

Institution: Nottingham Trent University
Unit of Assessment: D30 History
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The History Unit is situated within the School of Arts and Humanities and engages in a wide range of research, temporally and geographically, from the Crusades and the Latin East to the Americas from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries, with strengths, too, in medieval and early modern European history, the history of technology in a global context, and nineteenth and twentieth century European studies. Research activity is concentrated in three key areas: The Centre for the Study of Religion and Conflict: examining the origins, ideology, implementation, impact and historiography of religious violence, conflicts and cultures in the medieval and early modern periods; The Colloquium for Historical Urban and Rural Studies: is a Humanities-based forum that concentrates upon spatially related human activities in their contrasting urban and rural contexts in such areas as social policy, charitable and voluntary action, networks and popular culture; The Centre for Public History, and Museum and Heritage Management: focuses on all aspects of public history, and within a professional practitioner context, on how museum and heritage organisations, governing bodies and the workforce develop and deliver the vision for their public roles through their practice.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The Unit's research strategy is based on developing common research interests among its members, shaped to constitute three broad research centres/clusters. These centres/clusters reflect shared interests and approaches within the broad field of History and historiography. The centres/clusters are sufficiently distinctive to produce an intellectual focus but permeable enough to allow for cross-disciplinary conversation and collaboration. Several researchers locate their work within more than one centre/cluster, which we regard as a particular strength. Many core features of the current research strategy demonstrate continuity with those outlined in RAE2008, including the intellectual contexts of our research within History.</p> <p>Following the outcome and feedback from RAE2008, the Unit identified four key precepts to solidify achievements through the current research cycle, taking the Unit forward to 2014, all of which were designed to improve the quality and impact of its future research:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensuring Sustainability: to allow the Unit to ensure a sustainable research capacity, all academic staff were entitled to regular sabbatical leave and financial support to help meet research expenses against agreed plans. Extra support for ECRs was central to the Unit's understanding of equality of opportunity, given the pressures on ECRs and the need to nurture emerging talent (see section c). We accepted, too, that certain types of research activity (e.g. archives overseas, access to rare collections), was more expensive/challenging and required additional support. This was provided at both Unit and School level. 2) Strategic Development: the Unit introduced regular research planning meetings for all History staff. Unit members submit detailed research plans covering likely activity in the medium and short terms. Progress was regularly reviewed within a supportive framework through the planned management of workloads, formal and informal mentoring, and training (grant capture workshops; round table discussions on publishing outlets, etc.). 3) Targeted Investment: the Unit came early to the view that it was particularly interested in stimulating research that offered innovative methodologies and new ways of thinking, significant networking opportunities and in supporting projects speaking to non-academic communities (see REF 3a). The Unit set aside 10% of its QR funding to address impact activities which include, for example, travel support for Black and Burch to attend practitioner events, Niven for overseas travel and funding to visiting overseas speakers to participate in

History's research seminar series (e.g. Guagnini, Bologna; Cornelia Siebeck, Essen).

- 4) **Flexibility and Review:** that additional targeted interventions to support particular projects and a flexible approach to staffing were essential developmental tools in aiding key researchers to negotiate the cyclical intensity of research activity in its various forms and stages. A targeted teaching relief policy was thus put in place designed to support those colleagues finishing work to publisher deadlines (e.g. Fuller and Woodley to compete their soon to be published first monographs, *Art for Equality: The NAACP's Cultural Campaign for Civil Rights*, and *Between Two Worlds: the Presentation of Sor Juana Inès as a Theological Authority*). To reflect changes in the staff base through the period, we have taken the opportunity to review the focus of the Unit by redirecting support from former centres FORWARD (Family, Order, Rebellion, Women, Anarchy, Revolution, Disorder) and THEM (The History of the East Midlands) to the more inclusive Centre for the Study of Religion and Conflict, the Colloquium for Historical Urban and Rural Studies and the newly formed Centre for Public History, and Museum and Heritage Management (which amalgamated the public history and museums studies sections and built on the natural synergies between the two areas of research). This has led to new foci of activity for recently appointed staff in, for example, Crusader studies, with substantive outputs in this sub-discipline (including a winner of the **Norman Hepburn Baynes Prize**, £3000), and in refocusing existing studies in social history towards historicising contemporary policy formation and issues, particularly in areas of public health and poverty.

