

<p>Institution: University of Glasgow</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: D27 – Area Studies</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The University of Glasgow has an established reputation as a centre of excellence in area studies research focussed on Central and East European Studies (CEES). It is recognised both nationally and internationally as a leading centre for research into Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Former Soviet Union (FSU), with particular strengths in the topics of memory, migration and regional security. It has further developed and strengthened its research culture during 2008-13, as evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dramatic increase in RCUK funding (RAE 2008 £292,951; REF 2014 £1,787,835); • An increase in the number of completing PhD students (RAE 2008, 1.6 students per year; REF 2014 3.5 students per year); • An increase in its applied and policy-related research. <p>The University was restructured during 2009-10 to improve cross-disciplinary links and rationalise administrative tasks to create more space for its research ambitions. CEES now forms one of the five core subject areas in the School of Social and Political Sciences, which is one of the five schools within the College of Social Sciences. The new structure has facilitated greater interaction between CEES and other disciplinary areas within the School and College, evidenced by the development of new postgraduate programmes, as well as broader research collaborations, including the Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNet) which brings together staff from across the College and beyond.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>CEES' research strategy builds on its core principles of interdisciplinarity and external collaboration. Our ambitions for international research excellence are fostered through regular seminar series, peer review of funding applications and writing projects and by careful mentoring between senior and junior staff. Our small size allows us to sustain close and creative research relationships while providing a distinctive identity. In addition, we are extensively linked to research networks across Europe and across disciplines. The clear definition, identity and reputation of CEES within the University and beyond is demonstrated by our leading position in the UK and internationally in East European studies. In 2006 CEES led the development of the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (CRCEES), a collaborative inter-institutional centre of excellence for Language-Based Area Studies (LBAS), initially funded by an award of £4.7 million (including studentships) from HEFCE, ESRC, AHRC and SFC (2006-2011). The huge success of the Centre was recognised by renewed 5-year funding in 2012 (£693,423 excluding studentships) from the AHRC and British Academy (for details see http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/crcees/). The Director and 2 Co-Directors are located at Glasgow. CRCEES enables the relatively small CEES Subject Group at Glasgow to become more than the sum of its parts, establishing a framework to facilitate the highest quality research and to develop specialised research leadership in East European Studies. To further build capacity for research students and develop our research culture, in 2012 we launched a new Erasmus Mundus International Masters programme which is recognised by the European Commission as a programme of 'outstanding academic quality'. It is the only programme of its kind in the UK. A third foundation of our research culture is hosting <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> (edited by Cox), which is the principal academic publication in the world focussing on the history and current political, social and economic affairs of the FSU and CEE countries.</p> <p>2008-2013 Strategic Objectives:</p> <p>In RAE 2008 CEES set out its aim of maintaining its status as a centre of the highest international standing, undertaking research into the processes of socio-economic, socio-cultural and social-political transformation. These aims were delivered during the review period, as well as developing new areas of expertise in memory studies, migration and regional security. CEES achieved this by developing externally funded research programmes, developing strong links between staff, PGR and non-academic communities, and expanding international links with respect to both research and PG activities.</p>

During the census period staff undertook research within 5 main groupings. Of these Baltic Studies; Identity, Culture and Social Security; and History, Legacy and Social Transformation reflect longstanding strengths which continued to develop in 2008-13. By contrast, the interdisciplinary Assessing Accession and Methodology and Practice themes emerged strongly in 2008-13 and represent innovative new areas of expertise - the former aims to provide critical focus on the eastward expansion of the EU and the impact of this on the wider region, the latter built on the research strengths of staff whilst simultaneously responding to RCUK strategic initiatives; this grouping also provided support for CEES "impact" initiatives. The research groupings feed into the work of the CRCEES research themes, and the consequent collaboration means that the research groupings are more extensive than the core CEES staff.

1. Baltic Studies (Cheskin, Smith, Swain):

Linked PGRs during the period: 4.

