

Further Particulars

Imagining the Pacific in Scotland in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries: Collectors and Collections, Museums and Universities

Fully Funded PhD Studentship

Funded by the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership's Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded studentship at the University of East Anglia and National Museums Scotland. This studentship is one of 6 awards made annually by the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium (SCHC) under the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme. It is anticipated that the project will be fully funded for 45 months (3.75 years) with the potential to be extended for a further 3 months to enable the student to undertake relevant professional development. Where the studentship is undertaken on a full-time basis the thesis must be submitted within 4 years.

Subject to COVID-19 the studentship is expected to commence in October 2020. It will be co-primary supervised by Professor Steven Hooper (Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia) and Dr Alison Clark (Department of World Cultures, National Museums Scotland), and supported by second supervisors Dr Karen Jacobs (University of East Anglia) and Dr John Giblin (National Museums Scotland).

Project Summary

Scotland, within a wider British context, has a long history of collecting Pacific material culture through links with Scottish soldiers, missionaries, traders, explorers and emigrants. This includes some of the earliest museum collections from the Hawaiian Islands collected during Captain James Cook's third voyage (1776-80), early and rare objects from Hawaii and the Pitcairn Islands compiled by Captain Frederick Beechey's voyage on HMS Blossom (1825-28), and significant material from the Austral Islands donated through Sir Thomas Brisbane, Governor of New South Wales (1821-5).

Focusing on National Museums Scotland's late 18th and early 19th century Pacific collections, this PhD will investigate the intellectual networks and connections between Scotland and the Pacific that led to the formation of these collections, and demonstrate their past and current relevance to a variety of stakeholders. In doing so it will explore the roles that these collections play now in the developing relationships between Scottish museums and museums in countries of origin.

Project Description

Since the founding of the Royal Scottish Museum, Pacific material has been actively acquired from older institutions and through links with Scottish soldiers, missionaries, traders, explorers and emigrants. National Museums Scotland's Pacific collection of approximately 5,000 objects encompasses domestic material, clothing and personal ornaments, textiles (including an extensive collection of barkcloth), weapons, tools,

model boats, musical instruments and important sculptures associated with pre-Christian ritual.

The collection at NMS had its beginnings in the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the University of Edinburgh Natural History Museum and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. NMS and other Scottish museums care for important early collections deriving from 18th and 19th century expeditions to the Pacific region, including those under the command of famous figures such as Captain James Cook (1769-80) and Captain Frederick William Beechey (1825-28). There are approximately 300 objects documented from this period in NMS, but in addition there is extensive material which is evidently of late 18th and early 19th century date, which presents an opportunity for further detailed research.



The proposed PhD project will research the substantial late 18th and early 19th century Pacific collections at National Museums Scotland, and in other museums in Scotland, in order to establish their extent, reveal the intellectual networks and connections that led to their formation, and to demonstrate their past and current relevance to a variety of stakeholders.

By focusing first on NMS collections, reviewing other collections in Scotland, and comparing these to selected collections elsewhere in the UK and overseas, this project will deploy collections to address the following research questions:

- What material at NMS and in other Scottish museums can be attributed to early expeditions and be associated with members of Cook's voyages and other collectors?
- Through what networks and relationships did these objects arrive in Edinburgh/Scotland, and how were these Scottish networks connected to British/European networks?

- How can these objects and collections illuminate how the Pacific was imagined during the 18th and 19th centuries? What shifts occurred during this period, as collections by explorers and missionaries were used to tell contrasting stories?
- What positive roles can these collections play now in the developing relationships between Scottish museums and museums in countries of origin, especially in light of the current 250th anniversary of Cook's voyages (2018-2030)?

There is scope for the student to develop distinctive emphases on particular collections and collectors, and additional research questions. The student would select collectors/collections from this range and compare NMS collections with those in other institutions, combining archival work with object and photographic analysis. The principal research methods will be close examination and comparative analysis of early collections, in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK, and forensic research in museum, university and civic libraries and archives. The successful student could also draw on methodologies from history, art history, museum studies and anthropology.

The studentship is intended to support the work of National Museums Scotland. In addition, the student will have opportunities to gain relevant experience for a career in the heritage and museum sectors as well as academia.

In addition to training opportunities provided by the University and in-house by National Museums Scotland and with SCHC partners,¹ as part of the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership family, the student will also have access to specific training and development in the Cultural Heritage Sector provided by cultural heritage partners across the UK, including the British Museum among others.

The University of East Anglia/Sainsbury Research Unit

The Sainsbury Research Unit for the Arts of Africa, Oceania & the Americas (SRU) at the University of East Anglia (UEA) is a postgraduate department dedicated to an international programme of advanced research and instruction in the arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas. Several faculty specialise in history of collections research and SRU alumni hold curatorial posts in museums worldwide, including in six national museums. The SRU awards MA and PhD degrees, and offers two visiting fellowships per annum. The SRU is part of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at UEA, maintaining close relationships with the Department of Art History & World Art Studies, the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts (Galleries) and the Sainsbury Institute for Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC).

