

Collaborative Doctoral Awards Student Specification



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

Project Title:	The EU and the museum: an investigation of cross-border museum projects in Ireland		
Project Summary:	Cross-border museum projects, focusing on exploring histories, identities and cultural expressions has, on the island of Ireland, been driven by EU intervention and support. The project rationale, methods and working practices have shaped creativity and impacted audiences on both sides of the border, stimulating new thinking about museum purposes. This project gains new insights into how EU cultural and peace building strategies impacted museum practice. It garners new appreciation of how EU-projects have shaped workforce skills, project development and audience engagement in the museum sector. It looks to the future at how the best of such projects can be nurtured.		
Institution:	Ulster University		
Partner Organisation:	Irish Museums Association		
Primary AHRC Subject Area:	Cultural and Museum Studies		
Creative Practice Component:	None		

For further information and to submit an expression of interest, please contact:			
Lead Supervisor:	Prof. Elizabeth Crooke	Email:	em.crooke@ulster.ac.uk
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN:			6 th January 2020

Interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place in the week commencing: *Insert date of week if known*

*Note to supervisors drafting this role description: the doctoral researcher person specification must respect Northern Bridge values of equality, inclusivity and diversity.
Careful consideration should be given to additional criteria that are essential to the advertised project or desirable (could be developed through project training and experience.)
Avoid long lists of criteria – aim for no more than three per category.
Be realistic - criteria may limit the eligible pool of candidates.
Criteria must require applicants to demonstrate preparedness for doctoral study.
The essential criteria for all Northern Bridge researchers is here: <http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/competition/eligibility/>
Directors will be available to assist with the drawing up of person specifications. Colleagues who would like to consult on this can consult as follows:
Teesside - Newcastle
Northumbria - Durham
QUB - University of Ulster'*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cross-border museum projects, focusing on exploring histories, identities and cultural expressions has, on the island of Ireland, been driven by EU intervention and support. The project rationale, methods and working practices have shaped creativity and impacted audiences on both sides of the border, stimulating new thinking about museum purposes. This project gains new insights into how EU cultural and peace building strategies impacted museum practice. It garners new appreciation of how EU-projects have shaped workforce skills, project development and audience engagement in the museum sector. It looks to the future at how the best of such projects can be nurtured.

In 2018 the Irish Museums Association-Ulster University report Brexit and the Museum Sector in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland suggested we must gather and evaluate data on cross-border funding, planning and practice, workforce, training and partnerships in order to understand more deeply both the processes that shape museum practice and potential pathways for the future. The 2019 IMA study Bridge Over Brexit, which briefly documented 8 such projects, revealed a dearth in understanding of the character, content, working practices and legacy of cross border museum-based projects. It is imperative that this information is captured and considered, so the sector can continue to innovate and flourish regardless of the exact outcome of Brexit-negotiations. This is a significant gap in our knowledge and understanding as we go forward in a changed political and policy environment.

By considering the character, value and impact of EU funded cross-border museum projects, this Collaborative Doctoral project aims to significantly advance our understanding of the social and political dimensions of cultural policy and practice in a cross-border context. The objectives of this project are: (1) To get a deeper understanding of the past, present and future relationship between the EU and the museum sector in Ireland and Northern Ireland; (2) To provide new insights into processes, rationale, character and working practices of EU funded cross border museum-based projects; (3) To ascertain the impact of such projects on peace building, workforce skills and development, museum practices and policies as well as their audiences; and, (4) To make recommendations on how museums can continue to deepen and sustain cross-border creativity.

The collaboration with the Irish Museums Association, both in method and direction, means this research is fully embedded in the museum sector. Through an annual and flexible IMA placement, the researcher will be integrated into the policy and advocacy work of this all-Ireland cultural organisation, funded by Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht and the Heritage Council. Data collection, workshops and events will be undertaken at museum sites in the border counties.

