

<p>Institution: University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 27 Area Studies</p> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Centre for Nordic Studies (CNS) provides a unique focus for holistic interdisciplinary research and teaching in Norse and Nordic Studies, and has community participation and engagement as core aspects of its mission. The CNS, a UHI Arts and Humanities Faculty strategic priority since 2002, has been in operation since 2006, and its staff and activities were entered in the 2008 RAE in European Studies. Since that time, the Centre has grown and developed a number of areas of strength, and has begun to focus on two broad research-based strategic aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To undertake and publicise its research in Nordic Studies • To provide an overarching focus for locative research in Orkney and Shetland, including their relationship to the North Atlantic Rim. <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The CNS research strategy is encompassed by UHI Research Strategy, which promotes engagement in research that plays to the regional focus and impact of the University's campuses, whilst also ensuring international linkage and significance. Our area specific interdisciplinary research looks at how humans interact with their environment (physical, social, economic); the products of this interaction; and how these products can be used to sustain the communities that created them. The research strategy embraces studies of culture in both specific and general terms, by seeking to make connections between the living traditions and social structure of the North Atlantic Rim in general, with particular reference to the Highlands and islands region. It also seeks to explore the tools, methods and validity of the study of culture worldwide through the application of universal concepts to an area-specific framework which combines four main interdisciplinary focussed strands: cultural history, material culture, language and literature. The research strategy is immeasurably strengthened by being deployed in, by and to the communities it studies, and this will ensure that the ownership of their cultural identity passes back to those communities, while placing and expressing that identity in a global context. This is evidenced by projects such as Hjaltland, the AHRC Orkney and Shetland Dialect corpus, and The Assembly Project (TAP). There is a well-known relationship between knowledge and empowerment: the CNS research agenda aims to empower local communities by helping them make the leap from the theoretical to the practical, and indeed the practicable, through the use of their lived experience, for example, in the case of the Scottish Tourist Guide Association training courses which enabled 28 people to start their own businesses.</p> <p>Our five year research aims identified in the RAE 2008 submission were:</p> <p>i) The full implementation of the Centre for Nordic Studies</p> <p>This was fully achieved by August 2009. The project was funded by ESF, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Orkney Islands Council, and Shetland Islands Council.</p> <p>ii) The development of 2 specific major Research Projects</p> <p>Since 2008 CNS has secured funding for 4 major Research Projects; 3 through HERA/AHRC and one through the Royal Society of Edinburgh with a total combined value of £882,130.</p> <p>iii) The preparation of the HEIMDALL interactive database, which will provide an online portal for Orkney and Shetland academic resources.</p> <p>This is now operational under the new title of Norseworld. Norseworld.com is a tangible result of the interdisciplinary and international discussions held by the Hjaltland Network. This is a prototype of the online database and atlas of the Viking period, which the Hjaltland Network seeks to create. So far Norseworld.com includes archaeological data, many hundreds of Norse place-names, and all annal entries which refer to the Vikings from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and the Irish Annals up to the year 902AD. These data are fully searchable and geotagged, allowing various datasets to be mapped together. Despite being a prototype, Norseworld.com is already a pedagogical and research tool.</p> <p>iv) The development of a research led MA Northern Studies.</p> <p>CNS have in fact developed a portfolio of five unique research led interdisciplinary MLitt programmes: Highlands and Islands Literature (commenced 2008); Orkney and Shetland Studies (2009); Highlands and Islands Culture (2012); Viking Studies (2012); and Island Studies (2013). CNS has 68 graduates from their MLitt programmes so far, with 26 Distinctions among them and</p>
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two published Dissertations to date. Recruitment has grown incrementally each year and they are financially extremely viable

In the past few years, CNS's interdisciplinary focus on the perception of identity in Orkney and Shetland and its wider context in the North Atlantic Rim has resulted in the development of several cognate research clusters: **historical archaeology and cultural geography of the North Atlantic Rim**, particularly that of the Norse expansion period; **language**, particularly minority language policy and the languages and dialects of Scotland; comparative **literature** of the North Atlantic Rim; **visual sociology**, particularly the manifestation of humanity's relationship to the environment through visual arts; and **intercultural dialogues** between Nordic countries. This focus necessitated the creation of a new paradigm for area specific Scottish Studies involving the Nordic heritage of Scotland, now known as Northern Scottish Studies, which is neither time dependent nor discipline specific. A particular example of innovative development has been the above noted Norseworld. Building on the developments and successes of the Centre to date, the new five year strategy for CNS, while retaining flexibility to respond to opportunities that will emerge from time to time, focuses on the following:

i) The creation of 3 further international interdisciplinary Research Networks.

