



IHRA Grant Programme

Title: **2016 Call for Grant Applications**

ID: **597**

Name: **Staffordshire University**

Organization

1. Name of Organization: Staffordshire University
2. Original Name:
3. Street and No.: Leek Road
4. Zip Code: ST4 2DF
5. City: Stoke on Trent
6. State or Province: Staffordshire
7. Country: United Kingdom
8. Mailing Address:
9. Website: www.staffs.ac.uk
10. Not-for-profit Yes
11. Remarks:

Director of Organization

12. Title: Professor
13. Name: Michael Gunn
14. Telephone: 00441782 294000
15. Email: m.gunn@staffs.ac.uk

Project

16. Title: Mapping Cultural Genocide and Killing Sites
17. Type: Raise awareness and promote research into the causes of Holocaust
18. Please indicate whether your project has one of the following focuses. (If your project covers more than one area, please select the most relevant or primary focus): IHRA Multi-Year Work Plan topics
19. Projected budget for € 209,241.00
20. Amount requested from IHRA: € 81,089.00
21. Proposed date project will begin: 01 Jul 2016
22. Proposed duration of project in months: 24

Main Contact for Project

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Alternative Contact for Project

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Former Project Applications to IHRA

Institutional Information

1. Describe the major purposes and activities of your organization or

Staffordshire University is a Higher Education Institution in Staffordshire, England. We hold degree awarding powers and a constitution that is ratified by government to forward educational aims. The University has 16000 students within four faculties (Business and Law, Health Sciences, Computing Engineering and Science, and Arts and Creative Technologies). We take an active role in research and have an excellent track record in working with global partners. The University has taken part in many successful international projects through funding programmes such as FP6/7, Horizon 2020, and Erasmus. Our research is part of the national Research-Excellence-Framework (REF) which ensures that we meet high quality standards as well as creating a dynamic and innovative research environment for our staff. All of the research conducted at Staffordshire University comes from our highly specialised Centres of Research that embrace academic discovery in the fields of economic, environmental, cultural, technological, scientific, health-based and social development.

2. Date organization established:

01 Sep 1901

3. Number of permanent staff members and number of volunteers in your institution:

1158

4. Organization's current annual budget (EUR) and reference year for annual

£118.4 million latest accounts in 2013/14; 156,170,013 euros turnover 2014/15

5. List the board members and professionals holding major positions within the organization:Please see <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/about/governance/membership/> for full details

Current Governance membership

The Vice Chancellor

Professor Michael Gunn Vice-Chancellor

Independent Members

David Gage (Chair of the Board) Building Society Chairman, former Corporate Banking Director, runs own management consultancy business

Cordella Bart-Stewart Solicitor, sole principal of Stewart & Co and Fee Paid Judge of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal

Richard Cotterell General Manager, Caterpillar

Rebecca Dobbs Founder and Director of Maya Vision, TV and film producer/director

Mike Herbert (Deputy Chair of the Board) Regional Director, St Modwen Developments Ltd

Barry Machin Non-Executive Director and Audit Chair, NHS North Staffordshire

Elaine Simpson Non-Executive Director for Birmingham Children's Hospital and Acorn Care

Sara Williams Chief Executive, Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce

Ruth Thompson Former senior civil servant

Gary Crowe, Financial Services industry Senior Director & Non-Executive Director

Cathryn Hickey Project Manager Innovation, Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Project Summary

Overview**1. Provide a concise summary of the project and explain why this project is needed. Please also list here the specific objectives and expected results:**

Before the Holocaust, Jewish cemeteries were at the heart of Jewish communities, as places where history was preserved and remembered. During the Holocaust, the Nazis saw them as physical and symbolic expressions of Jewish culture. In an attempt to erase all traces of Jewish people, tombstones were toppled, graves desecrated, bones removed, and funerary houses looted. Not content with inflicting physical damage, the Nazis used cemeteries as execution sites, with mass graves excavated for (and sometimes by) those killed.

This project will raise awareness of the causes and consequences of cultural and physical genocide within Jewish cemeteries, directly tackling racism, xenophobia and hostility in the present.

