

<p>Institution: University of Cambridge</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA 27 (Area Studies)</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (FAMES) covers a variety of languages and disciplines relating to a wide geographical area ranging from North Africa to East Asia. It is divided for administrative purposes into two departments, the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, which includes staff in the subjects of Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Hindi and Sanskrit, and the Department of East Asia Studies, which includes staff in the subjects of Chinese, Japanese and Korean. The departments are units that are concerned primarily with the administration of taught courses. In addition research active staff, post-doctoral researchers and graduate students of the Faculty belong to one of five Research Groups: (i) China Studies, (ii) Japanese and Korean Studies, (iii) India, Iran, Central Asia and Caucasus, (iv) Modern Middle East and (v) Pre-Modern Middle East. These are formally overseen by our Faculty Research Committee. There are, furthermore, a number of inter-institutional subject groups, which are concerned with the coordination of activities relating to a particular subject across various institutions in the University. More details of these Research Groups and inter-institutional subject groups are given in the sections below.</p> <p>The total volume of publication over the assessment period indicates the extent of research activity. The members of staff included in the submission published 47 books, 37 edited volumes, and 304 scholarly articles. These include a number of major reference tools, e.g. Khan (editor-in-chief), <i>Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics</i> (2013), which has become the standard reference work in the field of Hebrew.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The research carried out in our Faculty relates to a wide range of languages, regions and disciplines. It is a policy of our recruitment that we do not appoint new staff with research expertise that overlaps with our existing strengths, but rather strategically build a team with wide-ranging complementary expertise. Inevitably, therefore, much of the core research is particular to individual staff and researchers. Individuals in the Faculty, nevertheless, often collaborate with external partners who are in the same field.</p> <p>It was our stated strategy in the previous RAE to expand our research profile in fields relating to the modern world while maintaining our strengths in the pre-modern fields. In the Department of Middle Eastern Studies the development of research in modern fields has been achieved in particular by recent appointments of lecturers specializing in the contemporary Middle East (Allen and Anderson), who have been closely involved with research events relating to the modern Middle East in collaboration with other departments that are principally concerned with the modern world, in particular Politics and International Studies and Social Anthropology. Another factor that has enhanced our modern profile is the establishment within our UoA by Suleiman of the Centre of Islamic Studies. This Centre funds the post of Anderson (who is also the Centre's Assistant Director). It also organizes and sponsors numerous research events in the university relating to the modern Middle East. In the field of Hebrew studies, research activities relating to the modern period have been strengthened by the recent appointment of a new lecturer in Modern Hebrew (Peleg) who has been active in organizing research events relating to modern Hebrew culture. The recently appointed Regius Professor of Hebrew (Khan), moreover, has research interests not only in Classical Hebrew (the traditional purview of the holder of this post) but also in the Modern Hebrew language and is the first Regius Professor of Hebrew to be a Fellow of the Academy of the Hebrew language (based in Jerusalem), the primary concern of which is the modern language. In the Department of East Asian Studies research activities relating to the modern world continue to grow. In Japanese studies the profile of the Faculty has been enhanced in the modern sphere in particular by a major ERC project on war crimes and the dissolution of the Japanese empire (Kushner), associations with Chatham House (Swenson-Wright) and cutting-edge anthropological and historical research projects on contemporary Japanese society (Steger). In Chinese studies collaboration with Chinese universities and involvement in international networks relating to the history of China in the modern period have been enhanced (van de Ven). Innovative anthropological studies relating to modern Chinese society have been made by the lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China (Chau). Research relating to modern Korea has been undertaken</p>

by a lecturer in Korean (**Shin**). The growing emphasis on modern East Asia is reflected also by the setting up of a taught M.Phil. course in contemporary East Asia. Modern historical research has been enhanced in both departments through developing collaboration with the Faculty of History, in particular after the recent appointment in that Faculty of two lecturers specializing respectively in the history of the modern Middle East and in that of East Asia. These developments in research relating to the modern world have in no way diminished the importance we attach to research in the pre-modern subjects and continue to recruit teaching officers in these fields, e.g. **Galambos** (pre-Modern Chinese, appointed 2011), **Moretti** (pre-Modern Japanese, appointed 2012), **Rand** (Hebrew, appointed 2012), **Nasir** (pre-Modern Arabic, appointed 2013). The Sir Thomas Adams chair of Classical Arabic, which was frozen during the last RAE, has now been filled by **Montgomery**. The departmentalization of our Faculty in 2007 has proved useful in promoting research synergies among colleagues in different subjects.

