

Institution: University of Oxford

Unit of Assessment: UoA 27 (Area Studies)

a. Overview

Area Studies in Oxford brings together research in the humanities and social sciences, on subjects from antiquity to the present day, fostering an approach that values deep historical and cultural understanding. We consider interdisciplinary Area Studies to entail an engagement between general explanation and local specificity that requires in-depth knowledge of societies.

The geographical and historical areas covered present distinctive problems of interpretation and require sensitive use of any western-derived theories and models. Our research advances mainstream disciplines by questioning their assumptions and indicating weaknesses. In the longer term, Area Studies serves as the incubator for globalising disciplines, acting as the medium through which study of the non-European world can be present across subject profiles, and restructuring disciplinary theory-formation to take in universalist approaches developed in a broad range of societies, especially those with rich intellectual histories. This direction of travel has also been articulated in the university's Strategic Plan and implemented in such new initiatives as that of Global History in the Faculty of History.

The Faculty of Oriental Studies (OS) and School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies (SIAS) are the principal hubs which co-ordinate and foster research in Area Studies. The two units interact to combine humanistic and social-scientific disciplines at the level of centres, so that those with disciplinary training in languages, texts, and material culture interact with those engaged in social-scientific analysis of contemporary societies. The main intellectual strategy is to promote this interplay of disciplines and to foster an environment that is creative, both in theory and in practice, by promoting centres that focus on particular areas of the world.

The UoA operates according to the university-wide principle of subsidiarity, providing fine-grained administrative support and strategic guidance to area-specific research centres focusing on Africa, Asia (East and South), Latin America, the Middle East, and Russia and Eurasia. OS and SIAS also link with allied centres of Area Studies expertise in the university, among them those for European Studies, American Studies, and Byzantine Studies, integrating the research activity of staff located in other departments and colleges, in particular St. Antony's College (see table on page 2). The UoA also works with four independent centres recognised by the university, in Hebrew and Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, and Buddhist Studies. Synergy with other disciplinary departments is further achieved through joint appointments for Area Studies, for example with the Department for Politics and International Relations.

Area Studies are integral to the University's research culture, being embedded in many departments, including Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, Classics, Development Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Linguistics, Modern Languages, Politics and International Relations, and Sociology. From this much broader community whose research has an Area Studies dimension, 71.1 FTE category A staff are submitted in this UoA, 43.7 from OS, 22.4 from SIAS, and 6.2 from other units, distributed geographically as follows: Middle East 31, China 16, South and Inner Asia 10, Africa 9, Japan-Korea 6, Russia and East Europe 1, and Latin America 1. The research of 20 staff in the two units is presented in other UoAs, including 13 SIAS members (UoAs 17B, 21, 23, 24A, 30) and 7 OS members (UoA31). Most of those submitted to this UoA focus on the Middle East, China, Japan, Korea, South and Inner Asia, and Africa. Those areas receive most discussion here.

	Humanities	Social Sciences
Units	<i>Oriental Studies</i>	<i>Interdisciplinary Area Studies</i>
Area-specific centres	East-Asian Sub-Faculty	African Studies Centre
	China Centre	Contemporary China Studies
	South and Inner Asian Studies Sub-Faculty	South-Asian Studies
	Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics	Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies
	Middle Eastern Sub-Faculty	Russian and East European Studies
	Khalili Centre (Art and Material Culture of the Middle East)	Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre (St Antony's College)
	Griffith Institute (Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies)	Latin American Centre
Allied area-specific centres	Middle East Centre (St Antony's College)	Asian Studies Centre (St Antony's College)

b. Research strategy

In RAE2008 Oxford submitted 85 Category A researchers in Middle East/Africa and Asian Studies. We continue to build on the strategic objectives presented then: a) to promote individual excellence in all areas; b) to foster interdisciplinary research through area-specific centres; c) to facilitate collaborative research projects; and d) to develop further research capacity, especially in contemporary societies and in regions that link existing strengths. This strategy is implemented through focusing on research that uses primary materials, and fostering the centres as vibrant settings.

Research activity in Area Studies encompasses a breadth and variety of disciplines and specialised fields. We continue to emphasise methodologically informed mastery of primary materials. These can be original-language sources, including products of electronic media, literary texts, historical documents, data from fieldwork, artefacts, site-based evidence, or combinations among such categories. Theoretical engagement and synthesis, which are vital to generating and disseminating ideas and knowledge, proceed from these materials, are tested against them, or both.

