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| Institution: The University of Edinburgh |
| Unit of Assessment: 27 Area Studies |
| <p>a. Overview</p> <p>Area Studies at the University of Edinburgh comprises 22 staff, drawn from the two Subject Areas of Asian Studies (AS) and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (IMES) within the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC). Staff in Area Studies pursue individual research agendas but also work closely with others in their own Subject Areas, across the School and elsewhere in the College of Humanities and Social Science (CHSS) - notably in Archaeology, Art, Classics, Divinity, Education, History, Politics/International Relations, and Sociology. Area Studies colleagues are also closely involved in the activities of our externally-funded research and outreach Centres: the Confucius Institute for Scotland (CIS, 2005), the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW, 2006) and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World (Alwaleed, 2008).</p> |
| <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Since 2008, political and economic challenges across Asia, the Middle East and the Islamic World have created growing demand for the renewal and expansion of Language-Based Area Studies. We have responded to this changing context with a process of transformation and expansion in order to support rigorous and innovative research that can help inform stakeholders across Scotland, the UK and internationally. We have built upon pre-existing areas of excellence recognised in 2008 and have developed new areas of expertise. We have achieved this primarily through a strategy of enablement, recognising that time, support and a strong academic culture are the most important resources that an individual researcher can have. At the same time, we have put in place new structures or expanded existing ones in order to support collaborative research and the delivery of outreach. The latter include our three externally funded research and outreach Centres, one of which was established during the REF period: CIS (initial grant of £53k, 2005), CASAW (£5m, 2006) and Alwaleed (£8m, 2008). We also made use of our position within the University of Edinburgh, drawing on its strengths across the disciplines and its robust support systems.</p> <p>Implementing our research strategy has entailed four key accomplishments. (1) We created several new research clusters, bringing to prominence the work of our many newly appointed staff. We thereby transformed the scope of our research activity by broadening the range of allied disciplines with which we engage. (2) We developed a stronger focus on research funding to support research excellence, through a series of measures to support grant applications in both our traditional and new areas of activity. (3) We brought the products of this research to a wide range of stakeholders in Scotland, the UK and abroad, making extensive use of the resources of our externally funded research and outreach Centres. (4) We published outputs in the most respected outlets in the field, including those based in our new areas of research expertise. In these accomplishments, the staff members who joined the Unit since 2008 secured notable successes.</p> <p>1. Broadening the range of our research: We transformed the Unit's range of research activity by investing in new staff. Over the period 16 new colleagues (Booth, Goerke, Hammond, Huang, Israel, Kadoi, Marsham, McLeister, Mecit, Pak-Shiraz, Peace, Perkins, Pierret, Rosenmeier, Scott, Zachmann – names in bold hereafter) joined the Unit, and 11 new posts were created. We thereby moved beyond a more traditional focus on classical literature and culture to develop new research activities including political science and sociology, gender studies, translation studies, modern and vernacular literatures, media and film, and trans-regional and global studies. This combination of coverage generated collaborative activity which itself produced outputs. For example, with funding support from the Binks Trust, the Iran Heritage Foundation and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Mecit organised a 2008 conference on the Saljuks with a colleague in Divinity that produced a volume of edited papers (2011). In 2011 Marsham organised a conference on the Umayyads with a colleague in History of Art from which a volume of selected papers will appear in 2015.</p> <p>The appointment of new staff allowed us to expand existing clusters of research activity and to develop new ones. In AS, the appointment of Hammond, Huang, McLeister, Perkins,</p> |

Rosenmeier, Scott and Zachmann, joining Dundas, N Gentz and J Gentz, means we now cover modern Asian culture, including literature, media, religion, philosophy and politics. In IMES the arrival of **Goerke, Marsham and Mecit**, together with Newman, expanded our coverage of classical Islamic studies and Islamic history. The appointment of **Booth, Pak-Shiraz and Pierret**, with Gorman and Newman, expanded our coverage of Middle Eastern politics and society. **Kadoi and Pak-Shiraz's** arrival, with Newman, broadened our expertise in Persian civilisation. Across the Unit the appointments of **Booth and Israel** – whose 2011 monograph focuses on Bible translation in South India in the Colonial period – complemented our existing research activities in translation studies (Susam-Saraeva). **Pak-Shiraz's** work in Middle Eastern film complemented that of **Huang** in Chinese cinema. **Israel and McLeister** brought new research expertise on Christianity in Asia, offering improved synergies with a growth area in Divinity. **Peace** offered new coverage of Muslims in Britain, including voting behaviour, building our synergies with the Politics and International Relations Group in the School of Social and Political Science (SSPS).

