

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>				
Reframing the suburban cinema: community, memory, and new opportunities				
<b>LEAD INSTITUTION</b>				
Name of HEI institution	Birmingham City University			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PARTNER ORGANISATION</b>				
Name of organisation	Flatpack			
URL for organisation website	<a href="http://www.flatpackfestival.org.uk">www.flatpackfestival.org.uk</a>			
<b>THE RESEARCH PROJECT</b>				
<p>To enable M4C to promote the CDA project effectively on the DTP website please can you present the information for applicants about the CDA project under the following headings:</p> <p><b>Project:</b> Please ensure that the project title and project description will make sense to all readers, keep the title and description as clear and straightforward as possible.</p> <p><b>Process:</b> Clearly articulate the expectations of the methods of research required to develop the project.</p> <p><b>Place:</b> Focus the marketing text on telling potential applicants what will be expected of them, who they will be working with and how they will be supported.</p> <p><b>Person:</b> Broadly identify the desirable knowledge, skills and experience applicants should have without using language which will discourage qualified and talented applicants.</p>				
<b>PROJECT:</b>				
<p>This project will explore Birmingham’s suburban cinema stories through an engagement with people, places, and artefacts. Further extending <a href="#">Flatpack’s Wonderland project</a>, it will collate public memories of cinema, and explore alternative narratives of place and locality to inform new understandings of suburban cinema-going, past, present and possible futures. Flatpack is a charitable organisation with a twenty-year track record of delivering high quality film and arts events, including the annual Flatpack Festival.</p> <p>Cinema heritage provides a window on so many other areas of life in the 20th century, from architecture and urban geography to globalisation, business and technology. It has the power to resonate with an audience: almost everyone has their own cinema story. Emerging themes from the initial phase of <i>Wonderland</i> have raised questions of who gets to speak in narratives of British cinema-going, offering the chance to investigate multicultural counter-memories and alternative narratives of place and locality in cities that have seen successive waves of migration. Through their work on <i>Wonderland</i>, Flatpack have collated an enormous range of leads for personal stories and private collections, and the potential for more focussed work delving into the neighbourhood film cultures of particular areas of Birmingham.</p>				
<b>PROCESS:</b>				
<p>The project will draw on a mixed methodology of archival research, semi-structured interviews with audiences and cinema entrepreneurs, and a variety of ethnographic approaches including walking tours. The research will build on approaches Flatpack has taken in utilising community researchers and establishing co-creation activities to develop new models for citizen-led contributions to knowledge. A series of case studies will be produced, focused on specific suburbs of Birmingham. The research process will support Flatpack’s ambitions to adopt more rigorous research and evaluation methodologies to better</p>				

capture the richness of people’s social and cultural engagement with film. A key aim of the research process is to examine how community researchers can help to unlock local heritage and build a greater understanding of how neighbourhoods develop.

**PLACE:**

The successful candidate will be based in Birmingham, with access to Flatpack’s offices in Digbeth and Birmingham city University’s (BCU) city centre campus, where the Faculty of Art, Design and Media (ADM) is located. Both organisations support inclusive working practices and offer a range of professional development opportunities. BCU provides a Postgraduate Certificate in Research Practice course to support development of key research skills and access to the [PGR Studio](#), which is a creative, collaborative, practice-based space for doctoral training excellence across disciplines. Flatpack will also provide training support, which would cover aspects of creative sector grant bid-writing, project evaluation, data management and exhibition curation.

The successful candidate will be supported by an expert supervision team, namely Ian Francis, founding director of Flatpack with over 25 years of experience in programming and delivering events; Dr David Harte, an Associate Professor in the Birmingham Institute of Media and English, who has a track record of both research and direct engagement with the creative and cultural sectors, and whose research has explored the role of citizens in contributing to public discourse and new knowledge creation; and Dr Rajinder Dudrah, a Professor of Cultural Studies and Creative Industries whose publications have focused on British South Asian and black British representations, popular cultures, and cultural identities.

**PERSON:**

The successful candidate will understand cinema history and film exhibition. You will be excited to explore the social and cultural importance of filmgoing in suburban communities past and present, and what this might look like in the future. You should have a passion for uncovering untold stories, particularly of those that have been marginalised within archives, and a willingness to immerse yourself in Birmingham. You might hold a Master’s qualification at the time of application or be working towards one that you will have completed by the time your CDA begins. You might have professional and/or creative experience that is pertinent to your proposed research.

Additional desirable skills include:

- Ability to write engaging copy for a public audience.
- Ability to navigate a range of archives and collections, with an understanding of different approaches to cataloguing.
- Ability to collaborate with a wide group of people, including community researchers.
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies.
- Web editing experience.
- Experience of managing budgets and supporting fundraising applications.

Flatpack deliver events and exhibitions, and you may at times be expected to create content or support delivery for relevant areas of their activity programme. You will need to be able to manage your own time and work across a variety of locations.

**HOW TO FIND OUT MORE.** Please email the lead university supervisor if you want to find out more about this CDA project.

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Dr David Harte
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	dave.harte@bcu.ac.uk