

M4C DTP Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Marketing Template

Project Title			
Narratives of Loss during the Civil Wars in Ireland, Wales and England Compared, 1641–52			
LEAD INSTITUTION			
Name of HEI institution	University of Leicester		
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION			
Name of organisation	National Civil War Centre (NCWC), Newark Museum		
Website URL	http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/ www.1641.tcd.ie/ and www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk		
THE RESEARCH PROJECT			
<p>This CDA project will be the first to compare the testimonies of maimed soldiers and war widows found in Ireland’s 1641 Depositions www.1641.tcd.ie/ with the narratives found in petitions of maimed soldiers and war widows in England and Wales, published at www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk as part of the AHRC-funded ‘Conflict, Welfare and Memory’ collaborative project led by the University of Leicester. These testimonies, provided on these two websites as photographs and transcriptions, would constitute the data for analysis to answer the research questions listed below.</p> <p>With the support of the project mentor, Professor Jane Ohlmeyer (of Trinity College Dublin, Chair of the Irish Research Council and one of the Principal Investigators of the 1641 Depositions Project), this studentship would allow comparative focus to be extended to the settlers in Ireland, including 512 widows, covered by the 1641 Depositions, and would put these two major academic websites to exciting comparative use for the first time. It would analyse how narratives of loss were crafted during what historians call the ‘Wars of the Three Kingdoms’, and for what audiences and purposes. (Full transcripts of around 1,000 petitions from maimed soldiers and war-widows in 32 English and Welsh counties will be available on the searchable Civil War Petitions website by the time the studentship commences in 2019 and coverage of 3,000 more will be complete by spring 2021.)</p> <p>The 1641 Depositions comprise over 8,000 witness testimonies and, examinations in which men and women of all classes told of their experiences following the outbreak of rebellion on 22 October 1641. It was one of the darkest moments in Irish history as incidents of extreme violence, mass killing, and atrocity accompanied the rising, as Catholics attacked, robbed and murdered their Protestant neighbours and the Protestants retaliated in kind.</p> <p>This project is also timely from an impact perspective. NCWC is the impact partner of the ‘Conflict, Welfare and Memory’ Project, so by developing an international collaboration with Ireland, the PhD project will enhance the University of Leicester’s impact case study ‘From Local Museum to National Centre: Showcasing the Human Costs of Civil War’ for REF2021 and beyond. This will be accomplished by the appointee leading preparations for a temporary exhibition, as well as contributing to schools’ resources and planned teachers’ workshops with NCWC’s Learning Team. The project’s research questions will include:</p>			

- How did Ireland's colonial experience make suffering and loss different when compared to England and Wales?
- How did ordinary men and women articulate civil-war related bereavement and loss in Ireland, England and Wales?
- What sort of medical care was available to soldiers injured in Ireland? This enquiry will utilise the website of The Medical World of Early Modern England, Wales and Ireland <http://practitioners.exeter.ac.uk/>
- How did those who had been wounded or bereaved fashion themselves as deserving recipients of charitable relief?
- How did charitable relief for wounded soldiers, widows and orphans in Ireland compare with that which was provided in England and Wales?
- How did suffering and loss arising from the Civil Wars in Ireland affect how the wars have been remembered, both there and in the Irish diaspora, ever since?
- What were the experiences of the women widowed by the confederate forces in Ireland?

In addition to addressing these questions the appointee will collaborate on the staging of the UK's first exhibition on the Civil Wars of the 1640s in Ireland. The exhibition will be opened by an international academic conference, organised by the appointee, at the NCWC in July 2022. The issue of Anglo-Irish relations is particularly timely with the uncertain future posed by Brexit, therefore this project will forge new partnerships to deepen understandings of Britain's relationship with Ireland. The project's timeliness is further enhanced by the new Civil-War scholarship which has recently appeared in Jane Ohlmeyer's *Cambridge History of Ireland, 1550-1730* (2018).

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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