The SRU is located in the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, a renowned building designed by Norman Foster (opened 1978) which houses the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, other UEA collections, and the SRU's own extensive Robert

¹ The SCHC consists of a partnership between Historic Environment Scotland, National Library of Scotland, National Galleries Scotland, National Museums Scotland and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The SCHC works in close collaboration with the AHRC-CDP partners. More information can be found online at: <http://www.ahrc-cdp.org/>

Sainsbury Library and SRU Teaching Collection. Information about the Sainsbury Collection can be found at: <http://www.scva.ac.uk>

The SRU consists of 6.4 faculty, 3 library staff and 2 administrative staff, plus several fixed-term post-doctoral researchers working on current research projects. An average of 15-20 doctoral students are registered at any one time and participate in the SRU's regular postgraduate seminar and other conferences and activities.

Additional information about the SRU can be found at: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/art/sru>

National Museums Scotland

Originating with the collections of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in 1851 and in many incarnations since, today National Museums Scotland is one of the UK's leading museums services and has one of the largest multidisciplinary collections in the UK. The group consists of four Museums on four sites: National Museum of Scotland, National Museum of Rural Life, National War Museum, and National Museum of Flight. We also have a state of the art National Museums Collections Centre, which is home to our skilled artefact conservators, photographers and scientists. In 2017, NMS welcomed over 2.1 million visitors to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

We are responsible for the procurement, preservation and promotion of a substantial part of Scotland's cultural, historic, and national heritage. National Museums Scotland has in its care over twelve million objects and our collection has been built up over more than two centuries. They encompass a broad range of subject areas such as archaeology, world cultures, natural sciences, science and technology, decorative art and design, and Scottish history and culture.

A comprehensive and detailed history of National Museums Scotland can be found online at <https://www.nms.ac.uk/about-us/history-of-national-museums-scotland/>.

The successful candidate will be one of 11 on-going AHRC CDP funded students at the National Museums Scotland.

Prior qualifications

Applicants should have a very good undergraduate qualification and a relevant Masters degree in history, art history, archaeology, anthropology, museum/heritage studies or a related field. They will have some experience of relevant research methods (but note that research training is a key part of the studentship). Applicants without a Masters qualification should include with their application a 1-page statement outlining the specifically relevant skills, experience and knowledge they have gained beyond undergraduate degree level, that could be considered equivalent to Masters study.

Funding details:

This award is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium. Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the studentship will cover Home/EU tuition fees. For those settled in the UK, it also covers a stipend towards living expenses. In 2020/21 the Stipend rate provided by the AHRC is £15,285 per annum and a Collaborative Doctoral Award maintenance payment of £600 per annum (intended to facilitate the collaboration between the

University and National Museums Scotland). UEA supplements this with an additional annual £1000 stipend payment for three years and a fieldwork bursary of up to £2000. The successful applicant will also be entitled to up to £1000 per annum paid directly from the Museum.

Eligibility:

The studentship can be undertaken full-time or part-time.

Applicants must be a resident of the UK or the European Economic Area (EEA).

There are residence requirements for research council funding for postgraduate research. These are based on the Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 and subsequent amendments. Normally to be eligible for a full award a student must have no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK and have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the studentship (with some further constraint regarding residence for education).

To be eligible for a fees-only award:

The award is subject to the Research Councils UK eligibility requirements, listed under Terms and Conditions of Research Council Training Grants at www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/grantstcs/ (UK and EU student residency requirements are detailed on p. 11). Applications cannot be accepted from students liable to pay fees at the Overseas rate.

Students from EU countries other than the UK are generally eligible for a fees-only award. To be eligible for a fees-only award, a student must be ordinarily resident in a member state of the EU; in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

EU nationals will remain eligible for research council studentships for the 2020/21 academic year on the same basis as is available at present (05/03/2020)

Location

The student's time will be separated into dedicated periods at University of East Anglia and at National Museums Scotland. The student will spend Semester 1 of Year 1 (minimum three months) based at UEA. At least one trip of 2 weeks' duration will be made to Edinburgh for inductions. The student will then relocate to Edinburgh for approximately 12 months and be based at National Museums Scotland, to undertake collections and archival research. 2-3 trips to be based for short periods at UEA will be undertaken to suit the research timetable and visits to museum collections in the south of England, specifically the British Museum (London), Oxford and Cambridge. After the first 15 months, the student, in discussion with supervisors will decide the most appropriate place to be located to complete their research, use their Student Development Fund, and write up their PhD.

The application

Applicants should submit their application to the University of East Anglia, via the UEA portal, clearly indicating in Section 1 that the application is for the AHRC/National Museums Scotland Collaborative Doctoral Partnership at the Sainsbury Research Unit:

Please state at first opportunity on the form that you are applying for the NMS/UEA CDP. In the project proposal section cut and paste the project spec from the advert. In the 500-word personal statement section please complete the 1-page statement as requested.

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply>

Supervisors should be named in section 14 as Professor Steven Hooper (1st) and Dr Alison Clark (2nd).

In addition to the information requested in the UEA application form, please also submit the following documents directly via email to s.hooper@uea.ac.uk and a.clark@nms.ac.uk:

- An example of recent academic writing (e.g., MA dissertation chapter or essay, or undergraduate dissertation where the applicant does not have an MA qualification).
- A short statement (1 page) outlining your reasons for your interest in the project, and initial thoughts on how you would approach it.
- A CV (2 pages max) with information on your academic qualifications and any work or other relevant experience.
- The names and contact details of two academic referees.

Applications will close at **5pm on Monday 01 June 2020**. Please ensure your referees can provide (on request, via email) an academic reference by **5pm on Monday 08 June 2020**.

Interviews will be held on Thursday 11 June 2020 via Microsoft Teams.