This will be achieved by:

(1) Conducting new research into relationships between the destruction of property by Nazis and their collaborators, and the use of religious spaces as killing sites.

(2) Undertaking a series of "social action projects" at selected Jewish cemeteries where cultural and physical genocide occurred in the past, and where neglect and vandalism is occurring presently.

(3) Disseminating the results of (1) and (2) via a state-of-the-art digital platform.

The project will adopt a unique interdisciplinary methodology to achieve its aims, utilising techniques from history, archaeology, digital humanities, conservation and community engagement. Detailed historical research will be undertaken on the nature of cultural and physical genocide within Jewish

cemeteries in the Oświęcim, Warsaw and Lublin regions (Poland), using documents, photographs, aerial-imagery, maps, plans, witness testimony and site visits. This project will rectify a lack of research into the reasons why Jewish cemeteries were used as killing sites and why certain cemeteries were targeted. This will lead on to the “social action projects”, where members of target groups will collaborate with the project team at two cemeteries (Oświęcim and another in the Warsaw/Lublin region TBC during site survey visit). They will work alongside experts to locate unmarked killing sites, graves and tombstones using a unique *non-invasive* approach, seeking to forensically document Holocaust sites whilst accounting for their religious and commemorative significance (Sturdy Colls 2015). This approach includes photogrammetry (360-degree photography and drone-survey), LiDAR, topographic-survey and geophysical surveying to identify, characterise and preserve material remains within selected cemeteries through digital record. Additionally, tombstones will be reinstated, graffiti removed and cemeteries tidied. By undertaking this work, the project intends to explore the benefits of community-archaeology and restoration as means to tackle intolerance. Participants will explore past and present examples of the destruction of cultural spaces, allowing reflection on causes and consequences of these attitudes and actions.

The project's results will feed into a state-of-the-art digital platform - a novel educational tool which can be used by target groups, raising awareness of the Holocaust and xenophobia beyond the life-time of the project. Overall, the project intends to provide a framework for engaging civil society, policy makers and the wider public using new technologies. This project will mark the beginning of a planned long-term collaboration between the project partners as part of a commitment to researching this important, yet under-examined, aspect of Holocaust history.

2. How does your proposal fit within the Programme aims of the current IHRA Strategy (Please refer to the Guidelines for Applicants for details of the Grant)

This proposal is deliberately ambitious in targeting a broad range of focuses present within the Programme aims of IHRA's strategy. It allows participants to explore past and present examples of the destruction of cultural spaces and the people connected to them in order to reflect on the causes and consequences of these attitudes and actions; thus the mechanisms and impact of the Holocaust will be explored and disseminated to a wide audience. This represents a new area of research relating also to the IHRA Multi-Year Working Plan on Killing Sites. Engagement of participants will be achieved through the use of new technology and media; another of IHRA's special focuses. This will in turn lead to new research and dialogue concerning the implications of cultural destruction for the present and future. Participants will directly address the impact of the continued neglect and vandalism of cultural centres - firstly, via direct participation in fieldwork which aims to uncover and record recent and historic acts of xenophobia, and secondly, through engagement with the project's results. Through a series of partnerships, “social actions” and sustainable tools, the project aims to provide a long-term platform for examining and tackling prejudice and for identifying its roots.

3. Please specify the type of your project:

Research
Website/interactive tools/new media
Educational Materials/Handbook/Curriculum Development

Please make sure to review the following related attachments:

- Bibliography
- Survey of literature
- List of archives, archival fonds and kinds of material

Target Groups

4. Who are the main target group(s)/intended beneficiaries of the proposed project? Why have you selected these target groups?:

The project will aim to reach several target groups to achieve maximum impact. Political decision-makers will be targeted within the Polish Ministry of Culture, regional and local councils, and the UK-government-led Holocaust Memorial Foundation in an attempt to inform policy-making with regards: 1) Holocaust education, specifically the causes and consequences of Nazi genocide; 2) education

concerning intolerance in the present and future, with a specific focus on early warning indicators of physical violence provided by the destruction of cultural property; 3) the value of protecting and preserving cultural property and, in particular, killing sites. Mayors, civil servants and Police will be engaged at local level, along with religious and community leaders. The latter includes the Rabbinical Commission for Cemeteries, the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, the Auschwitz Jewish Center and the Jewish Community of Bielsko-Biala. In order to disseminate the project's results to a broad international audience and to engender a sense of social responsibility amongst the wider public, the project will engage journalists at each key stage.

