

Collaborative Doctoral Awards Student Specification



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

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| Project Title: | Intellectual Life at Newcastle’s Literary and Philosophical Society, 1793-1825 | |
| Project Summary: | This project focuses on a major, unique primary resource that has so far been largely overlooked: a body of archival material located in the collections of Newcastle-upon-Tyne’s Literary and Philosophical Society, dating from the years immediately following the Society’s foundation, 1793 to 1825. The aims of this project are, firstly, to catalogue the fully material so that it may become an accessible resource for scholars and other interested parties, and secondly, to bring out the significance of this archive’s contents to the intellectual culture and heritage of Newcastle, and beyond. The CDA seeks to appoint a doctoral researcher who will pursue this project under the guidance of an interdisciplinary supervisory team. | |
| Institution: | Newcastle University | |
| Partner Organisation: | The Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle-upon-Tyne | |
| Primary AHRC Subject Area: | History; Classics and Ancient History | |
| Creative Practice Component: | n/a | |

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| For further information and to submit an expression of interest, please contact: | | | |
| Lead Supervisor: | Professor Federico Santangelo | Email: | federico.santangelo@ncl.ac.uk |
| EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN: | | | Monday 13 January 2020 |

Interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place in the week commencing: **TBC – mid-February 2020**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project focuses on a major, unique primary resource that has so far been largely overlooked: a body of archival material located in the collections of Newcastle-upon-Tyne’s Literary and Philosophical Society, dating from the years immediately following the Society’s foundation, 1793 to 1825. The aims of this project are, firstly, to catalogue the fully material so that it may become an accessible resource for scholars and other interested parties, and secondly, to bring out the significance of this archive’s contents to the intellectual culture and heritage of Newcastle, and beyond.

RESEARCHER PERSON SPECIFICATION

**Applicants must also meet the criteria for acceptance on a doctoral programme as set out by the host institution's Postgraduate Admissions Service.*

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| Education and Professional Qualifications | Essential Criteria | <p>Undergraduate degree (first-class or good upper-second) in a relevant subject (History; Classics; Classical Studies; Ancient History; Classical Studies and English)</p> <p>Masters Degree in a relevant subject (History; Classics and Ancient History)</p> <p>In exceptional cases, candidates with lower qualifications will be considered if they can demonstrate that relevant professional practice or work experience has equipped them with equivalent academic and research skills, and preparedness for doctoral study, as per AHRC guidelines.</p> |
| | Desirable Criteria | <p>Proven track-record (e.g. through dissertation or essay work) of interest and expertise in the intellectual history of early modern Britain, the history of learned societies and academies, or the history of classical scholarship.</p> |
| Research and impact experience and training | Essential Criteria | <p>Evidence of engagement with and good track-record in independent research, typically in a dissertation project.</p> |
| | Desirable Criteria | <p>Experience in sharing and making public arts and humanities activity e.g. publications, presentations, performance, exhibition, online dissemination, applied design outcomes, industry reports, public talk etc.</p> |
| Professional practice and job-related experience | Essential Criteria | <p>None.</p> |
| | Desirable Criteria | <p>Work experience which points to preparedness for doctoral research.</p> <p>Experience of archival work, including cataloguing.</p> <p>Ability to produce highly accurate transcriptions of manuscript material.</p> |

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| Interpersonal Skills | Essential Criteria | <p>Effective communication and organisational skills and ability to persuade and enthuse.</p> <p>Ability to work and communicate with a range of people.</p> <p>Ability to articulate a vision of the contribution that the CDA project will make to the field.</p> |
| Other Factors | Essential | Willingness to travel to meet the needs of the research project. |
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| RESEARCH PROJECT | | |

This project focuses on a major, unique primary resource that has so far been largely overlooked: a body of archival material located in the collections of Newcastle-upon-Tyne's Literary and Philosophical Society, 2 dating from the years immediately following the Society's foundation, 1793 to 1825. This evidence encompasses letters exchanges on questions of intellectual inquiry between members of the Society and correspondents, both locally and across Britain and the Empire; transcriptions of the lectures given to the Society across this period; books of ephemera, reports of the Society's meetings and bylaws, rationales for the Society's foundation and ethos, and accounts of its activities in the press. This rich and diverse set of records have never received a proper investigation. The aims of this project are, firstly, to fully catalogue the material so that it may become an accessible resource for scholars and other interested parties, and secondly, to bring out the significance of this archive's contents to the intellectual culture and heritage of Newcastle, and beyond. The intellectual culture of the Enlightenment did not simply revolve around big thinkers and big ideas: networks and institutions were vital to the creation and communication of knowledge. The increasing recognition of this amongst scholars is the consequence of important work on the sociology of knowledge by Peter Burke, on publishing networks by Robert Darnton, and on scribal networks by Harold Love. While scholarship on the French Enlightenment has produced important work in this area, and local learned societies have been recognised as significant players in Italian and German intellectual life since the Renaissance, provincial academies have received less attention in the English context. This body of evidence provides an unrivalled opportunity to study the intellectual network centred on the Lit&Phil.

The project will consist of four parts: the details of the correspondents; the intellectual content of the society's work; the networks within Newcastle and beyond; and the ramifications of these findings for our understanding of intellectual networks and culture of the period. It will begin by using prosopography to identify the figures who form part of this intellectual, charting the names, background and status of all the individuals involved in the Society's correspondence and lectures, together with their respective stakes in the Society itself. This will place our understanding of the social, economic, national and intellectual composition of the Society and its correspondents, and the balance of power within the Society itself, on a new and stronger footing. It will be an essential basis on which to build the rest of the research project, while also providing an additional resource for those seeking to use the archive and explore its potential.

