



The Bowes Museum/Northumbria University AHRC CDP Studentship 2020

The Bowes Museum and Northumbria University are delighted to offer a fully-funded Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) PhD studentship (fees and living allowance) on the theme **Caricatures and Cut-Outs: Collecting Print in Nineteenth-Century Britain and Europe**.

If successful, you will be expected to begin your studentship on 1 October 2020. Your project will be co-supervised by Laura O'Brien (Northumbria), Howard Coutts and Adrian Jenkins (Bowes Museum). You will spend time at both Northumbria University and the Bowes Museum, and be part of a wider cohort of Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) funded students across the UK.

The nineteenth century saw the emergence of a modern, commercial, visual print culture across Europe, prefiguring the image-driven world of the present. This crucial moment in the emergence of a visual world is encapsulated in the Bowes Museum's large and diverse collection of nineteenth-century prints, spanning lithographs, caricatures, fashion plates, and scrapbooks. This collection was created by the Museum's founders, John and Joséphine Bowes, and its contents reflect the personal lives and collecting interests of this Franco-British couple. The Bowes nineteenth-century print collection is extremely rich and diverse, but remains underresearched and little-known. With prints from across Europe, including France, Britain, Germany, and elsewhere, the Museum's collection provides an opportunity to explore the transnational flow of images that was integral to visual culture in this period. The scope of the Bowes print collection, coupled with the Museum's extensive library and archival holdings on John and Joséphine Bowes, makes it an ideal case study for telling the story of how collections of popular print were created. The project will facilitate the first detailed study of the Bowes Museum's nineteenth-century print collections, and will draw on the Museum's wider collections (and, potentially, other British and European archival and print collections) to examine the role of John and Joséphine Bowes as collectors of visual print culture. This project offers an exciting opportunity to develop a PhD project that will make a major contribution to our understanding of print culture and collecting in nineteenth-century Europe, as well as the emergence of a modern, transnational European visual culture, through the study of a unique print collection and its creators.

Students are invited to propose a project that explores this rich collection through one or more of the following potential themes:

- Collecting, consumption, and display: how was the Bowes' print collection created and established? How did the Museum's founders envisage the

display of their collection? This theme may also examine how diverse forms of commercial, visual print culture were understood, engaged with, and 'consumed' by their collectors (for example, through the creation of scrapbooks and albums).

- Meaning and making in the visual age: how might we use the Bowes print collection as a central case study to enhance our understanding of the relationship between diverse forms of visual culture in this crucial period? The collection facilitates the study of the producers and sellers of this material, as well as the marketing and acquisition by collectors.
- Gender and visual print culture: the creation and collection of visual print culture in this period is often seen as a male pursuit – but how did Joséphine Bowes contribute to this print collection? By using Joséphine as a case study, the project can contribute to challenging existing gendered assumptions about makers and consumers of visual print culture in nineteenth-century Europe.
- Picturing Europe: the Bowes collection is transnational in origin and content, created by a Franco-British couple and reflecting the history and contemporary events of modern Europe. How does it reflect nineteenth-century Europe and European identity, particularly in terms of political, social, and cultural developments; and what does the collection reveal about transnational visual print culture in this period?

Benefits and opportunities

The successful candidate will be hosted by the History team within the Department of Humanities at Northumbria University, which is home to a dynamic and lively community of researchers working across History, English Literature, English Language, and Music. History at Northumbria offers world-class research expertise and a reputation for outstanding PhD supervision and an inclusive PGR research culture. You will become part of an active and welcoming research community, and will have access to a wide range of PGR training opportunities delivered within the Department of Humanities and by Northumbria's Graduate School. You will also have the opportunity to work with colleagues and PGR students in Northumbria's Department of Arts, including as part of the Visual and Material Cultures research group. Dedicated workspace will be provided in the Glenamara Postgraduate Research Centre, as well as in the University Library's Research Commons.

You will also have a substantial presence at the Bowes Museum over the course of the project, becoming part of a vibrant cohort of collaborative doctoral researchers and benefitting from staff-level access to the Museum's collections, resources, and training programmes as well as the ongoing support and expertise of the Museum's curatorial, research, and education teams. You will also benefit from the dedicated programme of professional development and networking events offered in tandem with the other museums, galleries, and heritage organisations affiliated with the AHRC CDP scheme.

The CDP studentship gives the successful student the chance to develop a unique set of transferable skills and research expertise through working collaboratively with

expert staff in both Northumbria and the Bowes Museum. As a CDP doctoral student you will have the opportunity to spend a period of time focused on professional development, including potentially on a dedicated placement period at the Bowes Museum. This placement would develop your skills across a range of fields, including curation, digital dissemination, and public engagement, and offers opportunities to organise events, create new displays and interpretative material linked to your research, create digital materials linked to the print collection, and work with the Museum's research and education teams on a collaborative learning project.

Funding Notes

This studentship is funded through the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) scheme, which offers doctoral studentships as part of a collaboration between a Higher Education institution and an organisation in the museums, libraries, archives and heritage sector. The studentship is fully funded for 3 years and 9 months full-time or part-time equivalent, with the potential to be extended by a further 3 months to provide additional professional development opportunities. Overall, a minimum of 3 and up to 6 months of the total funded period will be spent on professional development.

The successful candidate will receive a bursary to cover tuition fees and a maintenance stipend at standard UKRI rates. For the academic year 2020/21 this is **£15,285 per annum**. The student will also receive £600 as an additional annual stipend payment for collaborative doctoral students. In addition, the student will have the opportunity to avail of student funding **up to £1,000 per annum** for research-related and other costs from the Bowes Museum. Northumbria University's Department of Humanities also offers doctoral students a research allowance, and Northumbria's Graduate School runs schemes enabling students to apply for small grants to facilitate research-related and development activity (e.g. networks, reading groups, etc.)

Eligibility and How to Apply

We are keen to encourage applications from a wide range of candidates with suitable qualifications and/or experience. All applicants should have either a Master's degree in a relevant discipline or equivalent experience. Relevant disciplines include, but are not limited to: History, Art History, and French/European Studies. Equivalent experience might include, but is not restricted to, a strong track record of employment in a library, museum, or heritage institution, that includes responsibility for relevant archival research, collections curation, and/or public engagement activity. **A good reading knowledge of French is essential for this studentship**, and a reading knowledge of another European language would be an advantage.

The studentship is available to applicants who satisfy the standard UKRI eligibility criteria. To be eligible for a full award, non-British nationals should normally have been resident in the UK for 3 years immediately prior to the date of the start of the course. EU students not resident in the UK for 3 years prior to 30 September 2020 may be eligible for a fees-only award. Please see Annex B of the [UKRI Training Grant Guidance](#) to confirm eligibility before applying.

Applications should include a **research proposal** (approximately 750 words) and a **personal statement** (approximately 500 words) explaining your reasons for applying for this studentship. These can be compiled in a single PDF attachment.

For further details of how to apply, entry requirements and the application form, see <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/research/postgraduate-research-degrees/how-toapply/>

For informal enquiries, please contact Dr Laura O'Brien
(laura.obrien@northumbria.ac.uk)

Please note: Applications that do not include the research proposal and personal statement, or that do not include the advert reference will not be considered.

Deadline for applications: Friday 22 May 2020

Start Date: 1 October 2020

Northumbria University is an equal opportunities provider and in welcoming applications for studentships from all sectors of the community we strongly encourage applications from women and under-represented groups.