



European Research Council
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POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE IMJIN WAR (KOREA)

REF: 2021DILEUA1 - Departament de Traducció i d'Interpretació i d'Estudis de l'Àsia Oriental
- Investigador postdoctoral

Start date: 1/04/2021 (negotiable)

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Salary: €21,180-€34,180 plus benefits (negotiable)

Hours: Full Time, flexible

Contract Type: fixed term (up to 3 years)

The Position

Applications are invited for a three-year postdoctoral position as part of the European Research Council funded project, *Aftermath of the East Asian War of 1592-1598* (H2020-ERC CoG 758347) at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The successful candidate will work on the aftermath of the Imjin War as it relates to Korea, from the perspective of one or more of the *Aftermath* project's three themes: environment, technology, or society. Applicants are advised to familiarize themselves with the description of the *Aftermath* project provided on the website (<https://aftermath.uab.cat/>) and to consider what their proposed research would contribute to the aims of project.

The candidate will have access to a stimulating research environment as part of a team of researchers, as well as generous funding for fieldwork, the purchase of books, and conference travel. **The working language of the project is English** and candidates are not required to speak Spanish or Catalan. However, the successful candidate will be encouraged to acquire a basic competence in one of these languages during their tenure so as to be able to participate in locally organized events.

Benefits

We offer a full time research position for up to 3 years (subject to an evaluation after the first 12 months) in an innovative research project funded within the prestigious European Research Council framework. The candidate will have access to a stimulating environment as part of a team of scholars, as well as a research allowance of 4000 euros per year for fieldwork, the purchase of books, and conference travel.

The position is regulated by a post-doctoral labour contract for research staff at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Salary range €21,180-€28,180 (for EURAXESS R2) or €28,180-€34,180 (for EURAXESS R3). The upper limit of this salary range is negotiable, depending on experience and skillset of the successful candidate. See <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/careerdevelopment/trainingresearchers/research-profiles-descriptors>.

Note that Spanish employment packages automatically provide access to public healthcare and pay public pension contributions in addition to the salary quoted above.

The successful candidate will be provided with office space in the shared office of the project on the main campus of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and depending on the COVID-19 situation, will be expected to be regularly present in the office to work with other members of the team.

About the Project

Aftermath is a five and a half year, European Research Council starting grant project (2018-2024) run by Prof. Rebekah Clements at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The project seeks to understand the legacy of the Imjin War of 1592-1598. This conflict involved over 500,000 combatants from Japan, China, and Korea; up to 100,000 Korean civilians were abducted to Japan. The war caused momentous demographic upheaval and widespread destruction, but also had long-lasting cultural impact as a result of the removal to Japan of Korean technology and skilled labourers. The conflict and its aftermath bear striking parallels to events in East Asia during World War II, and memories of the 16th-century war remain deeply resonant in the region. But what were the implications for the social, economic, and cultural contours of early modern East Asia? What can this conflict tell us about the war's "aftermath" across historical periods and about such periodization itself? There is little Western scholarship on the war and few studies in any language that cross linguistic, disciplinary, and national boundaries to achieve a regional perspective, which reflects the interconnected history of East Asia. The focus of this project will be on the period up to the middle of the 17th century, but not precluding ongoing effects. The team, with expertise covering Japan, Korea, and China, will investigate three themes: the movement of people and demographic change, the impact on the natural environment, and technological diffusion. The project will be the first large-scale investigation to use Japanese, Korean, and Chinese sources to understand the war's aftermath. It will broaden understandings of the early-

modern world, and push the boundaries of war legacy studies by exploring the meanings of “aftermath” in the East Asian context.

More information about the project may be found on the website: <https://aftermath.uab.cat/>

The Autonomous University of Barcelona

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), located in the garden city of Bellaterra near Barcelona, is one of the major public universities in Spain. In the 2018 edition of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, the UAB was placed second among Spanish universities, 147th in the world and 68th within Europe. The UAB is particularly strong in research. Since the launch of the European Research Council’s Horizon 2020 funding initiative in 2013, the university has been awarded more than 55 million euros for 117 Horizon 2020 projects and more than 12 million euros for 140 non-Horizon 2020 projects.

