



THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

Royal Holloway, University of London, and The British Museum AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Studentship Award

The Department of History at Royal Holloway University of London and The British Museum are pleased to announce a funded studentship for doctoral research, awarded under the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme.

The Project

Picturing the Antipodes: race, image and empire in 19th-century Britain will be supervised by Dr Zoë Laidlaw, Reader in Imperial and Colonial History at Royal Holloway, University of London, and Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, Curator, and Section Head, Oceania, at The British Museum. This project is inspired by the British Museum's significant early pictorial collections of Australian Indigenous people. The research will focus on images produced c.1800-1860 – after the earliest British exploration and settlement of Australia, but before the granting of settler self-government – when ideas of race, civilization, humanity and colonization were in flux in Australia and across Britain's Empire. The project will move beyond traditional art history approaches to colonial Australia's visual heritage, to consider questions of production, circulation, collection, reproduction and display within colonial, imperial and Indigenous histories. As such it will encourage a consideration of how racialised and hierarchical ideas about Australia's Aboriginal peoples shaped British notions of empire, governance and civilization that continue to resonate for Indigenous people today. While the research will be based primarily on the study of pictorial images of Australian Indigenous peoples in the British Museum, other collections such as the Natural History Museum and British Library, hold relevant material that may be investigated. Consequently, the project should not only complicate our understanding of London's role as an imperial capital, but also create links between scattered collections of objects, images and documents in the U.K.

The scale of the project is such that it will provide scope for the student to focus on particular lines of investigation according to their interests. The successful candidate will thus be encouraged to refine their own PhD topic, working within the area defined by some or all of the following questions:

- What determined the kind of pictorial representations produced in the early 19th-century Antipodes? What agency did their Indigenous subjects exert? Why were Indigenous peoples presented variously in portraits, situated within a landscape, or as producers and users of native and European technologies and resources? How did this vary?
- Did colonial or metropolitan-based collectors commission images from the Antipodes? What contemporary meaning and value were ascribed to them? How were they exchanged? What patronage and collection networks operated in the Australian colonies?
- How, and why, were these works displayed – or not displayed – to the settler colonial and British publics, via temporary or touring exhibitions, private

- collections, published reproductions and museum galleries? How might they be better understood and known in Britain and Australia in the 21st century?
- What do pictorial representations of Australasia and the Pacific extant in London tell us about 19th-century understandings of colonization, civilization and race? What does the division of these images – by subject matter, artist, or collector – between various national collections (particularly those originating at The British Museum) reveal about attitudes to the Antipodes and their Indigenous inhabitants? What role did they play in naturalising the dispossession of Indigenous peoples, and the European settlement of their lands?

The Studentship

The project will fund a full-time PhD studentship for three years. Throughout the research process, the student will divide his or her time between the British Museum and Royal Holloway, where a full academic training programme is provided. Visits to other institutions will also be required from time to time based on the focus of the research and in response to the project's over-arching research questions.

As well as undertaking research training at Royal Holloway, the successful student will also be inducted and trained at the British Museum where he or she will learn about this unique institution and its collections. The student will also be expected to participate in a common joint specially designed research training programme run especially for all CDA students supported by the National Museums, the British Library, National Archives, English Heritage and other holders of AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships.

The focus for the three years of study will be on the successful development and completion of the thesis, and within this timescale the student will also be expected to share research outcomes at the Museum and attend relevant conferences. The studentship offers a unique opportunity to engage with a number of national institutions and possibly also relevant Indigenous communities relevant to the research.

Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the scholarships cover tuition fees and an annual grant (stipend) towards living expenses. The 2016/17 value of the stipend is likely to be **£16846** (including London weighting). In addition, the British Museum will provide up to **£1000** per year to support the student's research costs at and for the Museum. Students are also able to apply for up to **£750** from the AHRC's Research Training Support Grant.

For further details about postgraduate research in History at Royal Holloway, see: <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/history/prospectivestudents/postgraduateresearch/home.aspx>

For further details about Collaborative Doctoral Awards at the British Museum, see: http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/research_projects/collaborative_doctoral_awards.aspx

Supervision

Doctoral supervision will be undertaken by Dr Zoë Laidlaw at Royal Holloway and Dr Gaye Sculthorpe at the British Museum. Supervisions will take place at least monthly. Annual reviews will take place at either Royal Holloway or the British Museum with the supervisory team, which will also include an additional advisor from Royal Holloway.

Qualifications and Eligibility

Candidates with backgrounds in history, anthropology, art history, human geography and museum studies are particularly encouraged to apply for this studentship.

Candidates must:

- have a first or upper-second class honours degree or equivalent.
- have completed a master's-level qualification by the time they begin PhD study
- be a resident of the UK or European Economic Area (EEA)

In general, full studentships are available to students who are settled in the UK and have been ordinarily resident for a period of at least three years before the start of postgraduate studies. Fees-only awards are generally available to EU nationals resident in the EEA. International applicants are normally not eligible to apply for this studentship.

Start Date: the preferred start date is **1 October 2016**.

Application procedure

Informal enquires can be made, or further details about the research project's scope discussed, by contacting Dr Zoë Laidlaw (zoe.laidlaw@rhul.ac.uk) or Dr Gaye Sculthorpe (gsculthorpe@britishmuseum.org).

You should apply via Royal Holloway's online application system, which can be accessed at: www.rhul.ac.uk/studyhere/postgraduate/applying/howtoapply.aspx

In addition to completing the postgraduate application form, your application should include:

- A 1-2 page statement outlining your interest in the research project.
- A copy of your first degree and postgraduate qualifications.
- A current CV.

If you are making a formal application, please contact Dr Gaye Sculthorpe (gsculthorpe@britishmuseum.org) or Dr Zoë Laidlaw (zoe.laidlaw@rhul.ac.uk).

Closing Date for formal applications: Tuesday 5 April 2016.

Interviews will take place at the British Museum in May. Short-listed candidates will be asked to make a 10-minute presentation at their interviews on a topic to be advised.