

**CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017**  
**Project Proposal Form**

<b>Project Proposer/s:</b>	<b>Mo Moulton</b>
<b>School/Dept:</b>	<b>SHAC/History</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>The Mutual Admiration Society: Women, Work, and Friendship Networks 1912-57</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	
<p>This project is a micro-history of a writing group founded by members of the first cohort of women to earn degrees from Oxford University (1920). The group ultimately spanned decades and provides an intimate glimpse into the social networks that sustained the first generation of women to participate in British professional life. The project focuses in particular on six key members of the group: detective novelist Dorothy L. Sayers; scholar of Elizabethan drama Muriel St. Clare Byrne; author of child advice manuals Charis Barnett Frankenburg; English teacher Dorothy Rowe; science fiction writer Muriel Jaeger; and English lecturer Amphillis Middlemore. Through the personal papers and published works of these authors, the project contributes to our understanding of how women in the post-suffrage moment navigated new opportunities and enduring obstacles.</p>	
<b>What the researcher will do</b>	
<p>The researcher will undertake research in archival and published collections on the work and lives of these six women. The researcher will survey a selection of the published works of these women, especially the co-authored series on the future of the world published by Sayers and Byrne during World War II. The researcher will produce detailed summaries of these works with special attention to the light they shed on the relationships among the members of the group. In addition, the researcher will undertake archival research. One archival task will be genealogical and will involve verifying death information with public records offices for each of the women. This can largely be accomplished online and by e-mail or telephone. If the researcher has time and interest, we may decide to take on one further archival task: for example, a survey of the records of the Bournemouth Endowed High School at the National Archives for information on Dorothy Rowe, who made her career there.</p>	
<b>Skills required by the Scholarship holder</b>	
<p>The researcher should be a keen detective, able to read quickly and provide accurate summaries. The researcher should also be familiar with the large trajectories of twentieth century British history in general and, ideally, women's history in particular. Finally, the researcher should be able to keep meticulous records of library and archival research.</p> <p>This research could be undertaken by a researcher based in London, Birmingham, or Oxford (or, potentially, Manchester). There will be an opportunity for the researcher to travel to London to use research collections there, with costs covered by the scheme.</p>	
<b>How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?</b>	
<p>The researcher will gain skills in careful reading of primary source material and archival research. The researcher will also gain skills in navigating library and archive catalogues as well as the vital records system of the UK. The tasks of the project will allow the researcher to engage in a range of research methodologies, including identification, use, and management of materials both online and in research libraries. The research will also have the opportunity to engage in preliminary written analysis of these materials. Such methodologies will support students in gaining the skills necessary for independent and group research projects in their second and third years. Finally, the researcher will gain deeper knowledge of a variety of topics connected with the lives and work of the Mutual Admiration Society. The research would inform further study of gender, twentieth-century Britain, life-writing, and related topics.</p>	
<b>How will the Scholarship benefit your Project?</b>	
<p>The researcher's work will enable the project to move forward by surveying the wide range of published material connected with these women, by verifying important vital statistics, and by undertaking a discrete set of archival tasks necessary to documenting these women's lives. It will add greatly to the archival underpinning of the project</p>	

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and allow it to reach publication more quickly.