Talking Emotions Call for Applications

University of Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum

Talking Emotions is an interdisciplinary project that offers a unique opportunity for DPhil students and post-doctoral researchers to enrich their own research and public engagement skills through in-depth engagement with the Ashmolean Museum’s collections. Following the success of Talking Sense (https://www.talkingsenseoxford.com) and in partnership with the Ashmolean University Engagement Programme, this year’s participants will explore the subject of emotions.

As part of a cohort of researchers from across the university, participants will investigate how emotions and their representations vary across time and place, how objects display and evoke emotions, and how museums can enable emotional engagement with visitors through their collections.

Through a series of workshops and object-handling sessions, participants will learn how to analyze material artefacts and how to translate their research into accessible presentations. The project will culminate in 15-minute public gallery talks, each centered on an object from the Museum’s collections. Talking Emotions aims to demonstrate how emotions can provide a useful methodological framework from which to approach various topics and a meaningful way to engage the wider public.

Call for applications

We invite applications from DPhil students and post-doctoral researchers from any academic discipline at the University of Oxford. Applicants need not be specialists in the methodological approaches to emotions or in material culture but should be willing to explore these themes in a collaborative, interdisciplinary format.

Applicants must be able to commit to: one meeting at the end of Michaelmas Term; three full-day workshops on Fridays in Hilary Term; and to present their talk four times in Trinity Term – once to fellow members of Talking Emotions, twice to the general public, and once to a specialized audience, such as a school group.

Successful applicants will become Ashmolean Public Engagement Research Associates.

Please send a one- to two-page academic CV and one-page cover letter to talkingemotionsoxford@gmail.com by 11th November. The cover letter should outline your research interests, reasons for applying, one or more objects from the museum’s collections you would be interested in working with, and any other information or experience relevant to participation in the project.

If you have any questions, please email talkingemotionsoxford@gmail.com.