PHD BURSARY IN 17TH-19TH CENTURY JAPANESE HISTORY

We invite applications for a funded, full-time, 3 year PhD position (with the possibility of extension) in the context of a European Research Council Starting Grant project, *Aftermath of the East Asian War of 1592-1598* led by ICREA Professor Rebekah Clements at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Department of Translation, Interpreting, and East Asian Studies. The successful candidate will be expected to write his or her dissertation on an aspect of the economic, demographic, or technological aftermath in Japan of Toyotomi Hideyoshi's Invasions of Korea, focusing on a period falling within the 17th-19th centuries. **The language of the project and of the dissertation will be English, and the successful candidate is not expected to speak Spanish or Catalan;** however, the successful candidate will be encouraged to acquire a basic competence in one of these languages during their tenure.

Benefits

The PhD bursary is regulated by a pre-doctoral labour contract for research staff at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. It is a 3 year fixed-term, full-time contract, with the possibility of extension for a fourth year in certain circumstances. The gross annual value of the bursary will be tuition fees plus €21180. Generous funding for fieldwork, purchase of books, and for conference travel will be provided, and there will be support for publication and the opportunity to present at an international conference organized as part of the project.

The successful candidate will undertake their PhD as a member of a team of international researchers in the context of an innovative project within the prestigious ERC framework. They will be provided with a working space at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in a shared office with other members of the group, and will be expected to be regularly present in the office to collaborate with other members of the team.

About the Project

Aftermath is a five year, ERC starting grant project (2018-2023) led by Prof. Rebekah Clements at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The project seeks to understand the legacy of the Imjin War of 1592-1598. This conflict involved over 500,000 combatants from Japan, China, and Korea; up to 100,000 Korean civilians were abducted to Japan. The war caused momentous demographic upheaval and widespread destruction but also had long-lasting cultural impact as a result of the removal to Japan of Korean technology and skilled labourers. The conflict and its aftermath bear striking parallels to events in East Asia during World War II, and memories of the 16th-century war remain deeply resonant in the region. But what were the implications for the social, economic, and cultural contours of early-modern East Asia? What can this conflict tell us about the war's

"aftermath" across historical periods and about such periodization itself? There is little Western scholarship on the war and few studies in any language that cross linguistic, disciplinary, and national boundaries to achieve a regional perspective that reflects the interconnected history of East Asia. The focus of this project will be on the period up to the middle of the 17th century, but not precluding ongoing effects. The team, with expertise covering Japan, Korea, and China, will investigate three themes: the movement of people and demographic change, the impact on the natural environment, and technological diffusion. The project will be the first large scale investigation to use Japanese, Korean, and Chinese sources to understand the war's aftermath. It will broaden understandings of the early-modern world and push the boundaries of war legacy studies by exploring the meanings of "aftermath" in the East Asian context.

Eligibility

- For details of entry requirements to the PhD at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, see the following link: https://www.uab.cat/web/study/phds/admission/admission-new-doctoral-studies-regulated-by-rd-99/2011-1345666996343.html
- The candidate must satisfy the above entry requirements by the date of admission to the PhD program at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona no later than **1 October, 2019.**

Requirements

- A degree or degrees satisfying the above entry requirements on the topic of premodern Japanese history, East Asian Studies including Japan, or an equivalent topic.
- An excellent command of academic English.
- Excellent modern Japanese language skills
- The ability to use literary or classical Chinese and premodern Japanese for research purposes.

Desirable

- IT experience with bibliographic software or database entry.
- Some experience with reading *hentaigana, kuzushiji,* and/or *komonjo*.
- Modern Chinese or Korean language skills.

Expected outputs

- A PhD dissertation in English satisfying the requirements of the program at The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. See: https://www.uab.cat/web/study/phds/rules-scheduling-and-fees-1345680564237.html.
- Contribution to the project's online bibliographic database of source materials.
- A conference presentation at the conference organized as part of the project (to be held in Barcelona).
- Assistance with the organization of the project conference.

How to apply

The application comprises the following documents:

- a CV in English;
- cover letter in English;
- a research project proposal in English explaining the topic of the proposed PhD dissertation;
- two reference letters. At least one reference letter must be in English, the second may be in either English or Japanese;
- copies of academic transcripts of any previous degrees relevant to the position.

Applications should be sent to BOTH Rebekah Clements (rebekah.clements@icrea.cat) and Montserrat Paredes (Montserrat.Paredes@uab.cat) no later than **17ᵗʰ February 2019**:

Shortlisted candidates will be notified within 21 working days of the deadline and will be invited to interview via Skype.

Selection criteria (out of a total of 100 points)

- Quality and relevance of previous education: 25 points

- Language skills: 25points

- IT experience: 5 points

- Quality and relevance of research proposal: 25 points

- Reference letters: 10 points

- Interview: 10 points

Please note that if no eligible candidate has more than 80 points, the position will be re-advertised.