

Project Proposal Application

To be completed by the lead proposed supervisor,
with input from the non-HE Partner Organisation(s).



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY AND APPLICANT DETAILS			
Proposed Project Title:		The Growth and Decline of North East Jewish Communities, 1881-2000	
Project Summary: <i>(Maximum 100 words)</i>		This project partners with the Tyne & Wear Archives (TWA) to explore why Jewish communities in the North East, which grew rapidly in the period after 1881, declined dramatically in the latter half of the twentieth century. Newcastle, Sunderland and other smaller urban centres once were home not only to synagogues but to Jewish sports clubs, literary and dramatic societies, newspapers and charities. What caused this world to flourish and fade? The project employs a network analysis approach to trace the growth and decline of these communities and will be embedded in two of the TWA's current heritage projects .	
Host University:		Durham University	
Name of Non-HE Partner Organisation(s): <i>(Add more lines if needed)</i>			
1. Tyne & Wear Archives, Discovery Museum, Newcastle			
2.			
Contact(s) at Non-HE Partner Organisation(s): <i>(Add more lines if needed)</i>			
Name:	Lizzy Baker, Lead Archivist, Tyne & Wear Archives	Email:	lizzy.baker@twmuseums.org.uk
Name:	Alex Boyd, Unlocking Jewish Heritage Project, Tyne & Wear Archives	Email:	alex.boyd@twmuseums.org.uk
	Alisdair Wilson, Lahav Jewish Heritage Project, Tyne & Wear Archives		alisdair.wilson@twmuseums.org.uk
Primary AHRC Subject Area: <i>Select one subject area from the list here. Do not add or amend subjects - there will not be a corresponding Subject Area panel to assess the application.</i>		History	

Does the project include a Creative Practice component?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you consider the project to be interdisciplinary?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you consider the project to be interdisciplinary, please state why: <i>(Maximum 100 words. Note, all applications will be assessed by the appropriate primary subject area cross-institutional panel.)</i>		

SECTION 2: PROJECT PROPOSAL AND CASE FOR SUPPORT

Please provide full details of the proposal and make your case for support below:

(Maximum 750 words)

The industrial growth of the late Victorian period coincided with Jewish diasporic migration globally. While the influx of Jews from Eastern Europe was not as large in Britain as elsewhere, the diaspora nonetheless changed the British urban landscape: roughly 150,000 Jewish migrants came to Britain between 1881 and 1914, causing existing communities to grow exponentially from London to Glasgow. Some of the most dramatic growth – in terms of population percentages if not absolute numbers -- occurred in the North East, where immigrants were attracted by developing industrial environments. The question of why Jewish communities grew in this period has been relatively well studied by historians, although much of this literature is overdue for a renewal; the last monographs to look specifically at North Eastern Jewish communities were published forty years ago (Olsover, 1981; Olsover, 1986). Yet almost untouched by scholars is the opposite end of this question: **what happened to these once-flourishing communities, which entered a period of decline after 1945?** What impacts did their loss have in these urban centres?

Existing studies of regional Jewish communities have taken a standard social history approach, focusing on demographic and economic data but neglecting the cultural and social dynamics that led to the growth and the decline of this Jewish world. This **empirically and methodologically innovative project** takes a different approach, using network analysis to explore connections between the members of these communities and trace the trajectories of families, neighbourhoods, clubs and associations, businesses, charities, schools and synagogues over time. It draws on the collection of archival documents housed at the TWA – a **collection largely untouched by scholars** that includes material that lends itself particularly well to network analysis, such as synagogue seating plans, bulletins and newspapers, notes and minutes of Jewish clubs and social groups, and the records of the representative councils. It also employs oral history (the archives have two existing collections, and there is scope to grow these) to move beyond the demographics of decline to analyse the personal, familial and communal lived experience of this loss. This approach will allow us not only to map out who stayed in the North East and who did not, but to examine the intersections of social class, kinship networks, business partnerships and/or places of origin, and to analyse how group identities were constructed, and which identities, if any, outlasted the decline.

If scholars have neglected this topic, this has not been true for the heritage sector. The TWA currently run two Jewish heritage projects, the Lahav Jewish Heritage Project (launched 2017) and the Unlocking North East Jewish Heritage Project (launched 2021). These aim to make accessible the histories of North Eastern Jewish communities – especially those communities that have now largely disappeared – and bring these histories to new audiences, such as school groups, those interested in local/regional history, and those interested in migration and multiculturalism. The time is thus ripe for this studentship. These heritage projects seek to identify, develop and provide access to existing collections, to broaden understanding of Jewish history and heritage, and to nurture partnerships with existing Jewish communities in the North East. The student will **contribute directly and tangibly to each of these goals**, and will play a **vital role in the successful realisation of these projects**.

