

## **The Professor Sir Richard Trainor PhD Scholarships 2017-18**

**Project Title: Making the modern racehorse in Britain, c1920-2020**

**Partner Organisation: National Horseracing Museum**

King's is now inviting applications for one of the Professor Sir Richard Trainor PhD Scholarships in the Departments of History and Film Studies at King's College London, in collaboration with National Horseracing Museum in Newmarket. The scholarship will commence from October 2017 onwards and is open to new incoming PhD students only.

### **Project Description:**

Although horse-racing is a popular topic of historical analysis, the horse – as the key participant in the sport - is strangely absent from existing histories. This project will correct this deficit by examining its history in Britain, c1918-2000.

Conducted as an inter-disciplinary collaboration between the KCL departments of History and Film Studies, and the Arts Council-accredited National Horseracing Museum (NHRM) in Newmarket, it aims to generate a new sporting history of the horse, and a horse-centred history of the sport. It will approach racehorses as products of both nature and culture, and explore how these elite equine athletes were constructed through human manipulations of their bodies, behaviours, health and welfare, and through their representation in film and other media. This research will make use of the collections of the NHRM. It will also result in opportunities to develop professional curatorial experience eg through contributing to temporary exhibitions at the NHRM.

This project is suitable for a student with an MA in history, museum studies, film studies or other related area. The successful candidate will join a thriving group of PhD students working on aspects of animal history, and will be expected to contribute to the activities they organise under the Animal History Group (for more details see <https://animalhistorygroup.wordpress.com/> )

The Department of History was ranked 5th of all UK History departments in the 2014 REF with 86% of our research activity assessed as 'world leading or internationally excellent'. It is a research-led department with a strong reputation for contribution to scholarship, teaching and practice. The Department is located on the Strand Campus of King's College London where the studentship will be based.

The National Horseracing Museum is an Arts-Council accredited museum that has recently undergone a multi-million pound transformation into a National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art. It will offer the student access to its collections in Newmarket, desk space, and training in object handling and interpretation.

## **Supervisors:**

Lead Supervisor: Professor Abigail Woods

Second Supervisors: Dr Catherine Wheatley

Partner Organisation Supervisor: Mr Christopher Garibaldi

**Application documentation:** applicants must complete and submit:

- a CV
- personal statement explaining why they would be suitable
- a writing sample eg essay, dissertation chapter

to [graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk) by 11:59pm (UK BST) on 30 September 2017. The subject line of the email should read 'RT Scholarship 1718 – *[include the relevant project title]*'

**All documents should be submitted as a single pdf.**

Two academic references **must** be received by the deadline for the application to be eligible. Candidates are responsible for instructing referees to submit their references to [graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:graduateschool@kcl.ac.uk) using the subject line 'RT Scholarship 1718 – *[name of applicant]*'.

**Selection:** Please note that as part of selection, short-listed candidates will be invited for interview.

**Funding Details:** The scholarship will provide an annual payment of £15,000 which can be used to cover tuition fees and/or living costs. Another £1,000 per annum will be provided by the partner organization to cover a laptop, travel and conference attendance. The student will also have the opportunity to bid for departmental and faculty funds to support additional research and conference expenses.

**Length of Award:** 3 years (PhD)

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