



**Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Cultures and Societies**

AHRC Fully-Funded PhD Studentship Award

***Care for the Future Theme: Performing the Jewish Archive,
Jewish Archives in Exile***

The University of Leeds School of Languages, Cultures and Societies is pleased to announce a three-year fully-funded PhD Studentship as part of this £1.5m Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project, to commence no later than 30 March 2015. As well as full fees, the successful applicant will receive full maintenance funding (UK/EU rate £ 13,863 for 2014/15, increasing annually), plus some expenses for approved research visits.

In addition, the student will have the opportunity of a funded placement at the National Archives in Kew, working with recently acquired materials pertaining to compensation of British victims of Nazi persecution.

Subject area

This PhD student may come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, but it is expected that their principal background will be in literature, cultural studies or heritage. The PhD topic will be determined in collaboration with the successful applicant. The topic area will be a critical study of the archiving of a migrant Jewish artist relevant to the project as a whole, or the migration of their archive, in conjunction with a study of an aspect of that artist's work. Projects might address, for instance, such topics as the on-going crisis over the Kafka manuscripts in Israel, the institutionalisation of Jewish émigré artists in the state-funded German Literary Archive in Marbach, or the creation and migration of H. G. Adler's Theresienstadt collections in the Foyle Special Collections Library at King's College London. The thesis will take as its departure point Arvatu's 2011 contention that all archival research is a strategic intervention into actuality.

The student will be co-supervised, with the lead supervisor being Dr. Helen Finch (University of Leeds, LCS), and a co-supervisor chosen to match the student's specialism from one of the many experts on Jewish culture and the archive at the University of Leeds or University of York. The University of Leeds, and the LCS in particular, have an excellent record in postgraduate student supervision and support, including a dedicated online postgraduate student supervision system (PDR), focussed training in research and teaching methods, and a lively postgraduate community. Dr. Finch is an experienced user of archives, in particular the German Literary Archive in Marbach, and if the student is a German speaker, s/he will undertake a joint research visit there to prepare the PhD student for applying for the annual Summer School of the Marbach Archive.

In addition, the PhD student will have the opportunity of a one-month internship at Care for the Future partner The National Archives. S/he will have the opportunity to be guided in researching the National Archives' holdings, in particular, working with them on recently-acquired materials pertaining to compensation of British victims of Nazi persecution. This work will be accommodated within The National Archive's standard access provision, and will be further supported by two meetings per week with key personnel at The National Archives. They will also be given access to a desk and computer at The National Archives during this time. This internship will not only be of use for the PhD student's own research

and training, but will also allow them to bring archival expertise back into the project. It may, of course, also be useful in the student's future career. This expertise will be key during the planning of potential events to be co-hosted by 'Performing the Jewish Archive' and The National Archives.

The student will also form a key link in the partnership with the Leeds-based Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association, thereby developing the practical aspect of interpreting and performing the archive for future generations. Mentored by Dr. Helen Finch and experienced Theatre director Ant Haddon and The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah, they will develop a series of workshops for school students aimed at enabling a creative and performative response to the archives. A pilot project, linking Blah Blah Blah's performance 'Millions of Kisses' to a performance workshop for school students at the University of Leeds on 26 January 2014, has already been conducted. The student will work on building on the outcomes of this project for a sustainable and extended educational programme linking the University of Leeds, The National Archives, the HSFA, the Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah, and local educational institutions. This link is crucial to 'Performing the Jewish Archive', which aims to create a local and community legacy as well as an international one. The PhD student's work will link archival study into Jewish cultural archives and critical analysis of the migration of Jewish archives with innovative methods whereby young people can connect with Jewish archives and perform them into the future. As such, it aligns key goals of the partner organisations with the aims of 'Performing the Jewish Archive'. The student will add considerable value to the project, expand our range of case studies, and develop the network of partners that are so important to the project and the student him/herself. It is therefore important that the student has an interest in enquiry-based learning and an enthusiasm for theatre.

Supervision

The student's principal supervisor will be a co-investigator on the project, Dr. Helen Finch, with a co-supervisor selected to suit the candidate's interests and capabilities. Dr. Finch's work has focussed on contemporary German literature, and writing after the Holocaust. Additional support will be provided by the Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association.

Research Environment

In addition to the Yorkshire Holocaust Foundation Survivors Archive, the student will have access to the facilities of the University of Leeds, including the excellent Brotherton Library and the University's comprehensive on-line resources. S/he will join a thriving community of around 50 music research students and will have the usual support offered to research students in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, as well as opportunities to take training and development courses for research postgraduate students in the Arts offered by the University's Staff and Departmental Development Unit, the Faculty of Arts and the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies. The student will have opportunities to contribute to and participate in research seminars, conferences and study days run by the School. In addition, the student will be one of three working on *Performing the Jewish Archive* (including one at the University of York), and will be expected to interact with these other project students regularly, participating in project events wherever practicable.

Requirements

Applicants must have a BA (2:1) minimum or equivalent in an appropriate subject, and normally a Master's degree or other professional experience relevant to the scope of the project. The student will be required to be resident in or within reasonable travelling distance of Leeds for the duration of their studies, and will need to make some trips elsewhere (by agreement) during the course of the project.

Applications should be made via the University's online application system at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/rsa/prospective_students/apply/i_want_to_apply.html. Please select

PhD Languages, Cultures and Societies as the programme. When asked for information about the area of research, applicants should state clearly that they are applying for the Performing the Jewish Archive AHRC PhD Studentship . Applicants must complete the relevant Studentship Application Form, which should be submitted by email to the Postgraduate Research Officer, (lcspgr@leeds.ac.uk) by midnight on the closing date for applications.

For informal enquiries please contact Dr Helen Finch, email: h.c.finch@leeds.ac.uk

Questions regarding the application process should be addressed to the Postgraduate Research Officer, lcspgr@leeds.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 31 October 2014

Interviews will be held in Leeds: Date to be confirmed.

Please note that this studentship is subject to the eligibility regulations for AHRC awards, including the AHRC's residency criteria. You are strongly advised to consult these regulations prior to application: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Student-Funding-Guide.pdf>