As for the strategic development of our research environment in the future, we are currently taking measures to increase the opportunities for synergies among the members of our research community. We are aiming in particular at a closer integration of graduates and post-doctoral researchers with the research-active teaching staff. We are also attempting to create greater synergies among the research activities of teaching staff, especially those whose research has common methodological elements, while maintaining the focus on excellence of research in individual projects. The main vehicle to achieve this will be the newly introduced Faculty Research Group structure. Another goal of our future strategy is to develop research relating to the languages and cultures of Central Asia and the Caucasus. These areas, which are largely inhabited by Turkic speaking peoples, are currently not covered in our teaching programmes. We are in the process of developing research projects in the Turkic languages of the region, with a view to establishing these languages in our teaching programmes at some later stage. The procedure we are following is to raise funding for a post-doctoral Research Associate position and a PhD studentship. We have recently received funding through this initiative for a project in Azeri language and have appointed a specialist in Azeri and Turkology (**Ragagnin**). We believe that the developing research activities relating to this geographical area will also act as a bridge between the current research activities relating to the Middle East, East Asia and South Asia. This will help create a more cohesive research community in our Faculty. Researchers will be encouraged to take greater advantage of University-wide initiatives that promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research, such as CRASSH (see below) and University interdisciplinary Strategic Research Initiatives, such as the Language Sciences (<http://www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk/>), which includes **Khan** on its steering committee.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

University Teaching Officers are required by their contract to be active in research. They are expected to submit annual reports and their research is monitored closely throughout their career by a system of appraisals. The contents of the individual research reports are incorporated in an annual Faculty research report, which is published on-line. Staff on probation are assigned a mentor, who is a member of staff in a related field, and have frequent meetings with the relevant Head of Department. This ensures that staff settle into their role effectively and issues are identified and dealt with swiftly. Early career research-active staff are given relatively light administrative roles in the departments during their probation period. The major academic administrative roles are assigned only to more senior staff. Internal funds in the Faculty are available to support the research activities of university teaching staff, in the form of travel grants and conference support. Small research grants are also available from the School of Arts and Humanities.

Post-doctoral researchers are mentored by the Principal Investigator of the project, or in the case of researchers who are not formally working under a Principal Investigator by a senior member of staff in the relevant field. Researchers are given the opportunity to teach in undergraduate and graduate courses, for which they undertake training. They also participate in the organization of events. Our research infrastructure gives them a home in one of the Research Groups, which brings them together with other research active staff, researchers and graduates in the same broad field. They participate with staff in the annual Faculty Research Day. The University offers general support for the career development and skills training of researchers

(staff, post-doctoral researchers and graduates) by its Personal and Professional Development programmes (<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/ppd/information/research/>). The support for the development of post-doctoral researchers is also provided by 'Postdocs of Cambridge' (<http://groups.ds.cam.ac.uk/pdoc/society.shtml>). General guidance for opportunities for development of graduates is posted on the 'Researcher Development' page of our Faculty website. Our Faculty IT officer offers training courses to our researchers on research technologies relevant to our subject areas.

All University Teaching Officers have a statutory right to sabbatical leave every seventh term. Academic staff who undertake onerous administrative tasks, such as Chairman of the Faculty and Head of Department, are entitled to additional leave to ensure that their productivity in research does not suffer. Staff may obtain further leave through various leave schemes that pay for substitute teaching through competitions offered internally by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) and by various external grant-giving bodies. Research-active staff are encouraged to take leave to ensure that they remain maximally productive in research, but in all cases there is careful advance planning of leave in the departments to ensure that that teaching is not unduly affected. Seven of our staff have taken advantage of these opportunities.

All University Teaching Officers have the opportunity to apply for promotion. The procedures of doing so are communicated to them every year and advice on how best to achieve career progression is given to staff at their annual appraisal meetings. A major criterion for promotion is substantial progress in high quality research. Research staff on fixed-term contracts have the opportunity on a bi-annual basis of performance-related salary enhancement. The University is committed to work to promote the career development and progression of all staff members e.g. by offering participation in its Emerging Leaders Programme to an increased number of research staff, by introducing measures to increase participation in the career management programme for academic staff, and through its Senior Academic Promotions CV Mentoring Scheme. The University's HR Division and its Equality and Diversity Office are taking measures to ensure maximal gender equality in the promotions process. The University offers a variety of other kinds of support of Equality and Diversity, including active Diversity Networks and a Combined Equality Scheme (adopted in 2010) that sets out the University's commitment to equality across all protected characteristics. The University has considerably more generous maternity/paternity/adoption leave provision than required by law. It also offers a graduated return to work plan, flexible working arrangements and recommends that major Departmental meetings should be held during core working hours so that parents of young children are not excluded. Furthermore, the University has recently introduced a new Returning Carers Scheme to help staff members resume their research work on their return to work following a career break arising from caring responsibilities. In the assessment period 14 members of staff have had academic promotion (7 to Senior Lecturer, 3 to Reader), including three internal candidates who have been elected to vacant Chairs.