The host department of the *Aftermath* project at UAB is the Department of Translation, Interpreting and East Asian Studies, one of the first centres in Spain to offer a Bachelor in East Asian studies, and the only degree in the country to include Chinese, Japanese and Korean language courses. It is the home of one of Spain’s three Kim Sejong Institutes. The library resources of UAB reflect this history, with excellent journal access and robust digital subscriptions to East Asian resources such as the *Japan Knowledge* package via membership of the [CEDDREJ consortium](#), and the *China Academic Full-text Journals Database*. These resources are supplemented by the library of the *Aftermath* project, a collection of books in Japanese, Korean, Chinese, English and French about the Imjin War, its aftermath, and contextual subjects such as East Asian military history, the history of religion in East Asia, etc. This library, which currently contains approximately 200 titles, is the only collection in Europe solely dedicated to the study of the Imjin War and is held in the offices of the *Aftermath* project on the UAB campus. In addition to the candidate’s own research allowance, there is also generous funding available to add to the *Aftermath* project library in response to the needs of the successful candidate’s research topic, and we have research assistants employed in Korea, China, and Japan who can provide fast access to copies of Asian language articles and book chapters if these are not already available at the University.

Eligibility

- Applicants must either already hold a PhD, or
- Applicants currently completing their PhD thesis must be awarded their doctorate via examination no later than 11 February 2021.

Requirements

- A PhD (awarded by the date above) in premodern Korean history, Korean studies, or equivalent.
- A minimum of one (1) year's research experience outside the Spanish state by the time of application. This research experience may be at the postdoctoral or PhD level.
- Excellent command of English, including academic English.
- Native or near-native Korean language skills.
- The ability to use premodern forms of Korean (including *hanmun*) for research purposes.
- Proven ability to read premodern Korean source materials relevant to the candidate's proposed research topic, including palaeographic skills.
- Clear interest in the aftermath of the Imjin War as it pertains to Korea.
- Relevant publications (texts accepted for publication are considered).

Desirable

- IT experience with bibliographic software or database entry.

Expected outputs during the project

- At least one peer-reviewed article or edited book chapter;
- Contribution of one chapter to the project's co-authored volume on the demographic, environmental, and technological aftermath of the war from an East Asian regional perspective;
- Contribution to the project's online bibliographic database of source materials;
- Co-organization of an international conference (to be held in Barcelona);
- A presentation at the aforementioned project conference.

How to apply

The application comprises the following documents:

- Detailed CV in English;
- Cover letter in English;
- PhD summary in English;
- Sample of relevant published or forthcoming work in English or Korean;
- A research project proposal in English outlining the work you would undertake while on the project;
- Two reference letters. At least one reference letter must be in English, the second may be in Korean, Chinese, or Japanese. TO BE SENT DIRECTLY BY REFEREES TO rebekah.clements@icrea.cat.

Applications should be submitted via the jobs page of the Autonomous University of Barcelona: <https://convocatoriesupac.uab.cat> no later than **11th February 2021**. The job reference is **2021DILEUA1 - Departament de Traducció i d'Interpretació i d'Estudis de l'Àsia Oriental - Investigador postdoctoral**.

Any questions should be directed to the Principal Investigator of the *Aftermath* Project, Prof. Rebekah Clements (rebekah.clements@icrea.cat). Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview via Skype, within 21 days of the application deadline.

Selection criteria (out of a total of 120 points)

- Quality and relevance of PhD dissertation: 15 points
- Research experience: 5 points
- Language skills: 20 points
- Source skills (including palaeographic): 15 points
- IT experience: 5 points
- Publication record and quality of submitted pieces: 20 points
- Quality and relevance of research proposal: 20 points
- Reference letters: 10 points
- Interview: 10 points

Please note that if no candidate has more than 100 points, the position may be re-advertised.

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