

Institution: The University of Huddersfield

Unit of Assessment: 22 Social Work and Social Policy

a. Context

Researchers working within this UoA undertake policy and practice-relevant social and health research in our areas of expertise at regional, national and international levels, through our Institute of Citizenship and Applied Human Sciences (IRCAHS). We utilise applied social science approaches to address complex societal and health issues in eight prioritised [areas](#) of expertise, in relation to four main research [themes](#) (see REF5). We undertake research programmes which are significant to both academic and non-academic audiences, are utilised in policy and practice, and which generate benefits for service-users, service-providers and for wider society. Our main researcher users include: UK, EU and other governments, particularly in relation to citizenship, crime prevention and child protection; education providers and local authorities with respect to sexual equality issues and participative citizenship; child protection and criminal justice agencies; social work and health, particularly mental and occupational health service providers and charities. We are committed to disseminating research findings as widely as possible so that policy makers, practitioners, service users, and the general public can draw upon our findings in their thinking about complex issues, for instance in relation to twenty-first century citizenship, older parenting, child sexual abuse, gender equality and self-help for mental and other long term health problems.

b. Approach to impact

We seek to develop and utilise specialist expertise with respect to selected, currently important topics related to our prioritised research areas in which staff have come to be acknowledged as major, international contributors to knowledge. The establishment of widely recognised and highly focussed topic specialisms, sustained by our staff working with external academic and non-academic partners, gives researchers associated with this UoA credibility with governments, policy-makers, service-users and mass media providers. The credibility of these areas of specialism, combined with proactive networking and wide dissemination beyond academic audiences, results in our researchers being invited to contribute to the work of influential bodies, as documented below and in the case studies. Such participation, in turn, provides the platform for us to draw upon our research in order to contribute to the development of evidence-based policies and practice. A distinctive feature of our approach to impact arises from our broad, multidisciplinary cross-sectoral approach to complex social and health issues set out in REF5. This approach enables us to generate novel analyses of recognised social and health issues from which we can derive innovative practice and policy proposals. Examples include: linking crime to the architecture of the built environment; investigating crime spatially and through offender narratives; drawing on the resources of people with mental and other health problems in the evidence-based promotion of personal self-help as a complement or alternative to conventional psychiatry; addressing contested social and political identities in relation to Northern Ireland and the English Far Right; and using our research to support community development for deprived inner-city populations.

Support for staff and institutional support for maximising their research impact

Support for staff in maximising the impact of their research derives from the research strategy outlined in REF5 which prioritises eight areas for applied social and health research, all undertaken in collaboration with external agencies. We have developed strong, ongoing relationships with many regional, national and international partners, as is evident in our publications and case studies. The University supports the maximisation of research impact through its Research Impact and Collaborative Venture funds (as set out in REF 5). Impact projects are supported with up to £1,500 of University funding awarded at the discretion of IRCAHS. In the period 2008-2013, a total of £17,500 has been provided for 10 projects developed by colleagues whose work is relevant to UoA 22. For example, King was awarded funding to develop and run a set of workshops on the Pictor technique for exploring multi-professional relationships with Macmillan managers and staff. Roach's funding allowed him to explore in depth with members of the police how the impact of his research into improving the effectiveness of cold case reviews could be maximised, particularly through the development of case study training materials. Roach drew on this work to develop a one-day 'Street Craft' course on his investigative techniques which he has delivered to over 100 police officers to date. Durham police, for instance, now use these techniques, and have

incorporated them into their foundation training course for new recruits. Gallagher was funded to develop a publicly available register of child-protection research, including our own, which will come online in 2014. Monro organised a public engagement event designed to increase the impact of her research into equality issues for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. The University Collaborative Venture Fund is used to support staff in developing research in collaboration with non-academic partners, promoting the development of research which will have impact. It maximises the engagement of research-users, enabling them to take up the findings in their practices and policies. A total of £21,000 has been allocated to 10 projects since the programme started in 2012/2013. For example, Busher, Macklin and colleagues were funded to undertake research with Kirklees local authority into the consequences of the activities of the English Defence League for community cohesion agendas in predominantly white neighbourhoods. With further external funding the project was later extended to Calderdale local authority, This project illustrates the way in which our strategy of developing applied social science research can be used to develop impact, in this case through the application of the discipline of Politics. Armitage has received funding to support collaboration with the housing association Sadeh Lok in a project which will develop a research-based model for the better management of social housing which takes into account stakeholder perspectives. The IMPACT Project designed to curb child abuse in Caribbean countries is being developed by Jones in partnership with the government of Grenada and UNICEF with pump-priming support from this fund.