These will focus on the interdisciplinary study of humanity's interaction with specific environments and on the creation of materials for use in the development of social policy (e.g. tourism strategies) for these peripheral environments.

ii) The development of 4 major research projects

These will focus on the development of cultural heritage as a sustainable resource for communities in peripheral areas of the world; on the development of cultural tourism; and on the development of significant cultural products

iii) The development of a research cluster in island studies.

This will explore issues such as "islandness", dependency, resource management (including culture and heritage), insularity, and connectivity. CNS has new memoranda of understanding with the Universities of Malta and Prince Edward Island to further this development.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The Centre for Nordic Studies has a core staff comprising a 1 FTE Director responsible for both campuses; one 1 FTE Reader in Orkney and one 1 FTE senior lecturer in Shetland; one 1 FTE lecturer in Orkney and four part time lecturers in Orkney and Shetland. It is intended to translate these part time appointments to full time posts early in the new planning period. The Centre is supported by a part time administration officer in Orkney.

The CNS was founded in 2006 by Dr (now Prof.) Donna Heddle, a Scottish literary, linguistic and cultural historian, who was appointed Director at that time. Heddle was then joined in June 2009 by an administration officer, Lynn Campbell, and in August 2009 by a team comprising: historical archaeologist and Viking specialist Dr Alexandra Sanmark from Sweden and linguist Dr Ragnhild Ljosland, from Norway, in the Orkney campus, folk historian and onomastic expert Dr Andrew Jennings, from Shetland, and North Atlantic Rim literature and cultural dialogue specialist Silke Reeploeg, originally from Germany but very much part of the Shetland community, in the Shetland campus. Dr Kristin Lindfield-Ott, based in Inverness College UHI, joined our literature research strand in 2012. CNS was joined in Orkney in 2012 by Viking and Anglo-Saxon sculpture and heritage expert Dr Victoria Whitworth. Most recently, the CNS was joined in 2013 by linguistic expert Derrick McClure (albeit following several years of association with the work of the Centre), and in Shetland in 2013 by visual sociologist Dr Angela Watt. The research of the Centre has also been extended to include visual artist Anne Bevan, Head of Orkney College's Art Department, who has joined the visual sociology research cluster following her appointment from Edinburgh College of Art. CNS also appointed five Honorary Research Fellows in 2012: historian Dr Barbara Crawford; runes expert Professor Michael Barnes; linguist Dr Doreen Waugh; Orkney historian Mr William Thomson; and Shetland archivist Mr Brian Smith. CNS appointed an Honorary Professor in 2013 – island studies expert Prof. David Gray from the University of Dalhousie in Nova Scotia, Canada. CNS has a policy of growth which is both interdisciplinary and international.

Prof. Michael Smith (Chair of the European Studies sub-panel RAE 2008) noted in his REF evaluation report on CNS of 25/9/10 that "There is evidence of strong, dynamic and effective

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leadership which is backed up by a group of committed and able staff. This makes itself felt not only in the ways in which challenges are met and opportunities taken, but also in the ways in which issues such as research and the REF are discussed and ownership of them shared.”

Communication is key in the forging of this very successful and cohesive team across two separate department locations. This is addressed by regular team meetings both by videoconferencing and in person, Skyped chat sessions for all staff, and cross campus working on projects, PhD supervision, and events management. Staff are encouraged by the Director to take ownership of their own niche projects and to come forward with ideas for new collaborations, especially with business and other regional stakeholders such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). International projects are actively encouraged. Mentoring of all new staff is a priority and this is undertaken by the Director in collaboration with the senior staff in Orkney and Shetland, and this is also being supplemented by a new scheme that has been established across UHI as a whole. They are also encouraged to play an active role in key committees, both UHI and external, and are given time allocations to do so. This is a team environment committed to the support, empowerment, and promotion of team members.

