



Scholarship Name:	Object Journeys: Community co-production of collections knowledge and displays at a national museum		
School:	School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies		
Name of School Contact:	Dr Helen Graham		
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Closing Date:	17 th April 2015		
Degree Level:	Taught Postgraduate <input type="checkbox"/>	Research Postgraduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Scholarship Type:	International <input type="checkbox"/>	Home/EU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Number available:	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Fees:	£ <input type="text"/>
		Maintenance:	£ <input type="text"/>
Funding Type	Research Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School/Faculty <input type="checkbox"/>	External Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/>

Applicants should read the information below for further details on the scholarship or visit the School web site given below.

Further Information:

The School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies and Centre for Critical Studies in Museum, Galleries and Heritage, University of Leeds, in partnership with the British Museum, invites applications from suitably qualified UK/EU candidates for a full-time 3-year Collaborative Doctoral Award, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, to conduct research on the theme: Object Journeys; Community co-production of collections knowledge and display at a national museum.

This PhD project will examine how national museums might best develop object interpretation and displays in collaboration with local and diverse communities. It will run alongside a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)-funded programme, Object Journeys, led by the Community Partnerships team at the British Museum 2015-2018. Object Journeys is a programme exploring various forms of community collaboration. Individuals from diverse local communities will be supported to engage with museum collections and co-curate object-focused displays and interventions. The programme is committed to developing and testing different participatory methodologies in varied museum-settings, and sharing the resulting knowledge across the museum's sector.

The Collaborative Doctoral Award student will use participatory and action research approaches to unpack and explore the conditions, processes, and impact of co-production, shaped by their own experience and interests.

The Studentship will start on 1st October 2015. For further details of the award, the research project and procedures for applying, please click [here](#).

The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday 17th April 2015.

[DETAILED SPECIFICATION]

Collaborative Doctoral Award

Object Journeys: Community co-production of collections knowledge and displays at a national museum

The British Museum

The School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, University of Leeds

The British Museum in partnership with the University of Leeds invites applications from suitably qualified UK/EU candidates for a full-time Collaborative Doctoral Award, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, to conduct research on the following theme:

Object Journeys; Community co-production of collections knowledge and display at a national museum

This project will consider how national museums might best develop object interpretation and displays in collaboration with local communities, and will run alongside a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)-funded project, Object Journeys, being led by the Community Partnerships team at the British Museum 2015-2018. Object Journeys is a programme exploring various forms of community collaboration. Individuals from diverse local communities will be supported to engage with museum collections and co-curate object-focussed displays and interventions. The programme is committed to developing and testing different participatory methodologies in varied museum-settings, and sharing the resulting knowledge across the museum's sector.

The last forty years have seen increasing experimentation with co-production of knowledge, displays and collections in museums. Yet there remains very little sustained research exploring the practices and institutional conditions for successful community co-curation. This CDP, coupled with a three-year HLF-funded programme, Object Journeys, provides an opportunity to explore specifically the role a national museum might have in developing object interpretation and displays in collaboration with local communities.

Object Journeys (2015-18) is a programme consisting of three community-engagement projects based in London (at the British Museum) and three across the UK. The London programme will enable local community organisations to develop skills in researching and interpreting objects, resulting in a change to the displays in the Museum's permanent galleries and development of associated programming and web presence. The national element will involve three regional partner museums developing similar programmes in partnerships with a single local community organisation. The resulting displays may also include loans from the British Museum's collections.

Object Journeys will provide an opportunity to test different methodologies of community engagement and reflect on the relevance and practicalities of community-led exhibitions for major national museums. Due to the breadth of the Object Journeys Programme this studentship will focus on one particular element and reflect upon the successful applicant's own interests. It is envisaged that the studentship will address the programme's wider research agenda through an exploration of questions such as:

1. Contexts: What are the policy and institutional conditions of the British Museum's community-based partnership work?
2. Practices: What are the ways of working (institutional, professional, in terms of facilitation) which enable – or constrain – community co-production?
3. Impact: What is the potential for community co-production to change institutional culture?

