

CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017
Project Proposal Form

Project Proposer/s:	Louise Hardwick
School/Dept:	LCAHM/Modern Languages
Project Title:	Euzhan Palcy and Joseph Zobel
Project Summary	
<p>This project is a bridge between my AHRC Fellowship on the novels of Joseph Zobel, and my future projects on Zobel's afterlives in cinema. This will form part of my forthcoming AHRC Follow-On funding bid. The Martinican woman filmmaker Euzhan Palcy is the pivot between these projects. She established her reputation as a filmmaker through her adaptation of Zobel's seminal 1950 novel <i>La Rue Cases-Nègres</i> into the 1983 prize-winning film <i>Rue Cases-Nègres</i> (English release <i>Sugar Cane Alley</i>). I am preparing an AHRC Follow-on Funding bid, which will involve several screenings of this film with related activities. I am also preparing a monograph, <i>French Caribbean Cinema</i>, in which one chapter is dedicated to Palcy and her adaptation of Zobel. The relationships between Zobel's novel and Palcy's film have not fully been understood by earlier critics, and the Undergraduate Research Scholar will work towards bringing about a new scholarly awareness of the adaptation and its place in World Cinema. The Scholarship also integrates a public engagement strand.</p>	
What the researcher will do	
<p>Week 1: Watch <i>Rue Cases-Nègres</i> and undertake a cinematic analysis of 2 key characters: Médouze and M'man Tine. This comprises: listing the scenes in which each character appears and analysing the filmic techniques used by Palcy.</p> <p>Weeks 2-3: Begin to create a literature review of the film, focusing on English-language sources, including those analyses emanating from Caribbean critics.</p> <p>Weeks 3-4: Continue literature review, developing it by undertaking analysis of English-language press reports of Palcy's film at the British Library Newsroom. It is suggested that the UG scholar spends 5 days working at BL.</p> <p>Week 5: Complete the literature review.</p> <p>Public engagement activities, to be undertaken any time after week 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) visit Mockingbird Cinema at the Custard Factory, Digbeth, and undertake a short (max. 30 min) informal interview with one of the team on their experiences of screening foreign-language films, seeking to identify successful strategies. 2) Write a short (2-300 words) blog entry for a guest post at my established blog: www.josephzobel.wordpress.com 	
Skills required by the Scholarship holder	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - French language skills to UG level - Understanding of/interest in Film Studies (preferably having taken related modules, but not essential) - Accurate and nuanced written expression in English - Accurate oral communication skills (particularly for Engagement with non-academic stakeholder, Mockingbird) 	
How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The researcher will develop skills in an area of French Studies, Francophone Postcolonial Studies, that they may not have previously encountered in any depth - The researcher will develop skills in cinematic analysis - The researcher will gain an advanced understanding of using online research databases (e.g. JSTOR) to undertake a literature review, and of how to cite scholarly material to the appropriate standard - The researcher will develop written and oral communication skills in English - The researcher will consolidate and develop their existing knowledge of French language - The researcher will gain an understanding of the role of research in public engagement/Impact 	

How will the Scholarship benefit your Project?

In the immediate future, the Scholarship will strengthen my AHRC Follow-on Funding bid (in preparation, to be submitted in 2017) which includes strategic public screenings of Palcy's film, with discussions. The project will provide clear evidence of "pre-award institutional support" (an AHRC category and pre-requisite for the funding bid). The project will also strengthen my ongoing Impact work (which is currently long-listed as an Impact case-study for REF 2020/21) with Mockingbird Cinema, where I am a Consultant, a link established 12 months ago and which I will actively develop as part of my AHRC Follow-On Funding bid. Moreover, the Scholar will make an active contribution to my blog, fostering a sense of intellectual excitement for research amongst the UG community. In the long term, the scholarship will help my third monograph, *French Caribbean Cinema*, towards timely completion at 4* REF standard.