The developmental and monitoring strategy for the Unit is set by the Research Leader and a Research Strategy Group (RSG), comprising both senior and junior researchers. The RSG meets regularly to consider History's overall research policy, monitoring and mentoring, and to disburse the Unit's QR funding to a range of activities from archive visits to sabbatical leave applications, working to enhance further existing achievements, plan in sustainability and to take the Unit's research activities beyond 2014. Our financial and social commitment to the facilitation of research remains central to our identity and ambition, and is underpinned by the financial and organisational commitments already made by Unit members. Details of current research programmes can be found on the History and Heritage website, listed under the various centres identified in section (a) of this document (http://www.ntu.ac.uk/research/ref_2014/units_assessment/history.html). Each centre has a coherent and determined programme of research activity, external engagement and dissemination to take it forward to 2020.

- a) **Centre for the Study of Religion and Conflict:** looks particularly at the origins, ideology, implementation and impact of religious violence, conflicts and cultures in the medieval and early modern periods. Future projects include: the role of oath-bound elite networks in communal activism during the Reformation, an examination of chivalry and masculinity in the context of the Crusades; Christian/Islamic perceptual understandings during the twelfth century, imported Catholic celebrations in the creation of Mexican society after the Conquest, and the generalship of Oliver Cromwell.
- b) **Colloquium for Historical Urban and Rural Studies:** members of the centre have a particular interest in social policy formation, civil society and participation, public and voluntary services and popular culture. Major forthcoming projects include: a re-evaluation of public health, welfare and medical provision during the Second World War (the first since the 1950s); the exploration of poor relief and the experiences of poverty in C16 and C17 Scotland, which questioned the ineffectiveness of voluntary giving; and an examination of the vibrancy of the English fair in the C19.
- c) **The Centre for Public History, and Museum and Heritage Management:** The Centre combines academic research with vocationally-relevant training and consultancy. Future research activity, tied into its professional practitioner portfolio, includes an evaluation of the quality of history in city museums and the ability of such museums to promote civil engagement, studies on the local built environment and on innovations in teaching technologies.

Taken together these centres/clusters significantly enhance the Unit's research environment for staff and post-graduates.

Future Sustainability: The Unit recognises that post 2014 further challenging decisions remain to be taken in terms of balance and selection. The unit, however, remains confident that this will be addressed via its research planning framework and through unit-level support, co-ordinated by the RSG. The process of personal and sectional review is, therefore, essential and a number of enhanced forward planning policy strands have been ratified by the RSG and subsequently by Unit members as a whole:

