

**Joint AHRC & POST Postgraduate Fellowship 2014**

**Application Form**

Please complete using Arial size 11 font in black and submit document on Smart Survey to [Joint AHRC and POST Postgraduate Fellowships 2014 - Applicants survey](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/109847NJXRF) by **28th May 2014**. Please note that the application will be made ineligible if any of the sections below are left blank.

**1. Details of Applicant**

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| Surname: | Rushmore |
| Forename: | Catherine |
| Division/Department: | Faculty of History, Philosophy and Religion, Oxford Brookes University |

**2. Details of PhD**

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| Title of PhD: | Chemicals and Their Users in the British Home, 1930s-1980s | | |
| Start Date of Funding | September 2012 | End Date of Funding | September 2015 |
| Brief Summary of Research (max 200 words): | | | |
| The use of chemicals in the home, and their gradual displacement by branded goods has been largely unexplored. This thesis seeks to chart and understand the changing availability and presentation of domestically used chemicals between the 1930s and the 1980s. Exploring this aspect of the public's engagement with science and technology will yield lessons about communicating about chemicals and their safe use.  I selected chemicals used for household cleaning, gardening and photography which illustrate changes in convenience, effectiveness and safety. Hobbies and household tasks have traditionally strong gender links, so these topics allow investigation and discussion of whether there are gender differences in how chemicals are presented to the user, and how they are viewed and used by the consumer. A key theme in my thesis is the restriction of chemicals as evidence accumulates of potential for harm as a poison, as an explosive precursor or environmentally damaging substance.  My approach has been to build up case studies through finding recommendations for using or avoiding chemicals in articles and adverts in magazines and newspapers, in household manuals, by conducting oral histories with chemical users, and by using archived original material produced by chemical companies and government regulatory bodies. | | | |

**raining 010st submit their formcannot be met from the Training Grant, 3. Brief explanation of why you are applying for the placement** (max 300 words):

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| Scientific and technological issues are among the most pressing and rapidly changing, particularly those where potential for public benefit and damage must be weighed up as part of policy intervention, making them especially demanding to coherently navigate. I would like to assist the POST team in helping parliamentarians process the barrage of information they may be presented with by campaigners and lobbyists. In this way I would contribute to strengthening the foundations that these issues can be debated from. I would use the knowledge and research skills that I have gathered through working on my PhD, which constitutes valuable experience in locating and analysing a diverse range of source materials as well as taking a solidly contextualised, long view of research questions.  Prior to my PhD, which is funded by the AHRC and carried out at Oxford Brookes University in collaboration with the Science Museum, I researched and produced content for museum visitors on both historical and contemporary science topics, so welcome the challenge to select and present relevant, thought-provoking, balanced, concise and accurate briefing notes for a non-specialist audience.  This placement would help me to understand some of the processes behind the political debates behind current policy issues, for instance relating to the sale of poisons and precursors, and give me a more rounded perspective when returning to my PhD thesis. I would greatly value the opportunity to apply my knowledge and skills outside an academic environment, and consider it important for personal development. It is hard to overstate the importance of being able to demonstrate transferrable skills, including working to deadlines on a brief shared with other people, when applying for employment after my PhD. I would savour the chance to temporarily be a part of a respected and influential organisation where my input can be meaningful. |

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| **I confirm that the above particulars are correct.** | |
| **Signature:** | **Date:** 27.05.2014 |

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| **This part to be completed by your Supervisor:** | |
| I confirm that the above particulars are correct. If this application is successful, I give my permission for the above applicant to suspend their PhD studies for 3 months | |
| **Name: Dr Viviane Quirke** | |
| **Signature:** | **Date: 27.05.2014** |
| **This part to be completed by your Studentship Grant Holder** | |
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