Languages remain at the heart of much research in the UoA. We study various historical stages and regional variants in a broad range of languages including: Arabic, Aramaic, Armenian, Bengali, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Mongolian, Old Iranian, Korean, Pali, Persian, Prakrit, Russian, Sanskrit, Syriac, Tibetan, Turkish (including Ottoman), Urdu, Yiddish. In addition, Akkadian, Coptic, Egyptian and Sumerian are taught by OS and submitted in UoA 31, while French, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish are taught in Medieval and Modern Languages and submitted in UoA 28. Provision and protection of training and expertise in this range of languages are key to our research strategy. For some of this expertise which is rare or unique in the UK, we perform a custodial function for research capability of national significance, as recognised until recently by HEFCE funding for minority languages. Despite the loss of that funding, the University remains committed to maintaining its range of non-European languages. This is demonstrated by our implementation of our 2008 plans, including refilling and creating posts and building new facilities.

1. *Where we stand in relation to 2008 plans*

In 2008 we anticipated the endowment of one new permanent post in Islamic Near East. In the event, three have been endowed: two chairs (Ramadan, Watson), and a Lecturer (Sinai). We have added a new Professorship in Israel Studies (Penslar) and, as prefigured, funded two five-year fixed term Lecturerships, in Israel Studies (Hirschhorn) and Eastern European Jewish Civilisation (Stern). There is a new Lecturership in Chinese Philosophy (Meyer), while the endowed professorship in Buddhist Studies that was in prospect has been secured and filled (Zacchetti). The growth in the study of Modern South Asia has resulted in the creation of a full-time Lecturership in

Hindi (Bangha), supported by an Instructor, as well as a University Lecturer in the Political Economy of India (McCartney). Recent searches have successfully filled two new Lecturerships, in African History (joint with History: Larmer), and African Criminology (joint with Law: Steinberg). Thirteen permanent posts have been refilled: Arabic, Modern Arabic Language and Literature, Assyriology, Modern Chinese Studies, Chinese, Chinese Literature, Political Economy of China, Modern Hebrew Literature, Early Islamic History, Japanese, Japanese History, Tibetan, and Turkish. The UoA has also hosted many postdoctoral and grant-supported positions (see Section c. 1f).

The new **China Centre** will bring the largest group of active researchers on China in Europe together in a purpose-built centre in summer 2014. The Centre's development has led to a restructuring of research with a strong interdisciplinary emphasis. The centre will make it possible to coordinate the university's communities that research and teach on China much more effectively. It will provide a place where they can develop new ideas and approaches, enabling the wider academic community, the public in the UK, and in the world beyond to recognize and draw on the critical and rapidly expanding mass of knowledge on China that has developed at Oxford. The strong interest in China in diverse sectors of the university, for example in Anthropology, Geography, the Business School, and Medicine, will focus around the China Centre, which will also foster collaborative research with institutions in China itself.

A comparable hub for **Modern Middle Eastern studies**, in a building under construction in St Antony's College, will open access to library and archives while fostering synergies among researchers working on both the Middle East and North Africa. The main buildings of SIAS have been renovated, and African Studies has a new home with office space, seminar room, and library.

The **Ashmolean Museum's reconstruction** was underway in 2008, reopening in 2009 (Egyptian section in 2011), with redesigned galleries and curatorial spaces that are regularly used for research of the UoA. The Bodleian Libraries are renovating the New Bodleian, which will reopen in 2014 as the new home of the Bodleian's special collections, housing all manuscripts, including those of Asia, Middle East and Africa, and providing open shelving that will unite the Indian Institute, Oriental, and Commonwealth collections. Members of the UoA sit on the groups that plan and implement all of these projects.

2. *Strategy for the future*

In the next five years we plan to maintain the direction described above, sustaining and enhancing the breadth and depth of research coverage by using internal funds as well as seeking external grants and endowments. Support for both individual and collaborative grants has developed strongly, as has the strategy of maintaining language expertise together with a commitment to interdisciplinarity that is channelled through area-specific centres. We shall work with the Humanities Division's new Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities, which aims to facilitate multi- and inter-disciplinary research activities, to broker interdivisional and intercollegiate collaboration, and to promote public engagement with Oxford Humanities. Members of the UoA have created some of its first interdisciplinary projects.

The bodies for developing future strategy are the OS committees for Research and for Planning and Resources and the SIAS Financial Steering Group (FSG). Since 2012, the FSG has commissioned several strategic initiatives concerning future research priorities, and these have formed the basis for a five-year strategic plan. At university level, the Interdivisional Area Studies Committee will facilitate future collaboration between OS and SIAS, and will enable the University to respond to new opportunities in Area Studies research.

In posts, OS has identified the endowment at professorial level of an existing lectureship in Japanese as its main fundraising objective. It will also seek support for a position in Central Asian studies to bridge existing strengths in Middle East and South and Inner Asia. SIAS has a complementary plan to seek outside funding for a position in the study of Pakistan and for developing the study of contemporary Turkey. We shall actively seek support for refilling positions in Contemporary South Asia, China, Latin America, and Russian and East European Studies. African studies plans to find funds to add a social geographer and a South Africanist.