The Glasgow Baltic Research Unit (GBRU) was established in 2003; it is the UK's only institutional structure wholly dedicated to fostering academic study of the Baltic States region. Research is focused around themes of nationality, identity, cultural autonomy and increasingly, as the politics of the past has become contested, memory. **Smith** was editor of the *Journal of Baltic Studies* throughout 2008-09. **Smith's** research deepens understanding of the region's complex nationality issues. His ongoing work on national cultural autonomy yielded several outputs and new international collaborations, while continuing to inform national and international policy debates in the area of minority rights. Innovative collaborative research (with Burch, Nottingham Trent) on sites of memory in Estonia used visually based ethnographic methods to explore the complexity of identity construction in a borderland setting. **Swain's** historical research (Leverhulme Trust, 2008-11) in collaboration with colleagues at Daugavpils University explored Latvian resistance to renewed Soviet occupation following the end of World War II. Focusing on the later Stalin period, this work provides an innovative insight into the nationalist forces at work within the Latvian Communist Party and broadens our understanding of the tensions which would emerge strongly in the Soviet Union towards the end of the 1980s. **Cheskin** joined CEES as a new lecturer in 2012 following completion of his PhD in CEES; his research gives an original insight into the identity construction of Russian-speakers in Latvia via an emphasis on discursive articulations in the realms of politics and the media, and with an examination of the role of media elites in creating or propagating national identities. A related research theme is examining the extent to which collective memories have been used as markers of ethnic identity in Latvia.

The GBRU published key outputs 2008-13 reconsidering the Baltic region's contested history and present e.g. **Smith** and Hiden, *Ethnic Diversity and the Nation-State: National-Cultural Autonomy Revisited*, Routledge (2012); Hiden, **Smith** and Made (eds.), *The Baltic Question during the Cold War*, Routledge (2008); **Smith, Swain, Galbreath**, *From Recognition to Restoration, Latvia's History as a Nation-State*, Rodopi (2010). Among the 16 events organised/co-organised by the GBRU was the landmark conference "Memory, History and Conflict", March 2013, at the University of Glasgow. The Unit attracted funded postdoctoral fellows including Vytautas Petronis (Södertörn University Sweden) and Keiji Sato (Hokkaido University, Japanese Council for the Promotion of Science) as well as visiting scholars including Chiara Tessaris (Columbia University) and Louis Clerc (University of Turku).

2. Identity, Culture & Social Security (Flynn, Kay, Stella):

Linked PGRs during the period: 12.

This group builds on longstanding strengths in areas of identity and culture in the region and has strong links with the substantive themes underpinning the GBRU. **Flynn's** Leverhulme-funded ethnographic research (2007-12) generated deep and original insight into constructions of urban identities in Central Asia with an emphasis on processes of migration and relations between long-term residents and newcomers. This work was carried out in collaboration with Russian colleagues (Russian Academy of Sciences, State University Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg). **Stella's** research (The Carnegie

Trust) on lesbian relations in the Soviet Union provided an innovative exploration of a hidden aspect of Soviet social history via oral history methodology, contributing new insights to theoretical debates about how state socialism forged distinctive sexual moralities and identities. Related work is examining notions of 'queer space' in contemporary Russia as well as related concerns over democratisation and minority rights. **Kay's** work on Russia's social security and welfare systems (British Academy) built on earlier interests concerning gender identity and social security and gave new understanding of the realities of welfare provision in contemporary Russia, with a particular focus on rural contexts. The work of the group was further augmented by Judit Molnar's (EU Marie Curie Visiting Fellow, 2010-11) research (**Smith**, Lead academic coordinator) which compared experiences of migrants from the Commonwealth of Independent States in Scotland and the north-west USA from the standpoint of integration.

Migration is an increasingly important focus for this group. Recent grant success reinforces the grouping's pre-eminence in this area, evidenced by a 4-year ESRC project (£1,115,202 for 2013-2016) examining the experiences of social security and prospects for long-term settlement in Scotland amongst migrant populations from CEE and the FSU (**Flynn, Kay**). The project centres around an action research element, to enable policy relevance and impact. As Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Research Fellow, **Stella (and Flynn)** are developing a research programme on queer migration from CEE and FSU.

3. History, Legacy & Social Transformation (Cox, Hardman, Oldfield, Swain):

Linked PGRs during the period: 9.

