# Collaborative Doctoral Awards Studentship Competition (Project-led)





| Project Title:               | Peer Power: Scotland and northern England under the 5th and 6th dukes of Buccleuch, c.1820-c.1914.  |         |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|---|---------|--|--|--|
| Project Summary:             | The Buccleuch estates are the largest private landholdings in Scotland, but are critically understudied, particularly in their industrial context. This project will construct the first industrial history of the estates; it will examine the evolution of trade unionism and its relation to the customary paternalism of the aristocracy and will construct a revisionist understanding of the landed aristocracy during the rise of British capitalism after the Enlightenment. This PhD offers an opportunity to explore one of the great landed archives of the UK and Ireland, re-frame historiographical fields and share the benefits of this work with local communities and heritage organisations. |         |  |  |  |
| Institution:                 | Newcastle University  |         |  |  |  |
| Partner Organisation:        | Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust   |         |  |  |  |
| Primary AHRC Subject Area:   |   | History |  |  |  |
| Creative Practice Component: |   | None    |  |  |  |

| For further information and to submit an expression of interest, please contact: |                               |        |                                    |                               |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Lead Supervisor:   | Dr Annie Tindley              | Email: |                                    | Annie.Tindley@newcastle.ac.uk |  |  |
| EXPRESSIONS OF INT   | EREST MUST BE RECEIVED NO LAT | M      | onday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 |                               |  |  |

## **Project Description:**

# **Research Context & Significance**

The Buccleuch estates are the largest private landholdings in Scotland, and are supplemented by significant property in England. With the development of artisan and heavy industries on the estates from the late eighteenth century, the rights and welfare of a new industrial workforce were revolutionized and a significant contemporary legacy remains. This project will construct the first industrial history of the estates, contextualising them into the family and estate management more broadly, including their art and architectural activities. It will examine the evolution of trade unionism and its relation to the customary paternalism of the aristocracy and will construct a revisionist understanding of the landed aristocracy during the rise of British capitalism after the Enlightenment. It will also incorporate analysis of the wider industrial and commercial infrastructure that was required, including mines, mills, docks and factories, roads and railways, banking and local government. The major public movements of the nineteenth century – public health, education, extension of the franchise, religious tolerance, building societies and savings banks, urbanisation – will form a further theme, as well as the intellectual and political questions of unionist nationalism and the evolution of Conservative thinking in the nineteenth century.

No substantial research of the Buccleuch estates (in Scotland and England) exists, beyond one important monograph (Bonnyman, 2014). The wider historiography examining landed estates and industry is now considerably dated and more recent theoretical models or approaches have yet to be utilised. Recent work on landed estates in Scotland has focused on land management and reform and is overwhelmingly focused on the Highlands and Islands. English historiography is fuller, with studies emerging on estate and land improvement broadly defined, the role of women in these processes and protest/resistance. Despite constituting a large and diverse landed estate, both the land and industrial management of the Buccleuch estates in the nineteenth century are unexplored; this PhD will revise scholarly understandings of the role of the aristocracy in early industrial capitalism.

#### **Research Questions**

## The overarching research question asked by this project is:

How did the industrial operations of the Buccleuch estates develop, what impact did they have on their tenantry and workforce and how did this activity affect their traditional paternalistic approach?

There are two sub-questions:

## 1. Policies affecting the work force and tenants, their rights and welfare on the Buccleuch estates

- a. Framed within the negotiation between laissez faire and landed paternalism, how were trade unions, co-operatives, working conditions and the emerging politics of the labouring poor dealt with under the estates?
- b. How were issues such as housing, emigration and safety managed in comparison to other landed estates (including the Buccleuch's English properties in Cumbria and Northamptonshire) and non-landed industrial capitalists?

## 2. Family and estate reputation

- a. How did the 5th and 6th dukes understand their responsibilities to their workforce, tenantry and the wider British economy and society?
- b. How did women within the Buccleuch family contribute to the family reputation and estate and industrial management?

#### **Research Methods**

The PhD will primarily utilise an archival approach, complemented by public history and heritage elements. The archival work will be supported by unique access to private material held by the Buccleuch estates, supplemented by the major Buccleuch deposit in the National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh. It will also utilise materials documenting the activities of trades unions on the estate, welfare organisations, parochial and medical board records, local newspaper reporting and pamphlets, Hansard, as well as the archives of relevant individuals.

