

Royal Museums Greenwich

AHRC Early Career Research Fellowships in Cultural and
Heritage Institutions

Online Townhall event, 18 September 2025

Our sites:

- National Maritime Museum
- Queens House
- Royal Observatory
- Cutty Sark



Our resources:

- Caird Library & Archive (National Maritime Museum)
- Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre (Kidbrooke)
- The Brass Foundry (Woolwich Arsenal)



CHARTING OUR COURSE

WHO WE ARE

WE ARE A COLLECTION OF DIVERSE SITES WITH UNIQUE IDENTITIES, OVERLAPPING INTERESTS AND A COMMON PURPOSE TO CONNECT THE PAST TO THE PRESENT AND SHAPE OUR FUTURE.

Investigating worlds, crossing boundaries, bridging cultures, creating connections.

EXPLORERS OF TIME, SPACE, PLACE, BELONGING.

Uniquely interdisciplinary art, history and science.

Our subjects are local, global and universal.

We are the museum of action and emotion, enabling us to explore the very essence of what makes us human.



NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM



CUTTY SARK

ROYAL OBSERVATORY GREENWICH



QUEEN'S HOUSE

OUR SOCIAL FUNCTION.

Our work helps people to understand why the world is as it is, creating a shared sense of place, belonging and community, while also recognising and representing diversity and individuality.

We connect people to the past and the future, the wider world and the universe, through our collections, research, programmes, digital offer and buildings.

Our guiding concepts underpin and inform how we will seek to tackle various collection and subject themes.

OUR GUIDING CONCEPTS

ADAPTABILITY
HABITABILITY
CREATIVITY
PRACTICALITY
INGENUITY
IDENTITY
EQUALITY
COMMUNITY

WHY WE'RE HERE

We are places for dialogue, debate, learning, connection, collection, celebration, creativity, curiosity, understanding, and fun.

Come and take a look.

WE SERVE COMMUNITIES OF PLACE, AGE, IDENTITY AND INTEREST, WORKING AS A PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL INSTITUTION TO BE:

- Brave and bold
- Relevant
- Inclusive
- Active listeners
- Collaborative
- Proactive
- Creative
- Ethical
- Informed and expert
- Honest



How can I start my course?

Let's talk to the team.

We support skills development, critical thinking, knowledge and understanding.

Social Purpose

We will reach out as well as inviting people in, both virtually and physically.

What is my place in the world?

What is my place in the world?

We strive to foster inclusion and equality in the place of and for opportunity, to support wellbeing and to encourage active citizens.

We care for a unique array of objects and buildings, with our collections at the heart of what we do.



Help us to explore big ideas and specific stories.

Provide coherence, efficiency, inspiration, connectivity.

OUR RELEVANCE TO YOU

People are consulted in the development of new programmes, galleries and exhibitions to ensure we are useful, meaningful and relevant.

People feel welcome in the museum and want to share their experience.

Let's talk to the team.

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Our research priorities:

- British-Caribbean maritime connections
- The democratisation of astronomy in the late 19th-early 20th centuries
- Research which strengthens RMG's ability to support community-led research practice
- Research which illuminates the value of digital technologies to promoting collections access and engagement

British-Caribbean maritime connections

From transatlantic trade and the (resisted) use of enslaved African labour in the 18th century, through the experiences of Caribbean seafarers, to the passenger liners which brought people from the Caribbean to study and work in Britain in the mid-20th century.

We especially welcome research which could strengthen RMG's ability to mark Windrush 80 in 2028, which builds equitable access to collections for wider research use, and which is co-designed with descendant and stakeholder communities.



A close-up port bow view of the Swedish cruise ship Kungsholm (1928) alongside a wharf at Kingston, Jamaica. 1933-1939. Women gathered to sell woven goods to tourists. Marine Photo Service. Royal Museums Greenwich, P83827.

The democratisation of astronomy in the late 19th-early 20th centuries

Research which explores how female and non-professional astronomers were able to participate in astronomical communities of knowledge in this period, particularly through the relationship between the Royal Observatory, Greenwich and the British Astronomical Association as they shared people, instruments and expertise.



Supporting community-led research practice

Research which explores how institutions can promote equitable access to cultural heritage for research; consider strategies through which they can promote research undertaken by individuals from non-academic backgrounds, and co-design resources and training which empower and give agency to researchers.



Digital technologies

Research which illuminates the value of digital technologies to promoting collections access and engagement.

Assets include RMG's extensive oral history collection relating to the lives and experiences of seafarers. We welcome research which develops our capacity to manage and curate digital collections and to engage with digital humanities tools and methods.



Developing your project

Contact us by email with a brief summary of your interests:
research@rmg.co.uk

If your project is viable and meets our priority areas we will offer a short online meeting with relevant staff to provide advice on further resources to use