Post-doctoral researchers play an important role in our research community. Such researchers are of four main types: (i) Research Associates employed by a project funded by a research grant based in our Faculty overseen formally by a Principal Investigator (25 during the period), (ii) Research Fellows based in our Faculty (funded by bodies such as the British Academy, etc.) (7), (iii) Junior Research Fellows of Cambridge Colleges who are affiliated to our Faculty (3 per year), and (iv) researchers employed by an external institution or researchers of independent means who are affiliated to our Faculty (12 per year). Such researchers in many cases contribute to our teaching programmes and our research seminars. Our Faculty is directly involved in the recruitment of only the first type of researcher. The recruitment process follows the usual principles of equal opportunities required by the University. Shortlisted candidates must be interviewed by panels that include members of academic staff who have passed the Equality and Diversity training approved by the University. Researchers of the first two categories, who are based in our Faculty, are given office work space in or near the Faculty. The University is currently developing housing facilities in North-West Cambridge for post-doctoral researchers and has created a university-level post relating to post-doctoral affairs.

ii. Research students

Graduate students are assigned a supervisor and also an advisor, who gives supplementary

academic guidance where necessary. Graduates are attached to one of our Research Groups. Graduates have opportunities to be involved in a variety of specialist research seminars organized across the Faculty. Each year there is a Faculty-wide Graduate Symposium at which graduates make presentations about their work to an audience of graduates, teaching staff and other members of our research community. We also hold an annual Faculty Research Day, where members of staff give presentations about their research projects to which graduates are invited. This helps integrate the graduates in to our research community.

Opportunities for research synergies more widely in the University are supplied by CRASSH, which offers opportunities to graduates, post-doctoral researchers and staff from various Faculties relating to the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities to interact in interdisciplinary programmes and groups.

Graduates in our Faculty have opportunities for financial support from RCUK funding bodies, in particular the AHRC, through its BGP schemes. There are a number of sources for graduate funding that are internal to our institution, for example the Gates Scholarships, the Cambridge Home and EU Scholarships Scheme (CHESS), the Cambridge International Scholarship Scheme (CISS), scholarships offered by Cambridge colleges, as well as support from Trust Funds managed by the various language areas of the Faculty. Graduates may also be supported by studentships attached to research grants. We currently have a number of such studentships, e.g. attached to an ERC project (**Kushner**) and to a project on Azeri funded by the Odlar Yurdu Organization (**Khan**).

We are committed to fairness and equality in our admissions processes, to ensure recruitment of the best research students. This year (2013) we admitted 15 new M.Phil. students (8 in Chinese, 3 in Hebrew 2 in South Asian Studies and 1 each in Japanese and Middle Eastern Studies) and 20 new Ph.D. students (9 in Chinese, 7 in Middle Eastern Studies and 1 each in Hebrew, Japanese and South Asian Studies), which is an improvement on earlier years (e.g. 2012: 8 M.Phil. students, 10 Ph.D. students, 2011: 15 M.Phil students, 9 Ph.D. students). It is a requirement that chairs of our Degree Committee have undergone Equality and Diversity training. The graduate admissions websites of our University and our Faculty give full details of the graduate programmes, advertising funding for entry at both Master's and doctoral level. The award of internal graduate funds is decided by ranking committees on the basis of the quality of applicants.

Most of our doctoral students spend fieldwork time outside the UK. We have also been very successful at placing students informally with 'partner' institutions outside HE. Our students' interests are very diverse. Opportunities emerge in response to their individual skills, and through the relationships built up by our academics. Some recent examples of this responsive approach include the following. Korea and Japan Policy Forum at Chatham House: through the work of **Swenson Wright** with Chatham House, Cambridge doctoral students working on Korea and Japan have been able to attend monthly discussion groups held at Chatham House, where students meet policy-makers, journalists, diplomats and business community representatives, and to engage with policy-relevant ideas. China-UK Higher Education Research Partnership: through the work of **van de Ven**, supported by the British Council and the PRC, an exchange programme in which three of our graduate students a year are able to work in the Department of History at East China Normal University, Shanghai, providing invaluable broader experience of contemporary China. Students from China have also come to FAMES through this scheme.

