

Job description and selection criteria

Job title	Research Associate (Cult of Saints project: Latin)
Division	Humanities
Department	Faculty of History
Location	Oxford
Grade and salary	Grade 7, points 1-3: £29,541 - £31,331 per annum
Hours	Full time (37.5 hours per week)
Contract type	Fixed-term (four-year appointment for the research project 'The Cult of Saints: a christendom-wide study of its origins, spread and development', funded by the European Research Council)
Reporting to	Dr Bryan Ward-Perkins, History Faculty
Vacancy reference	110973

Introduction

The University

The University of Oxford is a complex and stimulating organisation, which enjoys an international reputation as a world-class centre of excellence in research and teaching. It employs over 10,000 staff and has a student population of over 22,000.

Most staff are directly appointed and managed by one of the University's 130 departments or other units within a highly devolved operational structure - this includes over 6,500 'academic-related' staff (postgraduate research, computing, senior library, and administrative staff) and over 2,700 'support' staff (including clerical, library, technical, and manual staff). There are also over 1,600 academic staff (professors, readers, lecturers), whose appointments are in the main overseen by a combination of broader divisional and local faculty board/departmental structures. Academics are generally all also employed by one of the 38 constituent colleges of the University as well as by the central University itself.

Our annual income in 2011/12 was £1,016.1m. Oxford is one of Europe's most innovative and entrepreneurial universities: income from external research contracts exceeds £409m p.a., and more than 80 spin-off companies have been created.

For more information please visit: www.ox.ac.uk/staff/about_the_university.html

Humanities Division

The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together the faculties of Classics; English; History; Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics; Medieval and Modern Languages; Music; Oriental Studies; Philosophy; and Theology and Religion, as well as the Ruskin School of Art. The Division has over 500 members of academic staff, approximately 4,100 undergraduates (more than a third of the total undergraduate population of the University), 1,000 postgraduate research students and 720 students on postgraduate taught courses.

The Division offers world-class teaching and research, backed by the superb resources of the University's libraries and museums, including the famous Bodleian Libraries, with their 11 million volumes and priceless early book and manuscript collections, and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Such historic resources are linked to cutting-edge agendas in research and teaching, with an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary study. Our faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages.

For more information please visit: www.humanities.ox.ac.uk

Faculty of History

The Faculty of History in Oxford is the largest in the United Kingdom and one of the largest in the world. It has a very strong international reputation for its scholarship and its teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, with particular strengths in the history of the British Isles, continental Europe, imperial and global history, the United States, economic and social history, intellectual history and the history of science, medicine and technology. Within the Faculty there is also a department for the History of Art, and the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine. Research in the Faculty is focused around, and facilitated by, nine formal research centres – the newest of these being the Oxford Global History Research Centre (<http://global.history.ox.ac.uk>) - and twenty informal research clusters. Research centres provide focal points for major individual and collaborative research projects, and for the organisation of conferences and workshops, and can call upon administrative support from within the Faculty. The Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity (<http://www.ocla.ox.ac.uk/>) is hosted by the History Faculty, but brings together scholars from across the whole University interested in the period between c.300 and c.750 AD, while the Oxford Centre for Medieval History (<http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/medieval/index.htm>) provides a forum for the work of faculty members and the postgraduate research community in medieval history. Research centres and research clusters support regular seminars and other events, which have provided the context and stimulus for the preparation and writing of many publications. In addition to faculty postholders, there are large numbers of other scholars involved in historical research and teaching in Oxford's colleges, museums and libraries, as well as a continuous stream of distinguished academic visitors to the University.

More information about the Faculty can be found at: www.history.ox.ac.uk

The Cult of Saints

The Cult of Saints is a major five-year research project funded by a €2.3 million European Research Council Advanced Grant (2014-18), directed by Dr Bryan Ward-Perkins, and based at the University of Oxford with support from partners in Reading and Warsaw. The project will investigate the origins and development of the cult of Christian saints. There have been Christian saints from the earliest days of the religion – the Apostles in the Gospels; and

in *Acts*, Stephen, the first martyr, and Paul, the missionary to the Gentiles – but these early saints, though revered and respected, did not initially attract cult. However, in the third century things began to change, when intercessionary power was first attributed to saints, in particular the new martyrs of the faith. Christians started to pray to saints, asking for their help in this life with problems such as illness and the ravages of the weather, and began to visit their graves and to attribute power to their earthly remains. By 700, the cult of saints that is familiar from medieval and modern times was fully evolved, with power being attributed even to the images of saints, and with some of them coming to play specialised roles (for instance as protectors of particular communities).