- **External Engagement:** a greater commitment to external, non-academic engagement, by enhancing the opportunities for dissemination and engagement by ring fencing a higher proportion of future QR earnings specifically for that purpose, and by reorienting collectively the unit's academic focus to a public engagement agenda (for the targets and strategy, see REF 3a). Raising public profile has a number of developmental impacts: namely, in expanding external networks, broadening external funding bases and, not least, in engaging in new stimulating forms of temporary and enduring communication streams.
- **Redefining activities within a more closely targeted focus:** the RSG decided to concentrate effort on bridging the gap between local groups and the academy. In partnership with Bishop Grosseteste, De Monfort, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Loughborough and Nottingham University, History at NTU will launch a new on-line journal *East Midlands History (EMH)*. Central to the consortium are local museums and library services, with which we have excellent existing links, and local history groups. Additional facets include a witness seminar series and expanded media and outreach educational presence (see REF3a). The operational outcomes for this programme will be determined by a process of consultation and will be strategically linked to the Unit's Impact agenda for regional engagement.
- **New Opportunities:** In order to enhance further the quality of outputs, the impact of History research and increase the support offered to ECRs and PGRs, the RSG will focus on:
 - extending mentoring and support (see section c), to include, for example, media training and bid writing workshops in conjunction with the NTU Research Grant Capture team; and protecting, wherever possible, research time through inwards investment and in maintaining a constructive balance between teaching and research commitments. It is appreciated also that effective mentoring functions at its best when part of an organic process of mutual support, through the Unit's research centres and its everyday processes. Each Centre has a clearly defined internal network through which this takes place.
 - expanding its investment in bespoke project and staff development in a number of ways:
 - a) **New linkages:** The Unit is particularly interested in developing further cross-collaborative bids within the University and externally, and with academic and non-academic partners. In addition to those traditional bilateral national and international arrangements between academics based directly on shared research interests (see section e), we will continue to develop a collegiate regional approach. Several collaborative arrangements around key projects are already in place with other East Midlands Universities: for example, Burch is working with Nottingham and Leicester University on an AHRC awarded Creative Economy and Knowledge Exchange project; and the Unit is engaged in the AHRC Three Cities Doctoral Training Partnership (see section c). Hayes is currently working towards a Connected Communities project with Leicester, Loughborough, Lincoln and Derby Universities.
 - b) The Unit already supports financially a variety of postgraduate activities and future plans include the publication of short papers and articles by PGRs on the

Unit's newly developed website, entrée into the local media (press and TV) and through newly collaborative ventures like the *East Midlands History*.

c. People, including:

i. **Staffing strategy and staff development:** Our staffing strategy has been to develop and extend the range of historical expertise offered within the Unit through investment in existing staff and by attracting early career researchers. Once in post, new colleagues are given a reduced teaching load in the first year, enabling them to develop new courses and continue their research at the same time. Newly appointed ECRs are mentored by senior members of staff. Thus Niven acts as mentor for Woodley and Fuller, Bennett as mentor for Morton and McCullum, and Hayes for Lussana. The mentoring system provides support in all areas, not least that of research, with advice on possible publication outlets, how to put book proposals together and on other research-related matters. ECRs, in their initial year, receive double the standard individual research allowance available to other Unit members to help with the purchase of research resources.

Staff participate in annual performance development and contribution reviews (PDCRs), ensuring that staff development needs are ascertained and addressed. NTU has developed and implemented a Researcher Continuing Professional Development Tool, based on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework, to assess and enhance its support for the research-related career development of staff at all stages of their career. We will use the Unit's resources to the full to help develop and further the interests and activities of all our researchers.

The Unit operates a schedule of research leave every four years. A major sabbatical provides one semester of leave, plus the vacation period which falls either side. Staff may also apply for a light teaching load in any academic session in order to accelerate a research project or complete work for publication. Additional strategic reserve funding is available for start-ups and extra expenses.

Additional support for overseas conferences and project portfolios is also available by application to the School's Research Support Fund. ECRs Fuller and Morton, for instance, both gained internal research grants to enable them to undertake research trips to Seville and Israel respectively. Funding was also given to ECR Woodley to visit the Library of Congress as an essential prelude to her forthcoming monograph. A similar School fund is available to support teaching buy-out for colleagues completing major projects or outputs. Members, and the Unit overall, have benefitted from each of these initiatives. Such interventions have allowed early ideas to flourish, producing concrete outputs and extra external income. Burch and Niven, for example, both received Unit and School investment to finance overseas trips, archival research and networking activity, and to reduce their teaching load to allow time for their work on Scandinavian and German Identity respectively. The Unit has also agreed to fund strategic interventions to help launch new initiatives by paying for travel, scoping work and conferences in pursuit of this agenda: for example, two strategic appointments (Cheetham and Johnson) were made to explore the viability of a multi-regional evaluation of the efficacy of the Emergency Medical Service during World War Two (in conjunction with Liverpool and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). We also funded a major practitioner conference to launch the Unit's Arts Council England award, so that potential third sector partners and museums could be enrolled onto the scheme.