The student will be supported to identify their particular focus during the first part of their PhD, once they have begun a review of the relevant academic landscapes and are more familiar with the Object Journeys programme and the British Museum.

The three-year studentship, due to start 1st October 2015, will be situated within the vibrant research community of the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, University of Leeds, and will offer a unique opportunity for the award-holder to undertake original research leading to a PhD. The student will also be part of the British Museum's lively research environment where they will receive museum induction and training and will contribute to developing and promoting best practice in community display and engagement.

By the end of the PhD, the student will have developed substantial skills as a researcher with expertise in both museum studies and participatory methods. They will also have developed sophisticated museum practice skills in community engagement and participatory working.

Supervision will be provided by Stuart Frost (Learning, Volunteers and Audience, British Museum), Dr Helen Graham and Dr Will Rea (Centre for Critical Studies in Museums, Galleries and Heritage and School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, University of Leeds)

Applicants must have:

- A First Class or high Upper Second BA Hons degree in a humanities discipline.
- An MA with Merit or Distinction in a relevant discipline, such as anthropology, museum studies, cultural studies or heritage studies by 30th September 2015.
- Research experience in at least one of the following areas: cultural studies, museums studies, community engagement
- Residency status meeting AHRC eligibility requirements, as set out in the AHRC 'Student Funding Guide' (see link below). EU students may be eligible for fees-only awards.

Preference may be given to applicants with expertise in the use of digital technologies in research or for research communication and public engagement.

The award will cover University of Leeds tuition fees and provide the standard AHRC maintenance award for three years. Additionally, the student will receive support from the British Museum of up to £1000 p.a. for approved travel and expenses, as well as a staff pass, a workspace with computer, research library access and staff privileges.

Application procedure

Candidates should submit an online University of Leeds PhD application form, attaching a statement (up to 3 sides of A4), outlining their academic qualifications, relevant research experience and expertise (including language skills), motivation to pursue this Collaborative Doctoral Award and a provisional outline of a research topic within the thematic, chronological and regional parameters given above. The outline should set out indicative aims and objectives, research questions, scholarly context, methods and sources. Candidates must also arrange for two academic references to be submitted to the University of Leeds by the deadline.

Application and reference forms are available at:

http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/125187/applying_for_research_degrees

In Section B, please write 'PhD Object Journeys and 'School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies'. In Section J, please indicate source of funding as 'CDA (British Museum)'.

The deadline for funding applications is 12 noon on Friday 17th April 2015. It is anticipated that interviews will be held for shortlisted candidates in Leeds in May 2015. Skype interviews will be possible for candidates unable to attend in person.

Informal enquiries regarding the award can be addressed to any of two supervisors:

- Stuart Frost (sfrost@britishmuseum.org)
- Dr Helen Graham (h.graham@leeds.ac.uk)

For more information on the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award scheme, please see here, and for students' eligibility requirements, please see the AHRC Student Funding Guide.

For more information on the British Museum's current Collaborative Doctoral Awards, see here:
http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/research_projects/collaborative_doctoral_awards.aspx

For more information on the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, and the Centre for Critical Studies in Museums, Galleries and Heritage, University of Leeds, see here.

<http://www.fine-art.leeds.ac.uk/>
<http://www.ccsmggh.leeds.ac.uk/>

School Web Address:

Minimum Academic Requirements (if English is not your first language, then candidates must also meet the University's English language requirements):

Any Additional Requirements:

*If this is a Research Council Studentship the following wording must be included:-

UK applicants will be eligible for a full award paying tuition fees and maintenance. European Union applicants will be eligible for an award paying tuition fees only, except in exceptional circumstances, or where residency has been established for more than 3 years prior to the start of the course.

(Delete if not a Research Council Studentship)

This information has been provided by the above School and all enquiries regarding these awards must be made in the first instance to the contact detailed above.

You may apply online for research degree study at:

http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/apply_research.htm or a Word version may be downloaded from this page.

You may apply online for taught postgraduate degree study at:

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/apply.htm> or a PDF version may be downloaded from this page.

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