

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland Northern Bridge Partnership Awards

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and the Northern Bridge Consortium are delighted to draw your attention to a fully-funded Partnership Award PhD opportunity to support outstanding applicants wishing to pursue research relating to the collections held by PRONI.

PRONI is one of the national archival institutions in the UK and is the official place of deposit in Northern Ireland (NI) for records of both Central and Local Government. It also has a remit to take private records including those of private individuals, businesses, solicitors, estates, churches, politicians and political parties, etc. PRONI holds 54 kilometres of records, the oldest of which is from 1219, though the majority of the collection dates from 1600 until the present day.

PRONI is a division within the Department for Communities (DfC) and since 2011 has been based in the Titanic Quarter of Belfast. DfC has overall responsibility for archives, libraries and museums in NI.

Applications for PhD project proposals for entry into the 2018 Northern Bridge studentship competition are invited the following research fields:

The creation of the Northern Ireland state

The events of the period 1912-23 were pivotal to the creation of the two jurisdictions of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. During the anniversary of partition, researchers may consult the wealth of material relating to the origins of the two states. PRONI holds the official records of government relating to the creation of the NI state and the setting up of the structures and institutions that followed partition. The significance of these papers still resonates today as these were the instruments and records of the decisions that shaped modern-day Northern Ireland.

Collections include records of the Ministries of Finance (FIN, particularly FIN/18 and FIN/30), Commerce (COM), Education (ED), Agriculture (AG), Home Affairs (HA), Health (HSS) and records of the NI Cabinet (CAB4, CAB9). Privately deposited collections include the papers of Sir Ernest Clark, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, 1921-25 (D1022), and Sir Wilfred Spender, Head of the Civil Service, 1926-44 (D715 and D1295). Researchers working in this area may be able to contribute to PRONI exhibitions and to the development of educational resources that will explore both the creation of the NI state and PRONI's own centenary in 2023. These are complimented by archives and artefacts held by other institutions across Ireland and the United Kingdom including the National Archives of Ireland and The National Archives at Kew.

Curating the landscape: using mixed method approaches to interrogate local map collections

PRONI is custodian to a large and varied collection of maps and associated records, including the Ordnance Survey archive and unique manuscript maps of specific areas.

From the seventeenth to the eighteenth century, private surveyors mapped many of the townlands of Ireland both for private purposes (for the landlords) and for official purposes (for the redistribution of land under the Cromwellian and Restoration settlements, for example, the Civil Survey of 1641). By

the early nineteenth century, a more centralised mapping scheme was undertaken in Ireland by Ordnance Survey (OS).

The work of the Ordnance Survey from 1824 centred on the north of Ireland. Despite its military beginnings it was a civil need that brought the Ordnance Survey to Ireland in 1824. The county cess which paid for goals and court houses and the repairing of roads and bridges was paid on assigning a rateable value to each townland. While the names and outlines of townlands were generally known before the work of Ordnance Survey in Ireland, and often depicted on early maps, their acreage and relative values were recognised to be inaccurate and incomplete.

This research project will combine GIS knowledge and historical information from original source maps held by PRONI to:

1. evaluate the accuracy of survey measurement before the Ordnance Survey
2. reappraise the role of Ordnance Survey maps (and map related archives), and
3. explore the changing reasons for mapping activities in Ireland since the seventeenth century.

Although maps of one area may appear very different, as they were created for various reasons and at different times, they may also reveal some connections. A geographical approach to test this assumption may be to layer PRONI maps of a distinct geographical area from different dates, using established GIS techniques, to evaluate map accuracy, detail and purpose.

An alternative approach may be to explore traditional forms of enquiry associated with the history of cartography to (a) create a dataset that will improve an existing digital platform, such as the PRONI Historical Maps Viewer, or (b) develop an innovative way of curating Irish mapping.

Sufficient working knowledge of Geographical Information Science (GIS) is required for this project. Practical GIS skills would be of benefit, however not compulsory. This project may be undertaken within the discipline of history or historical geography, however an interdisciplinary perspective should be taken.

