

## Pre-Prepared PhDs

### Clothing of the Poor 1

This project, which uses pauper letters for the period 1750-1840, will look at the place of clothing and associated rhetorics of nakedness in pauper negotiations with the local state over the entitlement or the renewal and extension of entitlement. Drawing on case studies from across Britain, candidates will have full access to the largest collection of poor law material ever collected and transcribed.

### Clothing of the Poor 2

This project focuses on the historical artefact. At its core is the question of what sort of clothing the dependent poor wore, how much if it they had and what the quality, nature and cost of their clothing tells us about their likely status in the communities of which they were part. You will use sample books, examples of clothing, diaries, account books, pictures and other sources from across England and Wales.

### The rise of self-dosing

This project, arising out of my AHRC work on access to health care asks a beguilingly simple question: How did ordinary people (that is non-elite) learn how to take the medicines that were increasingly available to them in the period between 1780 and the 1870s? Using commonplace books, diaries and letters, coronial records and other sources, candidates will trace the evolution of public and private knowledge in this area.

### Courtship in Wales

This project, arising out of my work on English courtship patterns, will ask: how did nineteenth-century Welsh couples court and how did their experiences and milestones of courtship differ from their English counterparts. Using letters, diaries, memoirs and antiquarian histories, candidates will reconstruct the national and regional detail of Welsh courtship in a way that has never been attempted.

### The economics of overseeing

This project, arising out of my extended work on the Old Poor Law, asks how did the officials responsible for the administration of the poor law at local level understand the economics of the system in which they were inscribed. How did they compare their policies to others? How did they take and give guidance? How did they regulate competing duties to ratepayers and paupers? And how did the day-to-day economics of welfare work?

### Old age in British pauper letters 1750-1929

This project will use a comprehensive collection of Welsh, English and Scottish pauper letters to ask how old age was constructed by those responsible for overseeing welfare in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and by the aged themselves. How did the rhetoric of agedness change over time and how did the place of the aged in poor law structures and consciousness change?

### The poetry of the poor

There are few well-known working class and (rarer) very poor poets and there has been much dissection of what they wrote and how what they wrote reflected the lived experiences of the poor and labouring poor. In practice, however, the work of this small cadre of prominent poets is small in relation to manuscript and published poems by poor authors in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Using a stock of poetry, some if it known but underused and much of it unknown, you will compare the new work to the suite of better known writing and analyse what the new corpus tells us about the literacy, education and poetical abilities of the very poorest elements of the English and Welsh population.