ii. **Research students:** Since RAE 2008, the Unit has continued steadily to expand MPhil and PhD student numbers, recruiting from inside and outside the University. We currently have 16 PhD candidates (12.0 FTE), a doubling of numbers over 2005-7 (at roughly 5.0 FTE), with a further two writing up. Of these, half have been supported by History funds with fees-only bursaries. All students benefit from access to funding to help meet travel, conference and research materials costs. PhD and MPhil students within the Unit during the REF period worked and work on a wide range of topics and eras, from Antioch during the 13th century, masculinity and authority in the 1620s in England, the history of British Infantry Firepower from 1642 to 1815, prostitution in the Victorian era, the construction of Irish nationhood through politics and archaeology, voluntary and NHS hospitals, Taiwan and industrialisation, and British and German literary representations of the Second World War. The development of a Masters course in History (commenced 2009 and

recruiting some nine students annually), and the more recent MA in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, has enhanced retention strategies and improved student flow from undergraduate to postgraduate study. The Unit also offers a number of HEIF-funded undergraduate research bursaries over the summer months, tied to a supervisor's main project, which bridge the gap between final year undergraduate and Masters study.

The NTU Graduate School is responsible for all PhD admissions, ensuring an equitable process within and across the university's nine academic schools. Alongside the University Research Degrees Committee, it has oversight of all progression points: for example, project approval, transfer from MPhil/PhD to PhD registration, appointment of examination teams and of the annual and interim monitoring processes of students across the University. Students in the School participate in a Research Practice Course which aids the transition into research and academic work, and into the broader world of work after university. It provides modules for doctoral students (including those from other Colleges in the University) leading to a postgraduate diploma in research practice. From 2013/14 the Graduate School will own and manage a single training programme for all research students across the University which will offer a diploma level qualification in Professional Research Practice designed to meet RCUK and the Vitae Researcher Development Framework requirements for researchers at this stage of their careers. The Unit also offers internal bespoke, structured training for its postgraduate students to supplement School and University initiatives in, for example, historiographic and statistical analysis, the framing of research questions, data selection, and, where necessary or appropriate, through investing in specific external training, such as the teaching of Latin. In addition to this, the Unit is committed to offering its research students mentored teaching practice, underpinned by a structured system of support, to maximise their employability prospects upon completion of their doctoral studies.

The Unit funds an annual postgraduate history conference which is organised by PGRs, where they showcase their work, listen to and learn from external speakers and broaden their network connections. We also encourage and fund our postgraduates student to present papers at events outside the University, as recently evidenced by Drew (Birmingham, May 2013), Koabel (Lancaster, May 2102; Essex, September, 2102), Long (Sheffield Hallam, May 2012), Wilson (IHR, June 2013; Leeds, July 2103).

The History Unit is engaged in a range of initiatives to maintain the sustainability of its PGR community, notably its inclusion in the AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership bid as part of the successful Midlands Three Cities Consortium. Across the Consortium, this equates to funding of £14.6 million for 205 PhD studentships, accompanied by a Student Development Fund and a Cohort Development Fund, which all institutions in the Consortium match on a one-to-one basis. This delivers 410 studentships for the Consortium for Arts and Humanities, which will play a major role in the future sustainability of postgraduate research in our UoA.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income: The total external earnings for the Unit (2008-13) are £164,469, an 85% increase over RAE 2008. Unit members have contributed to, or initiated, several significant projects with other UK and European Universities. Bennett's project on the writings of Oliver Cromwell and the Transformation of Britain and Ireland (AHRC IRCHSS, £15,250), with Trinity College, Dublin, drew on collaborations from Britain, Ireland and the USA. Following receipt of two British Academy Small Grants (£6,390 and £4,412), Burch has been actively involved for four years with *Nordic Spaces: Negotiating identity in museums* cross-sectorial consortium to bolster research on Northern Europe, led by Linköping University, Sweden (total funding Nordic Research agencies c. €3.0m, of which Burch directly received £58,000). Inkster obtained a further £3,473 from the BA to extend his earlier international networking grant exploring Patterns and Institutions, Technological Change and Transfer. Niven launched a collaborative project with a number of British, German and American universities into the flight and expulsion of Germans from Central-Eastern Europe at the end of World War Two, thus far producing an international workshop (on the sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, 2008) and an international conference (representations of flight and expulsion, 2011), with one book already published and others planned (£10,802). He is also working with colleagues from

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Leeds University, the University of the Free State and The South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation on two funded projects (AHRC and BA) on reconciliation and coming to terms with the past (£9,164).