These clusters allowed us to contribute to such cross-School activities as a new MSc in Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies, in collaboration with colleagues in Archaeology, Classics, Divinity, History and Art. IMES also established a joint MSc programme in International Relations with colleagues in SSPS. AS established a new MSc in East Asian Relations, also in conjunction with SSPS, a new LLM in Law and Chinese in conjunction with the School of Law, and a new MSc in Asian Religions, in co-operation with Divinity.

Our activities were complemented by engagement with local, national and international researchers. IMES runs a weekly research seminar across the year, with a programme of national and international speakers, as well as local staff (including PDFs) and PhD students. Our visitors over the period included C Tripp (SOAS) and J Renard (Saint Louis U, US). AS also organised seminar series with local staff and PhD students and UK-based and international speakers, including N Agawa (Vice-Principal, Keio U, Tokyo) and R Borgen (Emeritus, UC Davis). These were complemented by the lectures, seminar series, workshops and conferences organised by our three Centres. Over the period CIS organised more than 50 lectures and 11 conferences and workshops. Prominent speakers, including academics, bankers, diplomats and industrialists came from Belgium, China, Germany, Taiwan, the US and the UK (e.g. Wang Hui, Tsinghua, Tu Wei-ming, PKU; M Puett, Harvard; D Der-Wei Wang, Harvard; A Dirlik (Oregon). CASAW organised 24 lectures and 7 conferences, workshops and round tables, including a postgraduate workshop. Visiting speakers included R Allen (U Penn), Z Lockman (NYU) and the British ambassadors to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Alwaleed organised more than 30 lectures and seminars, with speakers coming from France, Germany, Turkey, the US and the UK (e.g. G Kepel, Sciences Po; J Guest, Harvard; R Hoyland, Oxford).

2. **Growth in research funding:** The Unit also experienced a significant growth in research income since 2008. Unit research expenditure over the REF period totals £1.3 million, compared with £0.2m reported from the two departments in RAE2008. The new research grants awarded during this REF period are primarily from such competitive sources as the AHRC, the British Academy, the British Council, the British Museum, the Carnegie Trust, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Japan Foundation and the Leverhulme Trust.

Additional administrative support (since 2011) and **rigorous peer review structures** (since 2012) introduced at the School level were critical to many of these funding successes. Of these awards, funds totalling £190k have been awarded following the establishment of the internal peer review process. New colleagues were especially successful during this period (**Marsham** and **Goerke**, both AHRC). Individual funding successes from overseas bodies included a €95k award from Erlangen University to J Gentz and N Gentz.

3. **Working with our Centres:** Our research and outreach Centres assisted us in transforming our external reach. CASAW and CIS both secured substantial further funding (£305k and £100k for CASAW; £1.67m for CIS, from Hanban, together with a further £700k from external partners, including £300k from the Beijing Film Academy) during the period. The £8m Alwaleed Centre was established in 2008. Via these structures we engaged with a wide range of non-HEI stakeholders in the UK and internationally, ensuring that our research activities reflected and addressed issues of broader public concern. Over the period, for example, we strengthened our

connections with the media, with public institutions such as politicians, schools, the police and security services, and with the wider public - including groups in the UK with close connections to the Middle East and Asia. Across the Unit, a further 4 colleagues successfully bid for £5k internal funding in support of other Knowledge Exchange activities related to Centre activities.

4. **Producing top quality outputs:** Over the REF period staff published monographs with prestigious publishers (e.g. CUP, EUP, IB Tauris, Palgrave MacMillan, Routledge) and articles in the best journals in our fields (e.g. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, *Die Welt des Islams*, *European Journal of Social Theory*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Iranian Studies*, *Journal of Art Historiography*, *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, *Journal of Semitic Studies*, *Modern China*, *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, *Translation Studies*). Colleagues' books and articles were also translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Polish, and Turkish.

The excellence of our work was **internationally recognised**. Prize-winning outputs included **Zachmann's** JaDe-Award of the German Foundation for the Promotion of Japanese-German Culture and Science Relations (JaDe-Stiftung, Cologne), for his 2009 *China and Japan in the Late Meiji Period* and **Huang's** Ruprecht Karls Prize (Heidelberg University) which she received for her outstanding dissertation on a pioneering Chinese film company in 2011.

