



## **PhD Scholarship in Indian Ocean World History**

Expressions of interest are sought for a fully funded three year PhD scholarship under the supervision of Emeritus Professor James Warren, lead Chief Investigator on the Australian Research Council Discovery Project 'Pearls, People and Power: Global Commodity History and Material Culture in the Transformation of the Indian Ocean World, 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Centuries' (DP150103124).

The successful applicant will join a team of experienced researchers – Associate Professor Steve Mullins (CQU), Associate Professor Pedro Machado (Indiana), Associate Professor Matthew Hopper (Cal Poly), Associate Professor Hideaki Suzuki (Nagasaki) and Dr Joseph Christensen (Murdoch) – initiating the first detailed comparative study of pearling in the Indian Ocean World (IOW). Investigations focus on, but are not limited to, the major pearling 'zones' of the IOW: the Red Sea; Persian Gulf, Southern India and Sri Lanka; the Sulu and Celebes Sea; and Torres Strait, Northern and Northwest Australia. The project team is using commodity-based analyses and object-centred biographies to undertake comparative studies of the labour systems, trade networks, and the social, cultural and political value of pearl and mother-of-pearl industries, in order to illustrate larger-scale processes of social and economic change in the IOW between the sixteenth and mid twentieth centuries.

Applications are invited for candidates with similar or complementary research interests. Projects should focus on one major pearling zone, or initiate investigations in one or more additional pearling grounds not covered by other investigators. Projects should also address significant themes in regional and global history related to the economic and cultural unity of the IOW across time, the role and place of different zones or regions in IOW history, and/or the impacts of European imperialism and industrialisation on regional and local economies and commercial and kin-based networks.

Essential criteria include:

- A first-class Honours or Masters degree with a thesis component in a relevant historical or related social science field (particularly archaeology and/or museology);
- Archival and/or fieldwork experience;
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

The successful candidate will be based at the Asia Research Centre and School of Arts, Murdoch University, in Perth, Western Australia. The Asia Research Centre has a strong track record of innovative research in the social and environmental history of Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean World, and offers a supportive and collegial environment to postgraduate students.

The scholarship is open to domestic and international applicants. The scholarship provides a stipend of AUD\$30,000 per annum, fees for international students only, plus AUD\$10,000 in additional funding for archival research and fieldwork.

Applications should include a current CV and completed thesis proposal form (<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Research-capabilities/Asia-Research-Centre/Postgraduate-Studies/>) and be sent to [A.Chapman@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:A.Chapman@murdoch.edu.au) by 2 May 2016. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit proposals via Murdoch University's postgraduate scholarship application process. Prospective applicants must be able to commence no later than mid-August 2016.

More information please visit <http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Research-capabilities/Asia-Research-Centre/The-Research/Indian-Ocean-World/> or write to Professor James Warren at [J.Warren@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:J.Warren@murdoch.edu.au).