This project involves a placement opportunity in PRONI to scope and evaluate original maps, and to liaise with PRONI partners to improve digital access to PRONI map collections.

Manufacturing Industry

PRONI holds an extensive collections of records relating to the manufacturing industries dating from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. While most relate to the six counties of Northern Ireland there is some coverage of the rest of the historical province of Ulster. A *Guide to the Textile Industries* published by PRONI in 1978 lists around 400 linen companies for which records exist, along with around 50 from the cotton manufacturing and clothing trades. There have been a number of significant deposits since that date, some of which remain uncatalogued.

PRONI also holds a wide range of records relating to the ship-building and engineering industries. These include major concerns such as Harland & Wolff, Davidson & Co (Sirocco Works), James Mackie & Sons, the Belfast Ropework Co and Musgrave & Co, as well as various smaller concerns. Many of the companies traded on an international scale, importing raw material and exporting finished products across the globe.

As well as records of the business themselves, PRONI holds large quantities of related material including legal papers, court records (including Bankruptcy Court papers), records of trade unions

and employers associations, and personal correspondence and narratives of people involved in industry.

The records of the devolved administration in Northern Ireland from 1921, particularly the Ministry (later Department) of Commerce are a particular rich resource. They chronicle the attempts of the Northern Ireland administration to support the traditional industries, such as shipbuilding and linen manufacture, and later to diversify into new areas such as aircraft manufacture and artificial fabrics. As well as dealing with macro-economic policy, the records include information on individual companies (including the Company Registry) and industrialists.

The records would support a wide range of doctoral projects and methodological approaches to doctoral research. As well as studies of individual companies or industries, there is scope for investigation into subjects such as the financing of industry, labour history, the role of women in industry, colonialism, the geography of manufacturing, and the promotion and representation of manufacturing. Studies could also focus on the impact of events such as the Partition of Ireland, the Second World War and the 'Troubles' on manufacturing and the impact of economic decline on politics and society in Northern Ireland.

Women in the archives - representation and under representation.

Women make up around half of the global population and have contributed to the cultural, economic and political development of society throughout history.

PRONI holds collections that include records of both prominent and ordinary women. Archives relate to themes that include amongst others: suffrage and the Women's Movement, eg Eva Gore Booth, (D4131); women in politics, eg Theresa, Lady Londonderry (D2846); women and the Trade Union movement, eg Charlotte Despard (D2479); women in war, eg Cabinet Conclusions (CAB3) Countess Markievicz (D4131); women in medicine (eg VAD Emma Duffin); women and crime, eg Ministry of Home Affairs (HA), Her Majesty's Prison (HMP); and women and the diaspora (PRONI's vast untapped source of letters relating to migration).

Using the archives held - or not held - and using individuals as case studies or more wide-ranging analysis, this doctoral project could explore a range of themes across several disciplines could include: the changing role and status of women in society over time, particularly the evolution of women's social status and civil participation during the twentieth century; representation of women in the archives, and proportional enquiry and publication recognising women and their impact/achievements in historical interpretation.

This would include a suggested placement at PRONI to work with staff to develop a comprehensive revision of PRONI Guide to Women's Sources.

Conflict and politics in Northern Ireland

PRONI holds extensive official records and privately deposited archives relating to the conflict and politics in Northern Ireland. The official documents give an insight into Stormont Government policy during the Troubles and also provide views from London and Dublin. The documents highlight the issues that affected Northern Ireland during this period.

The topics covered include: the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement and its aftermath; security; Civil Rights campaign; education; elections; Irish language; political developments; victims; prisons; and the Republican hunger strikes of the early 1980s.

Much of this material has been released under the 30/20 Year Rule. The documents provide a variety of perspectives including, key politicians and officials, community groups and representatives, political parties, local and national government.