The student will be expected to spend 40% of their time based at the TWA over the tenure of their PhD. The timing of the placements is flexible, but will include an initial period to familiarise themselves with the archives and the document collections, a middle period in which they conduct the bulk of their archival research, and an output-focused placement towards the end of their studies when **they will work right at the heart of the TWA's Jewish heritage projects**, writing blog posts, giving public lectures, and/or assisting in the work of curating and enriching the Unlocking Jewish Heritage Project's new digital platform. They will also help build the archive's existing Jewish heritage oral history collections – urgent work as the generation that saw these communities at their fullest is now elderly, and their insights are vital to a network analysis approach.

This is a timely project, for while many of the North East's Jewish communities have now disappeared, our region is more diverse than it has ever been before. In exploring what Jewish communities once brought to our region, we will see how the history of Jewish life can inform local and regional approaches to multiculturalism in the present day – and weigh what is lost with its decline.

Provide details of any resources and facilities, including equipment, fieldwork, training, etc., that will be required to complete the project successfully. NBC has limited Research Training Support Grant funding, which may affect the feasibility of high-cost projects. Please note where you might also secure additional funding, (e.g. partner organisations; department or school). Include estimated costs:

(Maximum 200 words)

No high-cost equipment is required to complete this project successfully.

We expect that the bulk of the student's research will be based at the TWA in the Discovery Museum, Newcastle. We would encourage the student to present their work at core conferences (such as the annual British Association for Jewish Studies conference). 3x conference attendance at approx. £50 registration fee, £100 travel and £150 accommodation: £900.

We envisage the student conducting some oral history interviews with Jewish community members. Training in oral history methodology will be provided by Prof. Clifford. The archives currently have no apparatus for recording oral history interviews. We would need a high-quality set of microphones and a good digital voice recorder: approx. £150.

We would approach Durham History Department and NBC for assistance with these costs.

Outline the arrangements for communication between the non-HE partner organisation and the academic host institution in regard to project management and monitoring academic progress:

(Maximum 200 words)

We expect the student to be fully incorporated into the research communities at Durham and at the TWA, and the team will work together to make sure this is achieved. We aim to have scheduled monthly meetings between the student and the main supervisors, and a meeting of the whole project team once a term. These meetings will be face-to-face wherever possible. The student will create a summary of these discussions that will be recorded on Durham University's History Department Sharepoint e-platform, and confirmed / signed by the supervisorial team.

The student's first point of contact for communication at TWA will be archives lead Lizzy Baker, but additional support will be provided by Alex Boyd (Unlocking Jewish Heritage project coordinator) and Alisdair Wilson (Lahav Jewish Heritage project coordinator). This team already works closely with Prof. Clifford, so communication lines are already well established.

More informal contact between team members will be maintained via email or via the chat function on a dedicated project Teams site. As the academic host organisation, Durham University will be responsible for the overall management of the project.

What benefits will there be for the candidate and the non-HE partner organisation as a result of your collaboration?

(Maximum 300 words)

We expect that the student will not simply be researching in the archives, but will be **working right at the heart of the TWA's existing Jewish heritage projects**. They will have a unique **opportunity to learn how public-facing heritage projects develop from the inside**, and will **contribute directly to shaping project outputs**. They will receive practical

training in archival research, with the opportunity to assist in cataloguing, digitization and building the TWA's existing collections. They will contribute to public-facing outputs including blog posts, research guides, podcasts, and/or online and in-person talks. With a new online platform coming for the Unlocking North East Jewish Heritage project, the student will have the opportunity to shape the approach and the content of the platform. These opportunities will give the student **direct experience of research impact and knowledge transfer**. It is a unique chance for a PhD student to undertake work that intersects directly with an archive's active research agenda, on a project that will be intellectually rigorous, but also achievable within the time frame.

The TWA will benefit equally from the project. Among the stated objectives of their two Jewish heritage projects are the goals of developing existing collections, providing digital access, broadening public awareness of Jewish heritage, sustaining working partnerships with local Jewish communities, and ensuring impacts continue beyond the lifetime of the projects. The student's work will feed into these objectives and **impact directly on the success of these projects**. The project's **network analysis approach will shed new light on how different parts of the collections link together**. The student's input into online digital platforms, and additional outputs for a wider public (such as public talks) will **bring the research to a wide audience and spark new opportunities to broaden understanding of Jewish history and heritage in North East England**.

State what financial (if any) or in-kind contribution the non-HE partner organisation will be making over the duration of the award:

*(Maximum 100 words. A financial contribution is **not** a requirement. However, the AHRC expect that **non-HE partners based overseas** will make a financial contribution to the costs of the student's return travel and accommodation when visiting.)*

The TWA will provide the student with a suitable workspace and IT access during their research, as well as access to the archives' Jewish heritage collections (and training in how to use the collection). The student will receive direct supervision from the Archives Lead (Lizzy Baker) and further guidance and support from heritage project co-ordinators Alex Boyd and Alisdair Wilson, as well as the staff in the archives. They will be invited to participate in cataloguing material, in digitization and the creation of the new online platform, and in public-facing events, allowing them to receive mentorship from an archives team with a wealth of experience in training provision and communications.

