



Legacies of Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: Activism and Politics in Central Kenya, 1956-75

AHRC PhD Studentship in collaboration with Imperial War Museums (IWM) and the University of Warwick

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded PhD at the Department of History at the University of Warwick. The studentship is offered under the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership programme with Imperial War Museums. The project will examine the aftermath and legacies of the Mau Mau War in Kenya, and will contribute to IWM's collections-building in partnership with Kenyan-based organisations, the development of its public programme, and to wider conversations about the way in which countries of the former British Empire are represented and engaged with in UK museums more broadly.

The studentship will be supervised by Professor Daniel Branch and Professor David Anderson at the University of Warwick, and Dr Simon Innes-Robbins of IWM. The studentship begins on 1 October 2020 and is fully funded at standard AHRC rates for 45 months full time (or part-time equivalent) with the potential to be extended for a further 3 months to provide professional development opportunities.

Applicants must 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. For more information visit: <https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/researchfundingguide/>

The Studentship

The Mau Mau Insurgency and the violence of the British counterinsurgency campaign politicised hundreds of thousands of Kenyans and shaped their expectations of independence. Counterinsurgency methods such as villagisation and the punitive use of land reform influenced the nature of post-colonial society for decades to come. Returning to an earlier generation of scholarship this project will explore the ways in which the conflict informed grassroots political action by veterans of the war and sympathisers with their cause.

Potential strands for research include examining the role of Mau Mau activists within the local politics of Kenyan nationalism in the years immediately before and after independence; the role of activists within opposition and radical politics through the 1960s; and the place of women activists within non-formal political organisations in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Applicants are encouraged, however, to suggest their own areas of specific interest in their covering letter.

This studentship will help IWM to amplify under-represented voices within its collections by exploring the cultural and social changes—both in Britain and crucially in the former colonies themselves—that accompanied the ‘retreat from Empire’ and the consequent radical shift in Britain’s role in the world. There is a small window of opportunity to discover, acquire and preserve for posterity material from veterans (in the broadest sense) of the complex conflict in Kenya, and to contextualise their stories within more expansive narratives that bring into focus their contribution to shaping the world. The studentship would specifically enhance and expand IWM’s holdings relating to post-1945 conflict, by targeting partnerships in Kenya and through dialogue with communities in Britain. This would include, but not be limited to, the collection of oral history, and would include the opportunity to shape dialogues around whether and how UK institutions can and should collect physical material—ephemera, clothing, private papers, imagery etc. The research would assist IWM in meeting the needs of its diverse audiences—now and in the future—through a variety of public programme outputs.

Funding

Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the scholarship covers tuition fees and a grant (stipend) towards living expenses for 45 months (3 years and 9 months) full time or part-time equivalent. The studentship has the possibility of being extended for an additional 3 months to provide professional development opportunities, or up to 3 months of funding may be used to pay for the costs the student might incur in taking up professional development opportunities. 3 to 6 months of the funded period should be spent on professional development and not on research for the thesis. We envisage that this time will be spent primarily on advanced language training and/or advanced training in oral history methodology.

The award pays tuition fees up to the value of the full-time home/EU UKRI rate for PhD degrees. The Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level for 2020/21 is £4,407.

The award pays full maintenance for UK citizens and residents only. The National Minimum Doctoral Stipend for 2020/21 is £15,285, plus a CDP maintenance payment of £600/year.

For more information visit: <https://www.ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/>

In addition, the student is eligible to receive up to £1,000 a year from IWM, to cover expenses such as travel for conferences and research. The student will also be eligible to apply for any other funds open to PhD students in the Department of History at the University of Warwick.

The successful candidate will be eligible to participate in [CDP Cohort Development events](#). All new CDP students will be expected to attend the CDP Student Launch Event on Monday 21st September 2020 at the British Museum.

How To Apply

Prospective candidates will have an excellent academic record at undergraduate level, plus a Master’s degree. The successful candidate will be required to apply directly to the Department of History at the University of Warwick for subsequent acceptance on to the PhD programme there. All offers are subject to passing the university’s admissions requirements.

Applicants should apply using Warwick's online application system (https://warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/research/submit_application) and submit the following as supporting documents during that process:

1. A covering letter outlining their suitability for the studentship and how they would approach the research (maximum two pages)
2. A sample of writing (such as a postgraduate thesis, long essay or draft article)
3. Details of academic achievement (including existing and pending qualifications with transcripts). The minimum entry requirements for this programme are a Master's degree in History or a related discipline. Candidates admitted without an MA in History are expected to follow the Warwick Historical Research Core module, Theory, Skill and Method in the first year of their doctoral study.
4. If an applicant does not have experience of formal postgraduate study, they may be eligible for a studentship only if they can demonstrate evidence of sustained experience beyond their undergraduate degree level that is specifically relevant to their proposed research topic, and could be considered equivalent to Master's study. The covering letter must include evidence as to how the training and development the student has received is equivalent to that obtained through a Master's course and prepares the applicant for doctoral study
5. The contact details of two academic referees
6. A curriculum vitae (no more than two pages)

In the event of any problems uploading supporting documents, please send by email to pghistoryoffice@warwick.ac.uk

These materials should be submitted online by **30 April 2020**. All documents should be submitted in either a MS Word or PDF format.

Interviews are scheduled for 19 May 2020. Interviews will be held at IWM London. However, given current disruption to travel and the operations of universities and museum sites, the interview may be conducted virtually. Applicants will be provided with more details at a later point.