



POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN 17TH AND/OR 18TH CENTURY EAST ASIAN HISTORY (KOREA)

Applications are invited from outstanding candidates for a four-year postdoctoral position in 17th and/or 18th century Korean history as part of the European Research Council funded project (H2020-ERC CoG 758347), *Aftermath of the East Asian War of 1592-1598*, led by [ICREA](#) Professor [Rebekah Clements](#) and hosted by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The successful candidate must be willing to work on the environmental, economic, and/or demographic aftermath of the Imjin War in Korea (preferably focusing on the 17th and/or 18th century) and to develop independent research within the context of the *Aftermath* project. Applications are particularly welcome from researchers whose proposed work would be located within a regional context, borderlands, or who work on another East Asian country in addition to Korea. **The main language of the project is English and candidates are not required 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 so as to be able to participate in locally organized events.

Benefits

We offer a full time research position for up to 4 years (subject to an evaluation after the first 12 months) in an innovative research project funded within the prestigious ERC framework. The candidate will have access to a stimulating research environment as part of a team of researchers, as well as generous funding for fieldwork, the purchase of books, and conference travel. The position is regulated by a post-doctoral labour contract for research staff at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, salary range €21,180-€28,180 for EURAXESS R2 or €28,180-€34,180 for EURAXESS R3, work hours of 37.5 per week plus paid holidays. Depending on qualifications and experience, the salary range can be negotiated. See <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>. The successful candidate will be provided with office space in the shared office of the project on the main campus of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and will be expected to be regularly present in the office to work with other members of the team.

About the Project

Aftermath is a five year, ERC starting grant project (2018-2023) run by Prof. Rebekah Clements at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona with Dr James B Lewis at Oxford University as co-beneficiary. 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, which 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

- Applicants must either already hold a PhD, or
- Applicants currently completing their PhD thesis must be awarded their doctorate via examination before the beginning date of the postdoc position but no later than 1 September 2019.

Requirements

- A PhD (awarded by the start of the postdoc position, see above) in pre-modern Korean History, pre-modern East Asian history including Korea, or equivalent.
- Native or near-native Korean language skills
- The ability to use literary or classical Chinese and modern Japanese for research purposes.
- Excellent command of English.
- Proven ability to read premodern Korean source materials, including palaeographic skills.
- Clear interest in the economic, environmental, or demographic history of seventeenth and/or eighteenth-century Korea.
- Relevant publications (texts accepted for publication are considered).

Desirable

- Reading fluency in modern Chinese.
- IT experience with bibliographic software or database entry.

Expected outputs during the project

- At least two peer-reviewed articles or edited book chapters;
- Contribution to the project's co-authored volume on the demographic, environmental, and technological aftermath of the war from an East Asian regional perspective;
- Contribution to the project's online bibliographic database of source materials;
- Co-organization of an international conference (to be held in Barcelona);
- A presentation at the aforementioned project conference.

How to apply

The application comprises the following documents:

- Detailed CV in English;
- Cover letter in English;
- PhD summary in English;
- Sample of relevant published or forthcoming work in English, Korean, Chinese, or Japanese (up to 12,000 words if in English, or roughly equivalent character count if in Korean, Chinese, or Japanese)
- If submitting a sample of work in Korean, Chinese, or Japanese, please also submit a sample of relevant published or forthcoming work in English (up to 12,000 words).
- A research project proposal in English outlining the work you would undertake while on the project;
- Two reference letters. At least one reference letter must be in English, the second may be in either English, Korean, Chinese, or Japanese.

The 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 invited to interview either in person at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona or via Skype, within 21 days of the application deadline.

Selection criteria (out of a total of 120 points)

- Quality and relevance of PhD dissertation: 20 points
- Language skills: 20 points
- Source skills (including palaeographic): 15 points
- IT experience: 5 points
- Publication record and quality of submitted pieces: 20 points
- Quality and relevance of research proposal: 20 points
- Reference letters: 10 points
- Interview: 10 points

Please note that if no candidate has more than 100 points, the position will be re-advertised.

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 758347).