3. *Fostering individual, collaborative, and interdisciplinary research*

While the UoA supports individual research strongly, collaborative and interdisciplinary research

are the rule rather than the exception, with the vitality of their environment sustained by the area-specific centres. Centres work through their directors and management committees that oversee planning. In addition to mentoring individual and collaborative research plans and ongoing projects, centres invite leading scholars to speak at research seminars and conferences. In-progress reports on research are presented in the centres and feed into further research. Every unit has access to funds to support one or more weekly seminar series with the result that every week during term researchers can engage with the latest work of renowned scholars. More than 1500 research seminars were held during the assessment period. The centres also organise conferences or workshops on topical themes at least once a year, such as, in African Studies, 'Wild Things: Nature and the Social Imagination', and in Hebrew/Jewish Studies, 'King James' Bible: The Scholarly Context' (both 2011). More conferences are listed in Section e.

Among externally funded projects that combine disciplines and involve international collaborations, one example is the 'Balkh Art and Cultural Heritage Project' (Herzig), which studies the early Islamic history of Afghanistan and is coupled with initiatives aimed at building cultural heritage preservation capacity within the country. Funded by the Leverhulme Trust, it involves collaborations with the Délégation Archéologique Française en Afghanistan, the Kabul National Museum, and specialists in CNRS, Paris and elsewhere. Another example of collaboration is 'Josephus in Jewish Culture' (M. Goodman), which studies the reception in the 19th and 20th centuries of the renowned first-century Jewish author and chronicler. Funded by AHRC, it is a partnership with King's College London, and involves team members from KCL, Southampton, Hebrew University Jerusalem, CUNY, and Amsterdam. Furthermore, the project 'Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Technology and Work in Production and Distribution Systems: Rice in India' (Harris-White), which is funded by ESRC-DFID, collaborates with Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jindal Global University, the National Institute of Rural Development Hyderabad, and the Madras School of Economics (see further Section e).

The UoA takes advantage of institutional research support provided by the University, the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions, and the two component units, stimulating the research environment most directly through the area-specific centres. OS's Research Committee meets termly to review grant applications and to monitor research plans. The Committee receives annual reports on research activity by faculty members and reviews and provides advice for external grant applications. Since January 2013 OS has employed a research officer who supports the committee as well as the PIs of existing grants. In SIAS, ideas for research projects and collaborations are developed in the area-specific centres, supported centrally by the SIAS committee and sustained administratively by a full-time assistant. At divisional level, Research Facilitators provide advice on, and support in seeking, external research funding to all academic staff. They work with researchers to develop the structure and content of applications, provide advice on draft proposals, elucidate funding schemes, distribute timely information and reports to faculties, brief on specific schemes, maintain a watching brief on developments in research funding and policy issues, and organise workshops, training, and briefings.

This enhanced provision has brought a great increase in the number of external grants, both individual and collaborative. Among these are: Chaisty, Cheeseman, and Power, 'Coalitional Presidentialism in Africa, Latin America, and Post-Communist Europe' (ESRC); Frellesvig, 'Verb Semantics and Argument Realization in Pre Modern Japanese' (AHRC); Hillenbrand, 'Photographic Memory in Twentieth Century China' (AHRC); Millar, 'Greek Christianity and Syriac Christianity Before the Islamic Conquest' (BA); Payne, 'Alternative Accountabilities' (AHRC); Pfeiffer, 'From Late Medieval to Early Modern: 13th to 16th Century Islamic Philosophy and Theology' (ERC); Rogan, 'The Great War in the Middle East: 1914–1920' (AHRC); Sasse, 'Understanding the Political Impacts of Migration' (Leverhulme); Wallace, 'Authorship, Originality and Innovation in Tibetan Religious Literature' (AHRC). More are mentioned in Section e.

The UoA has continued to play a central role in cross-university consortia created by the Language-Based Area Studies Scheme, which is funded by HEFCE/ESRC/AHRC. In 2006 Oxford became the lead institution in the British Inter-University China Centre (BICC), and it has been a key member of the similarly funded Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies (CEELBAS). Phase II of these consortia began in 2012.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

a) **Recruitment.** The University and the UoA's commitment to recruit research and academic staff of the highest international distinction and potential is complemented by wide-ranging support for the career development of all staff and encouragement of diversity at all levels. All posts are advertised on international lists, and members of selection panels receive training in issues of equality and diversity.

b) **Appointment and induction.** Most academic staff are recruited to a unified academic grade, currently 'University Lecturer', which extends to a Professorial equivalence at other UK HEIs. Staff are appointed for a probationary period, during which they receive mentoring from a colleague in the same field and are exempted from major administrative and examining roles. Junior colleagues are given preferential access to sabbatical leave in order to encourage research activity. For example, before the end of her first two years, Murphy received an early term of sabbatical leave to complete several publications. The Oxford Learning Institute organises an induction programme for new staff; besides training in teaching techniques and admissions practice, it provides courses for research staff that support their development throughout their careers, from teaching-related sessions for ECRs to customised training for PIs.

