



The History of The Howard League for Penal Reform, 1866-1948 ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship

University of Leicester and the Howard League for Penal Reform

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.

The University of Leicester as part of Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner the Howard League for Penal Reform, to commence in October 2018.

The Howard League for Penal Reform is the oldest penal reform charity in the UK. It was established as the Howard Association in 1866 for the “promotion of the most efficient means of penal treatment and crime prevention” and to promote “a reformatory and radically preventive treatment of offenders”. Merging with the Penal Reform League in 1921, and the National Association for the Abolition of Capital Punishment in 1948, it continues to campaign for change in the criminal justice system.

This project aims to produce the first history of the Howard League for Penal Reform. The student will research aspects of the relationship between the organization’s campaign work and actual penal reform, within the larger economic and social history of Britain during this period. There is considerable scope for the student to shape the academic element of the project to their own interests. Themes might include the League’s relationship with government, its campaigns on prison conditions and against capital punishment, its work with women and juvenile prisoners, its support for discharged prisoners, the intersections between the League and other social reform campaigns, the role of women campaigners in the League, the League’s global work, and the League’s relationship with parallel international organizations.

The student will also undertake 3 1-month internships at the Howard League’s London headquarters. At this time, they will write public-facing materials including online materials and research briefings which draw out lessons and key ideas showing the relevance of historical analysis of the League’s past campaigns and methods on today’s penal debates. The student will also organize two public-facing events.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#) and 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.

Application deadline: Monday 19 February, 11.59pm

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.

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.

Interviews will be held at the University of Leicester on 27 February.