Contributions to the discipline have been recognised most recently by UHI through the promotions of Heddle to a Personal Chair, and Sanmark to a Readership, in June 2013. The high level of research activity reflects this ethos of engagement and commitment across the board which enables the staff to flourish. Reeploeg has been a STEM/Beltane Ambassador with STEMNET since 2009 and was also a placement participant in the Research Councils UK Researcher in Residence Scheme (RinR), in 2011. CNS follows the UHI policies on Equality and Diversity in its recruitment and staff development practices, and has developed a team strategy for this. The team strategy is well supported by the academic partners and the UHI Research Strategy which adheres to the basic tenets of the Research Concordat, and offers specific support for development of other external markers of research vibrancy and equality of opportunity according to the principles of Athena Swan, for example. Staff undertake a Professional Development Review each year with their immediate line manager, which allows them to request staff development opportunities and to give feedback on their working experience. At this meeting, research achievements are reviewed and new objectives agreed, together with support to enable their fulfilment.

There is a UHI-wide staff development programme including the following:

- a) access to support for staff undertaking higher degrees (financial and time) which is currently being utilised by CNS's Silke Reeploeg, who is studying for a PhD
- b) a UHI-wide sabbatical scheme
- c) a biennial UHI-wide staff (and PhD student) Research Conference
- d) an Annual Staff Development Conference
- e) research conference attendance budget
- f) active Research Committees in each Academic Partner
- g) staff development fund

Funding is made available for colleagues to attend events and there is also dedicated central (financial) support for staff to attend conferences within the UK and overseas, and active encouragement of staff to engage in subject-based networks.

The UHI research infrastructure has also been maintained by the development of policies on Scholarship, KE and Research and of Forums for exchange of good practice such as Research Practitioners' Group, and subject seminar series.

ii. Research students

At the time of submission, CNS has 9 UHI registered PhD students and 1 MPhil student and contributes to the supervisory teams of 2 more students in conjunction with the Universities of Uppsala and Durham. There have been 3 CNS led PhD completions across the period, with students researching into the lives of the Scots herring girls 1900-1950 (2009); the cultural significance of the Norseman's bias in Shetland (2012); and the effects of migration to the islands on Orkney dialect (2013). There has also been one PhD completion with Sanmark as second supervisor on a University of Western Australia team; the Great Viking army in England (2011). Two current PhD students are supervised jointly by CNS Orkney and CNS Shetland. The Centre

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has received a steadily increasing number of enquiries from prospective students in recent years, who report being drawn to CNS as a result of our interdisciplinary focus and the strong academic reputation of the team. It should be noted that 1 of the current 9 PhD students is international, based in Tennessee, USA and that there are two more international applications in progress at time of writing.

Funded PhD studentships and activities: CNS have had 5 funded PhD studentships since 2008 (3 from HIE; 1 with Durham from AHRC; and 1 jointly funded by the Orkney Science Festival and the UHI Graduate School) and have just appointed a student to a PhD studentship on the topic of 'the Shetland boat' – co-funded by the Shetland Amenity Trust and the Lerwick Port Authority. Shetland based staff member Reeploeg, who has also been undertaking part-time PhD studies at the Centre, was awarded an "Yggdrasil" visiting researcher's grant from the Norwegian Research Council. She spent the autumn semester of 2012 at Volda University College in Western Norway researching a chapter in her PhD thesis, teaching, and generally being a 'researcher in residence'.

Current research students Our current students are studying a wide range of interdisciplinary topics, reflecting the interdisciplinary research of the team. Examples include: 'Nordic Regions of Culture: Modern Intercultural links between Shetland and Norway'; 'The Nordic Diet and its applications in the modern era'; and 'Romantic Subjectivity: the creation and performance of women's identity in nineteenth century travel literature about Scotland'. Facilities available to them include a dedicated Post Graduate room, a designated desk, computer, software, and study space (including storage). However, beyond these relatively standard provisions, the Centre is able to provide a context for PhD study, and engagement with the academic research staff, that is unusual, and in some respects unique. The students enjoy a particularly close proximity to the research staff, with whom they interact and work as part of a team on a daily basis. They are also engaged in community-related outreach and public engagement activities, due to the intimately close relationship that the Centre occupies in its Orkney context in particular. This provides for a dynamic and exciting environment for study, and a highly productive one. Students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the unique geographic, cultural, and environmental context that is CNS, and the subject matter of much of their research is in the natural environments that surround the Centre in its two locations. Students receive a comprehensive UHI induction at the beginning of their study and have access to a varied UHI wide programme of events and workshops throughout their period of study. Students must undertake an individually tailored programme in postgraduate research methods in their first year. At the end of their first year, each student is the subject of an evaluative and developmental Probationary Report. A successful report is essential to progress to registration for the PhD. CNS are conscious that our research students are at disparate geographical locations and not necessarily based in a University setting so CNS established the practical construction of a cohesive research environment from the outset and have adopted a policy of regular Skype meetings with each student every two weeks to maintain focus and support, both for the students and the UHI led cross institution (Aberdeen, Glasgow, Cornell) supervisory teams. Further reflecting the need for support for isolated students more generally, CNS has created a support group for all researchers based in the Northern Isles, of any discipline and attached to any university, which is led by the Shetland team, one of whom (Reeploeg) is currently undertaking PhD study herself. This meets once a month and has proved a great success with the students.

