



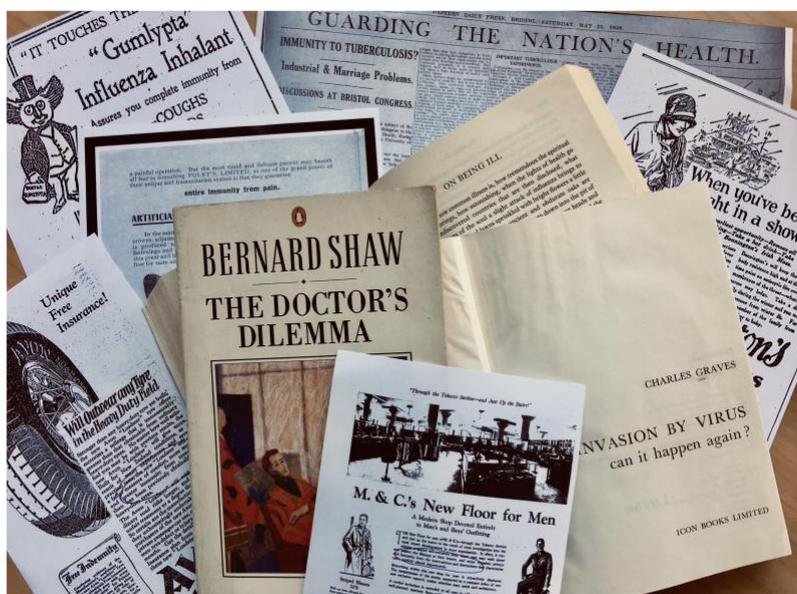
Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates for a fully funded three-year PhD, funded through the Royal Society Te Apārangi Marsden Fund and held at the English Programme at the University of Waikato. The project, entitled 'Modern Immunity: Modernism, Threat and Immune Poetics', offers an exciting opportunity for a student to study modernist discourses of immunity.

Immunity is rarely the subject of modernist scholarship, despite its considerable impact on the public imagination during the modernist period (1890-1940). From the mid-nineteenth century, as knowledge of invisible germs panicked and fascinated the public, scientists borrowed the word 'immunity' from political spheres to illustrate the body's resistance to disease. This project investigates the impact advances in immunology and bacteriology had on modernist literary and commercial texts, and analyses the ways writers devised powerful images of resistance and exception by conjoining the meanings of immunity: political exemption and medical defence. Researchers on the project will examine the innovative ways modernist writers used ideas of immunity to create discourses of borders and protection, as well as aesthetics of aseptic prose and hidden meanings, in response to the perceived political and medical threats of modernity. This project will highlight the significance of health events in public rhetoric, and will use modernism's engagements with immunity to elucidate responses to our current pandemic crises.

The project's range and focus may be adapted according to the student's research interests and prior experience, and applicants are encouraged to discuss how they would make the project their own in their letter of application. Approaches might engage with specific authors or countries, or connections between such ideas as immunity and: quarantine, pandemics, popular and middlebrow literature, advertising, politics, health campaigns.

Applicants should have a Master's degree (or equivalent) in English, History, the Medical Humanities or other relevant fields.

The start date (with some flexibility possible) is July 2021, and the scholarship covers NZ\$27,500/pa + NZ tuition fees for three years.



Applicants should provide a short CV (max. 5 pages) and cover letter (max. 2 pages), academic transcripts, and two academic letters of reference (with referees' contact details).

The successful applicant should be eligible to enrol at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.

The closing date for applications is 12 March 2021.

For further information and application submission contact Dr Maebh Long,
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