Describe the nature of the collaborative arrangement and the activities the candidate will be undertaking with the non-HE partner organisation:

(Maximum 300 words)

The student will be based at the TWA for 40% of the tenure of their PhD project. The timing is flexible and can be decided in consultation with the supervisory team, but ideally the student should have:

- 1) An initial 'settling in' placement period to familiarise themselves with the archives and the particular collections they will use in their studies;
- 2) A longer placement in which they conduct the main archival research for their PhD. During this period they will also conduct oral history interviews with members of local Jewish communities, which will ultimately become part of the archives' oral history collection;
- 3) An 'output' placement, towards the end of their studies, in which they will work with the teams of the Lahav Jewish Heritage Project and the Unlocking North East Jewish Heritage Project to contribute to project blogs and social media platforms, to generate narrative for the new online platform, and to organise and present public talks (either online or in person).

At all stages, the student will benefit from the supervision of Lizzy Baker as Archives Lead, and from support and guidance from the heritage project co-ordinators and the archives staff. The student will not simply be conducting research in the archives, but will **be fully integrated into the projects, employing their analytical skills to generate**

public-facing outputs, to further the reach of the archives' work, and to participate in the practical application of their research.

SECTION 3: SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS			
Primary Supervisor: Prof. Rebecca Clifford			
School or Department:	History Department, Durham University	Email Address:	rebecca.clifford@durham.ac.uk
Secondary Supervisors: Dr. Thomas Stammers, Prof. Richard Huzzey			
School or Department:	History Department, Durham University	Email Address:	t.e.stammers@durham.ac.uk richard.w.huzzey@durham.ac.uk
Name of the Advisor based at the Non-HE Partner Organisation: Lizzy Baker (Archives Lead)			
Organisation/Institution:	Tyne & Wear Archives & Museum	Email Address:	lizzy.baker@twmuseums.org.uk
Organisation/Institution:		Email Address:	
Name of Additional Internal or External Advisors or Academic Supervisors, if any: Alex Boyd, Alisdair Wilson			
Organisation/Institution:	Tyne & Wear Archives & Museum	Email Address:	alex.boyd@twmuseums.org.uk alisdair.wilson@twmuseums.org.uk
Explain how the expertise of the supervisory team and external advisor(s) will allow them to support the proposed project and the selected candidate: <i>(Maximum 500 words)</i>			
<p>The supervisory team consists of a primary and two secondary supervisors from Durham University's History Department and three advisors at the TWA. On the Durham side, Rebecca Clifford and Tom Stammers's expertise in modern and contemporary Jewish history will be complemented by Richard Huzzey's expertise in contemporary British local and associational history. Clifford and Huzzey are also the department's oral history experts.</p> <p>On the TWA side, Lizzy Baker (Archives Lead) will act as the key advisor for the project, but will be supported by Alex Boyd and Alisdair Wilson, the co-ordinators for the two Jewish heritage projects. They know the projects better than anyone, and have already begun strategizing about how the student can best be integrated into the projects and shape project outputs.</p> <p>Rebecca Clifford is a historian of twentieth-century Europe with specialisms in Jewish history and oral history. She has led on several major research projects, receiving funding from the AHRC, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Leverhulme Trust. Her latest book, <i>Survivors: Children's Lives After the Holocaust</i> (Yale, 2020) was shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize, a finalist for the Cundill History Prize, and winner of the Yad Vashem History Prize. She has supervised five postgraduate research students and helped to secure competitive funding for several of these, including a Fulbright Scholarship and an IDEX Scholarship (France) for a <i>co-tutelle</i> studentship with the Université Grenoble-Alpes.</p>			

Tom Stammers is a modern cultural historian of France, Britain and Europe with a specialism in Jewish history. A co-investigator on the major AHRC project 'Jewish Country Houses: Objects, Networks, People', he is writing a monograph for Princeton on the construction of the Jewish heritage in early twentieth-century Britain. He has been first supervisor to thirteen PhDs, including three on Jewish subjects.

Richard Huzzey is Professor of Modern British History, with particular interests in associational culture, social movements, and popular politics. He is currently completing the monograph from a AHRC-ESRC project examining petitioning in twentieth-century Britain, which includes case studies of local organisation by religious and ethnic minorities – including Jewish groups circulating petitions across diasporic communities in British cities. He has supervised 6 PhD students, including 2 collaborative doctoral awards, as primary supervisor, and equal numbers as secondary supervisor.