Awards recently granted but as yet only partially spent or received include Black/Skinner, Arts Council England (£105,000, of which some £50,000 has already been committed), to promote the good display practice amongst smaller museums; Burch, AHRC (£17,361), working with Nottingham and Leicester Universities, to find new ways of communicating historic information to a broader public; and Hayes (£25,440), working with MMU, the Victoria and Albert and the National Archives in the still under-worked area of men and work, examining what remains of the local lace industry. The Marc Fitch Foundation is currently funding the development of the Nottinghamshire Elites online data-base, designed in such a way that external communities can add to the data set, in addition to downloading data sets, running queries and mapping patterns of distribution.

Facilities: Within the School of Arts and Humanities, there are dedicated Graduate Research study areas with networked PCs, photocopier and communal area. The NTU library houses in hardcopy and electronic format, books and journal collections which support the specialist research interests of History staff. There are electronic, microform and printed collections of primary sources and databases which provide research materials in a number of specialist areas. To give but one example which crosses the temporal and topical divides of early modernist, modernists and contemporary historians within the Unit: in terms of access to on-line media collections, historians at NTU have at their disposal: British Newspapers 1600-1900, 19th Century British Library Newspapers, News Vault, 17th and 18th Century Burney Collection, 18th Century Collections Online, Times Digital Archive, Nexis (national and local newspapers, TV transcripts, magazines and trade journals), Intute (government documentaries, TV news, shorts), *Picture Post* Historical Archive, UKPressonline (20th century newspapers).

The Academic Library Liaison Team offers specialist training events linked to the wider NTU Researcher Development Framework programme, focusing on a range of research tools, skills and techniques. The Library also provides access to a wide range of tools to help staff disseminate their research and increase its visibility and impact. It hosts NTU's Institutional Repository (IRep), an open access, machine searchable database that preserves the institutional and scholarly outputs of the University. Staff and students can also book a one-to-one consultation appointment with their Liaison Librarian. These services are complemented by a rich array of online support services.

Intellectual infrastructure: The internal promotion of a thriving research culture includes an ongoing Research Seminar series at which invited external, internal and postgraduate speakers talk on a range of subjects germane to the Unit's research profile. Thus in the 2009-2013 period, in connection with the Unit's interest in public history and the history of memory, invited external speakers spoke on local, transnational and global narratives in Austrian exhibitions (Chloe Paver, Exeter) and on popular memory and gentry paternalism (Andy Wood, UEA). Mary Fulbrook's (UCL) guest lecture on generations, violence and the German dictatorships meshed, for instance, with the Unit's interest in the history of violence. The research seminar series also offers new colleagues a chance to introduce their research to the section (Morton, McCallum). The same colleagues have also taken over the running of the series, offering them new networking and organisational experiences. The Unit regularly hosts national and international conferences and workshops: for example, Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering and Technology (seminar and workshop series, 2008-9); 'The Representation of the Flight and Expulsion of Germans in Contemporary German Culture' (Oct. 2010); the Midland History Postgraduate Conference, last held at NTU on 12 November 2011; NTU Distinguished Lecture series, Sir Richard Evans, on 'War in the Nazi Imagination' (Nov. 2012); 'Coming to terms with South Africa's past', South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (April 2013); The East Midlands Heritage conference, "Stronger Together" (with Arts Council East Midlands and the East Midlands Museum Service, June 2013).

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

History at NTU actively supports and encourages Unit members to engage externally, working in conjunction with outside partners to develop undertakings of significance and working with its subject associations to develop projects and policy of international reach and significance.

