications, using the case study of China and Hong Kong.

The Strategic and tactical role of Cable and Wireless during the Second World War:

Principal supervisor - Professor Catherine Brace; 2nd supervisor – Dr Nicola Thomas

This project will supply a uniquely comprehensive study of the operations of a large company in war time, focusing particularly on the defence of Cable and Wireless's operations in the UK and elsewhere, and its participation in secret activities, code breaking and intelligence. During the Second World War, the operations of Cable and Wireless were critical; governments co-ordinated policy, broadcasters received the latest war news and families exchanged messages with men fighting overseas. Cables lent a tactical advantage; they could not be intercepted as radio signals could, though cables were frequently cut. The relationship between government and private business was renegotiated in light of the strategic importance of the company's assets and activities which allowed the integration of intelligence with decision-making. None of these aspects of the company's activities has previously been researched in any critical depth.

Under the terms of the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award Scheme, the successful applicant will benefit from opportunities to work closely with Porthcurno Telegraph Museum team, who are responsible for the management and promotion of the museum and its activities. This will involve gaining first-hand experience of working on the management of the collection instead of simply viewing it as a scholarly resource. The experience of working with this collection will enhance the employment-related skills and training of the doctoral student. Specific skills related to the handling, preservation and organisation of fragile archive material will be augmented by more generic skills transferable into any workplace such as negotiating between priorities, managing time and resources, working to a brief, working with others, and communicating findings to expert and lay audiences. A key feature of this collaborative project is that the student will have the opportunity to communicate the outputs of the PhD research to non-academic audiences through, for example, exhibitions, WebPages, leaflets and talks.

This project should interest applicants with backgrounds in diverse disciplines and subject areas, including, for example, cultural geography, historical geography, history. Applicants should hold a 1st Class or Upper 2nd Class Honours degree in a relevant discipline. A Master's degree, either held or in progress, in a relevant area, would be an advantage. The successful applicant will further benefit from working within a lively and expanding research environment within the [Department of Geography](#) at the University of Exeter's Cornwall Campus near Falmouth in Cornwall.

The award will cover University tuition fees and provide a maintenance award of approximately £12,940 per year for three years. The terms and conditions of the award will be those of the AHRC's postgraduate studentships. Applicants must therefore have a relevant connection with the United Kingdom, usually through residence. For further information, or informal discussion about the position,

please contact: Professor Catherine Brace (email cbrace@exeter.ac.uk, tel. 01326 371810).

Applications

Applications can be made online at:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/admissions/applyonline.shtml>

Under the list of A to Z Index of Research Degrees, select “Geography – Human – at the Cornwall Campus”. Please make it clear in your application that you are applying for one of the ARHC funded Collaborative Doctoral Awards.

The closing date is **20th April 2009**. Interviews will be held over two days on **14th and 15th May 2009**. Applicants will be required to attend on both days.

A further appointment will be made in October 2010, and application details for this position will be available in due course.