This group builds on CEES' longstanding research strengths examining the historical processes at work within the former socialist region. The focus has broadened since 2008 to incorporate legacy issues and more recent societal shifts across the region. **Swain** continued to develop his research on the leading historical figures of the communist era, writing *Tito: a Biography* (I B Tauris, 2011). This was the first biography to consider in detail the dramatic switch from reform to reaction which occurred in Yugoslavia in the 1960s. The work emphasizes the relationship between Tito and Khrushchev, linking to Swain's work on the theme of national aspirations under communism.

Oldfield's research is underpinned by RCUK grants (in collaboration with Shaw, Birmingham). Collectively, this work provided a first in-depth examination of the emergence of Russian geographical thought and the significant contribution of Soviet geographers and cognate scientists to modern environmental understanding. **Oldfield** is also part of a new Leverhulme International Network award (2013-2015) involving leading US, UK and Russian institutions that will shape the research agenda within Russian environmental history.

Cox edited 3 volumes on issues of legacies and post-communist transformation: on the challenges to communist rule in Eastern Europe in and around 1956, transformation and legacy in 1989, and continuities, legacies and turning points in Polish history (with Martin Myant). He developed his research on state-society relations in the process of post-communist transformation which has engaged with the debate on 'the weakness of civil society' in Eastern Europe and the relative impact of communist era legacies and post-communist developments on the development of civil society. Publications have drawn on findings from earlier surveys of interest groups and policy makers in Hungary 1994-2002 and on a Leverhulme-funded project on Policy Actors and Policy Making in Post-Communist Hungary (with Sandor Gallai, Corvinus University Budapest) based on elite interviews with policy actors in four different policy areas in Hungary. He works with colleagues in Hungary, Slovenia and the Czech Republic to design and implement new rounds of survey research on interest groups in these countries.

Hardman joined CEES in 2012; her monograph *Gorbachev's export of perestroika to Eastern Europe* (MUP) provides an innovative examination of the liberalisation process in Central and Eastern Europe during the late 1980s, based on archival and interview

fieldwork in Hungary, Poland and Russia. This comparative project focused on an un-researched phenomenon, the communist party national conferences of 1987-89, offering a new perspective on the democratization process in the region. Her current research is exploring systemic human rights abuses in Europe and associated court reform in Russia (in collaboration with London Metropolitan University) as well as the process of electoral reform in Central and Eastern Europe (with Queen's University, Belfast).

4. Assessing Accession (Anceschi, Butler, Hardman, McManus):

Linked PGRs during the period: 9.

Butler launched this new research group in 2008 to respond to the need for a critical engagement with the EU's eastward expansion. It provides a unique critical forum within which to assess the eastward expansion of the EU [<http://assessingaccession.eu/>]. Underpinned by a significant virtual presence and extensive workshop and conference activities, it has grown markedly 2008-13, developing into a dynamic international network of academics, PGRs and practitioners and holding an annual symposium which attracts participants from across Europe. Its membership currently stands at over 150 participants from 36 countries. The group organised 5 Research Symposia (2-day research workshops) 2008-13, held in the UK, Hungary, Romania and Estonia. In total, the group has supported members to present over 100 research papers at various events. As it has grown, so has its remit broadened to consider the security of the region more generally.

The main work of the grouping is shaped by 4 thematic areas. (i) The European Parliament. (ii) Minorities and Minority Rights, broadening towards human rights more generally with the work of **Hardman**. (iii) Energy – this area has been advanced via **Butler's** research (Carnegie Trust) exploring the urgent issue of the EU's liberalising energy market through an analysis of the Hungarian case and forms an important strand of CEES' developing expertise in Security issues. (iv) Foreign Policy – building on an interest in EU Neighbourhood Policy, this focus in particular has started to look beyond relations with Russia and increasingly considers the Caucasus and Central Asia. **Anceschi's** appointment is of particular importance here, as his research explores the foreign policy of the Central Asian states and their relations with the Great Powers, including the European Union. The group's activities are supported by funding from a range of sources including: UACES, CRCEES, BASEES, various UK and EU universities.

