

HOTCUS Doctoral and Early Career Travel Awards – Example 1

Status (i.e. doctoral, early career)	Doctoral
If early career, date of PhD award	n/a
Project title	'Not for the casual dilettante': Cold War study abroad and American women in Europe
Project abstract (200 words maximum)	<p>My PhD thesis interrogates women's role as a vanguard of Americanism through participation in study abroad during the Cold War. Spanning the apex of anti-communist fervour in the 1950s, through to US cultural and militaristic imperialism in the 1960s, each chapter magnifies how the impact of transnational encounters taking place in Cold War Europe reconfigured American women's personal subjectivities.</p> <p>By innovatively situating women's histories of study abroad in relation to Cold War transnationalism and empire, without restricting them to these frames, I offer an approach unexplored within existing scholarship and position women's voices at the centre of current debates about the culture of the Cold War.</p> <p>I am applying for the HOTCUS travel grant to scrutinise Smith College's European study abroad programmes and participants during the 1950s and 1960s. Smith was one of the earliest organisers of undergraduate study abroad programmes in the United States, explicitly striving to prepare American women for their roles as educators and peacemakers, at both national and international levels. Comprehensive examination of Smith's Junior Year Abroad records will shed insight into the gendered nature of study abroad and the multifaceted significance of women's participation.</p>
Proposed research trip or other activity (300 words maximum)	<p>I plan to visit the Young Library at Smith College from 2-16 May 2020 to consult the Junior Year Abroad Programme (JYA) archives (1925-1970), and the personal letters and ephemera of Smith undergraduate women who studied in Western Europe (1953-1966). Prior consultation of the letters of Smith Geneva JYA founder and director Madeline Doty (1946-1949) has shown how moral conduct was the prioritised medium for Smith women to disseminate American virtues. To further understand the purpose international education served Smith College, as well as its female participants, I will also consult the archival holdings for JYA-related correspondence of Smith College Presidents Herbert Davis (1939-1949), Benjamin Fletcher (1949-1959), and Thomas Mendenhall (1959-1970).</p> <p>Previous consultation of 1950s Smith JYA Geneva alumnae Cynthia Cunningham and Mary Katherine Lent's personal letters has illuminated how encountering Cold War hallmarks abroad, such as communism and US foreign policy directives, conjoined women's political identities and obligations to their global interactions with American prerogatives. The letters of Mary Katherine Lent, in particular, also detail how the independence gained through European exploration inspired career ambitions and professional mobility.</p>

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	<p>Building on this foundation, I will examine the letters of 1950s and 1960s Smith JYA alumnae Kathleen Hanley, Carolyn Richmond, Diana Edgerton, and Sherley Young, who collectively studied in France, Italy, and Spain, and scrutinise how their engagements with American objectives on the global stage reconfigured their cultural and political allegiances. This will allow me to better understand how these women's personal subjectivities were shaped by experiences of contemporary and formerly fascist regimes (Spain and Italy).</p>
Planned outputs (PhD chapters, publications, conference papers etc.)	<p>This archival trip will furnish materials imperative to all chapters of my PhD thesis. The records pertaining to the Junior Year Abroad program will nourish a key element of my thesis which is to identify the imperial objectives behind study abroad and accentuate this facet of American empire within the broader realm of post-war liberal internationalism.</p> <p>The personal letters and ephemera of study abroad participants illuminate the impact of transnational encounters occurring in Cold War Europe, incorporating American women's interactions with communism, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the nuclear arms race, social justice, and US cultural and militaristic imperialism. Through this exploration I am also able to argue how American women's mobility often provoked complex and polygonal relationships with institutional aims as they undertook transformational experiences which questioned the global role of the United States, as well as its domestic social precepts of marriage and capitalism, while somewhat unintentionally advancing the cause of American empire by participating in an expansion of its cultural and state power in Europe.</p> <p>Furthermore, through accentuating the independence, intellectualism, ambition, and political astuteness of these women, I play a part in broadening American women's Cold War historical representation beyond the prescripts of marriage, maternalism, and suburban domesticity.</p> <p>As my work employs mobility as its lens, and thus diverges from the more traditional framework of anti-communism, I would therefore look forward to receiving feedback on my analyses at the annual HOTCUS conference in June 2020 should my panel application be successful.</p> <p>I would also hope to present and gain feedback on this chapter at relevant gender history and foreign relations research seminars, such as the Society for Historians of Foreign Relations seminar in New Orleans, the Heidelberg Spring Academy, the University of California at Santa Barbara-George Washington University-London School of Economics International Graduate Student Conference on the Cold War, or the Centre for Gender Identity and Subjectivity at the University of Oxford.</p> <p>Additionally, study abroad is a growing, engaging, accessible topic of broad interest. Therefore, I hope to convert this research into articles for publication in journals such as the <i>Journal of American Studies</i> and <i>History of Women in the Americas</i>.</p>

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Overall Budget (include only headline costs and use section below for breakdown)	Travel:	£362
	Accommodation:	£732
	Other costs:	N/A
	TRIP TOTAL:	£1094
	TOTAL REQUESTED FROM HOTCUS (not to exceed £750):	£750
Breakdown of costs outlined above (be as detailed and accurate as possible)	Return Flight: London to Boston: £280 (Kayak.com, as of 27/11/2019) Return Transportation from Boston to Northampton: £82 Peter Pan Bus (£41/trip) Accommodation, Northampton (03 May – 15 May): Airbnb £586 (£48.83/night) Accommodation, Boston (02 May, 15 May): £146 (£73/night)	
Other funding applications	Successful:	
	Outstanding:	BAAS Post graduate Travel Award Smith College Madeleine L'Engle Travel Research Fellowship