

TYNE & WEAR
archives &
museums



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (TWAM) Northern Bridge Consortium Collaborative Doctoral Awards

Proposals for doctoral projects based on the strategic research priorities and collections of TWAM are invited for entry into the 2019 Northern Bridge Consortium doctoral funding competition. TWAM is a major regional museum, art gallery and archives service. We manage a collection of nine museums and galleries across Tyneside and the Archives for Tyne and Wear. Our mission is to help people determine their place in the world and define their identities, so enhancing their self-respect and their respect for others.

TWAM's resources comprise extensive fine and applied art collections, archival holdings and material culture relating to the history and heritage of the North East of England, as well as past and present gallery and temporary exhibitions research, data and evaluation materials, and a generous range of libraries.

<https://twmuseums.org.uk/>

Applications for a Partnership Award are invited in the following research field(s):

Industrial Photography in the North East.

Photography became incorporated into industrial advertising from the interwar period onwards and was used to document the life of workplaces and firms. Professional photographers specialised in work for business catalogues, advertising and for internal consumption to promote the values of their firm. Amateur and documentary photographers recorded working lives and their everyday environment.

TWAM has an extensive collection of industrial photography, with major collections uncatalogued and as yet not used by researchers. Such corporate and industrial photography documents social change and points to the future of the region that has undergone profound transformation.

Industrial photography in the North East therefore offers opportunities for both archival research and practice.

The affinity between oral history and photography generated a significant research field, yielding methodological innovation (notably photo elicitation) and possibilities of representation (photographic documentation of oral testimony in books and exhibitions). An oral history of industrial photographers and their oeuvre would probe profound societal transformation and the vectors of professional and technological change. Not only has technology transformed their subject with deindustrialisation, it has also transformed their profession with the digitisation of photography. Through a combination of life history approach and photo elicitation, their professional itineraries could reveal much about the transformation of the North East. The collections of photographers and the archival deposits can thus be used to elicit testimony about the transformation of place and creative responses to changing times.

The dialogue between photographers, their work and their audience offers fruitful opportunities for impactful research rooted in a powerful sense of place identity.

How to register interest in a CDA with TWAM:

Potential applicants are asked to contact Dr Annie Tindley (northernbridgedirector@newcastle.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.