In 2010 **Marsham's** monograph examining accession rituals in early Islamic history was given honourable mention in the British-Kuwait Friendship Society Middle Eastern Book Prize, while **Kadoi's** monograph on art in Mongol Iran received honourable mention in the Saidi-Sirjani Book award competition at the International Society for Iranian Studies. Also in 2010, the Syrian Studies Association stated that an article by **Pierret** was the best in the field. **Booth's** research on the translator-author-publisher interface and on translation as a process of negotiation resonates widely, including significant references in the *Literary Translation from Arabic in the UK and Ireland 1990-2010* report, launched in 2011 by the European Platform for Literary Exchange, Translation and Policy Debate, Literature Across Frontiers. J Gentz's research on secularisation in East Asia was widely cited, including by prominent philosopher Jürgen Habermas in his own work on secularisation ('Die Dialektik der Säkularisierung').

The Future: We will continue to focus on developing stronger collaborative associations with centres of excellence in the regions covered by Area Studies at Edinburgh and on responding to fast-changing stakeholder demands for access to high quality research on Asia, the Middle East and the Islamic World. A vital element of this strategy will be the inauguration of intensified research collaborations in the humanities with colleagues in China. This will occur, for example, via the **China Research Centre (CRC)**, in partnership with Peking University (PKU) at Edinburgh (ca. £4.5m over 5 years), to be launched officially in November 2013. This Centre will create a new platform for China-related teaching and research activities, including joint PhDs with PKU and funding for PDFs, PhD and MSc students. The Centre will identify specific common research interests and develop international research projects with PKU and other leading universities in China. Related to these activities, Edinburgh University Press has agreed an *East Asian Studies Series* with N Gentz, **Zachmann** and D Der-wei Wang (Harvard) as co-editors, to be launched in conjunction with the CRC launch in November 2013. Elsewhere across AS, with £400k from the Handa donation (see c), in 2014 **Zachmann** will establish a research group of 2 PDFs and 2 PhD students to focus on historical and contemporary issues in Japanese-Chinese relations. **Scott** (who is based at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities: IASH) brings expertise in digital humanities to the Unit, to develop new digitisation practices across all areas of research and to facilitate agendas such as open access to publications and data, including archive data.

For the Middle East and the Islamic World, the Alwaleed Centre has been designated the administrative hub for the new **British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS)**, the follow-on from the 'Islamic Studies Network' - a learned society and professional organisation focused on enhancing research and teaching on Islam and Muslim cultures and societies past and present. BRAIS' establishment, and its base in Edinburgh, reflects our commitment to national and international collaborations, the growing importance of classical and contemporary Islamic Studies in the UK, and the recognition of Edinburgh's leading role in both. CASAW has received an additional £313k funding from the AHRC from 2014 (**Booth** with colleague in Politics and International Relations) to establish research networks on projects of import to the region's history

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and culture, fund student internships and establish intensive courses in Arabic and Persian. A new MSc in Advanced Arabic will provide language skills training unique in the UK to those who need fluent Arabic for their work. This MSc also offers an important new platform for the continued development of all our Arabic-related research work, especially contemporary Social Science and Translation Studies. IMES will also contribute to the cross-School, interdisciplinary MSc in Gender Studies to start in 2014.

The University will be making 50 further 5-year tenure-track Chancellor's Fellowship posts available in 2014, building on the two previous tranches (see c). These prestigious posts will lead to open-ended lectureships. This commitment reflects the University's mission to be the UK's leading institution supporting the development of early career academic staff, reinforced by the support given by University's Institute for Academic Development (IAD) (see c).

c. People

Staffing strategy and staff development: Area Studies recruited **16 new staff** over the REF period. With an eye to sustainability, our investment strategy brought in colleagues with different levels of experience, both to cement leadership within the Unit and also to give early opportunities to promising researchers. The 16 new colleagues included 2 chairs (including the £1m Handa-funded chair in Japanese-Chinese relations, **Zachmann**), 9 lecturers, 3 PDFs (including 2 Alwaleed PDFs) and, thanks to investment by CHSS and the University, 1 Chancellor's Fellow (a University scheme to appoint tenure-track academics with an emphasis on research at the beginning of their careers) and 1 Postdoctoral Fellow attached to IASH. Of the 16, 9 were Early Career Researchers (ECRs), highlighting our investment in promising talent. In the process our international diversity was enhanced - the countries of origin of these colleagues include Belgium, China, Germany, Iran, Japan and the US; 73% of staff across the Unit are international in origin. And, through the appointment of six women, we are moving towards a more gender-balanced staff cohort; 36% of staff are now women. The period also saw the promotion of two Lecturers to SL (Gorman, **Marsham**) and one SL to a Reader (J Gentz). In all cases, these promotions were based on a strong portfolio of research successes.