The supervisors have weekly contact with their graduates. The progress of graduates is formally monitored by termly reports of supervisors and annual progress assessment exercises submitted by the students. Doctoral students who have not done an M.Phil. course in our Faculty are required to do a substantial Progress Examination at the end of their first year of research and their registration for the Ph.D. degree is dependent on their passing this. Guidance on procedures and opportunities for graduates is provided by a Graduate Handbook. There are graduate representatives at departmental meetings and at the meetings of the Faculty Board. Financial support is made available to graduates from subject-level Trust Funds, Faculty funds and funds of the School of Arts and Humanities for various activities directly relating to their courses, such as travel, attendance at conferences, workshops and the organization of graduate events.

In addition graduates are offered by our Faculty training in various other skills. Such training includes courses in presentation, teaching and writing skills, text-reading classes, language classes, introductory sessions on library collections of manuscripts and printed books, and classes on manuscript codicology. The language classes offered by the Faculty that are open to graduates

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include several languages that are not available in our undergraduate courses, including Turkic languages (Azeri, Kazakh, Uzbek), Manchu and ancient Iranian languages (Bactrian, Sogdian). Graduates may also enroll in modern language courses at the University Language Centre. Our website contains a section on Researcher Development Training, which gives guidance to graduates regarding opportunities for post-doctoral positions. Some of our graduates have been offered post-doctoral positions on projects directed by members of our Faculty staff (e.g. **Khan, Bennison, Kornicki**). We have recently agreed collaborative activities with SOAS and Oxford relating to graduate training.

Over the assessment period (2007-13) the Ph.D. completion rates have improved significantly, being approximately double that of the previous RAE assessment period.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

During the assessment period staff in our Faculty have been successful in attracting research funding from numerous sources. The volume of income and diversity of its sources has increased since the assessment period of the last RAE. The income comes from grant-giving bodies reported in HESA (e.g. ERC €1,463,924 [**Kushner**], AHRC £902,914 [**Vergiani**]), from research funding competitions within the University (e.g. Golden Web Foundation £1,200,000 [**Khan**]), and from various other foundations external to the University. Major funding (£8 million) was obtained from the Alwaleed bin Talal Foundation to establish the Centre of Islamic Studies, which greatly enhances our research environment by the support of numerous research activities relating to the Middle East. Some research income has been generated due to the impact of research carried out by staff outside the academic world. This applies, for example, to research funding for Aramaic (£33,000 per annum) obtained from Aramaic-speaking communities as a result of the impact of linguistic research within these communities (**Khan**, see impact case study).

Researchers use the rich resources provided by the Cambridge library network which includes the legal deposit University Library with substantial collections relating to the regions covered by our Faculty; the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit; faculty and departmental libraries; and the college libraries several of which have large Oriental manuscript and book collections (e.g. Queens' and Christ's). Researchers can also benefit from the theological library of Tyndale House, the library of the Needham Institute and the Fitzwilliam Museum. The central library and IT systems provide online journal access (Athens, JSTOR) and numerous other IT resources and databases in our fields. For East Asian Studies, the Aoi Pavilion, a special wing of the University Library, is a fundamental resource. It houses some of the best collections of Chinese and Japanese material in Europe, while it also has extensive Korean holdings. The University Library also has large collections of microfilms relating to our fields. Special grants from the University Library and from HEFCE have made it possible to acquire expensive special collections. Over the last few years, the University Library has undergone a transformation in the digital sphere with, in particular, its launch of the Cambridge Digital Library, a state of the art platform for the display of the Library's manuscripts, rare books and other special collections. Currently, it is possible to browse, search and view digital images and full descriptive metadata for 13,000 items from the Cairo Genizah Collections of Cambridge University Library. In addition, the Library has begun to make available in the digital library other important Arabic, Hebrew and Persian manuscripts, including detailed descriptions of their content and codicology, and shortly images of East Asian manuscript material will be added. The Cambridge University Library manuscript collection of Persian and Arabic Manuscripts can now be searched and in some cases viewed on-line as a result of a joint project (FIHRIST) with the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Standards established for describing Middle Eastern manuscripts in FIHRIST, facilitated a seamless integration of Middle Eastern source materials to the overarching digital library project. There is currently a collaborative project between FAMES (**Vergiani**) and the University Library, funded by the AHRC, which is preparing catalogues, scholarly descriptions and digital images of 1600 South Asian manuscripts in the University Library.

The resources in the Faculty Library and University Library are also supported by our subject-specific Trust Funds. There is an excellent integration of research expertise between our Faculty and the University Library. Members of our staff have written catalogues of University Library manuscript collections (e.g. **Khan**, Arabic papyri in the Michaelides collection). The University Library is the home of the Union Catalogue of Early Japanese Books in Europe project (**Kornicki**). This includes the University Library collection of Japanese books and is now in its final phase and

searchable. The director as well as several research staff at the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit are former doctoral students of FAMES and current FAMES staff work closely with this research unit on research projects relating to the Genizah manuscripts in the University Library. Many of the librarians, moreover, belong to the Faculty Research Groups.