Drawing upon the vast expertise of the International Youth Meeting House, Action Reconciliation Service for Peace in Berlin, the "Zapomniane" Foundation and Staffordshire University, the project will engage with educational policy makers. This will be undertaken with the explicit aim of increasing understanding of the ways in which new technologies and digital tools can be used to enhance Holocaust education and provide a platform for discussions regarding xenophobia in the present. Heads of museum educational departments will be targeted, including (but not limited to) the Topography of Terror (Germany), Yad Vashem (Israel), POLIN (Poland) and the New York Jewish Museum (USA). The wider public will also benefit from the project, via the digital platform and by engagement with the fieldwork teams.

5. List the countries of origin of the project's target groups and expected beneficiaries:

The primary countries in which the project will have immediate impact will be Poland, the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany on the basis that the research and fieldwork will take place in the former, whilst partners and target groups from all of these countries will be directly involved at every stage of the project's implementation. The project aims to disseminate its results internationally via an online platform and the involvement of target groups from at least 5 EU Member States in the final project meeting plus at least one from the USA will also ensure a broad geographic reach. Owing to the relevance of the subject matter for the whole of Europe, and drawing on the networks of the partners, the project will have beneficiaries within Europe's borders and beyond.

6. How does the proposed project intend to reach its target group(s)?:

Policy decision makers and opinion makers will be targeted through face-to-face meetings, the final project report and invitations to attend (and hopefully participate in) the "social action" fieldwork elements of the project. Educational policy makers and the wider public will also be invited to participate in the "social action" elements to ensure that they are able to experience first-hand the value of new technologies for increasing our understanding of the Holocaust and prejudice. All project partners and target groups will be provided with free access to an app version of the digital platform created as part of the project and supporting educational material in order to ensure that they have access to the project's results and so that they can then use this app to disseminate the results to a wider audience. The project's results will be disseminated via press releases to journalists who, like the local and regional leaders, will be invited to visit the "social action" projects, and a blog will be maintained throughout the duration of the project.

7. If your project targets 'educational multipliers' please describe their professional role and in which ways they may serve as 'multipliers':

Educational multipliers will be central to the wide dissemination of the project's results and, in particular, the app. Their role will involve: 1) engaging with the "social action" projects and the participants in it (coming from a wide range of ages and backgrounds); 2) using the app within civic society to foster discussions concerning the Holocaust and present-day prejudices; 3) promoting new knowledge concerning the use of new technologies to their peers and other policy makers. Educational multipliers from at least five EU countries will be invited to attend a final project meeting, whereby the digital platform will be launched, and it is hoped this will lead to the development of new recommendations concerning the use of new technologies in Holocaust education. The project lead is a member of the Educational Advisory Group for the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF) and the project results and the digital platform will be presented to this organisation via committee meetings. The UKHMF features representatives from all major Holocaust museums and educational institutions in the UK as well as representatives from the international Jewish, Roma and Sinti communities who will then disseminate this information to their colleagues and their own target groups. In conjunction with

the dissemination of the project's results via academic and popular publications, online media and conference presentations, it is hoped that a wide range of educational multipliers will be reached during and beyond the lifetime of the project, thus impacting upon curricula in a variety of educational settings.