Staff benefit from a **structured programme of academic development**, affording them time to enhance their research, teaching and leadership skills, especially in their first few years at Edinburgh. This develops colleagues into rounded academics proficient in all aspects of today's academic role. Annual Review and on-going mentoring schemes facilitate an open and effective approach to staff development, and also enable the Head of Subject and Head of School to balance workloads in order to manage teaching and administrative resources effectively and to protect research time.

ECRs and newly arrived colleagues are assigned lighter teaching, administration and management loads, using a work allocation model. They are also assigned mid and senior level staff as mentors. The mentoring system gives ECRs appropriate support to pursue ambitious goals and to achieve them. For example, **Marsham** successfully applied for an AHRC Early Career Fellowship to extend his one semester of leave into two and has been subsequently promoted to SL and **Goerke** bid successfully for an AHRC networking grant. We have a very good track record in supporting our PDFs to find open-ended or tenure track positions: all 4 of the CASAW PDFs hosted by the Unit in the early part of the period secured posts at HEIs in the UK and abroad.

In this period the Unit also benefited from the University's creation of the prestigious internationally advertised Chancellor's Fellowships, offering exceptional support for the research careers of outstandingly promising scholars. Thus **Huang**, starting out with a brief to focus on developing her distinctive research, will gradually take on teaching and administrative duties across a five-year period. In addition to receiving the normal support from the School, she will benefit from a structured programme of mentoring and support for research development as part of the cohort of Chancellor's Fellows, provided by IAD. All colleagues are encouraged to take advantage of the courses provided by IAD, many of which focus on research career development; **Hammond** attended IAD courses to achieve a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice.

All staff receive an **Annual Review** in line with University-wide policy. Career development issues, including promotion, are a core part of the Review. The Review results in a Personal Development Plan (PDP), drawn up by the appraisee and appraiser (usually the Head of Subject). This system

enables colleagues to balance the demands of research, teaching and administration. New research projects are a particular point of discussion and these meetings can result in the provision of targeted support, such as teaching relief and/or the granting of accelerated leave, to facilitate the completion of specific research projects. Strategies for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) are also raised at these meetings. For example, in the REF period an IMES colleague (Gorman) undertook an intensive advanced Arabic refresher course following Annual Review. The Review also identifies candidates for promotion and supports them in this process, as in the cases of Gorman and **Marsham**, both of whom were promoted to SL.

Overall research strategy is set at the Subject Area level by the Head and the local Research Advisor (RA). The latter sits on the School Research Committee, chaired by the School's Research Director. The Committee formulates and supports research strategy across the School and reports to the CHSS Research Committee which, in turn, develops and supports policy and strategy across the College and feeds back to the School information about new policies and opportunities.

The School's **Research Office** and the University service **Edinburgh Research and Innovation (ERI)** offer professional support for academic colleagues at all stages in the development of research projects. They support research grant applications and provide staff with advice and training relating to UK and international research funding opportunities and the application process, including assistance with costing. Staff are encouraged to discuss a potential project with colleagues and during the Annual Review. A draft proposal is sent to the School Research Office, which organises peer review by members of the LLC Research Committee, of which 8 are or have been members of the AHRC's Peer Review College (PRC). The process produces concrete feedback on all aspects of the scope and feasibility of the project, including dissemination and impact. The applicant is expected to take forward the outcome of the review in an iterative manner. The effectiveness of this system can be seen in the steep rise in successes with funding applications within the Unit from the baseline at the beginning of the period: the average yearly success rate of applications prior to the 2012 introduction of peer review was 38.5%, compared to 46% thereafter.

All staff also may apply for a semester of **research leave** after six semesters of teaching. Over the period 16 colleagues were granted 20 periods of research leave. Of those still in the Unit, **Marsham** was granted additional teaching relief in 2011, in recognition of his heavy administrative load and to provide time for developing his project, *Early Muslim Empire*, resulting in a successful bid for AHRC funding. J Gentz and Newman each completed monographs as a result of their leave periods. As a direct result of leave granted over the period, these and other colleagues completed a further 21 articles/chapters in books that were published or accepted for publication.

