



2017 YCCSA SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT SUBMISSION

This form is for prospective project supervisors to submit their projects to be included in the YCCSA Summer Scholarships Programme for 2017.

It is the purpose of the YCCSA Summer School that any projects submitted are novel and interdisciplinary in nature.

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| Date | December 2016 |
| Supervisors' Names and Departments / Affiliation and Contact Email | Richard Payne, Environment, richard.payne@york.ac.uk Mark Jenner, History, mark.jenner@york.ac.uk |
| Project Title | Historical and scientific perspectives on socio-ecological response to combined natural hazard events. |
| Project Description | <p><i>Please aim for around 2 paragraphs. Remember that this must be pitched at prospective project scholarship students.</i></p> <p><i>If your project proposal is for a group project, outline the overall structure.</i></p> <p>Most experts predict that with global warming “natural hazard” events will become more frequent. It will therefore be more likely for two or more catastrophic hazards to coincide, producing multiplicative impacts. There were, for instance, catastrophic mud-flows in the Philippines in 1991 which resulted from the interaction of the eruption of the volcano Pinatubo with Typhoon Yunya.</p> <p>One way in which to increase our knowledge of the likely social, cultural and environmental impact of future natural hazard events and to evaluate the forms of social organization and provision which mitigate their effect is by considering what has happened in the past. However, developing an understanding of the complex interactions of the social, the environmental and the perceptual requires an openness to and synthesis of different forms of knowledge, notably bringing together documentary and palaeoenvironmental research.</p> <p>The year 1783-4 was perhaps the worst period documented for natural hazards in Europe. Southern Italy experienced some of the largest earthquakes ever recorded in Europe with tsunamis hitting the coast of Sicily. The Rhine and Danube experienced massive winter flooding and a sequence of exceptionally bright meteors was seen in the skies across northern Europe. Above all, the Laki eruption in Iceland shrouded Europe in sulphurous fog leading to tens of thousands of deaths, exceptionally cold weather and widespread crop failures. This range of phenomena generated a range of commentary which construed them in divergent ways; they also are likely to have left traces in the palaeoenvironmental record.</p> |

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| | <p>This project will combine perspectives and methods from history and the natural sciences to assess the impact of this eruption on the natural environment and human societies in northern England and the diverse ways in which these events were construed and constructed. Using the resources of the Borthwick Archive, notably parish and poor law records, the student will explore the documentary record of the events of 1783-4 and the ways in which communities registered and responded to the extreme weather events of that year. S/he will further examine the potential use of palaeoenvironmental methods to reconstruct the impact of the eruption on the natural environment. This is an exciting interdisciplinary project with the potential to make an important contribution to knowledge.</p> |
| Required Skills | <p><i>A short synopsis of the necessary skills for the summer student(s). Please be careful to specify the skills rather than requiring students to have followed a particular degree programme.</i></p> <p><i>Specify required skills separately for each student in a group project.</i></p> <p>The project will require a systematic and rigorous approach to archival sources and an interest in natural hazards.</p> |
| Supervision and Collaboration Arrangements | <p><i>Outline the planned workshare arrangements over the summer, including specific roles of supervisors.</i></p> <p>Both supervisors will have an active role in supervising the student. Richard Payne will provide support on natural hazard science and will be the first point of contact for the student. Mark Jenner will provide support on eighteenth-century social history and on the institutional contexts which generated many of the documents in the Borthwick. He will be first point of contact when Richard Payne is absent from the University.</p> |
| Project Dates | <p><i>The summer school runs for 9 weeks, starting on Monday, 10 July 2017 and finishing on Friday, 8 September 2017.</i></p> |
| Other Information | <p><i>Anything that doesn't easily fit above.</i></p> <p>In addition to their work in York the student will have the opportunity to gain experience in palaeoenvironmental field research. To participate in fieldwork the student will need to be physically fit and possess appropriate field clothing and footwear.</p> |
| References | <p><i>Please include at least one relevant source of information.</i></p> <p>Witze, A. and Kanipe, J., 2014. <i>Island on Fire: The extraordinary story of Laki, the volcano that turned eighteenth-century Europe dark</i>. Profile Books.</p> <p>This is a good popular book, focussing particularly on the Laki eruption. Reading this would be a good way to understand the context of the project (although this is a popular book so some of the detail should be treated with caution).</p> <p>Grattan, J., and M. Brayshay (1995), 'An amazing and portentous summer: Environmental and social responses in Britain to the 1783 eruption of an Iceland volcano', <i>Geogr. J.</i> 161, 125-133.</p> |

When complete, please email the form to sarah.christmas@york.ac.uk