c) **Mentoring.** Each new colleague is assigned a mentor, meeting at least once a term to discuss professional matters. After the probationary period, staff at all levels have research mentors with whom they can discuss their current and planned research. Most appointees are attached to a college, which provides a supportive structure and an intellectual community with colleagues across many disciplines.

d) **Career development.** All researchers and academic staff, including temporary and part-time contracts, are on agreed national pay scales, with automatic annual incremental progression. There are clear structures for re-grading of posts, to award enhanced pay on grounds of merit or temporary additional duties, and to retain exceptional staff. In addition, all eligible staff are encouraged and mentored to apply for the title of 'Professor' in a regular 'Recognition of Distinction' exercise, in which their research, teaching, and administrative achievements are evaluated by a central committee; this exercise provides an opportunity for compensation for the otherwise flat structure of an Oxford career. Applications are considered by a university-wide panel that relies heavily on external assessments. Since 2008, two SIAS staff (Neary, Wong) and two OS staff (Frellesvig, Mitter) have received this recognition of distinction.

The Careers Service offers tailored advice and support to research staff at all career stages. The Humanities Division Research Team provides a calendar of training events, including sessions that inform and support staff in seeking external funding, as well as events and workshops on generic skills and issues relevant to careers in higher education and the management of research projects.

The University implements the nationwide Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers via a Code of Practice for the Employment and Career Development of Research Staff that is tailored to ensure that the Concordat suits Oxford's staff and is appropriate to the local context. The University has been awarded the EU's HR Excellence in Research badge for the support it provides for researchers.

e) **Research leave.** All substantive academic staff are eligible after six terms for one term's sabbatical leave. This can be banked to be taken in periods of up to a complete academic year. University statutes require the time to be used for research. The University has generous family leave schemes and support mechanisms and well-established schemes for staff to request flexible working patterns. Three UoA members have had maternity leaves during the period of assessment, one of them twice; one UOA member has had two periods of paternity leave during the period. The devolved structure of the University gives significant responsibility to Faculty Board Chairs who, acting within procedures which encourage equality of treatment, are given discretion to respond flexibly to local needs of individual staff. For example, Pfeiffer has received five years'

leave from teaching and administrative duties so that she can act as PI for an ERC Starting Investigator Grant, while Rogan had two years of leave to take up a British Academy Thank Offering to Britain Research Fellowship and an AHRC Senior Research Fellowship.

Staff are encouraged and supported in applications for externally-funded leave. The UoA and many colleges provide an allowance for research support, travel, and conference attendance. 'Relief of burdens' (in the form of additional leave, dispensation from lectures, college buy-outs or additional allowances) is available for individuals taking on key faculty, school, or college roles.

f) Postdoctoral and early career fellows. - The UoA attracts numerous junior research, post-doctoral, and mid-career fellows, in posts spread between faculty and colleges, as well as externally-initiated visiting arrangements. These positions, typically lasting three years, are intended to advance their holders' research and further their careers in other ways. The UoA actively supports applications for British Academy, Marie Curie and Leverhulme PDFs. In 2010 the Mellon Foundation awarded Oxford Humanities £1.28M for twelve 2-year PDFs, and during the assessment period the UoA has had three: in Hindu Religious Cultures (Kapadia), Early Modern Indian Cultures of Knowledge (Dudney), and Arabic Sociolinguistics (Panovic), the former two jointly with History, the latter with Linguistics. PDFs are given office space, usually in the relevant centre, placing them at the heart of its activities. All are involved in research seminars, have opportunities to teach, and can call upon one or more senior colleagues for advice and support. The UoA has also introduced Career Development Fellowships, which give post-doctoral researchers an opportunity to acquire teaching and administrative experience (e.g Hertog in Japanese Studies). In addition to post-doctoral researchers, Area Studies employs numerous early-career researchers in fixed-term, primarily teaching positions that provide excellent career stepping-stones (currently Arnold, Cronin, Daoudy, Deacon, Ditmanson, Horn, Irwin Crookes, Legendre, Matsuura, Mestyan, Still, Sullivan, Toivonen, and Winkler). These Departmental Lecturer posts (DLs) play a key role in helping the UoA achieve various strategic research objectives, including the expansion of externally-funded research and provision of relief from other duties to senior scholars in order to pursue and complete major projects. They are also vital to the UoA's ambition to serve as a training ground for the next generation of specialist research expertise in Area Studies. While at Oxford, fixed-term members of staff have access to all the facilities, resources, support services, library collections, seminars, and lectures described in this submission. Holders of these posts are encouraged to make full use of opportunities available to further their own research, so that they can take an enhanced research profile as well as additional teaching experience to their next post. Many DLs employed during the assessment period are not included in the REF submission because their time in Oxford led to subsequent posts with research duties in the UK or abroad, vindicating the UoA's aim to serve the field as a global provider of trained scholars. Destinations include tenure-track positions in Aberdeen, Budapest, London, Los Angeles, Munich, Newcastle, Oslo, Sydney, and Washington DC, in addition to more advanced research positions in a number of countries and institutions.

g) Equality and diversity. The diversity of our academic staff reflects the value placed by the UoA on having staff who have the skills necessary for language-based study: 40 percent of UoA staff are from outside the UK and the EU (the University average is 17 percent). 32 percent of UoA staff are women (against a University average of 22 percent).