Most funded research projects in FAMES have a budget for IT development, such as websites and databases. The University Centre for Applied Research in Educational Technologies (CARET) offers sophisticated technical support and also long-term hosting of websites and databases after the end of the funding period of projects, e.g. **Khan's** North-Eastern Neo-Aramaic Database Project and **Melville's** Shahnama project. Our Faculty computer officer also advises on the IT dimensions of research and helps with the technical appendix of research grant applications.

Although the core research activities are largely individual based, we seek to generate a cohesion and synergy in research at a more generic level by our research infrastructure. This is achieved by the clustering together of researchers relating to particular geographical areas in a series of Research Groups (see section a above). Each group has a webpage within our Faculty website, which brings together information about research activities of the members of the group under the following rubrics: People, Events, Projects, Public Policy and Engagement, News. In addition there are a number of inter-institutional subject groups that bring together staff, post-doctoral researchers and graduates from across different Faculties and institutions within the University. The purpose of these groups is to create cohesion in the activities relating to a particular subject area that has components that are spread across the University. One example of these is the Cambridge Forum for Jewish Studies, which organizes research symposia bringing together staff, post-doctoral researchers and graduates in the general field of Jewish Studies from various institutions, including FAMES, the Faculty of Divinity, the Faculty of History, the Faculty of Classics and research staff based at the University Library. Another group is the Cambridge Endangered Languages and Cultures Group, with which a number of staff and researchers in our Faculty are involved.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

FAMES has a close relationship with a number of institutions in Cambridge that complement and consolidate the research undertaken by our Faculty staff.

The Centre for Islamic Studies, in addition to its outreach work, organizes a number of research events, which attract scholars from across the world, e.g. the workshop 'Language, conflict and security in the Middle East', 'Religious Broadcasting in the Middle East' (with Cambridge Arab Media Project) and the on-going public lecture series 'Beyond the Arab Spring'. It has supported various other research activities in Cambridge, such as the high-profile annual Gulf Research Meeting, conferences of The Islam Manuscript Association (TIMA), lectures on the Shahnama, and the FAMES annual Research Day. Many of the events organized by the Centre for Islamic Studies take place abroad and stimulate collaboration between Cambridge scholars and foreign institutions (e.g. the events 'Cambridge in Beijing' [2012], 'Cambridge in Morocco' [2012], 'Cambridge in Sharjah' [2013]).

The Ancient India and Iran Trust is concerned with the research of early India, Iran and Central Asia. It has a library of over 25,000 volumes and organises a range of activities including conferences, public lectures and visiting fellowships. FAMES staff in the field of Indian and Iranian studies are closely involved with these activities. **Van Ruymbeke** is a Trustee and the Honorary Secretary. Many researchers at the Trust are affiliated to the Faculty and contribute to our environment by the provision of open classes in ancient Iranian languages.

The Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies at Newnham College is the only research centre devoted purely to Ottoman Studies in the UK and Western Europe, supporting research into the Ottoman Empire, with regular conferences, and an annual research scholarship for graduate students. This is linked to us by its Director, who has taught undergraduate courses for us as an Affiliated Lecturer and supervised our Ph.D. students.

The Faculty has created formal links with the Woolf Institute by affiliation of some of their research-active staff, who contribute to our M.Phil. graduate teaching programme. Their Centre for Muslim-Jewish Relations has organized a number of research events, e.g. 'Jews of Arab Culture' and 'Inter-twined Worlds: The Judaeo-Muslim Tradition' (partly sponsored also by the Centre for Islamic Studies), and they organize a termly seminar that takes place within the Faculty.

The Cambridge Central Asia Forum organizes research training in our Faculty in the form of

open classes in Central Asian languages and seminars. Several of the academics in this forum are affiliated to one of our Research Groups.

There is a link between us and The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA) in that the President of TIMA is a senior member of our teaching staff (**Melville**). TIMA has organized conferences and workshops in collaboration with our Faculty and with the Centre of Islamic studies.

We are linked formally to the Needham Research Institute (specializing in the history of science in China,) in two ways. We have on our establishment the 'Joseph Needham Professor of Chinese History, Science and Civilization', who is a Trustee of the Institute (**Sterckx**). The Director of the Institute was an Honorary Professor of the Faculty until his retirement this year. A weekly seminar is held at the Institute, which includes our own students, staff and visiting scholars.