5. Methodology and Practice (Butler, Cheskin, Cox, Kay, Oldfield, Smith, Stella, Swain):

This overarching research theme has developed strongly during 2008-13 underpinned by funding from the AHRC and the European Commission. CEES has a strong commitment to methodological innovation in area studies research and to engaging non-academic communities in shaping the research agenda and using research outcomes. The Translating Russia and East European Cultures (TREEC) initiative emerged out of an AHRC Research Networking grant (**Kay, Oldfield, Stella, Swain**, plus the Universities of Nottingham, Edinburgh and West of Scotland). It explored themes of knowledge exchange, method and practice within the multidisciplinary context of area studies and was based around a series of innovative events drawing together academics, postgraduates, professional artists, schools and non-governmental organisations. CEES also played a key role in an EU Tempus project (2011-13) entitled 'Development of best practice model Doctoral Schools for structured PhD programme implementation in Ukraine and Georgia,' (lead coordinator **Smith**). This involved a series of visits (**Butler, Cheskin, Cox, Oldfield, Smith, Swain** and PGRs) to universities in Georgia and Ukraine in order to assist in the sharing of insight and the development of postgraduate training programmes. CEES staff also organised a significant number of public events in tandem with local schools and non-governmental organisations funded by a range of grants (e.g. ESRC Festival of Social Science, CRCEES). **Kay** led in developing the schools and community aspects of its work. **Kay** is co-director of Glasgow Refugee Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNet) the University's initiative to create an innovative collaboration between academic and non-academic communities with interests in this core area of current concern. It has been the platform for over £4m in external funding for research activities and programmes.

Looking to the future, CEES has made some key new appointments during this census period, but will face significant retirements during the next one. Future appointments might change the picture, but the initial strategy for the future is clear enough. CEES will continue to develop its current areas of research, retaining its research groupings but allowing them to evolve. In this context four distinct areas of expertise will be taken further. First, continued emphasis will be made on analysing the policy remit of Brussels towards the region as EU expansion develops in the Balkans. Second, CEES has, with its new lectureship in Central Asian studies, made a major strategic investment in the regional security of the oil-sensitive Caspian Sea basin; research grants are already being developed as a result. Third, CEES has won a major grant in the field of migration from Central and Eastern Europe to Scotland and there is a clear commitment to taking this area of work further. Finally, CEES hosted a major conference on the politics of memory in March 2013 and grant proposals arising from that conference have already been submitted. These are the dominant research themes as the next assessment period begins, and, as in the past, their development will be monitored and encouraged by the CEES research convenor and the School of Social and Political Sciences Research Committee.

c. People, including:

(i) Staffing and Staff development:

Our research success has meant that the College of Social Sciences and the School of Social and Political Sciences have invested considerably to build research capacity. Since 2008 we have appointed three new lecturers. **Cheskin** was appointed (2012) to enhance the research interests of the well-established Baltic research grouping. **Hardman** (2012) has strengthened the work of the History, Legacy and Social Transformation grouping. In September 2013, **Anceschi** was appointed to bring a new international relations dimension to the study of Central Asia and advance existing links with KIMEP University in Kazakhstan. CEES was also successful in the competition for the University of Glasgow's prestigious Lord Kelvin Adam Smith (LKAS) postdoctoral fellowships. **Stella**, a CEES doctoral graduate and one-time temporary lecturer (2007-11), was appointed in January 2013 after holding an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at London South Bank University; her research augments the existing expertise in the area of Identity, Culture and Social Security.

Newly appointed staff have a reduced teaching and administrative load during their probation period so they can focus on developing their research careers. The University adheres to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and so offers a range of specialised research training opportunities. The College also hosts a women's mentoring scheme in which several CEES members have participated. The research time of all staff is protected through a formal workload model developed at School level. All staff are eligible to apply for research leave for 6 months every 3 years. In addition, CEES operates its own 'light year' scheme which allows colleagues an additional semester free of teaching every 7 years. As part of its internationalisation strategy, the University encourages visiting research posts and a number of colleagues have been appointed as visiting researchers in European universities. **Cox** spent two months in 2012 at the Aleksanteri Institute (Helsinki University), **Kay** spent a month in 2010 at the Max Planck Institute in Halle, and **Smith** is currently on a 2-year Visiting Research Fellowship at the Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. As part of CEES' commitment to strengthening the impact of its research through links with the third sector, **Kay** is partially seconded to GRAMNet.

