

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

PROJECT TITLE				
Warwickshire Identities: Early Modern Archival Perspectives				
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		Warwickshire County Record Office		
Website		https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/county-record-office/visiting-county-record-office		
PROJECT				
<p>Based in the historical town of Warwick, Warwickshire County Record Office provides a range of services to help local communities, schools, visitors, and professional researchers to engage with their local heritage and the history of Warwickshire. The archive contains a vast collection of manuscripts, printed sources and artefacts relating to Warwickshire and its people dating from the 12th century to the present day.</p> <p>This project examines how the people of early modern Warwickshire viewed and represented themselves in relation to their neighbours, the county community, wider political nation, and emerging global connections. It builds upon new research by historians, anthropologists and literary scholars to investigate the construction, representation, interpretation, and definition of local 'belonging' between c.1500 and 1750. For this purpose, the student will look for signs of – likely overlapping and competing -- markers of identity at the levels of individuals, families, guilds, parishes, boroughs, manors and county.</p> <p>It asks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What identities and expressions of identity can be located in the written, visual and material holdings of the Warwickshire County Record Office (WCRO)? To what extent did competing identities affect civic, parish and county communities? How stable/fluctuating were local identities over the course of the early modern centuries? What were the links with bonds of kinship, confession, profession, political allegiance in light of period conceptions of gender, honour, race, dis/ability and community? 				
PROCESS				
<p>The project is based on the integration of records and artefacts held at WCRO, along with supplementary materials in diocesan (Worcester), central (The National Archives, British Library) and family repositories (e.g. Sidney Papers in Kent).</p>				

The ideal candidate should have some experience utilising early modern manuscript materials and will be expected to undertake the palaeography course run by the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance at the University of Warwick. They will also be expected to engage in the History Department's Graduate Forum in the first year of their studies, which will provide training and support to assist in the design and implementation of their project.

We expect the student to acquire knowledge and expertise in record conservation; the planning and delivery of workshops; creation of learning resources for schools; integration of document sources and artefacts; and communicating with non-academic audiences (e.g. through blog posts or videocasts). There would be opportunities to contribute to the printed and online research guides aimed at members of the public visiting WCRO.

The candidate would also be expected to engage in the wider research culture of the department, including the My-Parish network led by Prof. Kumin and the Early Modern and Eighteenth-Century Centre directed by Dr Pullin.

PLACE

WCRO seeks to promote academic research into its archival collections, as well as engage a wide range of communities with its holdings. Following the Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Strategy (2020-2025), the Record Office is committed to celebrating the county's past, whilst also providing a stronger statement about Warwickshire's rich history and place within the world. Core strategies include celebrating Warwickshire's diversity whilst also exploring the ways in which a 'cohesive identity' might be uncovered. There has been a recent guide published on LGBTQ+ history in the WCRO archives and there remains a strong thematic component on a sense of place. This project, which examines the different layers of identity within early modern Warwickshire and how these intersected and competed with broader national and international identities, will be timely.

The pre-modern material held in WCRO is extensive and includes Quarter Sessions, manorial records, family and estate archives and charity collections (like the Lord Leycester Hospital, subject of an existing CDA). Some of these have been published in edited volumes.

The successful candidate will have access to all holdings and will benefit from the expertise of the archivist team and conservation staff, working closely with lead supervisor Amanda Williams (with a professional interest in medieval and early modern documents). The student will also benefit from supervision provided by University of Warwick staff with complementary expertise in early modern gender and religious life (Pullin) and communal and parish organisation (Kumin).

PERSON

The successful candidate will have some background in early modern history, preferably including experience of working with parish and other local records. The panel would be interested to hear about ideas for potential events, workshops or other outreach activities that could be connected to this project. The candidate should use their application to outline the ways in which their research interests complement some of the core questions and ideas underpinning the project.

(750 words)

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:	NAOMI PULLIN
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