



Royal Irish Academy Grants Report

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| Title: | Dr |
| First Name: | David |
| Surname: | Brown |
| Discipline: | Humanities and Social Sciences |
| Year of Award: | 2018 |
| Project Title | The Cromwellian Servant Trade in Ireland, 1652-59 |

1. Research background:

I am a full-time research fellow at Trinity College Dublin specialising in the areas of trade in the early modern period. I received my PhD in 2016 and my monograph, *Trade Finance and Lobbying: The Adventurers for Irish Land 1640-1660* will be published by Manchester University Press in 2019. I have authored or co-authored 10 peer-reviewed articles or book chapters, and my five volume critical edition of *The Books of Survey and Distribution* is in production with the Irish Manuscripts Commission. I am currently testing and implementing software that uses artificial intelligence to automatically render hand-written manuscripts into machine readable text. To this end, I have recently digitised the RIA's Ordnance Survey collection of early modern *Inquisitions Post Mortem* with a view to eventual publication.

2. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved (did you achieve the primary objectives - if not, what did you learn from the process)?

My initial research objectives were easily achieved and useful conversations started for future collaborations. Until the 1660s, Barbados and Ireland shared a common history of colonial conquest, often at the hands of the same naval and military officers. The similarities are quite striking. A future visit, particularly one that involves the digitisation of records, will involve considerable advance planning and negotiation. Helping the Barbados Department of Archives to make their collections more widely available will, I believe, be of great benefit to a wide research community. The research itself opened up further questions. Immediately after returning from Barbados I visited both the National Archives in Kew (Colonial Papers Collections) and the National Records of Scotland (Hay Collections). In August 2018 I took up a fellowship to the Huntington, San Marino Ca, was able to research their papers relating to the Royal Africa Company in the 1660s. This final section completed the research into this topic.



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