

PhD studentship on British economic elites in early and mid-twentieth century Britain

We know more about the *numbers* of very rich people in Britain during the early and mid-twentieth century than we know about *who* they actually were. This PhD will focus on examination of Britain's economic elite during the early and/or mid-twentieth century, focusing not only on their business interests, but other aspects of their life such as their upbringing; political, ethnic, and religious composition; and their contribution to British economy and society.

The PhD might address some of the following questions:

- Did inter-war and mid-century Britain have a unified economic elite, or was it fractured by sources of wealth, old versus new money, politics, religion, or other factors?
- To what extent did the super-rich represent dynastic wealth from business and landed families?
- How did strategies for wealth generation vary by sector, ethnicity, or over time?
- To what extent have the super-rich impacted on British public life in terms of political/lobbying activities, media ownership, philanthropy, and other areas?
- To what extent did Britain's economic elite become more "closed," or "open" over time.
- How did strategies for wealth-making in Britain during the early and mid-twentieth century differ from those in Western Europe and/or North America.

The Centre for Economic Institutions and Business History (CEIBH), Henley Business School is offering a fully-funded PhD studentship (fees and maintenance).

The successful applicant would start their PhD in October 2022. For further information, please get in touch with Professor Peter Scott at p.m.scott@reading.ac.uk

CEIBH is also able to offer fully-funded studentships in other areas of business and economic history that match the research interests of its members, see: <https://www.henley.ac.uk/research/research-centres/the-centre-for-international-business-history>