Lizzy Baker is the Archives Lead at Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums. After a history degree, Lizzy qualified as an archivist at the University of Aberystwyth and has worked in local authority archives for nearly 20 years in both the North East and Yorkshire. At Tyne & Wear Archives she is responsible for the delivery of the archive service including collections development and management, in-person and remote access to the archives, and working on community and academic projects. She is the manager of the Lahav Jewish Heritage Project and the Unlocking North East Jewish Heritage Project. In this she is supported by Alisdair Wilson (Lahav) and Alex Boyd (Unlocking) as project co-ordinators.

SECTION 4: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Please provide details about the research environment the selected candidate will be joining and its suitability:

(Maximum 500 words)

Durham University and the TWA are natural homes for this project. At Durham University, the student will be integrated into a thriving and innovative history department with a world-leading research programme. Durham's History Department has a **strong research profile in Jewish history**, which is pursued by Rebecca Clifford, Tom Stammers and Kay Schiller (for the modern period). Durham additionally hosts the **Centre for the Study of Jewish Culture, Society and Politics**, a multi-disciplinary forum for scholars who work at the intersection of Jewish Studies and other fields of inquiry (history, anthropology, sociology, politics, geography, modern languages and theology). We also have **particular strengths in modern British history** (including regional North East history), pursued by Richard Huzzey, David Minto, and Julie-Marie Strange (for the modern period). Durham additionally has growing **expertise in the area of oral history**, led by Clifford, Huzzey, and Africanist Cherry Leonardi. We have recently introduced specialist modules in this area.

The department hosts a range of vibrant research clusters, including the **North-East History research cluster**, which hosts regular reading groups and seminars and fosters engagement with researchers across the university and the region. These research groups provide a supportive and stimulating environment for PGR students and academic staff working across a range of disciplines, and we intend that the student will be inducted into these key research networks from the outset, which will support them in their research. They will have the chance to present work to these communities as their research progresses, which is a key skill in the construction of a future academic career.

The university library holds expansive collections of secondary reading material on both North East history and contemporary Jewish history, ensuring that the student will be able to do the vast majority of their research locally and without the need for further travel.

The TWA in Newcastle is an ideal partner for this project, with complementing strengths and expertise. A regional archive with international reach, the archives team will support the student in working directly with project leaders and **straddling the divide between scholarly and public-facing research environments**. The advisory team at the TWA will ensure that the student is not merely working in the archives – as any PhD student in History would do – but is **embedded into the heart of the Jewish heritage projects, helping to strategise about their content, approach and reach**.

The TWA has developed a **strong working relationship with local Jewish community** leaders over the last 25 years. These existing community links will be a vital resource for the student, especially given the project focus on network analysis and oral history. The student will be expected not only to draw on these links, but to nurture and expand them, benefitting both their own work and that of the archive.

SECTION 5: RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

In the event that your project is successful it will be advertised on the Northern Bridge Consortium website to aid recruitment: <http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/applyforastudentship/cda/>

Please therefore complete the following Applicant Criteria so that advertising can begin immediately following the outcome of the competition:

<i>For further information about this Collaborative Doctoral Award and to submit an Expression of Interest, please contact:</i>	
Lead Supervisor (or Alternative Contact):	Professor Rebecca Clifford
Email:	rebecca.clifford@durham.ac.uk
Expressions of Interest must be received no later than:	31 January 2024
Expressions of Interest must take the following format:	
<i>Please use this space to state the preferred format and any required accompanying documentation, e.g.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 500 word personal statement; • 2-page CV • 2 x references, etc... 	
A two-page CV, and a personal statement of no more than two pages explaining why the candidate would be an ideal match for the project.	
Interviews for shortlisted candidates are expected to take place:	Week commencing 12 February 2024

APPLICANT CRITERIA

Candidates must also meet the criteria for acceptance on a doctoral programme as set out by the host institution's Postgraduate Admissions Service. The successful candidate will be required to submit a postgraduate application to their host institution following notification that they are to be awarded a conditional CDA studentship, and meet the conditions of the offer of a place on the doctoral programme.

Education and Professional Qualifications	Essential Criteria	A good Masters' degree in History or a cognate subject, such as Heritage Studies.
	Desirable Criteria	Previous studies in modern Jewish history and/or the modern history of North East England.
Research and Impact Experience and Training	Essential Criteria	Demonstrable ability to produce concise and well-written reports.
	Desirable Criteria	Evidence of interest in the heritage sector.
Professional Practice and Job-related Experience	Essential Criteria	Ability to manage time effectively and work towards deadlines. Evidence of excellent presentation skills, written and oral.
	Desirable Criteria	Experience of working with community groups.

Interpersonal Skills	Essential Criteria	Evidence of successful team working. Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills and ability to communicate in a clear and accessible way to diverse audiences.
	Desirable Criteria	
Other Factors	Essential Criteria	
	Desirable Criteria	