



ADAPT

(the Adoption of new Technological Arrays in the Production of Broadcast Television)

TWO RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS

EACH WITH A BURSARY OF £16,400 pa at current rate
(+home/EU fees paid)

For study towards a PhD from 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2017

STUDENTSHIP ONE

The evolution of tape-based and digital sound recording in British television production and the conflict between the demands of sound and camera, particularly on location. This project will investigate:

- the use of quarter inch tape and the problems of synchronisation in film;
- the transition from analogue to digital audio recording;
- the adoption of microphone technologies including the adoption of radio microphones;
- the problems of sound on videotape.

STUDENTSHIP TWO

The rapid change from 16mm film cutting to digital editing, a process that in many countries took less than five years and imposed heavy demands on post-production workers. This project will investigate:

- technological innovation;
- labour relations;
- development of technical standards;
- how individuals negotiated the adaptation of their craft skills to a radically new physical way of working.

ADAPT is a five-year, £1.3m research project led by Professor John Ellis. ADAPT is researching and documenting the history of British broadcast television technology between 1960 and the near-present. The project is located in the Department of Media Arts <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/mediaarts/home.aspx>

Television has seen vast technological changes since 1960. In 1960, the revolutionary technologies were two-inch videotape and 16mm film with synced tape-recorded sound. Tape and film editing

gave way to non-linear post-production in the 1990s, and then to tapeless production in high definition.

These changes have affected what has appeared on the screen, and they have also affected the lives of skilled technicians, who sometimes had to adapt to new ways of working, and just as often took a hand in adapting the available equipment to their specific needs. ADAPT's aim is to draw together the complex threads of these stories.

Further information about ADAPT can be found at the project website: www.adaptTVhistory.org.uk

The successful applicants will join a busy department with the Department of Media Arts' active research culture in the fields of film, television and digital media. In addition to working under the supervision of the project leader, Prof. John Ellis, they will benefit from the support of a research team including Dr James Bennett and Dr Nick Hall.

Eligibility

Successful applicants will hold, or will expect to have completed by September 2014, a Masters degree in Film Studies, Television Studies, or a related subject. Experience of research in written archives and/or the collection of oral history will be beneficial, as will an understanding of the methods and concerns surrounding the history of technology. Candidates will be required to work independently under suitable academic supervision, and to produce work which reflects the highest standards of academic rigour and attention to detail.

About Royal Holloway

Royal Holloway, University of London is one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions. In the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, the University ranked 16th in the UK for research of a 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* standard.

In the Department of Media Arts, postgraduate research students are part of a vibrant research culture. The Department hosts a series of research seminars to which speakers of national and international acclaim contribute. All MPhil and PhD students are invited to present their work at the Department's Annual Postgraduate Summer Conference. They also have the opportunity to bid for funding to organise their own conferences and workshops so as to develop additional skills in research management.

How to Apply

Applicants should first complete an online application form, which can be found at:

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/studyhere/researchdegrees/applying/home.aspx> Please select 'Media Arts PhD' under 'Programme' and add 'ADAPT' under 'General Research Area'.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to make informal enquiries to Prof. John Ellis at john.ellis@rhul.ac.uk.

Interviews are planned for the week of 16 June 2014