



Erin O'Halloran

CCSF Award Winner 2015-2016

Erin O'Halloran is a Canadian DPhil Candidate in Global and Imperial History at St Antony's College, Oxford. She is a Canadian Centennial Scholarship Fund scholar and a recipient of the Mary Le Messurier Award for the Study of History. She is also a recipient of the T.E. Lawrence-All Souls Scholarship in History. Erin's doctoral thesis explores the crucial interactions between British policymakers and local political elites in Egypt and India between 1936 and 1942.

As a high school student Erin dreamed of studying history at the University of Oxford, to which she applied for an undergraduate

place. During her final year of high school in Toronto, the University invited Erin to interview in New York City. At the interview, her nerves got the better of her and she was subsequently not offered a place. Instead, Erin read International Relations and History at the London School of Economics, where she wrote her BSc dissertation on French participation in the Multinational Force in Beirut following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. In 2009 Erin was

awarded the LSE Student's Union Award for Outstanding Contribution to the School in recognition of her work as Founder and Chairperson of the Dialogue Commission, which worked to reduce tensions between the Israel and Palestine students' societies through mediation, speaker events and mediator training.

Erin went on to complete a Master's in Middle Eastern Studies at the American University of Beirut, in Lebanon, where she

also continued to enhance her language skills in French and Arabic. Erin lived in Beirut from 2009 to 2014, years of unprecedented transition and upheaval in the Middle East, marked by the revolutions that swept the region. Following the completion of her MA, she worked as a political researcher at the Carnegie Middle East Center, a translation supervisor at Al-Monitor.com, and a research editor for the United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia.

While in Beirut Erin began a correspondence with Margaret MacMillan, the renowned Canadian historian and

Warden of St Antony's College. Ten years after first applying, Erin arrived in Oxford to begin her DPhil in History under the supervision of Professor MacMillan.

Erin plans to pursue a career as a historian at a Canadian university. She believes that Canada and Canadians can make a unique and important contribution to the international conversation on the direction of an increasingly globalised world. She hopes to participate in this dialogue as an expert on the history of the Middle

East and global empire.

In her spare time Erin is a certified Yoga and AcroYoga Teacher and the Chair of the St Antony's Yoga Society. She is also a volunteer organiser for the Oxford Blues Varsity Ice Hockey team, and a young women's division leader in the North Oxford Buddhist community.

The CCSF is proud to have Erin O'Halloran among its distinguished scholars.

- written by Matilda Kentridge, June 2016



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