IRCAHS offers substantial support for the dissemination of research findings to non-academic policy-making and practitioner communities, and to the public. We treat dissemination as a necessary condition for wider take-up of research findings. For example, over 150 dissemination and impact activities using multiple formats were undertaken during the COPING project which investigated the mental health needs of prisoners' children. Furthermore, with the direct support of the University Public Relations Office, the main project report has been made available as an [e-book](#), offering the widest possible access. The outcomes of the COPING project were featured on UK [Breakfast TV](#) and 38 BBC radio stations, and the project is the subject of a news video being developed by an EU media company, [Youris.com](#). IRCAHS gives substantial support for the wider public dissemination of research findings as an element in our strategy of maximising research impact, particularly in relation to ensuring that our research informs public perceptions. Since 2013, this wider engagement with our research has been achieved through an on-going [public lecture series](#) and the creation of a series of short [films](#), five to date, which introduce a range of our research in accessible formats.

c. Strategy and plans

We focus on three interrelated forms of impact which are illustrated below and in the submitted case studies: firstly, communicating the multiple perspectives of stakeholders in order to support issue resolution by promoting better mutual stakeholder understanding; secondly, providing policy-makers with analyses which they use to drive policies; and, thirdly, informing the development of complex interventions aimed at tackling difficult social, welfare and health, problems. The case studies are mapped onto one or more of these forms of impact in section d below.

Impact through research sensitising stakeholders to multiple perspectives: The examples outlined below document our use of research to catalyse policy and service improvements through enhancing understanding of different stakeholder perspectives. King has been involved with the Macmillan Palliative Care Collaborative (MacPaCC) since its inception, 10 years ago. He has undertaken several projects funded by Macmillan, and designed to inform service improvements in palliative and supportive care for cancer patients. He led the qualitative arm of the evaluation of the Midhurst Specialist Community Palliative Care service, in collaboration with Sheffield University and the Monitor Group. The Huddersfield part of the study focussed on multi-professional collaboration, and revealed factors in team ethos and organisation that facilitated effective working with other services and with patients and carers. It highlighted the importance of strong personal relationships between colleagues from different professions which were facilitated by a non-hierarchical and patient-focused working-style. Informed by this [evaluation](#), Macmillan have selected this initiative as one of their 'game changing activities' in their current strategic planning. Up to six services will receive over £1,000,000 for implementation. King and members of his team have presented findings to a wide range of palliative care professionals, service managers and

developers to support Macmillan's work in this area.

Led by Jones, the University of Huddersfield in partnership with the NGO, Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group (POPS), instigated a major pan-European research agenda funded from the EU FP7 programme concerned with the needs of children of prisoners, the 'forgotten victims of crime', through the COPING project. The research team presented the [findings to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) who have now [included children of prisoners within their categorisation of the world's most vulnerable children](#). The research makes recommendations for recognition of the rights of the child in criminal justice systems at national and European levels, drawing attention particularly to the increased risk of mental health problems faced by such children. The findings have been translated into Romanian, Swedish and German, and are being used by professionals and policy makers to instigate changes. For example, Romanian prisons are now gathering data at the point of incarceration on the numbers of children of prisoners so that the scale of the problem can be quantified for policy-development. In the UK, Barnardos has developed a toolkit for use by schools to support children of prisoners, and to tackle the stigma they face. [Practice and policy initiatives](#) developed out of the research are being disseminated across Europe.

Impact through research influencing policy: Our research is taken up in policy-making at international, national and regional levels. Its value for policy development derives from offering novel analyses derived from the perspectives of previously ignored and/or hard-to-reach groups. For example, most policy analyses of gender equality issues have been concerned with the position of women, with the role of men often overlooked. Hearn's research has addressed this issue. He co-authored the 285 page policy report for the European Commission, [The Role of Men in Gender Equality](#) which drew substantially on his research. The report made wide-ranging recommendations covering education, work, family life, domestic arrangements, gender-related violence and health, for example, use of the 'Nordic' model of parental leave across the EU, and the embedding of gender equality in national and EU policies. Since publication in early 2013, the report has been taken up in policy formulations across Europe. For instance, in the same period, the governments of Finland and Sweden have initiated inquiries on men and gender equality building on the report, with Hearn co-supplying evidence on this issue in Sweden. He is also part of the EU [GenPort](#) project, an on-going online community of practitioners and researchers, served by an internet portal and made up of organisations and individuals working across the globe for gender equality and excellence in science, technology or innovation.

