



AHRC NWCDTP COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL AWARD

WITH KEELE UNIVERSITY, MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY AND HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT TRUST, LONDON (HPT)

‘A manly place? The experiences of female MPs at Westminster, 1970-2010.’

Co-supervised by Professor Helen Parr (University of Keele), Dr. Charlotte Wildman (University of Manchester), Dr. Emma Peplow (History of Parliament Trust)

Applications are invited for a collaborative doctoral award, funded by the AHRC North West Consortium. The studentship is hosted by Keele University, and supervised in collaboration between Keele, the University of Manchester and the History of Parliament Trust (HPT).

The successful applicant will carry out cutting-edge historical research on the experiences of female MPs at Westminster 1970-2010, exploring the diversity of female MPs' experiences and asking how, and the extent to which, the presence of more women has changed parliamentary cultures. They will use HPT's existing collection of life-history oral history interviews with female MPs (hosted at the British Library, but able to be made available online); will conduct their own interviews to add to this important collection; and will engage with relevant archival material, for instance, press material, Hansard, and the parliamentary archive. They will have opportunity, supported by the supervisors, to carry out public engagement activities at Westminster, at Keele University and in Manchester.

Start date: September 2021

Closing date for applications: 22nd February, 2021 to apply [see](#)

[Keele University - History AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award](#)

Applications should include a letter of application outlining your interest in the post and how you will develop the project, CV, and sample of academic writing (e.g. dissertation; essay or essays).

Interviews: 8th March 2021 remotely

Qualifications needed: undergraduate degree at first/upper second-class level; Master's degree in history or politics, or related humanities or social sciences subject.

Funding available: Fees at the standard RCUK rate; maintenance allowance of c.£15,285 per annum (based on 2020/2021 rate) for 3.5 years.

More on the project

The successful candidate will have the knowledge and expertise to shape the project in line with their own interests; but we have identified these thematic areas to explore, and candidates are welcome to use these as a guide.

- a) How have female MPs of different backgrounds and political persuasions and age-groups experienced their work at Westminster, in different political periods?
- b) How have female MPs understood, and navigated, the balances between their work and their home lives?
- c) How have female MPs understood their roles as women, and how have these understandings interacted with other elements of their identities? How have these understandings shaped their experiences, if at all?
- d) How have the experiences of female MPs changed over time; and what can this reveal about a social history of the institution of Parliament? How can the experiences of these women help us understand histories of women more widely, for example, as wives, working mothers, or political activists, as well as parliamentarians?

Informal meeting (on-line): 27th January at 11 am

- At the informal meeting, you will:

Meet the supervisors; find out more about the award and what would be involved; and find about the qualifications and residency requirements needed to apply.

Please email to let us know you will attend. A link will be sent out to those wishing to attend closer to the time. Please note attendance at this event is not essential for an application.

Residency [eligibility](#)

The AHRC NWCDTP particularly welcomes applications from students from backgrounds that are historically underrepresented in Higher Education. We have made a commitment to supporting those communities that often have been marginalised. We are at the beginning of a process which we hope will address the underrepresentation and inequalities within our organisation. At the NWCDTP we are working to address imbalances and to promote equality of opportunity. Our aim is to encourage Black, Asian, and Disabled students, and/or those amongst the first generation of their family to attend university, to participate in our programme at a level commensurate with the UK population demographic.

For enquiries please contact

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