A selection of this material has been digitised and made available via PRONI on Conflict Archive on the Internet (CAIN). The Northern Ireland Cabinet conclusions have also been digitised and are available for the period 1921-1972. However, other important file series include: Cabinet Secretariat, Central Secretariat, Northern Ireland Office, Office of the Executive, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Constitutional Convention papers. This material is well catalogued and available onsite at PRONI.

PRONI also hold significant privately deposited collections relating to conflict and politics in Northern Ireland. This includes the records of the Ulster Unionist Council, Social Democratic and Labour Party, politicians, election and political posters and related ephemera from across the political spectrum.

The holdings are a uniquely rich archive resource, complementing records in the National Archives in Dublin and London and afford the opportunity for the researcher to re-evaluate established narratives of the past, and will support doctoral research across several disciplines, with placement opportunities in such sectors as archives, libraries, and museums and training to be provided in such areas as using official records, and an introduction to archive catalogues.

Mapping Estate Records

After the establishment of the Ulster Plantation, c.1610-1640, farmers, labourers, settlers and natives of the six counties of present-day Northern Ireland predominantly lived as rent-paying tenants on about 2,500 landed estates owned by different landlords.

This dynamic of rural landownership and occupancy in the region changed little until Land Acts passed between 1869 and 1925 enabled the passing of holdings to from landlord to tenant.

PRONI holds an extensive collection of privately deposited landed estate records, in addition to the substantial volume of material relating to the administration of the Land Acts held within the Land Registry archive. These records include a wide range of legal and administrative documents, such as leases, rent rolls, tenant lists and maps.

These records would support a wide range of doctoral projects with diverse disciplinary and methodological approaches. Researchers could consider studies of individual estates or areas, and within those parameters are opportunities to consider population demographics as well as geo-political and socio-economic aspects of the land ownership and rental system in Ireland over a number of centuries.

Outputs would include a spatial analysis of land occupancy over time, using GIS technologies for data analysis, interpretation and presentation. This would lead to the production of a dataset which could be presented in various formats, for example it could be added to PRONI's existing Historical Maps viewer. An awareness of GIS technology would be of benefit, however not compulsory. This project may be undertaken within the discipline of history or historical geography, however an interdisciplinary perspective should be taken.

Northern Ireland and China

PRONI holds a range of papers relating to interactions between local people and China from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. These include the papers of diplomats, colonial officials, missionaries and businesses. These are complimented by archives and artefacts held by other institutions in Northern Ireland including the North Down Museum, Special Collections at QUB Library and the Presbyterian Historical Society.

There are several collections relating to Irish Presbyterian missionaries in Manchuria in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These include the papers of the Rev Alexander R Crawford and Agatha R Crawford (D2003/T2398); Florence McCaul (nee Crawford) (D1983) and Emma M Crook (D1727). There is also some printed material. The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland also holds material relating to the Mission.

A number of people with connections to the north of Ireland were involved with China as diplomats or administrators. Sir Hiram Shaw Wilkinson held senior diplomatic and judicial posts in both China and Japan between 1877 and 1905, before becoming Pro-Vice Chancellor of QUB (D1292). PRONI also holds correspondence and diaries of Edward McKean, Secretary and later Commissioner in the Chinese Customs Service, c 1880-91 (D1164/T2581). The papers of Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Custom Service 1863-1911 are held by QUB library. Hart's nephew, Sir Frederick Maze, who was born in Belfast, served as Inspector-General of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, 1929–1943. Sir John Newell Jordan served as British Envoy and Minister to China from 1906-20. He bequeathed his collection of Chinese cultural artefacts to the North Down Museum. The papers of Earl Macartney (1737-1806) held in PRONI include material on his unsuccessful diplomatic mission to China from 1791-4 (D572, D2225, D2731).

How to Apply

Potential applicants are asked to select one they would like to pursue, and **contact Professor Crawford Gribben** (northernbridge.director@qub.ac.uk) to discuss ideas. They will then submit a project summary which will undergo an initial assessment in November 2018. Projects selected at that point will be supported into the main competition. Without the broad outlines of these projects, potential applicants are encouraged to develop their own emphasis and approach.