

Project Title

**The Global Irish: Diaspora, Military Values and Political Thought
(RDF16/HUM/McCONNEL)**

Project Description

Following History's recent major success in REF2014 (placed 18th out of 79 nationally in quality of research outputs), we are seeking proposals on the broad theme of 'The Global Irish: Diaspora, Military Values and Political Thought'. All proposals will be considered but we would particularly like to encourage applications in the following areas:

1) The Irish Diaspora and Identity

Declan Kiberd, in his book *Inventing Ireland* argues that the definition of 'Ireland' was shaped in some ways by its diaspora. This project proposes to examine how Irish identities were internalised, transmitted and contested by the diaspora during the 'long' nineteenth century (1800-1922). Focusing on those who visited and/or returned to Ireland in this period, it seeks to understand the diasporic contribution to the creation of distinct Irish identity through the age of the Union.

2) The Irish Military Tradition

This project will look at the invention of the Irish martial tradition. Within this broad theme, candidates may wish to consider one or more of the following: understandings of the Jacobite legacy in nineteenth century Ireland; the role of nineteenth-century nationalist history writing; the significance of the American civil war; the Irish and martial race discourses within the British Empire; Ireland and Scotland; the location of Irish Protestants; Rudyard Kipling and the Irish soldier.

3) Global Ideas and Political Thought in Modern Ireland

Political thought and intellectual history more broadly are undeveloped methodological approaches within the historiography of modern Ireland. While Ireland is historically seen as 'a place apart', global political ideas – for instance, democracy, popular sovereignty and political obligation – were as hotly contested on the island as anywhere else in the world in the modern age. The currents of these debates have been, however, obscured by the continuing historiography focus on 'action' above ideas. We welcome proposals that engage with the history of Irish political thought and/or intellectual history after 1790 to address this major gap in scholarly understanding.

The successful applicant(s) will be affiliated to the British and Irish Worlds research group. The group regularly brings together like-minded historians within and beyond the department to discuss work-in-progress, organise conferences and symposia and collaborate on major research grants. Students will also be able to take advantage of Northumbria's newly established Institute for the Humanities and its associated Multidisciplinary Research Centre. Indeed, while it is expected that the successful project(s) will be rooted in historical methods, we actively encourage proposals that embrace multidisciplinary approaches.

Northumbria has a large and lively postgraduate community in the Humanities. Our students benefit from generous research space and resources in the recently expanded Glenamara Centre as well as the space and resources provided by the new Institute of the Humanities. PhD students develop a portfolio of skills and competencies through the Humanities Training Programme, the Teaching Shadowing Scheme, the annual PhD conference and the Graduate School's Professional Development and Research Training Programme. In addition, each student is provided with a research allowance for conference attendance and travel as well as funding to support the organisation and development of research networks, conferences and seminar series.

Major recent investment in resources to support research activities in the area of British, Irish and imperial studies include: 19th Century British Library Newspapers; Irish Newspaper Archive; the Online Churchill Archive; Nineteenth Century Collections Online; Times Digital Archive; the Guardian Digital Archive; JSTOR collections; US online newspapers.

Faculty

Arts, Design and Social Sciences

Department

Humanities

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/academic-departments/humanities/research/history-research/history/british-and-irish-worlds/>

Principal Supervisor

Dr James McConnel

Deadline for applications: 18 March 2016

Interview date (if known): w/c 2 May 2016

Start Date: 3 October 2016