Service: Hayes is on the Organising Committee of the annual Urban History Conference; Hodgson is a member of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East; Inkster has edited the leading British journal *History of Technology* since 2000; McCallum is General Editor and Publications Secretary of the Scottish History Society; Niven is Treasurer of the German History Society; Woodley is a member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the British Association of American Studies. Hayes and Inkster have acted as assessors for bids to the AHRC, the Australian Research Council, ESRC, Leverhulme and the Wellcome Trust.

Conferences: Unit members have accepted invitations to present guest lectures/seminars in venues around the world: Black at the European Foundation (Berlin), National Museum Denmark (Copenhagen) and London (see REF 3a); Burch at the National Art Gallery (Copenhagen), Konsthögskolan, Henry Moore Institute (Leeds), Sundsvall; Hodgson at Avignon, Geneva, Manchester, Oxford, St Louis and Swansea; Fuller at Cambridge, Cardiff, Cork, London, and Los Angeles; Hayes at Bangor, LSHTM, SOAS, V & A, Worcester, York; Hodgson at Geneva, New York, Oxford and Swansea; Inkster Chemical Heritage Foundation (Philadelphia), Political Warfare College (Taipei), Chinese Military College (Kaohsiung), European Science Foundation Project (LSE), European Space Agency (Noordwijk), Venice, Girona; McCallum in Aberystwyth, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Oxford; Niven at Berlin, Bucerius Institute (Haifa), German Naval League/Schleswig-Holstein Memorial Foundation (Kiel), UFR d'Études Germaniques (Lille), Goethe Institute (Lisbon), Madison, Munich, St. Louis and Washington (see REF 3a); Woodley at Manchester, Nottingham, Manchester Met, Sussex and Washington.

History Staff at NTU are active reviewers for academic presses and journals. Presses include: Amsterdam University Press, Bloomsbury, Continuum, Guelph Studies in Scottish History book series, Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, Manchester University Press, Palgrave, Routledge and Yale University Press. **Journals** include: *Labour History Review*, *Historical Research*, *Media History*, *Midland History*, *Reviews in History*, *Urban History*, *Economic History Review*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Business History Review*, *International History Review*, *Technology and Culture*, *Social Studies of Science, Theory, Culture and Society*, *British Journal for the History of Science*, *Investigaciones de Historia Económica*, *Australian Economic History Review*, *E-Sharp Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary History*, *Memory Studies*, *Baltic Studies*, *Central European History*, *Danish Yearbook of Philosophy*, *War and Society*, *Architectural Engineering and Design Management*, *Central Europe*, *German Politics and Society*, *Clio: Journal of Literature History*. Black and Burch are particularly active in reviewing artefacts, displays and events for journals such as *Museums Journal* and *Museum Practice*.

Collaborative research: Burch, on museum imaging with Nottingham and Leicester, and, through Nordic Spaces (<http://nordicspaces.com/researchers/>) with researchers across Europe and the USA; Hayes, with Doyle (Huddersfield) on inter-war medical voluntarism (*Historical Research*), with Tebbett (MMU) on workplace masculinity, with Gorky (LSHTM) and Sheard (Liverpool), the Emergency Medical Service; Inkster, with Guagnini (Bologna), Patents in History, with O'Brien (LSE), Steam Engines, with Buchanan (Bath), Engineering Disasters, with Gouzevitch (Paris) Identity of Engineers; McCallum, with MacDonald (Dundee) on early modern climate (*Environment and History*); Niven, Contemporary German and Afrikaner Cultural Responses to Issues of Trauma, Reconciliation and Reparation, with Taberner and Finch (Leeds) and van den Berg, Gobodo-Madikizela and Rossouw (University of the Free State), and Flight and Expulsion of Germans from Central-Eastern Europe, Howind (Hannover), Ennis (Cambridge), Lotz (Leipzig), Berger (Aberystwyth), Bangert (Cambridge), Brockman (Pittsburgh), Langenbacher (Washington).