The research environment for PhD students is further enriched by the inclusion of taught postgraduate students and this has led to the progression of many of these students from taught to research PG study (conversion rate 11%). The dissertations of the taught students link with the research of the centre and have resulted in 2 publications to date. These programmes are available all over the world and are an example of best practice in the sector. CNS has had students from as far afield as Azerbaijan, Australia, USA, Iceland, China, and Denmark on the programmes. Our taught PG students have also been extremely high achieving – at the time of writing the UHI Postgraduate Student of the Year is MLitt Viking Studies graduate Patricia McPhail from Canada who is applying to undertake a PhD with CNS. CNS taught PG and research students together created and led virtual conferences in Northern Studies in 2012 and 2013 which were accessed and streamed world wide. Our commitment to, and success in, providing an excellent research environment for our students is borne out by the 3 completions in the REF

census period and the steady rise in students registered for research degrees with CNS (10 in 2012-13 compared to 2.5 at the census date for RAE 2008).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income CNS has developed in a very short time to become an enterprising and financially self-sustaining unit, with research income of approximately £150k or higher in each of the past 3 years. The innovative interdisciplinary approach of CNS has resulted in an exceptionally high percentage of successful bids to national funders to date, such as AHRC, NERC, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh and to European funders such as HERA and ESF. At this stage, the success rate has been 65%. Successful project completions early on have given funders confidence that we can deliver on time and on budget. Our strategy has been to concentrate staff time on preparing bids which have a high degree of success and to support such bids incrementally by applying for scoping and feasibility study grants to build as strong a case as possible before submission. Some successful multi-partner bids across the period covered by the REF include:

1. **The Assembly Project (TAP) grant**, which commenced in 2010 and will complete in December 2013, is led for CNS by Sanmark in conjunction with the Universities of Oslo, Durham, and Vienna, and was ranked third out of over three hundred applications to the Humanities European Research Area funding pot (administered by the Arts and Humanities Research Council). This large one million euro (value to CNS: £108511) three year project looked at Norse assembly sites across the North Atlantic Rim placed in a European context – three of the major outputs will be a monograph written by Sanmark and two special volumes of the *Journal of the North Atlantic*, edited by Sanmark. The website can be found at <http://www.theassemblyproject.com>.

2. **The Arts and Humanities Council Research Grant for an Orkney and Shetland dialect online corpus**, which ran from February to October 2012 (value: £13,266) and was led by Ljosland, one of the Centre's Early Career Researchers. The project is a scoping study aiming to lay the foundations for developing a corpus database of Orkney and Shetland dialect texts, which will be a resource available to anyone wishing to do linguistic research on these dialects. The project has also established an international network of researchers interested in the Orkney and Shetland dialects, in order to discuss what questions relating to these dialects are currently under-researched.

3. **The Arts and Humanities Council ONIVS (Old Norse-Icelandic and Viking studies) skills development grant** (September 2012-June 2013, value £44,932), a collaborative project led for CNS by Heddle in conjunction with the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Nottingham. The website can be found at <http://www.orkneyproject.com>

4. **The Hjaltland Network** (March 2011- March 2013), led by Jennings in conjunction with Sanmark, which received a grant of £17,400 from the Royal Society of Edinburgh to bring together national and international scholars of folklore, onomastics, genetics, isotope research, archaeology and history to plan a large-scale research project entitled **Mapping Viking Age Shetland**, which will start in 2014. The website can be found at <http://www.hjaltlandnetwork.com/>

The CNS has also secured research funding of £32,749 (in kind) from NERC through the project work of Sanmark.