8. Does your project target 'teacher trainers'?:

No

9. Estimated size of target group:

5000

Experience and Evaluation Procedures

10. Describe the experience your organization has had in conducting similar

With a history of teaching, research and knowledge transfer dating back to 1901, Staffordshire University has a long and proven track record in undertaking pioneering research and providing informative, cutting-edge and stimulating training to a variety of audiences. With approximately 16,000 on-campus students and a further 5000 distance and work-based learners, the university was one of the first to be accredited by the Forensic Science Society for high academic quality. Based in the University's new £30 million Science Centre, the Centre of Archaeology undertakes world-class research and consultancy in a wide range of archaeological and forensic subjects – all supported by cutting-edge equipment and facilities. Always striving to enhance archaeological practice, the Centre is currently undertaking pioneering work in the discipline of Holocaust Archaeology and forensic approaches to buried remains through the research of Dr Sturdy Colls and her interdisciplinary team. As part of this research, we have completed the first archaeological surveys of the former extermination camp at Treblinka (Poland), the sites pertaining to the slave labour programme in Alderney (the Channel Islands), the former Semlin camp (Serbia), killing sites in Adampol (Poland) and Bergen-Belsen (Germany; in collaboration with the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation).

Partnership and Participation

Partnering Organizations

#	Name	Country	Description of nature and scope of involvement
1	Fundacja Zapomniane	(Poland)	Provision of expert knowledge in relation to the project's themes. Assistance with organising, and obtaining permissions for, visits to Jewish cemeteries. Liaison with other stakeholders and project participants. Participation in two 5-day survey visits in the Oświęcim and Warsaw/Lublin regions. Provision of expertise, tools and Ground Penetrating Radar during two 7-day fieldwork projects in Oświęcim cemetery and a second cemetery in the Warsaw/Lublin region. Input into the project report, educational tools and digital platform created as part of the project. Participation in periodic meetings with the project team and participants, including a final project meeting and digital platform launch event.
2	The Matzevah Foundation, Inc.	(United States of America)	Provision of expert knowledge in relation to the project's themes. Assistance with organising, and obtaining permissions for, visits to Jewish cemeteries. Liaison with other stakeholders and project participants. Participation in two 5-day survey visits in the Oświęcim and Warsaw/Lublin regions. Provision of expertise, tools and physical labour during two 7-day fieldwork projects in Oświęcim cemetery and a second cemetery in the Warsaw/Lublin region. Input into the project report, educational tools and digital platform created as part of the project. Participation in periodic meetings with the project team and participants, including a final project meeting and digital platform launch event.

Participating Organizations

#	Name	Country	Brief description of role/contribution
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#	Name	Country	Brief description of role/contribution
1	Action Reconciliation Service for Peace in Berlin	(Germany)	Dissemination of project information to target groups in Germany, the US and Poland. Participation in periodic meetings with the project leaders, including a final project meeting where the digital platform created as part of the project will be launched.
2	Auschwitz Jewish Center/Centrum Żydowskie w Oswiecimiu	(Poland)	Provision of expert knowledge in relation to the project's themes. Assistance with organising, and obtaining relevant permissions for, visits to Jewish cemeteries with which we have connections. Liaison with other stakeholders and project participants before, after and during research visits and fieldwork. Participation in periodic meetings with the project leaders, including a final project meeting where the digital platform created as part of the project will be launched. Dissemination of project information to target groups
3	International Youth Meeting Centre in Oswiecim/Auschwitz Foundation	(Poland)	Links to the Jewish Museum in New York and dissemination of project information to target groups in the USA and Poland Provision of expert knowledge in relation to the project's themes. Assistance with organising, and obtaining relevant permissions for, visits to Jewish cemeteries with which they have connections. Liaison with other stakeholders and project participants before, after and during research visits and fieldwork. Participation in periodic meetings with the project leaders, including a final project meeting where the digital platform created as part of the project will be launched.
4	The Jewish Community of Bielsko-Biała (Gmina Wyznaniowa Żydowska w Bielsku-Białej)	(Poland)	Assistance with organising, and obtaining relevant permissions for,

#	Name	Country	Brief description of role/contribution
4	The Jewish Community of Bielsko-Biała (Gmina Wyznaniowa Żydowska w Bielsku-Białej)	(Poland)	fieldwork in Oswiecim Jewish cemetery Participation in fieldwork in Oswiecim and periodic meetings with the project leaders, including a final project meeting where the digital platform created as part of the project will be launched. Dissemination of project information to target groups in Poland.
5	United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF)	(United Kingdom)	Provision of expert knowledge in relation to the project's themes. Participation in periodic meetings with the project leaders, including a final project meeting where the digital platform created as part of the project will be launched. Dissemination of the project's results across the UK.