All our academic staff collaborate with colleagues in Cambridge and in other institutions in research projects. These are too numerous to allow an exhaustive description here and only selected examples are given. **Bennison**: British Academy Collaborative Activities/Joint projects grant to collaborate with Maria Angeles Gallego, CSIC, Madrid on 'Interfaith relations in Islam: Jewish minorities under Almohad rule in the Maghrib and al-Andalus' (2008-9). **Chau**: collaborative project on biographies and daily lives of religious masters in Chinese societies (funded by the French National Research Agency [Agence Nationale de la Recherche], 2012-15); collaborative project and research group on 'globalisation and the transformation of the religious field in China, 1800 – the present' (based at the University of Leipzig, Germany). **Kahrs**: 'Towards a Critical Edition of the Kāśīkāvṛtti' collaborative project with scholars in Mumbai and Pune (funded by the British Academy International Partnerships scheme 1 January 2011–31 December 2013, Kahrs is Principal Investigator). **Kornicki**: member of PIIRS-EAS Research Cluster on "Rethinking Asian Languages" (Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies and East Asian Studies [at Princeton]). **Kushner**: collaborative project for Japan Ministry of Education collaborative young scholars grant, with Shōkei University (Japan) and Chungcheng University (Taiwan) to research BC class war crimes and Taiwan (*On the issue of Taiwanese war criminals in Japanese BC class war crimes trials, centering on Chinese, British, French, Australian and English trials*, 2013-2018). **Melville**: Member of research group "Monde Iranien", CNRS, Paris; 2011-2013; networking initiative with the British Institute of Persian Studies (British Academy). **Montgomery**: Director of School of Abbasid Studies (a network involving the Universities of Cambridge, Cornell, and Leuven and SOAS, University of London), The *Euclid Project* (University of Copenhagen), *Ikhwān al-Ṣafā'* Project (Institute of Ismaili Studies, London). **Moretti**: Creation of the international network UK *Early-modern Japanese Texts Reading Group* (2010 to date). **Peleg**: joint Israel/Jewish Studies seminars & conferences coordinated by Peleg and Derek Penslar, Oxford University. **Shin**: collaborative project with Seoul National University 'Curriculum and Teaching Materials for Global Korean Studies' (funded by Academy of Korean Studies, 2009-2012, Shin is Principal Investigator). **Steger**: Director of an international project: Ethnographies of the aftermath of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster (2011-2013; funded by the Japan Foundation). **Van de Ven**: 'China and Japan at War', an international collaboration involving scholars in China and Japan, as well as those in the West (van de Ven is lead Western organizer); 'History of Sino-British Relations', a partnership with East China Normal University to train graduate students and exchange research staff. **Vergiani**: international collaboration (with scholars from Europe and Asia) in the AHRC project *The intellectual and religious traditions of South Asia as seen through the Sanskrit manuscript collections of the University Library, Cambridge*.

Many of our staff are members of a Research Council or similar committee. Some selected examples are the following. **Allen**: Committee for British Research in the Levant (2007-2011); Committee on Academic Freedom-North America, *Middle East Studies Association* (2007-2009). **Khan and Kornicki**: Assessment panel for British Academy Research Grants and Post-doctoral Fellowships, and for International Newton Fellowships. **Kornicki**: Chair of East Asia Panel of the British Academy (responsible for applicants to the Academy's International Partnership and Mobility Scheme). **Moretti**: Membership of Japan Foundation Endowment Committee (2010-12). **Sterckx**: European Fellowship Committee, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for Scholarly Research.

Many staff members are involved with research-related advisory panels. Some examples are the following. **Allen**: AHRC Peer Review College (2009-present); Academic Advisory Committee, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Cambridge (2009-present). **Chau**: member of the Executive Council of the Universities China Council in London (UCCL). **Kornicki**: External Advisor on appointments: Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Art and Culture 2007-9. **Peleg**:

Oxford University Modern Hebrew literature search committee, external member. **Steger**: External Advisor on appointments: Oslo University 2013. **Sterckx**: Executive Council Member & Experts Committee, Universities' China Committee London (UCCL) (2010-2011); Board Member (Conseil d'administration), Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) (appointment by the French Ministry for Higher Education, 2009-2011); external evaluator (program specifications) 2 year MA program: *China: Health and Humanity*, University College London (March 2011), curriculum external reviewer (April 2012); programme evaluator: MA in Chinese Philosophy, Universities of Edinburgh & Glasgow (2010). **Yuan**: review of the MA programme in Chinese Linguistics and Language Acquisition, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, Chinese University of Hong Kong (2012).

