

HOTCUS Doctoral and Early Career Travel Awards – Example 2

Status (i.e. doctoral, early career)	Doctoral
If early career, date of PhD award	n/a
Project title	Regulating Women: Professional Women and Criminal Abortion before Roe v. Wade
Project abstract (200 words maximum)	<p>My PhD thesis examines women’s role in the suppression of abortion during criminalisation. Looking at the period when abortion became illegal, from the 1850s, through to reform in the 1960s, each chapter examines how a different group of professionalising women—physicians, philanthropists, police, teachers, and cultural influencers—controlled other women’s reproduction.</p> <p>Through the gaze of female regulators, I look beyond legal and religious prohibitions of abortion. This lens illuminates how gendered processes of professionalisation, as well as class, ethnic, and citizenship concerns, figured in state and private control of women’s reproduction.</p> <p>I am applying for the HOTCUS travel grant to further my research into women in policing and their undercover investigations of abortion in New York in the 1910s and 1920s. Female police matrons, including Ada Brady and Isabella Goodwin, posed undercover as women seeking abortions, approached immigrant midwives, submitted themselves to invasive pelvic examinations, and arrested the midwives for attempted criminal abortion. This practice—hitherto undocumented by historians—changes our understanding of methods of surveillance and women’s role in the expanding regulatory state.</p> <p>My thesis uses NYPD matrons and detectives as a case study to illustrate how some women’s professional success depended upon the control of other women’s sexuality.</p>
Proposed research trip or other activity (300 words maximum)	<p>I plan to visit New York in March 2019 for three weeks to consult the records of municipal and private organisations.</p> <p>I will spend my first week (commencing 4th March) at the New York Municipal Archives. To overcome the scarcity of early police records, I will use the newly available District Attorney Indictments (1916-25). During a brief visit in Summer 2017, I consulted 60 of the 91 abortion indictments, however it was only when I reviewed my scans in the UK that I identified these undercover practices. I wish to return to the archives to examine the remaining abortion cases, as well as other cases involving NYPD women, namely indictments for sexual assault and practising medicine without a licence. To further understand the policing of abortion, I will look to NYPD crime scene photographs and corresponding photo unit log books (1920s-30s), NYPD annual reports, police manuals, and homicide bureau journals.</p> <p>In the following week (from the 11th March), I will continue work at the Municipal archive by examining mayoral correspondence from William Gaynor (1909-1913)</p>

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	<p>to John Hylan (1918-25). These collections contain letters pertaining to women in policing and those from the public calling for the police to investigate crime. I will supplement this police material with the collections of the Lloyd Sealy Library, which holds NYPD Police Blotters (1916-30s) from several Manhattan precincts and the records of the International Association of Women Police (1929-2016).</p> <p>In my final week (beginning 18th March), I shall visit the New York Public Library (NYPL) to research the records of the Committee of Fourteen (1905-32) to examine how undercover practices passed between different organisations. Also at the NYPL, the Women's Prison Association of New York collection (1845-1983) records the activities of key advocates for women in the police.</p>	
<p>Planned outputs (PhD chapters, publications, conference papers etc.)</p>	<p>This archival trip will furnish the material for the second chapter of my PhD thesis that examines female matrons and detectives' investigations of abortion. It will establish how undercover surveillance of abortion passed from private organisations—namely newspapers, county medical societies, and private reform groups—to municipal agencies.</p> <p>This is a key analytical chapter of my thesis that shows women's role in the surveillance and control of reproduction in the early-twentieth-century. I would therefore look forward to receiving feedback on it at the annual HOTCUS conference in June 2019 should I be successful in my application.</p> <p>I would also hope to present and gain feedback on this chapter at relevant gender history research seminars, namely the Graduate Gender and Sexuality History workshop at the University of Cambridge or the Centre for Gender Identity and Subjectivity at the University of Oxford.</p> <p>Additionally, women's undercover policing practice is an engaging, accessible topic of broad interest. Therefore, I hope to use this research as a key part of my access and outreach activities to engage sixth form students with the practice of history through my university, the Brilliant Club, and 'Aim Higher' widening participation initiatives.</p>	
<p>Overall Budget (include only headline costs and use section below for breakdown)</p>	<p>Travel:</p>	<p>£349</p>
	<p>Accommodation:</p>	<p>£844</p>
	<p>Other costs:</p>	<p>£75</p>
	<p>TRIP TOTAL:</p>	<p>£1268</p>
	<p>TOTAL REQUESTED FROM HOTCUS (not to exceed £750):</p>	<p>£668</p>

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Breakdown of costs outlined above (be as detailed and accurate as possible)	Purpose	Expense	Cost
	Travel	Airport transfer; Oxford to Gatwick return	£37
		Flights from London Gatwick to JFK New York, with Norwegian Air (travel dates 3 rd March – 22 nd March)	£300
		New York Airport transfer	£12
	Accommodation	AirBnB in Williamsburg, Brooklyn at £44.50 per night for 19 nights (including service and cleaning fees)	£844
	Other	Local transport; three-week Metro card	£75
Other funding applications	Successful:	My PhD is funded by a — — — Scholarship, which includes a stipend paid at a higher rate to subsidise research trip expenditure. I have budgeted £600 from the scholarship to contribute towards the New York trip.	
	Outstanding:		