Timetable

#	Stage	From	Until	Notes on Implementation
1	Research	04 Jul 2016	24 Jul 2016	Commencement of phase 1 historical research for the Oświęcim region and research into cultural genocide practices more broadly. Detailed research into the Nazis' treatment of Jewish cemeteries and cultural genocide will be undertaken by the project team using the attached bibliography and archival fonds list as a starting point. Detailed historical research will be undertaken on the nature of cultural and physical genocide within Jewish cemeteries in the Oświęcim, Warsaw and Lublin regions (Poland), using documents, photographs, aerial-imagery, maps, plans and witness testimony, using the materials in the attached archival fonds list as a starting point. Additional published and archival sources will be located and consulted. A proforma will be created to assist with data collected during Stage 3.
2	Recruitment of target groups	04 Jul 2016	01 Aug 2016	As permission for fieldwork in Oswiecim has already been granted, the project partners will work with the project participants to invite

#	Stage	From	Until	Notes on Implementation
2	Recruitment of target groups	04 Jul 2016	01 Aug 2016	members of the target groups to participate in social action project 1 (Stage 4) from the outset of the project. Information about the project will be posted on the project website to attract further participants.
3	Site Survey Visit and Reconnaissance	25 Jul 2016	31 Jul 2016	Site survey visit to the Oświęcim region - Representatives from all project partner organisations will participate in a 5-day survey visit to the Oświęcim region in order to record evidence of cultural and physical genocide. The sites visited will include (though will not necessarily be limited to) cemeteries in Bielsko-Biała, Kęty, Cieszyn, Grodzisko Dolne, Katowice and Chrzanów. Data will be documented by the project team on a proforma developed during Stage 1 and 360 degree photographs will be taken at each of the cemeteries visited. This stage will also include a visit to the Oświęcim cemetery ahead of the fieldwork (Stage 4). During this visit, community group meetings and a social action project 1 planning meeting will take place with the project participants based in this region. A visit report will be posted on the project website.
4	Fieldwork	13 Aug 2016	20 Aug 2016	Commencement of social action project 1 in the Oświęcim region. Members of the target groups will work alongside national and international experts to locate unmarked killing sites, graves, cemetery boundaries and tombstones using a unique <i>non-invasive</i> approach. This approach seeks to forensically document Holocaust sites whilst accounting for their religious and commemorative significance (Sturdy Colls 2015). This approach includes photogrammetry (360-degree photography and drone-survey), LiDAR, topographic-survey and Ground Penetrating Radar to identify, characterise and preserve material remains within selected cemeteries through digital record. Additionally, tombstones will be reinstated, graffiti removed and cemeteries tidied. This will provide digital data for inclusion in the mobile application and digital platform.
5	Data collation and project reporting	22 Aug 2016	15 Sep 2016	Data collation , post fieldwork analysis and processing of scan data. The data collected during the social action project will be processed by members of the project team from Staffordshire