Some staff hold or have held leading positions in professional subject associations or learned societies. Some selected examples follow. **Galambos**: Secretary for the European Association for the Study of Chinese Manuscripts (2012–); Associate Member at the Centre de Recherches sur les Civilisations de l'Asie Orientale, CNRS (2011–). **Kahrs**: Honorary Secretary, Director and Member of Council of the Pali Text Society (1994–). **Khan**: Chairman of the African and Oriental Studies Section of the British Academy (2009-2012). **Kornicki**: Chairman of the African and Oriental Studies Section of the British Academy (2006–2009). **Melville**: Chairman of Research Committee of the British Institute for Persian Studies (2008); Member of Research Committee, British Institute for Persian Studies (2011–); Member of the Academic Council of the Iran Heritage Foundation (2008–); Trustee of the Gibb Memorial Trust (2008–); President, Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA) (2008–). **Montgomery**: National Representative, Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants. **Moretti**: Secretary of the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (2009–); member of the EAJIS (European Association of Japanese Studies) Council (2011–); Director of the Marega Collection (collection of Japanese rare books) at the Library of the Università Pontificia Salesiana (Rome) (2007-2011). **Peleg**: European Association for Israel Studies (UK co-ordinator). **Steger**: EAJIS (European Assoc for Japanese Studies, 2008-), Council Member; JAWS (Japan Anthropology Workshop, 2008-), Council Member, Secretary General Elect. **Sterckx**: Secretary-General, European Association for Chinese Studies (2006-2012); Trustee, Needham Research Institute, 2007-; Trustee, Sir Percival David Foundation for Chinese Art, 2011-; Council Member, British Association for Chinese Studies (2008-2011). **Van Ruymbeke**: Council Member of the Royal Asiatic Society, London (2011-2015); Member of the Academic Council, Iran Heritage Foundation (2011–). **Yuan**: Executive committee member of the International Society for Chinese Language Teaching (2008–).

Most staff hold or have held editorial positions in leading research publications. Some examples follow. **Bennison**: Editorial Board of *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* (2011–); *Textualia: Jews, Christians and Muslims in their Texts* (2010–); *Maghreb Review* (2010–); *Fontes Historiae Africanae* (British Academy 2007-); editor of the series *Studies in the History and Society of the Maghrib* (E. J. Brill, Leiden 2009-). **Galambos**: sub-editor for the *Encyclopaedia of Manuscript Cultures in Asia and Africa* (University of Hamburg; in charge of Medieval China 2010–); member of editorial board of *Dunhuangxue yanjiu* (2006–). **Khan**: member of editorial board of *Journal of Jewish Studies*; *Aramaic Studies*; editor of series *Neo-Aramaic Studies*, Gorgias Press. **Kornicki**: founding editor-in-chief, *East Asian publishing and society* (Brill 2010-); regional editor of *International Journal of Asian Studies* (2009-); member of editorial board of *Asiatica Ambrosiana* (Milan, 2010–); advisory editor of *Book history* (2004–). **Kushner**: member of editorial board of *Modern Asian Studies*. **Melville**: advisory board of *Iranian Studies*; member of editorial board of *Journal of Persianate Societies*; *Nouvelle revue des études iraniennes* (Comité de patronage); founding series editor of *Studies in Persian Cultural History* (Brill). **Montgomery**: executive editor of the *Library of Arabic Literature* (NYU Abu Dhabi Research Institute, 2010-2015); editorial board of *Oriens* (Brill); *Studies in the Children of Abraham* Monograph Series (Brill); *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies* (Edinburgh University Press); *Middle Eastern Literatures* (Taylor and Francis); *Routledge Curzon Studies in Arabic and Middle Eastern Literatures*; *Cultural Encounters in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages* Monograph Series (Brepols); advisory board of the third edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (Brill). **Peleg**: associate editor of *Prooftexts* (Jewish literary history). **Shin**: member of editorial board of *Tongbang Hakji* (Institute of Korean Studies, Yonsei University, 2011–); *Yeoksa wa Hyeonsil* (Korean History, the Organization of Korean Historians, Seoul, Korea, 2012–); *Seoul-California Series in Korean Studies* (2009-2012). **Sterckx**: member of editorial board of *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (2009–); *Extrême-Orient Extrême-Occident* (2006–);

Journal of Chinese Language Education 华文学刊 (Singapore, 2010–); *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* (2009–); *Journal of the British Association for Chinese Studies* (2011–); *Berkshire Dictionary of Chinese Biography* (2008-2012). **Van de Ven**: member of editorial board of *Modern Asian Studies* (Cambridge); *Journal of Modern Chinese History* (Chinese Academy); *War of Resistance Studies* (Chinese Academy); lead editor of *Cambridge China Library* (CUP). **Suleiman**: member of editorial board of *Language Policy* and *Journal of Semitic Studies*. **Van Ruymbeke**: member of editorial board of *Persica* (Leiden) and *Iranian Studies Series* (Leiden University Publications, Leiden-Chicago). **Vergiani**: member of editorial board of series *Cultural, Historical And Textual Studies Of Religions* (Anthem Press, London). **Yuan**: member of editorial board of *International Review of Applied Linguistics* (2000–); *Second Language Research* (2006–); *Second language* (2004–).

