



Economic
and Social
Research Council



‘Punishment and the State in Kenya, since 1950’

ESRC DTP Joint Studentship

University of Warwick and University of Leicester

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 invite applications for an ESRC Doctoral Joint Studentship between the *University of Warwick* (where the student will be registered) and the *University of Leicester*, commencing in October 2021. The project will be supervised jointly by Professor David M. Anderson (Warwick) and Professor Clare Anderson (Leicester).

Punishment and the State in Kenya, since 1950

This project is a study of the penal regime in Kenya, in the context of the practice of punishment as administered through state agencies (police, judiciary, prisons), covering the period from 1950 to the present day. It will research colonial practices and their transformation during the Mau Mau Emergency of the 1950s, and evaluate the legacy of that critical event upon the penal system in independent Kenya (from 1964). The project will chart the institutional history of Kenya’s post-colonial prison system, relating this to wider patterns of state punishments. We know that prisons have been a neglected institution within government across all African countries since the 1960s, and that Kenya’s prison population is amongst the largest on the continent. Kenya’s punishment regime is thought by other countries to be ‘harsh’: the Kenyan state has, at times, sanctioned extra-judicial forms of punishment. How can we explain these characteristics? Is Kenya’s current prison system a product of its colonial heritage of insurgency and repression, or are other factors more significant in shaping state punishments today?

The project will combine archival research (in Kenya and the UK), with oral history research to be conducted in Kenya. The project also closely relates to current debates regarding prison reform in Africa, offering opportunities for an impact element in the research. Alongside their academic work, the student will be encouraged to write and publish on this (in shorter format) during the final year of the project, when they will also take a lead role in the organisation of a research workshop on penal policy in Africa.

Applicants should have strong BA degree in History, or a cognate discipline, and must be able to demonstrate a familiarity with archival research. Knowledge of oral history and its methodology would be an advantage. Applicants may have completed a Masters degree by September 2021, but those without a Masters can be considered for a 1+3 award.

Application Process

- To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Joint Studentship application form ([available online here](#)) along with a CV, and email this to monica.dinu@warwick.ac.uk. Shortlisted applicants must provide two references.

- **Application deadline:** Applications must reach us by **5.00 pm, Friday 26 February**.
- **Interviews:** Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed on **Monday 8 March**.

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees at home rate, maintenance stipend, extensive support for research training, and research activity support grants (available to home and international applicants). For details, visit: www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/.

Informal enquiries prior to application can be directed to Professor David M. Anderson
d.m.anderson@warwick.ac.uk