#### **Outcomes**

As well as the thesis, this CDA allows for significant public engagement in partnership with the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust. Links with local community partners such as Wanlockhead will be built upon to explore their industrial heritage and what this may mean for the future of remote and rural communities in the Scottish and English borders. Contributions to the Borderland Partnership are also under discussion, and the Scottish Mining Museum has been identified as a site for knowledge exchange and community programmes. This knowledge exchange and community activity will benefit not only the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust but also the region as a whole, by improving knowledge of the past of what are still viewed as proud industries. This is one of the reasons why this CDA project is so suited to Newcastle University: aside from supervisory expertise, the History department is highly experienced in developing and supporting public engagement and public history activity. In light of this, a workshop is planned in partnership with the Labour and Society Research strand around the theme of industrial paternalism. Further, as part of their academic training and development, the candidate will in year one give a paper on their research to Newcastle's Postgraduate Forum; then in year two, propose and run a masterclass on approaches to heritage involving other PhD students and heritage professionals at the Centre for Public History at Queen's. This will support their development as an active and collaborative researcher, as well as giving them experience of planning and running events.

#### **SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS**

| First Supervisor:   | Dr Annie Tindley  |                 | School/Department:        | School of History, Classics & Archaeology, Newcastle University                                     |  |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Second Supervisor:  | Mr Crispin Powell |                 | School/Department:        | Archivist, Buccleuch Estates  |  |
| Additional Advisor: |                   | Dr Olwen Purdue | Organisation/Institution: | School of History, Anthropology,<br>Philosophy & Politics (History),<br>Queen's University Belfast. |  |

Having developed organically from within the partner institutions' research environments, this project and the candidate's needs will be accurately predicted and met, and rest upon tried and tested links within the supervisory team. A stimulating mix of disciplines and approaches will be open to the student, as well as two healthy postgraduate research environments. By drawing on their wide range of experience, research interests and public engagement and impact expertise, the supervisory team will build a supportive environment for the student, while offering them a range of perspectives – institutional, disciplinary and methodological.

Dr Annie Tindley's (https://www.ncl.ac.uk/hca/staff/profile/annietindley.html#background) expertise lies in the modern history of rural Scotland and deals with themes of land use and management and the relationship between landed elites and government in rural areas. She is also experienced in collaborative and interdisciplinary research, giving her valuable expertise in developing new methodological frameworks in support of innovative research, which can be utilised by the candidate. She has supervised to completion two PhDs, one a fully-funded collaborative project, and is currently supervising four others (two funded). She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, established in 2015 the Centre for Scotland's Land Futures, and is the series editor of Scotland's Land for Edinburgh University Press.

Mr Crispin Powell's wide range of expertise and experience will greatly benefit the candidate. He has worked for Buccleuch estate as archivist since 2012, where he has assisted in the supervision of 3 Collaborative Doctoral Award research projects with the University of Leicester; two successfully completed and one due for completion. He has also supervised 5 postgraduate interns from Leicester working towards MAs and a student working towards an MSt. from Cambridge which has now expanded into an AHRC funded PhD. He is also working with a research team from the Department of Music at the University of Southampton on another AHRC funded project and exhibition. Previously he was an archivist for 22 years at the Northamptonshire Record Office.

Dr Olwen Purdue (https://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/olwen-purdue(14eeffb5-33df-4e0d-b393-b5a20c11e3d2).html) specialises in the social and economic history of nineteenth and twentieth-century Ireland. Her research focuses on urban poverty, welfare and public health, and on Irish landed estates. She also has a strong interest in 7 Public History, working closely with the cultural and heritage sectors across Northern Ireland in research, teaching and public engagement. She is Director of the Centre for Public History and convenes the MA in Public History at QUB and has experience of supervising collaborative doctoral projects: she is currently supervising a NB NIPF doctoral project in collaboration with Belfast City Council, and another NB CDA with National Museums NI. She has supervised five successfully completed PhDs.

Each member of the supervisory team brings networks and connections to the table that will benefit the student, including access to links with community and local enterprise partners in the Scottish Borders to generate impact from the doctoral research. Taken together, this team will carefully guide the candidate through the PhD process, and give it added value through the ambitious programme of public engagement and research impact.

## **RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT**

The strength of this project lies in the three active and diverse research environments that the student will be able to take advantage of: Newcastle and Queen's Belfast universities and the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust. At Newcastle, the student will benefit from the support of membership of the Labour and Society research group, a collaborative research forum open to those researching the histories, sociologies and geographies of labour. As well as a supportive and virbrant environment consisting of regular reading groups, workshops and work in progress sessions, we propose that the student will plan and deliver a one-day workshop on the theme of 'Paternalism and Industry', to establish their credentials in the field. At Queen's Belfast, the Centre for Public History will provide a second very active research environment, which encourages the involvement of postgraduate students and seeks to promote collaborative projects and is particularly

strong on history of the country house, working closely with Historic Royal Palaces and the National Trust. Within the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust, the student will be joining a diverse and active range of research activities and a robust environment which consists of current PhD students working on the English properties as well as ECRs who have already completed, giving the student a strong model. Leading experts will therefore be accessible to the student and to support this environment, the supervisory team will run a one-day workshop to bring together all researchers working on the Buccleuch estates together.