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**HOTCUS 2023 Doctoral and Early Career Research Awards**

HOTCUS welcomes applications from doctoral students and recent PhD graduates not yet in academic employment, as well as those on short-term (less than three years), fractional, or hourly paid contracts for its 2023 Research Award competition.

HOTCUS Research Awards support research in any area of twentieth century United States history. Applications may be made for up to £500 for research expenses (including the cost of hiring a research assistant) and/or research travel during the 2023 calendar year. There are no residency restrictions and travel may be to, or within, any country.

A survey conducted by HOTCUS, BrANCH, and BGEAH has brought a significant pattern of exclusion within the field of American history in the UK to light (the survey report is accessible via <https://hotcus.org.uk/diversity-and-inclusion/american-history-in-the-uk-survey/>). In response to the existing challenges which scholars from ethnic minority background face in our community, HOTCUS has taken the decision to award one of this year’s research awards to a scholar from an ethnic minority background.

Applicants must be members of HOTCUS at the time of application.

Successful applicants for a HOTCUS Research Award agree to submit a short report within two months of the activity for publication on the HOTCUS website and acknowledge the award in future publications. We also warmly encourage award recipients to present their research findings at a future HOTCUS Annual Conference.

All applications must be submitted on the application form included below (also available via the HOTCUS website, as are some examples of previous successful proposals).

The deadline for applications is **Friday January 6, 2023**.

Applications should be submitted to [membershipsecretary.hotcus@gmail.com](mailto:membershipsecretary.hotcus@gmail.com)**.** Please direct queries tothe same address.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the competition in February 2023. Applications will be assessed using the following criteria: accuracy and clarity of costings; feasibility of research proposal and schedule; potential contribution of the proposed research to the field of twentieth century American history.

**2023 HOTCUS Doctoral and Early Career Research Awards**

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| **Name** | Anonymised | | | |
| **Email address** | Anoymised | | | |
| **Institution** | University of Oxford | | | |
| **Do you identify as having an ethnic minority background (yes/no)?** | No | | | |
| **Status (i.e. doctoral, early career)** | Early Career | | **If early career, date of PhD award** | 21 October 2022 |
| **Project title** | Making the News: The Development of Network Television News and the Struggle for Black Freedom in the 1950s and 1960s | | | |
| **Project abstract (200 words maximum)** | *Making the News* is a comprehensive examination of the relationship between the developing network television news industry and the evolving struggle for Black freedom in the United States over the course of the 1950s and 1960s. This monographchallenges the conventional narrative underscored by broad histories of civil rights that the story of television news and civil rights is solely one of the medium’s benefit to the movement. Using an innovative combination of cultural, social, and intellectual history and media studies methodologies to analyse a rich body of evidence from network corporate records and archival news footage to the papers of civil rights activists it turns this assumption about the direction of impact on its head. It argues that the nascent television news industry’s encounter with the explosive topic of race was the crucible which forged the modern television news industry and its relationship to the American body politic. From debates over the definition and execution of objective reporting, to battles over who was in the newsroom, through to discussions about where to draw the line between reporting and influencing events, *Making the News* shows how covering the civil rights story shaped the development of twentieth century America’s most important journalistic medium. | | | |
| **Proposed research (300 words maximum)** | The HOTCUS research award would help fund a crucial 10 day research trip to archives in Washington D.C. and New York to conduct primary research essential to refining and publishing my doctoral research. At the heart of my project is an examination of the professional and public discourses which circulated around news coverage. I explore how the challenge of covering the incendiary civil rights story forced newsmen to grapple with their ideas about race and the purpose and practice of televisual journalism. The personal papers of broadcasting executives which contain production notes, internal correspondence, viewer opinion mail and network memoranda are a crucial source for this analysis.  I have been through the papers of numerous executives at both leading networks of the period, CBS and NBC, however I have yet to access the papers of one of the key figures in this story, Dr. Frank Stanton, president of CBS between 1946 and 1971. This research trip to D.C. would allow me to visit the Library of Congress Manuscript Division where Stanton’s papers are held. I believe documents relating to the creation of the news department’s Editorial Policy Manual in the early 1960s which are held in this collection will be vital for my project as well as Stanton’s correspondence with network chairman William S. Paley. In addition, I plan to visit the Columbia University Rare Books and Manuscript Library in New York to view the Richard Wald collection of newsroom ethics and policies handbooks. These will be invaluable for a more complete understanding of how reporting on America’s racial story caused the networks to adapt their approaches to televisual journalism.  My project in turn relies on a close reading of key television news texts. While in D.C. and New York visiting the LOC Moving Images Resources Center and the Paley Center for Media respectively will allow me to access the archival civil rights news broadcasts in these collections I have identified but have not yet been able to analyse. | | | |
| **Planned outputs (PhD chapters, publications, conference papers etc.)** | I am currently in conversations with Princeton University Press to prepare my manuscript for publication as a part of their *Politics and Society in Modern History* series. This research is essential for my plans for the final monograph. It will also be foundational for an article I am writing examining the public discourse and private network discussions that surrounded the issue of reportorial bias in television news coverage during the civil rights movement for submission to the Journal of American Studies. | | | |
| **Overall Budget (include only headline costs and use section below for breakdown)** | Travel: £597.53  Accommodation: £627.91 | | | |
| **Breakdown of costs outlined above (be as detailed and accurate as possible)** | **Travel:** | Table  Description automatically generated | | |
| **Accommodation:** | Table  Description automatically generated | | |
| **Archival or digital materials:** | N/A | | |
| **Research assistance:** | N/A | | |
| **Other costs:** | N/A | | |
| **TOTAL:** | £1,135.44 | | |
| **TOTAL REQUESTED FROM HOTCUS (not to exceed £500):** | £500 | | |
| **Other funding applications** | **Successful:** Rothermere American Institute Academic Travel Grant (£500)  **Outstanding:** None | | | |