Colleagues make extensive use of the **£750 per colleague/per-annum** grant from the **School Research Fund**. This supports presentations at conferences and seminars and other research-driven activities. Over the period, Unit staff used this fund to present papers at 53 conferences, 34 outside the UK. 19 colleagues were awarded sums totalling £10k for other research-related expenses such as the purchase of research materials and support for travel for research work, including teaching relief.

The Unit also actively encouraged cross-fertilisation between **teaching and research**. Newman's courses on Shi'ism and those of **Pak-Shiraz** on Middle Eastern cinema fed into the writing of their respective monographs on these subjects published in the period. J Gentz's research collaborations with a colleague in Cultural Studies on 'Joint Venture Development of a Core Curriculum with Printed and Multi-media Teaching and Learning Materials' was the basis for a new course on Cultural Studies keywords and their critical application in Chinese Studies and resulted in a textbook monograph (used in Germany, China, Sweden and the UK; mandatory reading for Chinese Studies PGs at Oxford) as well as an e-learning course. Additional outside-of-class presentations of staff research to undergraduates, during the University's 'Innovative Learning Week', were very popular, actively encouraging new generations of researchers. Asian Studies staff organised a bilingual theatre play and sessions on photography and filming, and students organised sessions on Japanese culture (origami, the tea ceremony and language). These were attended by nearly 200 students. IMES organised sessions on Islamic manuscripts, Syriac, the meanings of maps of the Middle East, and Shiism, attended by over 100.

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ii. Research Students We place strategy and support for research students at the centre of our research environment.

Recruitment: As at 31 July 2013 in Area Studies there were 39 on-programme PhD students. Over the period our students' backgrounds (Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Syria, Taiwan, the US and the UK) reflected a greater diversity of backgrounds and experiences compared to RAE2008. Over the period our students included those with funding support from CASAW (4 scholarships), from Alwaleed (3) and one from the AHRC Block Grant. 6 were funded from other sources, including 5 from non-UK sources. AHRC BGP2 funding will continue to support our work.

IMES is part of the Area Studies PhD training pathway in the ESRC-funded **Scottish Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) and Scottish Graduate School in the Social Sciences** that receive additional **Scottish Funding Council** support. Launched in early 2011, with the successful bid being co-led by Edinburgh (**Booth**) and Glasgow, this is the largest ESRC DTC in the UK. It provided for 3 students each year (shared with Glasgow, with 2 places at Edinburgh 2011/12; 1 in 2012/13). The recent success of the Scottish Consortium AHRC Block Grant opens future opportunities. With measures in place to support successful and timely completion of research degrees, we are optimistic that Edinburgh students can continue to win competitive funding.

The expansion of the Unit's research expertise over the period allowed for **research supervision in new areas**. These included, for example, gender studies, contemporary Middle Eastern Literature, Islam in the UK, late antiquity and early Islam, contemporary Middle Eastern politics and society, and Middle Eastern film. In Asian Studies, we now cover Chinese film, Chinese contemporary politics, Chinese Republican Period, Chinese religion and philosophy, East Asian relations, the Meiji Era in Japan, Japanese politics and media. We also engage in joint supervision with a broader range of Subject Areas beyond the Unit, including Archaeology, Architecture, Divinity, Education, English Literature, French and Comparative Literature, Philosophy and Sociology.

Monitoring, support and career development: All research students are assigned a primary and secondary supervisor, and experience a full programme of monitoring and development. This includes an internal First Year Review, based on materials including a preliminary chapter, bibliography and full thesis outline. Two internal readers discuss the submission with the candidate, offer comments and advice and then decide on progression. The Annual Review process in subsequent years uses reflective input from students, as well as assessments from supervisors and postgraduate officers. PhD supervisors themselves attend initial training courses and undertake regular follow-up training, monitored by the School.

At the Subject Area level, PhD students are strongly encouraged to present their work more formally. Over the period 18 IMES PhD students gave presentations as part of the weekly departmental seminars. Chinese Studies has developed a course for all first year research students in which they present their research projects in a group and discuss the application of theory. All students have the opportunity to apply for UG teaching assistant posts, and the Unit typically employs 12 students per year who lead tutorial groups (including language tutorials), mark short formative assignments, assist in (moderated) marking of some essays and contribute to course development. They all receive training and support to undertake these duties.

