



**Execution and Empire:  
A History of Judicial Killing Under British Colonial Rule, 1815-1980**

**ESRC DTP Joint Studentship**

**University of Leicester and University of Warwick**

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

We are now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Joint Studentship between the University of Leicester (where the student will be registered) and the University of Warwick, to commence in October 2019.

Where necessary, the studentship will fund the completion of the one-year Masters in Social Science Research prior to the three-year PhD project.

The PhD project aims to produce a comparative study of judicial execution across the British Empire, dating from the end of the Napoleonic Wars to the late twentieth century. The student will compile comparative data from across the British imperial world, and select three case studies which will each provide a detailed account of the evolution of capital punishment at colony level. The overall goal of the project is to assess the degree to which law, practices and perceptions of capital punishment in British colonies developed independently of metropolitan direction, and what this tells us about the transplantation and reception of British law in different parts of the world. Subsidiary questions then define more specific areas for study. At an empirical level, the project will quantify rates of execution and compare these across the territories of the British empire, and over time, and consider how far categories of race, gender, class, caste and status affected the practice of punishment. The methods and mechanics of execution will also be examined, especially in those cases that diverge from metropolitan practice. The histories of movements for the reform of capital punishment will also be reviewed, both those that emanated from the metropole and those that originated in the colonies.

The PhD project will be supervised by Professor Clare Anderson (Leicester) and Professor David Anderson (Warwick).

**Application Process**

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#), along with two references, a CV and a 2,500 - 3,000 word sample of your written work (BA essay, chapter from MA thesis etc.) Please email this to Louise Taylor [esrcdtp@le.ac.uk](mailto:esrcdtp@le.ac.uk).

**Application deadline: Monday 4 March 5pm**

**Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP**

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit:

[www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/](http://www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/)

Full details of the academic content of this studentship [can be found here](#).

Informal enquiries about the research or School of History, Politics and International Relations prior to application can be directed to Professor Clare Anderson [ca26@le.ac.uk](mailto:ca26@le.ac.uk).

Interviews will be held at the University of Leicester on Monday 18 March.