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.*

Education and Professional Qualifications	Essential Criteria	<p>Undergraduate degree (first-class or good upper-second) in a subject relevant to the research project as found within social and policy sciences or arts and humanities.</p> <p>Masters Degree in a relevant subject, such as arts and heritage management; cultural policy; heritage and museum studies; cultural tourism.</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>
Research and impact experience and training	Essential Criteria	Evidence of engagement in independent research.
	Desirable Criteria	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.
Professional practice and job-related experience	Essential Criteria	Knowledge of the heritage, cultural or museum sectors, either in a paid or voluntary capacity.
	Desirable Criteria	Work experience which points to preparedness for doctoral research.
Interpersonal Skills	Essential Criteria	<p>Effective communication and organisational skills and ability to persuade and enthuse.</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.
	Desirable Criteria	A 2nd 'working language' of the EU Commission.

RESEARCH PROJECT

Issues and Context

The EU is currently a significant driver of cross-border museum projects between Northern Ireland and Ireland, yet the processes, character and rationale of these projects has not been fully investigated. Often associated with peace building, these project and infrastructure monies were vital to new cultural explorations and the sustenance of the peace process (Bush and Houston 2011), the future is now unclear.

In 2018 the Irish Museums Association-Ulster University report Brexit and the Museum Sector in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland suggested we must gather and evaluate data on cross-border funding, planning and practice, workforce, training and partnerships in order to understand more deeply both the processes that shape museum practice and potential pathways for the future. The 2019 IMA study Bridge Over Brexit, which briefly documented 8 such projects, revealed a dearth in understanding of the character, content, working practices and legacy of cross border museum-based projects. It is imperative that this information is captured and considered, so the sector can continue to innovate and flourish regardless of the exact outcome of Brexit-negotiations. This is a significant gap in our knowledge and understanding as we go forward in a changed political and policy environment.

Aim

By considering the character, value and impact of EU funded cross-border museum projects, this project aims to significantly advance our understanding of the social and political dimensions of cultural policy and practice in a cross- border context.

Objectives

- 1 To get a deeper understanding of the past, present and future relationship between the EU and the museum sector in Ireland and Northern Ireland;
- 2 To provide new insights into processes, rationale, character and working practices of EU funded cross border museum- based projects;
- 3 To ascertain the impact of such projects on peace building, workforce skills and development, museum practices and policies as well as their audiences; and,
- 4 To make recommendations on how museums can continue to deepen and sustain cross-border creativity.

Methods and Rationale

Policy Analysis: The research will evaluate the connections made between desired social and/or cultural outcomes of EU policy and resultant museum practice in Northern Ireland and Ireland. The focus is on EU legislation and policy directives pertaining to areas of importance to the museum sectors in Northern Ireland and Ireland, including: cultural heritage policy e.g. collections care, management, and movement cultural goods (Dimitrova and Steunenbergh 2017); cultural diversity and heritage integration policy (Psychogiopoulou 2016; Niklasson 2017); and, cultural policy relevant to the peace process on the island (Bush and Houston 2011; McCall O'Dowd 2008; McCall 2013; Hayward and Murphy 2012). The research will prioritize the areas according to which had the greatest impact on museum practice.

Data Collection: Through desk-based research, and in close collaboration with the museum sector, this project will gather qualitative and quantitative data relating to EU funded projects to

museums and the voluntary/community sectors the museums collaborate with, including capital projects and project funding. This data will include project documentation, such as the application, reports, and evaluation. It will document and assess: the value of EU and linked funding; rationale and desired outcomes; working methods and priorities; partners and collaborations; types of activity, such as audiences, collections, and exhibitions. Beginning with period of SEUPB funded PEACE IV (2014-2020) and PEACE III (2007-2013), the project will then review its methods and, if advised, collect data on earlier PEACE funding and other EU projects such as INTERREG. Formulated into a database, (with permission of museums) this material will be publicly available via the Irish Museums Association website.

Case Study Analysis: A thematic analysis will be undertaken considering museums, culture and identity formation; cultural programming and peacebuilding; political and social dimensions of cultural policy. The deep investigation of a selection of case studies will include material on project intent, rationale, methods, activity and evaluation. Interviews and workshops will be undertaken with museum and project staff. In partnership with the museums, workshops will be held with collaborators and community groups who participated in the projects. This project will reach policy makers, both through interviews and data collection and through development and dissemination.

