



BU PhD Studentships 2007

Early commercial radio news and current affairs.

Background to Research

The Centre for Broadcasting History Research has an international reputation for its work in the preservation and study of radio and television archives. It is currently embarking on an ambitious project, funded by JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) with a grant of approximately £760,000, to digitise and make available for academic research the LBC/IRN audio archive dating to the start of UK Commercial Radio. Other archive based work includes the BBC Radio *Analysis* archive, the ITV *This Week* and BBC *Panorama* archives and other research projects in radio and television history. Previous projects have included the history of the early ITV and the digitisation of *TV Times* and the ILR Programme Sharing Scheme.

The centre is now offering a studentship (with the possibility of a second) for a PhD student to conduct research which utilises the LBC/IRN archive. The archive contains substantial amounts of news and current affairs material together with documentary, arts and phone-in programming. The collections relating to major news 'events' (e.g. the Falklands War, miners' strike, IRA campaign, terrorist attacks) are particularly significant. There is a very large and complete collection of programmes presented by Brian Hayes in which he replicates a 'talk radio' style for the first time in the UK. The successful applicant would negotiate with their supervisors the particular focus of their research and would be encouraged to work collaboratively with an existing ILR historian working on a PhD as well as the former Chief Executive of the Radio Authority, Tony Stoller, who is a member of the centre.

In addition proposals are welcome for research in other aspects of television or radio history, not necessarily tied to archive collections. Proposals would be particularly welcome in two areas of interest to the centre;

1. The early years of Channel 4. The CBHR is in negotiation with the producers of an innovative discussion programme broadcast in the 1980s and this might form a useful resource for this project.
2. ILR radio drama. Pre-1990 radio drama on commercial radio (ILR) is important but largely un-researched. Part of this research would entail finding and cataloguing examples in different collections.

Outstanding Applicants

We are looking for outstanding applicants who will preferably have the following qualities:

- An enthusiasm for the history of radio and journalism
- A willingness to work with radio archives
- An ability to research independently
- Preferably a background in either media/ cultural studies or history

Supervisory Team & Research Environment

There is a small but growing community of PhD students (currently 6) in the centre supervised by Professor Sean Street, Dr Hugh Chignell, Pat Holland, Dr Chris Pullen, Professor Barry Richards and Dr Christine Daymon

It is anticipated that the LBC/IRN research will be supervised by Professor Sean Street and Dr Hugh Chignell and peer supported by Emma Wray who is conducting doctoral research on the history of ILR.

The successful applicant will be provided with a desk and PC as well as access to relevant collections including – Bournemouth university archive collections; Ofcom archive collections (by negotiation); BBC written Archive. Phd students in the centre are also encouraged and supported to attend relevant conferences, in the UK and abroad.

In two years time the Centre will move into custom-built facilities in the new Bournemouth Winter Gardens arts complex.

Informal Enquiries

We are happy to respond to informal inquiries, please email Hugh Chignell (hchignell@bournemouth.ac.uk). It is possible to arrange an informal visit to the centre to discuss the research and meet supervisors and also to inspect archive collections.