The University actively supports the implementation of the Concordat for Career Development of Researchers, launched at Glasgow in 2009 including mentoring, training and career guidance for staff at all levels and courses in research project management and grant applications. Glasgow was the first Scottish HEI to set up an Equality and Diversity Unit; all provision is governed by the principles outlined in its Equality and Diversity Policy.

(ii) Research Students:

CEES is home to a vibrant and culturally diverse postgraduate community. The student cohort, which has averaged between 16-18, has a more or less even gender split. In addition, a number of visiting PhD students (e.g. Ukraine, Georgia, Russia) have spent extended periods working in

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CEES via Tempus funding and other sources. **Flynn** and **Oldfield** are jointly responsible for PGR development and welfare within CEES. PGRs are funded by a range of sources e.g. RCUK, University scholarships (includes a Kelvin Smith interdisciplinary scholarship), project-linked scholarships (AHRC), collaborative studentships (Glasgow City Council) and a newly-established Europe-Asia Studies scholarship. Furthermore, CEES, together with the University of Edinburgh, forms the Language-Based Area Studies Pathway of the *ESRC-funded Scottish Doctoral Training Centre* (LBAS-SDTC), which was established in 2011. **Oldfield** is the Pathway coordinator.

The PGR cohort regularly presents papers at national and international conferences and seminars, both individually and on panels organised by staff and postgraduates. Students are also encouraged to publish findings in leading journals e.g. *Nations and Nationalism* (Germane); *Environmental Politics* (Sharples); *Revolutionary Russia* (Wright). CEES holds regular Work in Progress seminars at which students present their research in a supportive and constructively critical environment. Several students have gone on to university posts. Cheskin and Stella within the University of Glasgow, Bindman (University of Manchester), and Regelmann (Queens University Belfast).

CEES, in conjunction with CRCEES, provides students with the opportunity to participate in an annual international Summer School as well as a significant number of cross-institutional training workshops and events (see <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/crcees/>). CEES also organises an annual event with the Finnish Doctoral Programme for Russian and East European Studies linked to the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki. Alternating between Glasgow and Helsinki, this event allows PGRs to present their research in a supportive yet critical intellectual environment.

Significant opportunities have also been provided for PGRs interested in working with non-academic/user communities including: ESRC-funded internships with the Scottish Government (**Cheskin**; Jordan) and Council of Europe (Bindman); CRCEES-funded internships with the Scotland-Russia Institute (Bailes); Toronto Estonian Archive (Kreinin); Heritage House, Budapest (K Kay). Taulant Guma's ongoing ESRC CASE studentship PhD is developing extensive links with Glasgow City Council.

CEES offers students training in research methodologies (advanced) and languages, and gives them extensive opportunities to develop their research and professional skills via the Graduate School's programme of courses. During monthly supervision meetings students and supervisors work on Personal Development Planning, and all research students have a minimum of 2 supervisors, with written records being kept of each supervision, as well as a yearly review conducted within CEES and coordinated by the Graduate School, College of Social Sciences.

PGR are accommodated in shared offices with priority in smaller rooms for those in the final stages of research and writing up. Each student has a personal workspace and networked computer. PGRs have access to specialised software including NVivo (qualitative analysis), SPSS (quantitative analysis), EndNote (bibliographic). Other software requirements (e.g. Speech-recognition) are met when required. PGRs have access to the extensive library and associated support facilities outlined above. Funding to cover fieldwork abroad is supported via a range of sources including: RCUK, CRCEES, School etc.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

