

**Benefit of Project to PI's research and research profile**

My **research to date** has focused on imperialism in China and China's connections with the wider world in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. My monograph, *Shaping Modern Shanghai: Colonialism in China's Global City*, published by Cambridge University Press this September, provides a new understanding of colonialism in China through a fresh examination of Shanghai's International Settlement. I define Shanghai's unique, hybrid form of colonial urban governance as transnational colonialism, with implications for colonial history far beyond China. The book includes brief discussions of Irish employees of the Shanghai Municipal Council, which ran the International Settlement, and I bring to the 'China, Ireland and Empire' project a thorough understanding of the nature of colonialism in China.

I have published and am working on **comparable studies** of Scottish encounters with China. My chapter 'The Shanghai Scottish: Scottish, Imperial and Local Identities, 1914-41' in T. M. Devine and Angela McCarthy (eds), *The Scottish Experience in Asia, c.1700 to the Present: Settlers and Sojourners*, published in 2017 in Palgrave Macmillan's distinguished Cambridge Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies series, explores how Scots in Shanghai experienced layered Scottish, British, imperial and Shanghai identities, which they celebrated in part by joining the local volunteer corps. I am working on an article for the *English Historical Review* on a Scottish officer's personal encounter with China as revealed in his Opium War diary. While the Irish experience in China was different from the Scottish, there will be points of comparison with this work. My article on Sikh police in Shanghai also explores related themes of imperial sojourning by colonised people ('The Raj on Nanjing Road: Sikh Policemen in Treaty-Port Shanghai', *Modern Asian Studies* 46:2 (2012), 1672-1704).

The 'China, Ireland and Empire' project is therefore the **logical next step** in my research on transnational and imperial interconnections in Chinese history. The planned article on Irish missions in China and monograph on wider Irish encounters with China will establish me as an authority on Ireland's historical connections with China. The **PhD student's assistance** in gathering archival data will be crucial to the timely completion of these publications.

Raising my **research profile within Ireland** is a priority. Chinese history is entirely new in the Republic of Ireland; I am the only historian of China in the state, and as such, I need to demonstrate the relevance of Chinese history to Ireland. My 'China, Ireland and Empire' project is the ideal way to do this, and will bring many opportunities for engagement with colleagues working on Irish history (not least Dr Ciaran O'Neill, the co-supervisor) and the wider public. As part of the 1916 centenary events in 2016 I gave four public lectures drawing comparisons between the 1911 revolution in China and the Easter Rising in Ireland, which attracted large crowds and demonstrated the audience for work connecting Ireland and China together.

I also need to raise my **profile as a potential PhD supervisor**. I currently have two PhD students, one working on the reception of western medical instruments in Republican Shanghai (1911-1949) and the other on western influences on urban planning in Republican Shanghai. The recipient of the Provost's PhD Scholarship would therefore join students working on cognate areas. Both of my current PhD students were attracted to work with me when I was based at the University of Aberdeen by an advertised doctoral project. One was awarded the scholarship offered by Aberdeen, and the other, though unsuccessful, was offered a place and accepted it, and came to Trinity to continue working with me when I moved here. PhD applicants do not yet look to Ireland or Trinity as a likely place to work on Chinese history, but a Provost's PhD Scholarship Award would offer the ideal opportunity to advertise my areas of expertise and attract applicants. This would benefit not just me but also the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, which is establishing itself as a centre for excellence for Asian Studies.