Training in research methods is fundamental. An initial School-wide research course is followed by Subject Area-specific training courses, such as the AHRC-funded special research workshops in 2009-11 conducted by external experts in Old Chinese. IMES research students can also access language training through courses in Arabic, Persian and Turkish as needed. At the University level, our PhD students also accessed a wide range of IAD courses on research management, professional development and IT. IAD, for example, organises an experiential 4-day residential learning course for PhD students in the final 18 months of their PhD, aiming to raise further participants' awareness of their personal and professional transferable skills. In the last three years some 90 LLC students attended the specialised courses run by IAD, including 16 from the Unit. The Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences provides skills training to all social science students across the pathway universities and summer courses; to date 4 of our PhD students pursuing social science-style projects have accessed these courses.

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The School provides office space for PhD students and up to 50% of the costs associated with students presenting at conferences. From 2009, 11 of our PhD students were awarded a total of £3k to present papers at such gatherings. They have, for example, presented papers at UK graduate conferences, UK and US annual field conferences and other international conferences.

PhD students in the Unit also engaged in outreach and impact activities. Khan (IMES, supervised by Newman) collaborated in the Alwaleed Centre's production of the 'Equal Treatment Bench Book' undertaken for the Scottish Parliament Judicial Studies Committee and sent out to all Scottish judges. Arnason (AS, supervised by N Gentz) set up a Virtual Worlds Research Network and organised an inaugural conference in May 2012 partially funded by a University of Edinburgh Innovation Initiative Grant.

Student successes include a paper by Robinson (IMES, supervised by **Marshall**) being jointly awarded the 2012 Middle East Medievalists' 'Graduate Student Prize'. In AS Lin (supervised by J Gentz) was nominated as one of four finalists of the 3rd Young Scholar Award on the 10th annual conference of European Association of Taiwan Studies in Lyon. Two of her papers were accepted by prestigious international journals (*Diasporic Identities and Empire* and *Archiv Orientalni: Cultural Translation and East Asia special edition*). Arnason received the Universities' China Committee in London grant for conducting fieldwork in China in 2011. Former students have published 9 monographs, a large number of articles/chapters in books and took up posts at HEIs in Beirut, Cambridge, China, Durham, Glasgow, Japan, Hong Kong, Leeds, Leiden, London, Oxford, Pakistan and St Andrews.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research Income: Research income in the Unit comes from a variety of sources, including RCUK, research charities and other donors and benefactors. Average yearly research income has risen from £44k in the previous RAE period to more than £270k during the REF period, a six-fold increase. With support from colleagues in the School, CHSS, ERI and the University Development Office, IMES' international research reputation, including the profile of CASAW, was the basis for the success of Edinburgh's bid for £8m for the foundation of the Alwaleed Centre in 2008. The endowment currently funds a Director/Chair, 2 Outreach PDFs and an Outreach Project manager. Alwaleed currently supports 4 Outreach PhD studentships and hopes to recruit a further 8 within the next 10 years. The University will fund 5 of the total 12 studentships. Based on IMES' reputation for excellence in Iranian studies, the Iran Heritage Foundation (London) funded a Persian-language Teaching Fellowship (£42k over three years, 2010-13). IMES' role in the Scottish ESRC DTC has been highlighted in section c. In Asian Studies, a similar range of support from across the University was vital in helping secure funding for the research environment – notably the £1m Handa Chair of Japanese-Chinese relations (£200k per year from 2011-2016) and the three-year award of £63k from the Japan Foundation to fund 50% of a lectureship, held by **Perkins**. An additional £200k was received from Hanban for a Senior Visiting Scholarship, lecture series, conferences, Chinese databases and resources.

Engagement with generating research funding is not limited to larger undertakings, but is embedded at all levels. Grants not already mentioned included, for example, that of Dundas who was awarded £26k from the British Museum for leave buy-out. Nearly half of our smaller funding successes were awarded following the 2012 introduction of LLC's peer review system.

