

M4C DTP Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Marketing Template

Project Title				
"Black Foundlings": Slavery, Trade and London in the Long Eighteenth Century				
LEAD INSTITUTION				
Name of HEI institution		University of Warwick		
Lead regional city		Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>				
PARTNER ORGANISATION				
Name of organisation		The Foundling Museum		
Website URL		https://foundlingmuseum.org.uk/		
THE RESEARCH PROJECT				
<i>(Max 750 words)</i>				
<p>This collaborative PhD Project aims to investigate the connections between London and the Atlantic (West Africa, the West Indies and the North American Colonies) through the unique lens of the Foundling Hospital, an institution founded for the "education and maintenance of exposed and deserted young children." Britain's cosmopolitanism has been long studied, yet the fact that 10,000 people of colour lived in England in the eighteenth century, most of whom in London, appears surprising. As Britain's society was shaped by worldwide commercial and imperial connections, so was its economy. London was the hub of world trade that involved commodities, people and capital especially in connection to the expanding plantations and Atlantic trade. The project aims to recover the lives of those children left to the care of the Hospital who were of non-white parentage. In the eighteenth century as today, the socio-economic conditions faced by minorities made it more likely for them to seek the resource and help of public institutions and charities. Yet their history is rarely acknowledged.</p> <p>The PhD student will work with the Lead and Second Supervisor and in close collaboration with staff at the Foundling Museum to address the following research questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the life stories of children of non-white parentage left to the care of the hospital? The analysis of the Foundling archives in conjunction with other sources such as baptismal and parish records will enable the identification of a pool of individuals for whom more information can be found. The Foundling museum has also a number of artefacts related to children of non-white parentage. • What were the occupational profiles of these children and their socio-economic position in eighteenth-century London? Domestic service and other service occupations such as music-playing have been long linked to non-white communities in England. The Foundling Museum provides access to a variety of occupations for all children left to their care. • What is the link between Britain's Atlantic and plantation economy and the Foundling Hospital? The prominent merchant and sugar baker Thomas Emerson left his entire estate worth £12,000 to the Hospital in 1745. He was the owner of one of the largest London sugar refineries and had extensive interests in the West Indies. The project will investigate systematically these connections by examining the biographies of its founders and financial backers. <p>The project will be based on the integration of the archival and museum collections of the Foundling Hospital. The archival sources are deposited at the London Metropolitan Archive; the collections are held by the partner institution, the Foundling Museum. The project will draw on four large-scale</p>				

projects on London archival materials such as the Old Bailey online; the Legacy of Slave Ownership Database; and the Records of London's Livery Companies Online (ROLLCO).

This fully-funded PhD is a collaboration between the University of Warwick and the Foundling Museum. The Museum tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, the UK's first children's charity and first public art gallery, founded in 1739 to care for babies at risk of abandonment. The Museum holds the Gerald Coke Handel Collection, an internationally important research collection. The Museum stages three major exhibitions a year that explore the 300-year history of the Hospital from multiple perspectives, including the contemporary.

Research resulting from this doctoral project will support the development of a major exhibition held at the Foundling Museum with an accompanying publication, that will showcase research findings to national audiences.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Giorgio Riello
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	g.riello@warwick.ac.uk