Like all members of the University, research staff are protected by, and have responsibilities under, the University's integrated equal opportunities policy. The policy applies but is not limited to: advertising, jobs, recruitment, and selection; training and development; opportunities for promotion; conditions of service, benefits, facilities and pay; health and safety; conduct at work; grievance and disciplinary procedures; and termination of employment.

h) Knowledge exchange. The UoA facilitates exchange in a number of ways; examples are given in more detail in the REF 3a impact template. The UoA integrates knowledge exchange into its institutional arrangements. A number of staff in OS have secondment duties as part of their endowed posts. Watson, Professor of Islamic Art, regularly travels to Doha as consultant to the new national Islamic Museum, the creation of whose permanent exhibits he oversaw; Ramadan, Professor of Islamic Studies, has similar arrangements with a Qatari foundation. Centres in the UoA provide visiting fellowships to individuals from the public and private sectors. For example, the

Nissan Institute has hosted representatives from the Japan Foundation, (a subsidiary of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The European Studies Centre has similar arrangements for officials from the European Commission. Such visiting fellowships provide valuable opportunities to disseminate Area Studies research to a vital audience, as well as offering academic staff important insights into the thinking and functioning of public and private organisations.

ii. Research students

All permanent staff in the UoA supervise doctoral students whose admission and progress are rigorously monitored. OS has a large number of research students (110 in 2012-13). While SIAS does not itself admit students for doctoral research, its staff supervise students admitted in other disciplinary departments. The School plans to introduce its own doctoral programme over the next five years. Admission normally requires a pass with distinction (or the equivalent) in a Master's course. Research students are integrated into faculty life through induction events, regular seminars, and research-interest group discussions. Each of the UoA's centres organises one or more regular seminars involving graduates. Here international scholars as well as young academics and research students can present their work. The breadth of seminar programmes and events provides further opportunity for discussion and support. Research students also organise seminars among themselves and receive faculty support for this purpose.

Funding. The UoA has attracted graduate scholarships from a range of sources. OS usually receives 4 AHRC studentships per year. The BICC provided 2-3 Oxford scholarships annually in Chinese studies. Since 2008, 26 research students in the UoA have received scholarships from the University's Clarendon Fund, which supports students in all divisions and actively seeks additional finance. The Ertegun Scholarships, which began in 2012, fund 15 new humanities graduate students each year. To date there have been 3 in OS. The Weidenfeld Scholarships for graduate study, instituted in 2007, provide full funding for 25 students per annum, targeting applicants from the countries of the UoA. To date there have been 7 in the UoA. Trust funds and college collaborations enable the UoA to fund several additional studentships each year. Several colleges have research scholarships covering parts of the UoA, including the Black Memorial Scholarship in Assyriology at Wolfson and the Hadid Studentship in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at St Antony's. Pembroke College has a TEPCO research studentship in Japanese; Pembroke's Stanley Ho endowment funds several postgraduate scholarships in Chinese studies. The Sasakawa Oxford fund supports two or three graduate students each year and provides research funding for graduate students across the university, usually for travel to Japan. Other studentships include: the Wai Seng Senior Research Scholarship; the Swire scholarships at St Antony's College (Hong Kong and Korean students); and the Davis Fund. Approximately 39% of PGT and 53% of PGR students are fully or partly funded through these means. The provision of graduate studentships remains a top development priority.

Nurturing and reviewing. In addition to their personal supervisors, a Director of Graduate Studies is appointed to provide guidance when desired, and each College provides additional advisory support. The UoA has a robust mechanism for reviewing students at successive stages of their research degree, operated through a 'transfer of status' (normally after one year of research) and 'confirmation of status' (normally after a further year). The University's online Graduate Supervision System records and monitors supervisors' reports and these are regularly made accessible to the students. Any issues arising are dealt with by the Director of Graduate Studies. In OS graduate matters are discussed at twice-termly meetings of the Graduate Studies Committee and reported to the Faculty Board.

Research support Research students are strongly encouraged to present their research at conferences and when possible to submit their work for publication. They can apply to a number of funds for field research and to attend conferences at which they are presenting. They can also apply for financial and administrative support for organising conferences.