The focus will then turn to the subject matter of the Society's inquiries, considering the balance between humanities and sciences, and how this reflects the changing educational landscape. The lectures delivered at the Society encompass topics addressing applied science, natural philosophy, and antiquarian and literary matters, together with distribution of translations of French and Latin texts. Scholarship, particularly on classical topics, permeates these discussions, demonstrating the enduring centrality of humanist scholarship even within scientific learning, contrary to traditional characterisations of the Enlightenment as the victory of science over humanism.

The third part will focus on what this archive reveals about Newcastle and the world, working out from the local relationships revealed to the international communications, demonstrating the connection between provincial intellectual culture and global intellectual history. As a result, major inroads into the understanding of the intellectual heritage of the city of Newcastle will become possible. The correspondence and lectures from the Lit&Phil Archive address a vast range of subject matters, from problems of local economic and social importance, particularly centred around mining and recent technological developments, to issues of literary, geographical, and naturalistic significance.

Moreover, it reveals the close connections between the foundation and development of the Literary and Philosophical Society and other institutions in the North East, such as the Natural History Society of Northumbria and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The correspondence reveals relationships at work within Newcastle and Northumbria, throughout the UK, and beyond, with particularly interesting communications with settlers in recently established colonies, notably Sierra Leone. These aspects of the collection will ensure that it becomes a vital resource to future work on the social history of Newcastle and its interaction with British imperial history.

This envisaged collaboration between Newcastle University and the Lit&Phil can make a game-changing contribution to the understanding of the early modern cultural and intellectual legacy of the city and the North East.

SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS

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| First Supervisor: | Professor Federico Santangelo | School/Department: | School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle |
| Second Supervisor: | Dr Katherine East | School/Department: | School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle |
| Third Supervisor: | Dr Rachel Hammersley | School/Department: | School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle |
| Additional Advisor: | Kay Easson | Organisation/ Institution: | Lit & Phil, Newcastle |

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

The project marks a new shift in the collaboration between HCA and the Lit&Phil. There is of course a long-standing track- record of shared work between the two institutions: the Library of the Society is a familiar working environment for many members of the School, and the lecture programme of the Lit&Phil regularly features contributions from HCA staff.

However, this project is an altogether new shared research collaboration, which has been jointly developed by both institutions.

The PhD student will be based at both institutions and will play an active part in the activities of both institutions. Their day-to-day work environment will be the Lit&Phil, where they will have ready access to the archival material and will be able to resort to the advice and expertise of Kay Easson. Meetings with two main supervisors will typically take place on a biweekly basis. The candidate will also be playing a part in the research environment of HCA, both by attending research seminars at History and Classics, and by being closely involved with the work of the PG Forum, where they will have the opportunity to present and discuss their interim findings. They will be fully integrated within the Ideas and Beliefs Research Strand at the School, and will be encouraged to take a proactive role in its activities.

They will have access to a strong body of specific expertise beyond the proposed supervisory team, both in the classical tradition (notably Dr Susanna Philippo's work on neoclassical architecture in Northumbria) and in early modern intellectual, social and cultural history (notably Professor Helen Berry, Professor Jeremy Boulton, and Dr Simon Mills). Beyond the School, they will have access to the strong scholarly network of the North East Forum in Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Studies, which brings together colleagues from Newcastle, Durham, and Sunderland. The NU Humanities Research Institutes provides valuable resources for PhD students, notably the Challenge Labs, which encourage PhD students to develop interdisciplinary collaborative projects. The developing NUCoRE in Heritage will provide valuable opportunities to establish research connections across the area and to reflect more widely on the methodological implications and challenges that work on Heritage presents, and on how it may intersect with the University's civic agenda. The project will in due course entail the exciting challenge of how best to make available the catalogued material: NU offers a distinctive set of expertise in Digital Humanities, notably through the Animating Text (AtNU) project, which will provide invaluable insight into how to best secure the long-term intellectual legacy of the proposed work on the Lit&Phil Archive.

The proposed CDA will thus enable the PhD candidate to have access to a unique exciting body of primary evidence, a diverse and highly distinctive set of supervisory expertise, and an exciting wider research environment.

APPLICATION

Applicants wishing to apply for an approved CDA studentship must also complete the relevant University's online postgraduate application form and submit it by 16:00 on Monday 13th January 2020.

All applicants must include the code **NBC20** on their application form so that it can be identified. Applicants to:

- Durham University should select "Yes" under 'Have you applied or are going to apply for a scholarship?' This will generate a drop down menu: please select "PGR-Northern Bridge" from that menu.
- Newcastle University should quote NBC20 under 'Studentship/Partnership Reference' and 'Who is your sponsor/funding body?'
- Northumbria University should quote NBC20 under the 'Project/Studentship Reference Number' field.
- Queen's University Belfast should tick 'I will apply separately to an external body' then enter NBC20 under 'To which body do you intend to apply?'
- University of Sunderland must state the supervisor, and should state NBC20 in Section 6 'Who is expected to pay your fees.'
- Teesside University applicants should answer the question 'Who will pay your fees' by selecting 'other' and then quoting 'NBC20.'
- Ulster University Should insert NBC20 in response to the question 'If you will be self-funded or are in receipt of a private scholarship then please provide further information here' on the Funding Details section of the online application.'

(Please note: Independent of the NBCDTP Studentship Competition process, applicants must submit supporting documentation required by the partner institutions' Postgraduate Admissions Services. This is necessary to secure an offer of a place on the doctoral programme at the applicant's chosen institution, and must be in line with the institution's own admissions policies.)

REFEREES

Applicants are solely responsible for contacting their referees at the earliest opportunity using the email template supplied in the Northern Bridge CDA guidance. It is generally recommended that referees are advised to send references direct to the appropriate Postgraduate Admissions Service no later than Monday 13th January 2020.