Policy analyses concerned with promoting active citizenship tend to focus on the attitudes and behaviour of adults, for instance in relation to low levels of participation in democratic processes. Mycock and Gifford's research into promoting active youth citizenship has been drawn upon in UK and EU policies. In 2010, the UK government [formally accepted](#) all but one of the recommendations put forward by the Youth Citizenship Commission. Mycock contributed significantly to the underpinning research and authorship of this [report](#), for example through his empirical investigations of the value of citizenship education in schools. Examples of the many accepted recommendations include the UK Government implementing measures to ensure that citizenship education is consistent and effective, and actively promoting volunteering by young people.

The work of McAuley, McGlynn and Mycock exemplifies the take-up of our research into the perspectives of hard-to-reach groups, in relation to conflict resolution. Their research was based on unique access to the views of former political prisoners and members of the Orange Order and McAuley has given evidence from his research to the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and the Parades Commission, which promotes better public understanding of issues concerning processions. In an email, Bob Osborne, Chair of the Commission, described McAuley's presentation of his findings as '*a fascinating and hugely useful conversation for us*' (details confidential). McAuley has also presented his research findings at the annual conferences of the Democratic Unionist and Progressive Unionist parties. His research findings on the Orange Order were [covered](#) in a four-page special supplement of the *Belfast News Letter*, one of the highest circulation newspapers in the province, and as a special feature on Ulster Television contributing to

wider public understanding.

Impact through research informing the development of complex interventions. Utilisation of our research findings contributes directly to service improvements and to enabling people to help themselves more effectively. We seek particularly to inform practice through research which improves understanding of the needs of stigmatised groups, draws together previously unconnected areas of expertise (see the *Designing Out Crime* case study), and/or offers novel modes of analysis. Parkin's work into promoting safer injecting drug use illustrates the first of these three impact strategies. Based on his research, he provides regular harm reduction and public health advice about street-based injecting drug use (in public settings) to statutory drug and alcohol agencies such as Regional Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (now part of Public Health England) and the Royal College of Physicians as well as contributing injecting advice to a [harm reduction website](#). Central to the impact of his research is demonstrating the [potential of vivid imagery](#) to influence service provider attitudes towards safer drug injection. Since January 2013 Parkin has also led a multi-disciplinary team in conducting a mixed methods study of recovery from opiate and crack-cocaine dependency amongst service users, commissioned by Kirklees Public Health; he will draw upon the research to impact the government's National Drug Strategy with respect to the now prioritised policy issue of promoting recovery. Ongoing research by Heyman and Clifton with the XPLORE service-user/carer researcher group at Bradford District NHS Care Trust will be used to inform local and national practice guidelines with respect to the location of mental health inpatient service users and consequent support needs. Canter and colleagues have developed novel spatial models which allow prediction of offending patterns. Their research into offence-mapping and criminal behaviour provides the underpinning for the Dagnet computer package used extensively by police forces around the world, and profiled in the Rand Corporation report *Predictive Policing* (p. 103). Canter and colleagues have drawn on this work to assist the police and military in a number of countries. For example, they guided the military in the location of improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan, and assisted the Dutch police in the investigation of unsolved murders. Their work grew out of Canter's watershed contribution to the capture of the 'railway rapist' John Duffy. The Sexual Abuse Child Consultancy Service (SACCS) has used Gallagher's research into what helps children living in a [residential therapeutic facility for maltreated children](#) to evaluate and then support the development of the service. This included implementing improvements in a number of areas of practice, such as therapy and preparation for leaving care. Postgraduate student Gómez's (supervised by Gifford and Mycock) ground-breaking study on the use of communicative citizenship in Columbia as a means of establishing sustainable peace led to an invitation write a report for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concerning resolution of the armed conflict and aid for the post-conflict recognition of the victims.

d. Relationship to case studies The five case studies have been chosen to represent the impact of our work across our eight prioritised research areas. Each covers one area: child welfare and protection (Child Sexual Abuse in the Caribbean: Critical Theory, Research, Policy and Practice); gender and sexuality (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Equality); long-term conditions, cancer and palliative care (The Development and Application of the Biopsychosocial Approach to Reducing Sickness Absence and Work Disability Due to Back Pain); promoting mental health and well-being (Improving Access to Effective Self-Help Support in Mental Health Services); and understanding and responding to crime (Designing out Crime). Additional case studies could have been offered in relation to the other three research areas, investigative psychology; citizenship, identity and nationalism; and infant and reproductive health.

The case studies contribute to one or more of the three interrelated forms of impact on which our strategy is based as outlined above. The child protection and LGBT equalities case studies particularly illustrate impact arising from communicating the multiple perspectives of stakeholders in ways which promote better mutual stakeholder understanding. The case studies on designing out crime and child protection particularly document the provision of analyses which are used to drive policies. The case studies on occupational rehabilitation for people living with back pain, self-help for mental health service-users and designing out crime particularly show how our research is used to inform complex interventions aimed at tackling difficult health and social care problems.