Dissemination, Engagement and Development

In Yr2 IMA-UU workshops with the border museum network enabling data collection, policy reflection and project dissemination. In Yr2/3: policy workshop events with agencies with a north-south remit e.g. implementation bodies of the North South Ministerial Council; Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Co-operation with Northern Ireland Scheme) and relevant museum/heritage Departments in Northern Ireland, Ireland and EU. Yr2/3 the IMA annual conferences and publications provides the opportunity to the researcher to disseminate project findings.

SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS			
First Supervisor:	Prof Elizabeth Crooke	School/Department:	Ulster University, Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, School of Arts & Humanities
Second Supervisor:	Dr Philip McDermott	School/Department:	Ulster University, Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences
Additional Advisor:	Gina O’Kelly	Organisation/ Institution:	Irish Museums Association

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

The Ulster University Doctoral College supports a vibrant research community through its event programme (current weekly get-togethers, writing camps, thesis boot camps); training (e.g. academic writing webinar, literature review workshops); support for attendance at seminars,

such as Doctoral Training Alliance Summer School; support for Interdisciplinary workshops led by Doctoral Researchers e.g. Remembering During Conflict (October 2019)

Research Centre for Creative Arts and Culture (RCCAC)

- A subject specific research environment is nurtured through the Research Centre for Creative Arts and Culture, based at Magee campus (Derry/Londonderry, a city close to the border), which includes scholars in music, cinematic arts, theatre, museum and heritage studies. Collegiality and support are fostered through Research Seminar Series – fortnightly research presentations from academic, doctoral students and invited lecturers;
- RCCAC hosts heritage and museum studies events led by Doctoral students in collaboration with the museum sector for both academics and practitioners, such as LGBTI+ and museums (February 2020 with Hillsborough Historic Royal Palace); East Asian Collections and Irish Museums (March 2019 with Ulster Museum); Inclusion and the Museum Sector (2016 with National Museums NI);
- RCCAC supports Doctoral Students in presenting their work at national and international conferences, such as the Irish Museums Association Annual Conference (Reid 2019; Widdis 2018) as well as Association Critical Heritage Studies (China 2018 Widdis);
- This environment leads to significant publications, such as *Heritage After Conflict: Northern Ireland* (Crooke and Maguire, Routledge 2018), which includes chapters from national and international scholars and Early Career Researchers.

Wider academic research environment at Ulster University

The research environment is further nurtured through potential connections with ongoing Ulster research.

- At INCORE, the International Conflict Research Institute, there are examples of past research focusing on EU funding (Bush and Houston 2011) and an interest in the themes of heritage, tourism, memory and peace building.
- The current INTERREG project Connected Culture and Natural Heritage in a Northern Environment (CINE) includes UU (Magee) partners <http://cine.interreg-npa.eu/> .
- An interdisciplinary team brought the Irish Humanities Alliance 2019 conference, on Border Heritage, to Ulster (Magee) <https://www.irishhumanities.com/events/border-heritage/>
- The researcher has access to Research Seminar Series and events in history, tourism, and School of Art and Design.

Irish Museums Association

The research will benefit from the existing Irish Museums Association the research environment, for instance:

- With Ulster University the IMA has brought about research focused workshops, funded under the Cooperation with Northern Ireland Scheme e.g. *The Bridge Over Brexit* (2017), *Museums and Digital Technologies* (2013 UU Magee campus); *Practice meets Theory* (2010 UU Belfast campus)
- The research highlight of the IMA year is the Annual Conference. In Year 1 invitation to join the conference planning committee; Year 1 invitation to present a paper; Year 2 opportunity to provide a conference thematic lead;
- The researcher will be invited and supported to publish in IMA journal and later to be guest editor of the IMA journal on a research related theme.
- Furthermore, the IMA supports the formation of a border museum network as a creative research environment amongst a network of museum professionals.

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.