



**Universiteit  
Leiden**

## Research Traineeship: Global Histories of WWII

### Applicants

*Eligible proposals must have at least two applicants from Humanities, preferably with an interdisciplinary approach.*

Supervisor Name	Discipline
Ethan Mark	History
Ivo Smits	Literary and Media Studies

### Project description

*Provide a brief description of the project (max. 300 words)*

The project seeks two students interested in researching, writing and publishing on the subject of the Second World War in history and memory as expressed in experiences and narratives of the peoples and societies of Asia, Africa, and/or the Middle East. The peoples and societies of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East played a crucial and active role in the war, with a profound impact upon the postwar, postcolonial order. Positioned between the warring powers, their experiences and actions were often informed by a nuanced understanding of the conflict and its global ramifications lacking among the combatants themselves, yet they have usually been the object rather than the subject of scholarly and popular narrative. The research will be conducted within the framework of a larger ongoing book and website project, funded by the Leiden Teachers Academy and the Leiden Asia Center, entitled “Global Histories of WWII.” Its aim is to reveal the story of the war as most of the world actually saw it—as a global showdown between empires, with the fate of the world’s peoples, states, and societies in the balance—and to research, produce and publish sources and resources for teachers and researchers interested in exploring and furthering this new paradigm. Equal emphasis is to be placed on the history and the memory of the conflict—its lived experience and its representation. Supervised together by two scholars with expertise in history and literary/media studies respectively, the two students will be tasked with researching into primary and secondary sources on the history and representation of the war experience in one or more locations of their interest, compiling a research bibliography, and writing an analytical essay on what they’ve found—all of which will be aimed for publication on the Global Histories of WWII website.

### Research Trainee Profile

*Each proposal requests two Research Trainees. Describe the general tasks of the research trainees, how these tasks are academically challenging to the research trainees, whether they need any preliminary knowledge*

*(regarding the topic and/or research methods) and which skills the research trainees should have. Also specify which type of students are eligible to apply (3<sup>rd</sup> year Ba, Ma, ResMa).*

Each research trainee will be tasked with exploring existing (online) resources relating to the history and memory/representation of the experience of the Second World War in a (non-Western) location and time frame of their own interest, including such primary sources as newspapers and journals, ego-documents, literature, and film, compiling a bibliographical list of such scholarly sources and resources, and writing an analytical essay based upon the results of this survey under the combined supervision of the two researchers. Each of the two resultant bibliographies and essays are meant for publication on the Leiden University Global Histories of WWII website, which is curated by Dr. Mark. Participation in the research traineeship offers advanced BA, MA, and/or Research MA students experience in researching, reading, and analyzing primary and secondary sources both textual and visual, and both historical and contemporary, within the disciplinary frameworks of history and literary/media studies, with the possibility of eventual publication on a scholarly website with global reach and significance, and the establishment of knowledge and contact networks for further research. Some prior exposure to the disciplines of history, literature, and/or media studies and area specialization in Asia, Africa, or the Middle East is preferred (students with interest/specializations in Latin America or Central/Eastern Europe may also apply).

### **Collaboration**

*If applicable: Describe how your research improves collaboration and cross-pollination between the disciplines involved (max. 300 words)*

Straddling the fields of history and memory, text and representation, and co-supervised by two senior scholars representing the disciplines of modern history and literature/media studies respectively—both of whom are also equipped with the distinctive skills and problem-consciousness characteristic to non-Western area studies, along with a global disciplinary awareness—this research collaboration promises to deepen and broaden research and analytical potential and paradigms in an area of study hitherto dominated by Eurocentric, nation-centric, and conventional text-centered historical enframings. In so doing its aims are in keeping with those of the broader Global Histories of World War II project, on whose website the research is meant to appear. The output is to be consciously aimed, framed and made available as an accessible teaching and research resource, thereby amplifying its value and impact to the scholarly field(s) represented.

### **Deliverables**

*Enumerate intended project results: papers, research proposals or otherwise. (max 200 words)*

Each student will be asked (1) to identify a geographical and chronological field of personal interest/specialization; (2) to compile a research bibliography of available primary and secondary sources both textual and visual pertaining to experiences in their location of preference, with an emphasis on sources available online and in English translation; and (3) to author an (English-language) analytical essay that draws upon (a selected portion of) the assembled source material, with a final version intended for publication on the Global Histories of World War II website. Theme, length and scope of the essays to be determined in consultation with the supervisors.

### **Planning**

*Provide a breakdown of the project into phases with tentative timing (max 150 words)*

--1 Feb-15 Feb 2022--

Introductory orientation with supervisors, determination of geographical/chronological area of focus

## Humanities Research Traineeship Programme 2022

--15 Feb-15 April 2022--

(Online) Investigation of source and resource research, compilation and submission of bibliography

--15 April 2022-15 May 2022--

Focused research in preparation for analytical essay

--15 May 2022-15 July 2022--

Composition and submission of rough draft of analytical essay, receipt of supervisor feedback

--15 July-15 Aug 2022--

Revision and resubmission of final version of analytical essay

--15 Aug-31 Aug--

Final revisions for publication of bibliography and analytical essay on Global Histories of WWII Website

### **Student Application**

*Provide information on how to apply e.g. required documents for application (resume, motivation letter etc.) and an email address where student applications should be sent to.*

Student applicants should send a letter of motivation, a writing sample, and an academic resume to Dr. Ethan Mark ([e.mark@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:e.mark@hum.leidenuniv.nl)). Include reference to the region and society (-ies) with which you have a prior interest and experience, local language abilities (if any), and an academic writing sample reflecting your familiarity with the approaches of at least one of the disciplines of history, literature, and/or media studies.