Development of skills. The Humanities Division training officer coordinates and delivers a range of training for graduate students and PDFs, including sessions on teaching methods and skills,

enhancement of academic and transferable skills, and seminars led by colleagues on topics such as Subject Associations, Online Presence and Developing your Profile, and Organising a Conference. Support for IT applications, including websites, programming, and databases, is provided by faculty IT staff, colleges, and the central IT services.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

The UoA has had considerable success in attracting external research funding, bringing in £12.1 million in 2008–2013. This funding is very diverse and is spread broadly across the UoA's research community. In total 102 PIs received external funding from 41 sources during the assessment period. Sources include research funders such as AHRC and ESRC, the Leverhulme Trust, and the British Academy, as well as governmental and international bodies such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the European Commission, the Volkswagenstiftung, the Nippon Foundation, the Korea Foundation, the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, and the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation.

Applications for external research awards are encouraged and supported at several levels in the University. The role of the UoA's structures and the Divisions' Research Facilitators is outlined above. In 2006, the University launched the John Fell Fund, designed to 'foster creativity and a proactive approach to research opportunities in all subject areas, and particularly interdisciplinary fields'. The UoA has made good use of this fund, both for pump-priming for larger awards (e.g. for Chaisty, Cheesman and Power's ESRC-Funded project) and as a means of securing additional time for individual research (e.g. an extra term's leave for Frood's AHRC-funded project).

The University's Research Services office supports research across the whole institution and knowledge exchange among the University's researchers, government, community organizations, and industry. The office's work is integrated with that of the Humanities Division's research facilitators, focusing on assisting researchers to identify funding opportunities, on supporting the preparation and submission of proposals and the start-up of new projects, and providing advice and support to researchers through the project lifecycle, with strictly financial aspects the responsibility of a separate unit, Research Accounts. Other groups in Research Services offer specialized advice in relation to: research integrity; research systems and training; research information management; profiling the intellectual, cultural, social and economic impact of Oxford research; University and Divisional planning and research policy; and strategic links. Media training is provided by the University's Press and Information Office, which also coordinates and promotes the publication of news stories arising from research across the University.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The renovation and expansion of research facilities over the review period, mentioned in Section b1, has been sustained through the economic downturn. The new China Centre, made possible by a £14 million donation, will house a library, lecture theatre and classrooms, academic offices, study spaces, and a language laboratory. A donation of £11 million for the expansion of the Middle East Studies Centre will add state-of-the-art facilities for its library and archive as well as a 125-seat lecture theatre.

The UoA has rich library resources, all of them integrated in the Bodleian Libraries, the UK's largest university library system, with a common, universally accessible online catalogue of over 11 million items. Most centres in the UoA have their own libraries. Examples include Bodleian holdings housed in the Nissan Institute, which contains the University of Oxford's principal collections relating to Japan in the humanities and social sciences, including a collection of manuscripts and rare books; and the Middle East Library, which has a unique archive containing over 2,500 boxes covering the period from 1800 to the present. In 2014 the new China Centre Library will open, housing 45,000 volumes relating to China in the humanities and social sciences. The Chinese Studies collection is one of the fastest-growing in Europe, with approximately 221,000 volumes and access to 6,500 Chinese electronic journals. The Bodleian Libraries give access to around 725,000 printed volumes of research materials on the literatures, history, religions, and

cultures of the Near and Middle East and North Africa, South and Inner Asia, East Asia, Latin America, and Russia and Eastern Europe, including works in all of the languages listed in section b1. The library holds over 16,000 manuscripts and significant archival and rare book collections related to the regions of study. The Indian Institute collection with over 130,000 volumes is one of the largest collections of materials relating to South and Inner Asia Studies in the UK. The Oriental Institute has its own library of approximately 55,000 volumes relating to the study of Middle Eastern and Islamic; Hebrew and Jewish; Japanese and Korean; Syriac, Ethiopic, Armenian and Georgian; and South Asian history, languages, and cultures. Other specialist libraries that are part of the Bodleian Libraries with relevant resources for the UoA include the Sackler Library (c. 250,000 volumes), the primary resource for art, archaeology and material culture. All of these libraries provide access to related material amongst the 8 million items held in the Book Storage Facility.

In addition, the Bodleian offers access to over 50,000 electronic journals, newspapers and magazines and over 500 licensed electronic databases and reference works. There were 7,608,848 full-text journal articles viewed in the last academic year. Current e-book stock is 540,000 items, with 2,176,112 chapter requests in the last academic year (2012-2013). The Bodleian's current annual spend on electronic resources is over £4.2 million.

The UoA provides operational support for the use of digital data. OS has a full-time dedicated ICT specialist, as does the Khalili Centre. In addition, a number of support staff are employed through external funding to facilitate large digital projects. They include staff involved in the database component of projects on Ancient Arabia (Johns), Japanese Language and Linguistics (Frellesvig), and Islamic Philosophy and Theology (Pfeiffer). The staff play an important role in the development of websites that are used to co-ordinate and disseminate research findings.