A number of our staff have been commissioned to undertake HEI consultancies. Some examples follow. **Khan**: commissioned to chair an evaluation committee of Israeli universities by the Israeli Ministry of Education (2012). **Van de Ven**: member of 2008 RAE Panel for Asian Studies, AHRC Peer Review College (2009- 2013), British Academy China Panel (2009–). **Suleiman**: Quality Assurance of MA in Translation Studies, Sultan Qaboos University, 2008; Nile Schools Project, Cambridge International Assessment, Principal Consultant for Arabic (Curriculum Standards, Teachers' Guides and Training in charge of a team of four consultants), 2009-10; Quality Assurance Agency Consultant, Bahrain, October 2010-; Enhancing Arabic Language Learning in Qatar, Carnegie-Mellon University-Qatar, Research Consultant, September 2012-; Commission On Modernising Arabic Language Teaching, Prime Minister's Office, United Arab Emirates, Lead Consultant, 2012-3.

All scholars contribute to the academic community by undertaking to peer-review research articles and books. Some are members of book prize panels, e.g. **Suleiman**: chairman of *British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize*. **Melville**: panel member of Said Sirjani Book Prize (2008-2012).

All scholars have given numerous invited lectures within Cambridge and in other institutions across the world. A few selected examples of some of the more prestigious ones include: **Chau**: 2013 Wilde Lecturer in Natural and Comparative Religion, University of Oxford (2013). **Khan**: Inaugural Hyvernat Lecture (Catholic University of America, 2012); Jeremiah and Helen James Lecture (Northwestern University, 2012). **Kornicki**: Sandars Lectures in Bibliography, Cambridge (2008). **Melville**: *Dar al-Kutub* (Cairo), UNESCO celebration day, invited speaker (2008), Mashhad and Tehran, National Ferdowsi festival, invited speaker (2008), *Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya*, invited lecture (2011), Dushanbe, Tajikistan, National Academy of Sciences, invited lecture (2011). **Sterckx**: Seventh Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture (East Asian History of Science Foundation jointly with The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and The University of Hong Kong, 2008). **Suleiman**: keynote lecture, Fourth Annual Forum, Supreme Education Council, Doha, Qatar, March 2009; King Saud University, keynote lecture, November 2009; keynote speaker, Challenges of Teaching Arabic in the Twenty First Century, Carnegie Mellon University-Qatar, February 2011. **Van de Ven**: keynote lecture, *Academia Historica*, December 2011 (Taiwan's National Archives). In addition many members of staff have been invited to appear on radio and television (in various languages).

A number of our staff received prestigious scholarly awards and fellowships during the REF period. Some examples follow. **Bowring**: the Order of the Rising Sun, highest accolade by the Japanese Government, (2013). **Khan**: elected Honorary Fellow of the Academy of the Hebrew Language (2011). Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem (2012-13). **Kornicki**: Elected member of *Accademia Ambrosiana*, Milan (2011); Elected Member of *Accademia Europea* (2012), awarded the Yamagata Bantô Prize (2013). **Kushner**: Abe Fellowship (the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, the Social Science Research Council, and the American Council of Learned Societies, 2008-2010), the 2013 Sophie Prize for food writing. **Melville**: Visiting Distinguished Professor at Kiel University (2009). **Sterckx**: Fellowship at the Center for Chinese Studies, National Library, Taipei, Taiwan ROC (2011-2012); British Academy/Chinese Academy of Social Sciences award for research in Beijing, Xian, and Changsha; elected Fellow of the British Academy (2013, **Khan** and **Kornicki** were elected Fellows of the British Academy before the REF period in 1998 and 2000 respectively). **Van Ruymbeke**: winner of the Book of the Year Prize, Islamic Republic of Iran (2009). **Van de Ven**: elected Fellow of the British Academy (2013). It is particularly gratifying several of these prestigious awards have gone to younger colleagues (e.g. **Sterckx**, **Kushner**, **Van Ruymbeke**).