The *Cult of Saints* will seek to gather all the evidence that is available on the cult of saints, from its origins until around AD 700, across all the languages of early Christianity that have left evidence from this period (Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Greek and Latin). The project will be based primarily on textual evidence, including inscriptions, graffiti, and scattered papyrus references, but will also consider iconographical evidence wherever it exists. The project will employ six post-doctoral researchers, for periods between two and four-and-a-half years, and produce both a series of monographs, and a freely-available searchable database of the evidence for the cult of saints, with English translations of texts and full reference to relevant scholarly work.

During the course of the project, two workshops will be held with scholars from across Europe expert in this field, in particular to test the effectiveness of the nascent database. Towards the end of the five years, there will also be a major international conference.

For more information, please see the project description at Annex A.

Overview of the role

This is a four-year fixed-term post as a researcher on the ERC-funded project 'The Cult of Saints', working as part of a team of six post-doctoral researchers reporting to the Principal Investigator, Dr Bryan Ward-Perkins. The postholder will have responsibility for collecting and researching the material in Latin, and, in particular, will produce a major new study of the *Martyrologium Hieronymianum* informed by the Cult of Saints database. S/he will liaise closely with a major project collaborator, Dr Robert Wisniewski of Warsaw University, who will have oversight of, and participate in, the collection of the Latin evidence. The post is available from 1 February 2014 or as soon as possible thereafter.

It is expected that the project team will be located within the offices of The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter in central Oxford. As an Early Career Research Fellow at TORCH, the postholder will have access to training and personal development sessions, and be part of a community of Humanities early career researchers across the University. For more information, see <http://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/>

Responsibilities/duties

- Conduct independent, excellent research on the origin and development of the cult of Christian saints, in libraries in the UK and abroad, under the direction of the Principal Investigator and in close liaison with Dr Wisniewski.
- Represent the project and deliver papers at team workshops, external workshops, conferences, public events, and other meetings.
- Produce a single-authored study of the *Martyrologium Hieronymianum*.
- In collaboration with Dr Wisniewski, systematically collect onto the Cult of Saints database all the evidence in Latin needed for the project.

- Attend team meetings and other events in the UK and abroad as required. Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the research team on methodologies or procedures.
- Contribute to the public engagement work of the project.

Selection criteria

Essential

- A completed doctorate in a relevant field (e.g. History, Classics, Patristics).
- Excellent knowledge of Latin and English.
- An effective working-knowledge of the other principal western academic languages (German, French and Italian).
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and to represent Oxford and the project at meetings
- Ability to conduct, with only light supervision, autonomous academic research and associated activities.
- Ability to write to a deadline.
- Ability and willingness to work as part of a team, share insights and findings, and engage in collaborative, collective and experimental forms of research and publication.
- Willingness to systematically collect, and input, data across the full range of Latin evidence.
- Evidence of interest in the specific research objectives of the project.
- Knowledge of the historical context of late-antique Christianity.

Desirable

- Knowledge of one or more languages of relevance to the project, over and above Latin (e.g. Greek, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, or Georgian).
- Experience of working with hagiographical material.
- Experience of working with databases.
- Experience of independently managing a discrete area of a research project.
- Experience of actively collaborating in the development of research articles for publication.
- Experience of public engagement around historical research.

Working at the University of Oxford

For further information about working at Oxford, please see:

http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/research/

How to apply

If you consider that you meet the selection criteria, click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a user. You will then be required to complete a number of screens with your application details, relating to your skills and experience. When prompted, please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them at this stage. You will also be required to upload a CV and supporting statement which explains how you meet the selection criteria for the post. The

supporting statement should explain your relevant experience which may have been gained in employment, education, or you may have taken time away from these activities in order to raise a family, care for a dependant, or travel for example. Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that that you meet the selection criteria outlined above and we are happy to consider evidence of transferable skills or experience which you may have gained outside the context of paid employment or education.

Please save all uploaded documents to show your name and the document type.

All applications must be received by midday UK time Thursday 19 December 2013.

Information for Priority Candidates

*A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment owing to the fact that he or she has been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments and this letter **must** be attached to any application they submit.*

Full details of the priority application process are available at:

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/red/redproc/prioritycandidate

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk

To return to the online application at any stage, please click on the following link
www.recruit.ox.ac.uk

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic e-mails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all e-mails.