The Ashmolean Museum (adjacent to the Oriental Institute and the Sackler Library) is essential for several sectors of the UoA. The award-winning rebuilding of the museum has greatly enhanced access to its collections for teaching and research, in keeping with the UoA's emphasis on material and aesthetic culture and on depth of historical coverage. Collaboration between staff in the Faculty and Ashmolean is close, including joint appointments (Treadwell, Vainker in this UoA), while other curatorial staff are OS faculty members and contribute to teaching, graduate supervision, and research (Bhandare, Topsfield, Barnes, Collins, Pollard). Like the libraries, the museum attracts many academic visitors. The Islamic and Chinese collections are especially strong in ceramics, while the collection of Japanese export porcelain is perhaps the most comprehensive in the West. The holdings in coins, textiles and paintings, and other items of Indian material culture are extensive, including more than 15,000 coins from South Asia and over 2,000 Indian textiles, of which more than 1,200 are from the 11th- to 15th-century Indian Ocean trade, for which this is the most extensive collection in any public museum. The *Museum of the History of Science* holds collections of Indian scientific instruments. The wide-ranging collection in the *Pitt-Rivers Museum* of more than 250,000 items includes ethnographic materials of interest to the UoA.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

1. Collaboration

The environment of the UoA provides opportunities for researchers to work collaboratively with colleagues, inside and outside Oxford as well as across disciplines. The following examples are indicative of the range and style of collaborations. Individual collaborations include: Weinberg, who co-authored an award-winning book on Isaac Casaubon with Anthony Grafton (Princeton); Holes, who has produced two books on contemporary Arabic poetry with Said Salman Abu Athera, (Centre for the Preservation of Bedouin Culture, Jordan); Sullivan, who works on 'Challenges to Trust Building in Nuclear Worlds' with Wheeler (Birmingham); Murphy on migrant orphans with Ran Tao (Renmin); and Wainwright on 'Transnational circuits of e-waste between Japan and China' with Li Li ping (Shantou University Medical School).

Larger collaborations include the Hexapla project (Salvesen) to edit the fragmentary Origen recension of the Bible, involving more than 25 researchers in Belgium, Eire, Finland, Netherlands, North America, and UK. Minkowski belongs to an Oxford-Columbia-Princeton network studying the global comparative history of philology. Treadwell's AHRC-supported 'Dirhams for Slaves' project, which involves universities in Sweden, Poland, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine. Many other

Environment template (REF5)

collaborations are supported by grants mentioned in Section b1.

Examples of research networks include the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme (Cheeseman), funded by the UK Government, with scholars at Paris-IV Sorbonne, Kenyatta and Nairobi Universities; the working group on 'Israeli History, Politics and Society' (Penslar); and Steinberg's BA-funded network to facilitate dialogue between European and African Scholars on policing in sub-Saharan Africa.

2. *Contribution to disciplines*

Service to the profession is central to our work. With a broad remit to address all areas of research in Area Studies, we encourage colleagues to contribute to the national and international development of their disciplines.

Conferences: Most members of the UoA, from junior to senior, have participated in organising large conferences in and outside Oxford, in total at least 125 during the REF period. Notable recent conferences in Oxford include: 'The Role of China in Shaping Media Policy in Africa' (2010); 'Minorities in the Mediterranean World' (2011); 'Wild Things: Nature and the Imagination' (2011); 'Monetary Circulation in 10th-c. Northern Europe' (2011); and 'Economies of Favours after Socialism: a comparative perspective' (2012). Conferences are typically hosted by the UoA's centres and research groups, often in ongoing series. Thus, the Oxford Early Modern South Asia project has convened five two-day workshops since 2008, with three resulting in books: 'Munshis, Pandits, and Record-Keepers: Scribal Communities and Historical Change in India' (2008); 'Religious Cultures in South Asia' (2009); and 'Discipline, Sect, Lineage and Community: Scholar Intellectuals in India, c. 1500–1800' (2013).

Visiting Professorships: UoA researchers support their disciplines as visiting professors. Among them have been: Baines, Basel (2011), ÉPHÉ (2012); Cheeseman, Sciences Po (2011), CEU Budapest (2011); Frellesvig, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Tokyo (2012); Harris-White, Rome 1 La Sapienza (2010), Paris I Sorbonne (2011), Beijing Agricultural Univ. (2013); Hoyland, IAS-Jerusalem (2009–10); Meyer, National Taiwan Univ.; Minkowski, ÉHÉSS (2010), MPIWG, Berlin (2012); Smith, ÉPHÉ (2013); Williamson, McCarthy Professor, Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome (2009); Zacchetti, UC Berkeley (2011–12).

Visiting Fellowships: Examples include: Armbrust, American Research Center in Egypt (2010–11); Baines, IAS Princeton (2009–10); M. Goodman, University of Sydney (2013); Harrison, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard (2010–11); Minkowski, IAS Princeton (2010); Pfeiffer, IAS Princeton (2009–10); Wadeson, Council for British Research of the Levant (2010–11).

