



Research Fellow (Postdoctoral Researcher) in Modern Chinese Studies

Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Fellow (Postdoctoral Researcher) in Modern Chinese Studies
Post Status:	Fixed Term Contract - Full-time
School:	School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Dr Isabella Jackson, Principal Investigator
Salary:	€36,404 per annum
Hours of work / post duration:	Full-time for 24 months from mid-January 2021
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), Thursday 29 th October 2020

Qualified and enthusiastic applicants are sought for a two-year position as Research Fellow (Postdoctoral Researcher) in Modern Chinese Studies, focusing on representations of children and childhood in literature and other cultural forms in Republican China (1912-1949).

Post Summary

The Irish Research Council Laureate Award-funded project CHINACHILD: Slave-Girls and the Discovery of Female Childhood in Twentieth-Century China is seeking to appoint a Research Fellow (Postdoctoral Researcher) in Modern Chinese Studies. The successful applicant will undertake research and analysis on literary, visual media and/or other cultural representations of children and childhood in twentieth-century China, focusing particularly on the Republican era (1912-1949), with scope to expand the period to the late Qing and/or the early PRC according to their interests.

The Research Fellow (Postdoctoral Researcher) will join the CHINACHILD team and contribute to the aims of the project, primarily investigating and understanding changes in how Chinese children, particularly poorer girls, were conceptualised in the first half of the twentieth-century. They will be able to design their own project, so long as it contributes to this overall aim.

The appointee will assist the Principal Investigator (PI), Dr Isabella Jackson, in achieving the goals of the project and contribute to its research outcomes. The appointee will have particular responsibility for helping organise a conference (probably online) and helping edit a resulting edited collection, as well as publishing their research in the form of an academic journal and/or book chapter. The appointee will also help organise an online exhibition of visual sources from the project and contribute to the wider public dissemination of the project's research.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

- Identify appropriate literary and other cultural sources for his or her contribution to the project and conduct excellent research and analysis based on them, resulting in scholarly publications, including co-authored work where appropriate.
- Help organise an international conference and co-edit, with the PI, a volume arising from it.
- Contribute to the public engagement components of the project through talks, the development of an online exhibition, and other means.
- Assist the PI in planning, organising, conducting and communicating research within the overall scope of the project.
- Support the PI and the research team in the development of the research programme and help identify suitable opportunities to meet our aims.
- Present information on research progress and outcomes to other members of the research project.
- Perform other related duties incidental to the work described above.

Funding Information

The post and the wider CHINACHILD: Slave-Girls and the Discovery of Female Childhood in Twentieth-Century China project are funded by Irish Research Council Laureate Award IRCLA/2017/251.

Person Specification

Qualifications

Essential	A completed PhD in modern Chinese literature, cultural history or a related field (e.g. film, visual media such as <i>manhua</i>).
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Knowledge & Experience

Essential	A scholarly publication record commensurate with career stage and personal circumstances.
Essential	Expertise or a strong interest in the field of the study of children and childhood and/or gender studies.
Essential	Evidence of excellent organisational and communication skills. Ability to manage own research and associated activities independently to meet multiple, competing deadlines.
Essential	Willingness to represent the project at meetings, conferences, and other relevant events.
Essential	Willingness to travel, if feasible, to access research material.

Desirable	Specialist knowledge of Chinese social and cultural history c. 1912-1949. Knowledge of the late Qing and/or early PRC would also be desirable.
Desirable	Experience in conference organisation and/or editing scholarly publications.
Desirable	High level of scholarly curiosity, a passion for interdisciplinary research and a creative approach to scholarship.

Desirable	Experience in the development of public engagement activities, such as an online exhibition or events.
Desirable	Experience of working constructively within a team to achieve a common goal.

Skills & Competencies

Essential	Fluent English and Chinese language skills.
Essential	Excellent writing, editing and presentation skills.
Essential	High level of IT literacy including the use of word-processor and online meeting tools.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae (CV), to include the names and contact details (including email addresses) of two referees, and a cover letter specifically addressing how they meet the criteria above, to:

Dr Isabella Jackson at Isabella.jackson@tcd.ie

APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.

Deadline: 12 Noon (GMT), Thursday 29th October 2020

Further Information for Applicants

For information on the School of Histories and Humanities at Trinity College Dublin, see <https://histories-humanities.tcd.ie/>

Informal enquiries may be directed to:

Dr Isabella Jackson (PI) at Isabella.jackson@tcd.ie

Project background:

For much of Chinese history, childhood as a period of education and development when young people should be nurtured and their innocence protected was a category that was applied almost exclusively to elites and boys. Elite girls and poorer boys might access education and some of the other characteristics of childhood, but poor girls were not included. Instead they were treated as small women, often sold in the same way that women could be sold by their families as wives, concubines, or *mui tsai/binü*, and when they were protected under law or as potential victims of abuse, they were categorised with adult women.

This is the picture that emerges from the current, quite limited, historiography of Chinese childhood, which focuses on the education of elite boys (Saari 1990; Wang 2013) and examines girls only through the prism of women (Kinney 2004, 120-31). CHINACHILD will address how public and official discourse about girls changed between approx. 1919 and 1959 to include the poor and girls in a universal conception of childhood. Dr Jackson's research as Principal Investigator (PI) focuses on what changing responses to child slavery reveal about conceptions of childhood and girlhood.

The project aims to:

1. Open a new field of enquiry in modern Chinese history that explains the expansion of the category of 'child' to include girls of all social classes between 1919 and 1959. This will dramatically alter the existing landscape of the field of childhood studies, not just in relation to China but highlighting the need for gender to be central to examinations of childhood in all contexts. It will also have ramifications for women's and gender history and the study of women and gender in contemporary China.
2. Redraw the line between gender and childhood, showing how women and girls developed into separate categories in Chinese society and challenging scholars to take better account of this in their research.

The Postdoctoral Researcher will undertake research that contributes to one or both of these aims by bringing a disciplinary specialism in literary or cultural studies to the project. It is anticipated that the appointee will focus on literary and/or cultural representations of children and childhood in Republican China (1912-1949), but alternative proposals that address the aims of the project will be considered.

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences. Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world in 4 subjects, including 28th in English Language and Literature, and in the top 100 in 18 subjects, including History (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020).

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes, including the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals. With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

The Selection Process in Trinity

Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within two working days of submitting your application by email, please contact Dr Isabella Jackson at Isabella.jackson@tcd.ie.

Information supplied by candidates in their application (cover letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview. The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) will include members of the academic community. Interviews will be conducted via video conferencing software.

Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than five working days following the selection day.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are very much welcomed. However, non-EEA candidates should be aware that, if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit. Eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. Further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> .

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

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