In RAE 2008 CEES total research income was £407,563; in REF 2014 it was £2,224,001. A significant proportion of this sum relates to CRCEES, of which Oldfield is Co-Director. CRCEES has used its funding to underpin a range of research developments within CEES, enabling workshops and related intellectual activities to take place, as well as supporting existing initiatives e.g. (i)the development of the cross-university initiative GRAMNet addressing issues concerning migration, refugees and asylum through the effective pooling of expertise and collaboration with non-academic partners and (ii)the activities of the Translating Russian and East European Cultures network. Beyond CRCEES, staff have taken advantage of: (i)subject-level research incentivisation fund which targets innovative new research areas, facilitating pilot research and underpinning

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collaborative grant writing activities, (ii) School-level conference support, (iii) College-level seed-corn funding (e.g. via the Adam Smith Research Foundation) and Visiting Senior International Research Fellow Scheme. This also included funding to support the development and submission of EU FP7 applications. A recent university-wide initiative provides funding opportunities to support impact and knowledge exchange agendas and **Kay** has been successful in the initial funding rounds for work related to the Red Road housing development in Glasgow [see Impact case study]. The College provides training for early career and more senior staff with respect to constructing effective research applications and operates an expert peer review system for grant applications.

The library is a highly-valued resource providing access to one of the largest and best-established specialist East European collections in Europe with c.80,000 titles. It has particularly notable newspaper holdings, which have been complemented in recent years with subscriptions to 25 Russian and East European electronic databases and 7 microform archive collections. There is also an impressive range of manuscripts and named collections (e.g. Trotsky Collection, Baltic Studies archive). These are constantly augmented to meet expanding research and teaching interests. The success of *Europe Asia Studies* (expanding to 10 issues/year) produced additional funds to maintain the collection, and this has been further developed by book donations from the UK Estonian Embassy and a joint project with Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas). We have also secured additional support from the *Russkii Mir* Foundation to develop the language resources of the collection, provide specialised staffing and refurbishment of a dedicated reading room. In 2012 the Mark Pittaway Hungarian archive was also bequeathed to CEES.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The collaborative CRCEES has helped provide a foundation for the steady development of the discipline of Russian and East European Studies in the UK, both for research and for renewing the discipline through studentships. The Erasmus Mundus scheme will also renew the discipline by the provision of postgraduate scholarships. Staff are also fully committed to supporting the discipline through journal editorships. CEES hosts *Europe-Asia Studies*, (**Cox** editor, **Berry**, **Butler**, **Flynn**, **McManus**, **Oldfield**, **Smith**, and **Swain** editorial board). **Smith** edited the *Journal of Baltic Studies* (2005-09) and is on the editorial board. **Butler** edited the *Journal of Contemporary European Research* (2007-09). **Cox** is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Agrarian Studies* and the Editorial Advisory Board of the BASEES-Routledge monograph series. **Swain** is on the editorial board of *Revolutionary Russia* and the *Journal of Baltic History*. **Anceschi** is on the editorial board of the *Asian Studies Review*. **Hardman** has acted as reviewer for *The International Journal of Transitional Justice*. In addition GRAMNet focuses our collaboration with non-academic users and provides an established pathway for impact for our research.

CEES staff are recognised for scholarly excellence and significant contributions to their field. **Cox** was elected to the Academy of Social Sciences (2012), **Smith** was elected Docent in the History of Nationalism and Ethnicity, University of Turku (2013), **Swain** received an honorary degree from Daugavpils University (2012), **Cox** was President of BASEES (2007-10) and Vice-President (past President) (2010-13) and **Oldfield** is an elected member of its executive committee and treasurer. Staff are members of RCUK Peer Review Colleges including the ESRC (**Oldfield**, **Smith**, **Swain**) and AHRC (**Oldfield**, **Swain**). **Cox** acted as external assessor to professorial appointments on 3 occasions. **Cox** is a member of the REF sub-panel 27 and was a Member of the Scientific Committee of the European Science Fund on Forward Look on Research in Central and Eastern Europe (2009-11). **Oldfield** formed part of the 4-person organising committee for the 2013 BASEES-ICCEES International Congress. Invited keynote talks were delivered by **Cox** (e.g. Slavic Centre, University of Hokkaido; Hungarian Academy of Sciences), and **Oldfield** (University of Helsinki).