ESRC PhD Studentship in collaboration with the University of Warwick and the Parliamentary Archives

From Suffragette to Citizen: Women and Parliament in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

The ESRC Doctoral Training Centre at the University of Warwick, one of 21 such centres in the UK, embodies the university’s commitment to producing the next generation of leaders in social science research. Internationally renowned for its research excellence, Warwick is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner the Parliamentary Archives to commence in October 2016 on the subject of ‘From Suffragette to Citizen: Women and Parliament in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth centuries.’ The Parliamentary Archives holds the historic records of the House of Commons and House of Lords dating back 500 years, providing innovative and expert information management, preservation, access and outreach services enabling anyone in the world to use Parliament’s records, both now and in the future. www.parliament.uk/archives

The student will be supervised by Dr Sarah Richardson and Dr Laura Schwartz of the Department of History, University of Warwick, and Dr Mari Takayanagi of the Parliamentary Archives. The project provides a unique opportunity to use the rich resources of the Parliamentary archives, together with the Parliamentary Art Collection alongside newspapers, local electoral material, memoirs and personal testimonies to assess women’s interactions with Parliament in the decades immediately before and after they gained the franchise in 1918. The student will have the ability to frame the precise topic in consultation with their supervisors but possible research areas may include identifying the main beneficiaries of women gaining the vote; the impact of women voters and MPs on the physical spaces of Parliament itself; the continued importance of class in determining women’s access to citizenship rights in the franchise; and the wider consequences of extending and feminising the franchise. The upcoming centenary anniversary of the 1918 extension of the vote to rate-paying women over the age of 30 represents exciting opportunities for public engagement, as well as an appropriate moment to review and perhaps reassess dominant historical narratives on women struggle for the suffrage.

The studentship will cover fees and maintenance stipend (if eligible) and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Applicants should have a good undergraduate and ideally a Masters degree in history, politics or another relevant discipline,
and will need to satisfy ESRC eligibility requirements. For eligibility requirements please visit http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/esrcdtc/studywithus/eligibility/.

Applicants should submit via email a curriculum vitae (no more than 2 pages), a research proposal, a brief letter outlining their qualification for the studentship, and the names and contact details of two academic referees to Robert Horton (r.s.horton@warwick.ac.uk) no later than 5pm on 22 April 2016. All documents should be submitted in either a MS Word or PDF format. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete an application for a PhD in History at Warwick University. The interview for shortlisted candidates will be in London on Friday 13 May 2016.

For further information please contact Sarah Richardson (sarah.richardson@warwick.ac.uk) or Laura Schwartz (L.Schwartz@warwick.ac.uk)