#	Stage	From	Until	Notes on Implementation
5	Data collation and project reporting	22 Aug 2016	15 Sep 2016	University and Fundacja Zapomniane, using specialist software. Data interpretation will take place in order to identify additional evidence of cultural and physical genocide. Three dimensional visualisations of the data will be created for inclusion in the mobile application and digital platform. A post-fieldwork report will be posted on the project website.
6	Design and Programming	10 Jul 2016	01 Feb 2017	Digital platform concept design and programming , data integration and mobile application development and testing. This stage will include the creation of both a standalone platform that can be accessed online and an accompanying mobile application that will be designed for Android and Apple operating systems with a view to integrate the data collected and present through digital technologies. Potential platform designs will be explored, to establish how the data is most effectively interacted with, and this will allow the platform to be further developed in conjunction with the mobile applications. The use of geo-tagged sites and the integration of historical and archaeological data within the platform and applications will be explored. Additional features such as in-field data collection will be considered to assess the feasibility of community data collection during social action project 2. It is anticipated that X Code 7 will be used to build the pilot Apple application.
7	Research	02 Feb 2017	01 Jun 2017	Continuation of historical research for the Oświęcim region and commencement of historical research for Warsaw/Lublin region. Continuation of research into cultural genocide practices. The methodology outlined in Stage 1 will be followed.
8	Site survey and reconnaissance	05 Jun 2017	11 Jun 2017	Site survey visit to the Warsaw/Lublin region - Representatives from all project partner organisations will participate in a 5-day survey visit to the Warsaw/Lublin region in order to record evidence of cultural and physical genocide. The sites visited will include (though will not necessarily be limited to) cemeteries in Łaskarzew, Bobrowniki, Kaluszyn, Adamów, Lublin, Izbica and Piaski. Data will be documented on the proforma developed during Stage 1 and 360 degree photographs will be taken at each of the cemeteries visited. This stage will result in the selection of a cemetery to be surveyed

#	Stage	From	Until	Notes on Implementation
8	Site survey and reconnaissance	05 Jun 2017	11 Jun 2017	in more detail as part of social action project 2. During this visit, community group meetings and a social action project 2 planning meeting will take place. Fieldwork permissions for social action project 2 will be sought immediately following this visit. A visit report will be posted on the project website.
9	Recruitment of target groups	03 Jul 2017	01 Aug 2017	The project partners will work with the project participants to invite members of the target groups to participate in social action project 2 (Stage 10). Information about the project will be posted on the project website to attract further participants.
10	Fieldwork	14 Aug 2017	21 Aug 2017	Commencement of social action project 2 in Warsaw/Lublin (site to be selected during Stage 8). Members of the target groups will work alongside national and international experts to locate unmarked killing sites, graves, cemetery boundaries and tombstones using a unique <i>non-invasive</i> approach. This approach seeks to forensically document Holocaust sites whilst accounting for their religious and commemorative significance (Sturdy Colls 2015). This approach includes photogrammetry (360-degree photography and drone-survey), LiDAR, topographic-survey and Ground Penetrating Radar to identify, characterise and preserve material remains within selected cemeteries through digital record. Additionally, tombstones will be reinstated, graffiti removed and cemeteries tidied. This will provide digital data for inclusion in the mobile application and digital platform.
11	Data collation	22 Aug 2017	11 Sep 2017	Data collation , post fieldwork analysis and processing of scan data. The data collected during the social action project will be processed by members of the project team from Staffordshire University and Fundacja Zapomniane, using specialist software. Data interpretation will take place in order to identify additional evidence of cultural and physical genocide. Three dimensional visualisations of the data will be created for inclusion in the mobile application and digital platform. A post-fieldwork report will be posted on the project website.
12	Data integration and development	12 Sep 2017	20 Dec 2017	Data integration and upload to digital platform. Full user testing.

#	Stage	From	Until	Notes on Implementation
12	Data integration and development	12 Sep 2017	20 Dec 2017	Mobile application development, user feedback and bug fixing. This stage will further develop the interactive platform online and mobile applications. Data from project 2 will be added and it is anticipated that users will have been able to interact with the first phase of the application in-field via a database system complimenting the application. User interaction will be explored and feedback from test groups will be utilised to allow the application to be easily navigable and ensure ease of use.
13	Launch planning phase and final reporting	04 Jan 2018	27 Apr 2018	Final meeting and launch planning phase . Invites will be sent to regional leaders, educational representatives, partner groups and community representatives to attend and participate in the launch outlined in Stage 12. The final project report will be written and copy edited.
14	Launch	01 May 2018	01 Jun 2018	Digital platform and Mobile Application launch . Final meeting and launch events in the UK, USA and Poland. The final project report and mobile application will be delivered to project partners and IHRA.