Learned Societies: Notable memberships include: Baines (UoA31), Beinart, M. Goodman, Holes, Savage-Smith, van Gelder, and Williamson are Fellows of the British Academy. Savage-Smith and van Gelder and are also fellows of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Williamson is a corresponding member of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences. Baines (UoA31) is an international member of the American Philosophical Society and of the German Archaeological Institute. Penslar is a member of the Royal Society of Canada.

Professional Subject Associations: At least 25 researchers submitted with the UoA hold leading positions, including Beinart (President, African Studies Association UK); Cantwell (Secretary, UK Association for Tibetan Studies); Frellesvig (Secretary, Council of European Assoc. for Japanese Studies); M. Goodman (Chair (2009), Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society); Harris-White (council member, Development Studies Association and British Association of South Asian Studies); Hoyland (Trustee, British Foundation for the Study of Arabia); Penslar (Vice-President, Association for Jewish Studies); Rechter (Vice-President, Leo Baeck Institute International); Salvesen (President (2011), Association for Jewish Studies); Williamson (chair (2010–11), BA Humanities Group).

Editorial positions: Members of the UoA belong to the boards of at least 81 scholarly journals, in some cases acting as their principal editors. Among editorships and boards are *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* (Frellesvig), *African Affairs* (Cheeseman), *Arab Media and Society* (Armbrust), *Bulletin*

of the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (Wadeson), *China Quarterly* (Murphy), *East Asian History* (ter Haar), *International Journal of Asian Studies* (Chard), *Japan Forum* (Flores), *Journal of Israeli History* (Penslar), *Journal of Japanese Studies* (R. Goodman), *Journal of Modern African Studies* (Cheeseman), *Journal of Roman Studies* (M. Goodman), *Journal for Septuagint and Cognate Studies* (Salvesen), *Les cahiers du judaïsme* (Weinberg), *Middle Eastern Literatures* (van Gelder, Savage-Smith), *Studies in Arabian Linguistics* (Holes), and *Vetus Testamentum* (Williamson).

Academic Series: Book series editorships include Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity (M. Goodman), Comparative Development and Policy in Asia (Murphy), Contemporary Middle East (Rogan), Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae Palaestinae (Hoyland), Edinburgh Studies in Classical Arabic Literature (Bray), Indian Kinship (Bangha), Languages of Asia (Frellesvig), Oxford Oriental Monographs (Minkowski), Routledge Series of Japanese Studies (R. Goodman), Sinica Leidensia (ter Haar); UoA members serve on the boards of many other book series.

Examination of research degrees: UoA members examined more than 100 external doctorates and habilitations in 2008-13. These are minima: many people do not keep lists. In the UK these included doctorates at Birmingham, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Essex, Exeter, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London Theological College, Manchester, Reading, RHUL, St Andrews, SOAS, UCL and Warwick. Other countries include: Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, South Africa, Switzerland and USA.

Refereeing academic publications or research proposals: Refereeing and assessing of articles and book manuscripts are integral to the UoA's research culture. Almost all submitted staff report refereeing for academic journals, citing more than 110 titles published throughout the world (as with examining, these are minima); many journals have called on several people. Most advise academic publishers, including leading presses in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

Many members of the UoA review proposals for research foundations and grant-awarding bodies, including AHRC, ESRC, British Academy, Leverhulme, Wellcome; CNRS (France); Irish Research Council; Israel Science Foundation; MBAC and MIUR (Italy); NSF (USA); National Research Council (Canada); Austrian Academy of Science; Research Grants Council of Hong Kong; Swiss Research Council; Royal Netherlands Academy; Qatar National Research Fund; Research Council of Norway; NEH; Stanford Humanities Center; Israel Science Academy; German-Israeli Scientific Foundation; Killam Trust; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; American Academy in Berlin; IAS Princeton.

Keynote addresses: 61 members of the UoA gave 126 keynote addresses and special lectures during the review period, to institutions on four continents (figures are again minima). Almost all staff have presented invited papers and lectures at international conferences and in universities and institutes in the UK and around the world, including the Middle East and South Asia. Named lectures included: M. Goodman, Sherman Lectures, Manchester (2011); Holes, Annual Lecture, British Institute for the Study of Iraq, British Academy, (2011); Johns, Wilkinson Lecture, Metropolitan Museum, New York (2011); Melchert, Branigin Lecture, Indiana Univ. (2011); O'Hanlon, Phule Lecture, Univ. of Calcutta (2010); Penslar, Drucker Lecture, Princeton (2012); Rogan, Annual Register Annual Lecture, Chatham House (2011); Weinberg, Jackson Lectures, Classics, Harvard (2009); Wadeson, Browning Lecture, British Museum (2012); Williamson, Wellhausen Lecture, Göttingen Academy (2008).