Infrastructure and facilities: Edinburgh is unique in the UK for its library holdings of electronic resources on China. The University Library has a huge collection of original sources in Asian languages that has been supported by Hanban funding (£50k) for databases and resources in Chinese acquired since 2008. Through negotiations with Chinese partners and matching funding, Chinese Studies (led by N Gentz) has acquired some of the most important Chinese databases (e-sources include *The North China Herald*, *Qing Journal Database*, *Duxiu*, *China Max*) enabling access to 2500+ academic journals and 700 000 monographs. Away from formal academic sources, the Unit has acquired the UK's largest collection of Chinese films (600) and received access to the historical archives and current editions of two leading Japanese newspapers, the *Asahi shinbun* and *Yomiuri shinbun*, including their knowledge databases. The Main Library also holds valuable South Asian manuscripts and historic collections of printed books on South Asia, as well as the John Levy Sound Archive. The Archive, a primary sound collection of international importance, consists of nearly 700 original field recordings of which some 320 were recorded in

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India, Sri Lanka and Bhutan between 1958 and 1972. The collection also includes Chinese and Japanese music.

CHSS awarded IMES £28k above its regular budget for the development of its Library-based holdings. Recent acquisitions include a microfilm collection of *al-Ahram*, the pre-eminent newspaper in the Arab world, and the only such public collection in the UK. Other IMES-related holdings in the Main Library include the specialist collections bequeathed by Professors Watt and Serjeant and an important collection of Islamic manuscripts. IMES' own departmental library contains nearly 6000 primary and secondary-source materials relating to all aspects of the history and culture of Islam and the Middle East. In 2013, the IMES library received a gift of some 250 Persian-language works relating to 19th and 20th century Iranian history, nearly half published before 1979, from Professor G Garthwaite of Dartmouth College in the US.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Our collaborations and contributions over the period were both **institutional** and **individual** in character. In AS, Edinburgh's exceptional reputation as a research partner for Chinese universities has generated 4 MoUs and partnerships with top Chinese universities (Beijing Film Academy, Nankai, Peking, Fudan). We send some 15 PG students to Nankai every year for study. In addition to these institutional partnerships, AS also established official research collaborations with National Taiwan University, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Nanjing University. Also in conjunction with CIS, the University opened a China office in Beijing.

Over the REF period, CASAW organised international conferences with local partners in Cairo, Tunis and Beirut, and collaborated on the Scottish DTC with the University of Glasgow. Alwaleed was selected to be the new institutional base for BRAIS.

On an individual basis, N Gentz organised: six lectures on Taiwanese Documentary Film, funded by Chiang Ching Kuo in collaboration with Heidelberg, SOAS and Tübingen; an international workshop on globalisation with funding from Humboldt University and FU Berlin; and a workshop on modern Chinese culture with Peking University, Taiwan National University and Hong Kong Chinese University. J Gentz organised an international lecture series on The Faces of Confucius (funded by Hanban) and, together with Meyer (Oxford), an international conference on Literary Forms of Arguments (funded by the American Council of Learned Societies) with papers to be published by Washington UP in late 2013/early 2014. Together with Schmidt-Leukel (Münster) he organised a conference on Religious Diversity in Chinese Thought (funded by Münster) with papers published by Palgrave MacMillan (2013). **Israel** collaborated with colleagues in India to develop a new PGT in translation studies. **Zachmann** is involved in a 5-year research project on comparative history of international orders led by Meiji University, Tokyo, and funded by the Toyota Foundation.

In IMES **Pierret** co-edited papers from a workshop on Muslim ethnography (Edinburgh University Press, 2012) with colleagues from London, Rabat, and Rio. Other colleagues involved in on-going funded research projects with non-Edinburgh colleagues include **Booth** (East Anglia, Loughborough), **Marshall** (Manchester), Newman (Birmingham), Susam-Saraeva (Manchester, UCL) and, outside the UK, Newman (CNRS).

J Gentz and N Gentz are members of the Universities' China Committee in London (UCCL). N Gentz is a member of the British Academy Asia Panel. **Goerke** is member of the acting board of directors of Islamic Studies Section of the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (German Oriental Society). **Hammond** served as an Evaluator for 'Research on Welfare, Working life and Migration', for the Research Council of Norway, 2012. **Israel** is chair of the IATIS (International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies) Regional Workshops Committee. Susam-Saraeva is co-vice president of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies, and member of the Board of Advisors for the Cunda Workshop for Translators of Turkish Literature. The Unit has one member of the AHRC Peer Review College (Newman).

Unit colleagues delivered more than 75 invited talks in North America, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East and more than 30 in the UK. They sit on the editorial or advisory boards of 10 international journals and presses. Together colleagues edited 7 special issues of journals across their disciplines.