Annex A

The Cult of Saints

Introduction

The European Research Council is funding a major five-year project, based in Oxford, to investigate the origins and development of the cult of Christian saints. The project, which will start in January 2014, is directed by Dr Bryan Ward-Perkins, with the support of other established scholars: Dr Arietta Papaconstantinou of the University of Reading, Dr David Taylor and Professor Theo van Lint, both of Oxford University, and Dr Robert Wisniewski of the University of Warsaw. The project will employ six post-doctoral researchers, for periods between two and four-and-a-half years, and produce both a series of monographs and a freely-available searchable database of the evidence for the cult of saints, covering the period from the very beginnings of saintly cults, in the third century, up to around AD 700.

The Topic of Investigation

There have been Christian saints from the earliest days of the new religion: the Apostles in the Gospels; and in *Acts*, Stephen, the first martyr, and Paul, the missionary to the Gentiles. But these early saints, though revered and respected, did not initially attract cult. However, in the third century things began to change, when intercessionary power was first attributed to saints, in particular the new martyrs of the faith. Christians started to pray to saints, asking for their help in this life with problems such as illness and the ravages of the weather, and began to visit their graves and to attribute power to their earthly remains. By 700, the cult of saints that is familiar from medieval and modern times was fully evolved, with power being attributed even to the images of saints, and with some of them coming to play specialised roles (for instance as protectors of particular communities).

This story is familiar in its broad outlines, and has been covered by some of the most innovative scholarship on Late Antiquity of recent decades. But there is no recent overview of the whole remarkable phenomenon of the emergence of the cult of saints. This is quite simply because there is more evidence than a single scholar can master, written in all the languages of early Christianity: Syriac, Coptic, Armenian and Georgian, as well as Greek and Latin.

The Project

The Cult of Saints project will seek to gather all the evidence that is available on the cult of saints, from its origins until around AD 700, across all the languages of early Christianity that have left evidence from this period. The project will be based primarily on textual evidence – of all sorts, so including inscriptions, graffiti, and scattered papyrus references – but will also consider iconographical evidence wherever it exists. All available evidence for the cult of saints will be collected into a single database by the team of researchers, with English translations of texts, a basic discussion, and full reference to relevant scholarly work. The database will be structured to be searchable in a multitude of ways – so that, for instance, the full evidence for the cult of St Sergius in the West in the sixth century can readily be found, or the evidence can be narrowed down, for instance, to evidence of relics of Sergius within a narrower geographical and chronological span, such as later-sixth-century Italy.

The Research Associates will not only collect the essential evidence for the overall picture; they will also produce individual monographs within their particular area, on topics that have been identified for their inherent interest and importance, as well as for their contribution to the wider project. For instance, in Egypt, where most of the evidence in inscriptions and on

papyri has already been collected, the primary focus will be on the written *Lives* of the saints, which have never been systematically collected and sorted. For the languages of the Christian East, the Research Associates will be supervised and aided by the senior scholars on the project, who are specialists in these areas: Dr Papaconstantinou for Coptic, Professor van Lint for Armenian and Georgian, and Dr Taylor for Syriac.

During the course of the project, two workshops will be held with scholars from across Europe expert in this field, in particular to test the effectiveness of the nascent database. Towards the end of the five years, there will also be a major international conference.

The Team

- The Principal Investigator and Project Director, Dr Bryan Ward-Perkins, who will also oversee the detailed collection of the evidence in Greek.
- A major Collaborator, Dr Robert Wisniewski (of Warsaw University), who will oversee, and participate in, the collection of the Latin evidence.
- Three established specialists who will oversee the work, and data-collection, in Coptic, Armenian, Georgian and Syriac: Dr Arietta Papaconstantinou, Professor van Lint and Dr Taylor.
- A post-doctoral Researcher working for 4.5 years on the Syriac material.
- A post-doctoral Researcher working for 4.5 years on the Greek textual material.
- A post-doctoral Researcher working for 4 years on the Coptic material.
- A post-doctoral Researcher working either for 4 years on both the Armenian and Georgian material, or two Researchers for 2 years each, on each of these languages.
- A post-doctoral Researcher working for 4 years, with Dr Wisniewski, on the Latin material.
- A post-doctoral Researcher working for 2 years on the Greek epigraphic material.
- A Project Administrator.

