

‘Empire and imperialism in the political thought and legacy of Richard Cobden (1804-1865)’

Director of Studies: Prof. Simon Morgan: s.j.morgan@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

British free trade campaigner and statesman Richard Cobden was known for his opposition to British imperial expansion, which he held responsible for inflated military spending and generating conflict with imperial rivals. His critique included the governance of Ireland and India, the future of Canada, and the folly and inhumanity of one-sided naval actions in China, Japan and Borneo, while his writings also touched on the Ottoman, Spanish and French empires. Using Cobden’s speeches, pamphlets and letters (now available via www.cobdenletters.org), the successful candidate could explore potential themes such as the extent to which Cobden developed a coherent critique of empire and imperialism and how this fitted with his belief in free trade; what role his notions of religion, race and civilisation played in this; and the influence of his anti-imperialism on liberal internationalism.

‘Histories of Anti-Prison Activism in the United States’

Director of Studies: Dr Olivia Wright: o.wright@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

For the past sixty years, the development of mass incarceration has exposed the limitations of American freedom and democracy. Against this backdrop, individuals and organisations have crafted a diverse yet consistent challenge to an increasingly punitive carceral state.

This project aims to contribute to a rich and growing field of scholarship that maps, theorises and defines the Anti-Prison Movement in America. It seeks to explore how anti-prison organisations and coalitions form and develop; what diverse methods of education, communication and resistance they employ, and how they articulate an alternative to the criminal legal system in America.

This project will be grounded in archival research with the possibility of also conducting oral histories. The supervisor encourages research projects that take an intersectional approach to histories of anti-prison activism. Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Gender and women’s experiences of incarceration
- Anti-death penalty movements
- Sex, sexuality and LGBTQ+ experiences
- Political prisoners
- Transnational/international movements

‘Picture-perfect holidays: exploring photographic curations of late-modern travel’

Director of Studies: Dr Grainne Goodwin: g.goodwin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

The project is interested in how Britons have documented and remembered holiday experiences through visual constructions of travel from the 1970s to the digital age. It has a specific focus on holiday photography as captured, curated and circulated in albums and scrapbooks as well personal digital/social-media collections.

Concentrating on the late twentieth and early twenty first century, the project is keen to explore the impact of technological change (from manual to automatic, instant and

disposable cameras), democratisation of travel, and the continuities and changes in how holiday-making was represented by Britons in the period. As well as an interest in late-modern leisure and tourism and the visual conventions and vocabularies of amateur photography, the project would welcome a practical and conceptual appreciation of any of the following approaches; found photography, oral history, memory studies, family archiving, and/or digitisation and materiality.

'Historical Cultures of Reuse in Modern Britain'

Director of Studies: Dr Henry Irving: henry.irving@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

The concept of the 'Circular Economy' is increasingly central to discussions around sustainability. The concept is often presented as a new paradigm that requires a radical change in attitudes at all levels of the economy. This overlooks historical cultures of reuse, ranging from the dismantling of wooden warships to the rental of televisions. This PhD would allow the candidate to explore historical cultures of reuse in a setting/settings of their choice. The focus is on modern Britain to enhance the opportunity for knowledge exchange.

Food and Empire in Victorian Britain

Director of Studies: Dr Rachel Rich: r.rich@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Britain's food culture changed rapidly and continuously during the long period of Empire. New foods were encountered, tasted, imported, and sometimes appropriated into mainstream British diets. In some cases, the connection between food and Empire was overt, as in the case of curry, which became a popular dish in the nineteenth century. In other instances, the link between a food and its origins was more hidden, for example when it came to the sugar in French-inspired patisseries. Using sources that could include cookbooks, menus, account books, diaries, art, literature and more, the successful candidate would work on a project to expand our understanding of how Britain identity was shaped and reshaped through eating foods from all parts of the Empire.