



SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES (UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER) and THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM

FULLY-FUNDED PhD

Start date: 1 October 2021

Duration: 3.5 years

Closing date for applications: **22 February 2021**

### **'Total Liberation': Feminism, Socialism and *Red Rag* (1972-1980)**

#### **Project Description**

'We are in no mood', stated the first editorial of British feminist-socialist periodical *Red Rag: a Magazine of Liberation* (1972-1980), 'to wait for socialism to bring us liberation.' *Red Rag* brought together and shaped leading post-war feminists, and provided cutting-edge analysis of key issues around gender, class and sexuality, but has been overlooked by historians. This fully-funded PhD project, run in collaboration between the University of Manchester and the People's History Museum, seeks to fill that gap. The project challenges the usual parameters of labour and feminist history respectively by grappling with the particularly close relationship between socialism and second wave feminism in Britain. The project contends that the various positions and debates in *Red Rag* not only anticipated later feminist works, but remain instructive for radical social movements now. The key questions posed by the PhD thesis will be: what was *Red Rag*?; how did it respond to its moment?; and, why does it matter, now?

Reflecting the research methodologies of the supervisory team and the pedagogical ethos of the PHM—an institution which promotes learning as social change—the project therefore links past and present. It integrates: theoretical analysis of questions of gender, capital and class; periodical analysis (close reading of the context, form and content of *Red Rag* and its articles, pictures, poems and stories); and empirical historiography (analysis of documents detailing the journal's production, distribution and reception). The Labour History Archive and Study Centre (LHASC) at the PHM holds the unique primary sources necessary to cast light on these relationships, including a complete run of *Red Rag* and related periodicals (*Women Today and Tomorrow*, *Marxism Today*, *The Link*). The PhD student will spend on

average four days a month in the PHM. In addition to writing a PhD thesis, they will conduct various tasks related to cataloguing and promoting the PHM's holdings in feminist history, benefitting from expert training in archival research, digitization, cataloguing and public engagement.

### **Qualifications needed:**

An undergraduate degree at first/upper second-class level and a Master's degree (completed with an overall average of 65% or higher [merit], with a minimum of 65% in the dissertation; or in its last year with an overall average of 65% or higher [merit]) in one or more of the following disciplines: English, Women's Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Cultural History or cognate subjects related to the project's theme. International students will have to have equivalent classifications. The NWCDTP bases its assessments of qualifications attained outside the UK on the British Council's NARIC guide. We are committed to working with students from underrepresented communities and those from non-traditional academic backgrounds.

### **Funding:**

The successful candidate will receive:

- **Home/EU fees** at the standard RCUK rate. The studentship will cover tuition fees up to the Home rate (£4,407 in 2020/21; exact rate for 2021/22 subject to confirmation from UKRI). The University of Manchester is committed to cover the remaining fees should an international student be the successful candidate.
- A maintenance grant of **£15,283** for the academic year 2020-21 (the level of the grant for 2021-22 and the following years is subject to confirmation from the AHRC).

### **Eligibility:**

Both home and International students are eligible to apply to this scheme.

- To be classed as a home student, candidates must meet the following criteria:
  - Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements), or
  - Have settled status, or
  - Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or
  - Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

If a candidate does not meet the criteria above, they will be classed as an International student.

- For further information on residential eligibility refer to the AHRC webpage: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

### **How to Apply:**

Applicants should email to [daniela.caselli@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:daniela.caselli@manchester.ac.uk) the following by **22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021 at 5pm GMT:**

- Academic CV (max. 2 pages) including two named referees, one of whom should be your most recent academic tutor/supervisor. Referees will be contacted only if you are shortlisted;
- Copy of first degree and Master's degree transcripts (or anticipated grade if applicable);
- A sample of your strongest written work (6,000 words maximum);
- Letter of application (max. 2 pages) outlining your suitability for the studentship and how you would anticipate approaching the research. This should include the research questions that you would focus on and the way in which you would develop them.

If shortlisted, you will be asked to apply formally for a PhD place at the University of Manchester. Instructions will follow.

### **You will work with the following team of supervisors:**

Prof. Daniela Caselli, University of Manchester;  
Dr. Ben Harker, University of Manchester;  
Dr. Shirin Hirsch, People's History Museum Researcher;  
Mr Simon Sheppard – Archive Manager, People's History Museum;  
Ms Jenny Mabbott – Head of Collections and Engagement, People's History Museum.

For further information email [daniela.caselli@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:daniela.caselli@manchester.ac.uk)