Infrastructure The Centre for Nordic Studies has two primary locations, which comprise a specialist designated facility in Kirkwall in Orkney and a hosted base within the NAFC Marine Centre UHI in Scalloway, Shetland. These provide very well equipped spaces, which include access to the latest technology for video conferencing – UHI is arguably the biggest investor in, and user of, VC technology of any Higher Education Institution in the UK – including high specification wi-fi connections and subject specific libraries and rare book collections as well as designated space for taught and research postgraduate students. The campuses are also linked into the UHI wide library system. The integrated nature of CNS, combining research, teaching, business consultancy, and community engagement helps to create a unique and vibrant research environment which is continually developing and diversifying. The research environment is a thriving one with opportunities for students to link into the UHI infrastructure through the centrally run Graduate School which offers a full programme of training events and the Annual research degree student conference funded and run by UHI. CNS also offers a series of public seminars each year which brings eminent experts to Orkney and Shetland and which are recorded for

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viewing by people all over the world. Staff and PhD students contribute to a series of networked seminars throughout the year. There is a reading group each week involving staff from Orkney, Shetland, and Inverness, research, and taught PG students, who look at the newest publications in a particular field and discuss them – provoking a lot of heated debate! Our excellent, inclusive, and integrated infrastructure enables and encourages us to engage in world leading research. CNS consider our location to be ultimately our greatest asset allied to our locative research, and this view is frequently shared by the many visitors who attend the Centre for research and other purposes (see collaborations section following).

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Our location has enhanced our attractiveness as partners in a range of high value and high profile international projects such as those noted above. Our expertise has been noted at national and international levels. For example, Sanmark, described by Prof. Neil Price, Chair of Archaeology at the University of Aberdeen as “one of the world’s leading experts on northern assembly [sites]... She is now rightly regarded as a leading figure in Nordic Studies, with a particular focus on the Viking Age” was appointed to the advisory board of the Gamla Uppsala Excavation project in Sweden which has fundamentally changed the traditional view of the very early history of Sweden; Ljosland’s language policy research was fundamental to the Norwegian Language Council’s 2012 report: *Språkstatus 2012: Språkpolitisk tilstandsrapport frå Språkrådet/ Language Status 2012: Language Political status report from the Norwegian Language Council*; Heddle was appointed to the advisory panel for the AHRC funded Intangible Cultural Heritage project award to Napier University in 2011; and McClure, a preeminent figure in Scottish language and literature research for many years, chaired the Forum for Research into the Languages of Scotland and Ulster (FRLSU) from 1991-2009, the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Working Group on the Scots language, and the associated ministerial advisory group. The advisory group report can be found here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/11/25121454/0>.

It is worth noting that the CNS was accorded a (Scottish) Parliamentary motion of support in 2009 (and again in 2013) and was officially opened on 17 June 2011 by Norwegian Ambassador to the Court of St James’, Mr Kim Traavik. CNS published its first book under its own imprint – *The Small Boats of Shetland* – in 2012.

Visiting scholars CNS provides a high quality and stimulating environment for research and study offering well designed space, excellent resources, and a peaceful location which is conducive to meaningful and reflective research. This has proved very attractive to academics and members of the public alike. General visits occur at the average rate of 24 per week which rises to 32 on average in July and August when there are more tourists in the islands. CNS has been visited by 73 academics from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, USA, Iceland, Canada, Japan, China, France, and closer to home from Oxford, Cambridge, Nottingham, Durham, Trinity Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee since 2009 when the Centre moved to its present home. In 2012 for example CNS Shetland was very pleased to welcome, as a result of a CRF European Visiting Research Fellowship award, Dr Berit Sandnes, research archivist at the Institute for Language and Folklore at the University of Lund in Sweden and Dr Peder Gammeltoft, associate professor of place-name studies at Copenhagen University and bureau member of UNGEGN (the United Nation Group of Experts on Geographical Names). CNS Shetland welcomed an intern from Brock University in Canada in the summer of 2013. CNS team members have participated in reciprocal study visits: notably Andrew Jennings to Copenhagen and Alex Sanmark to Uppsala and Gothenburg.

Research networks CNS has also created Royal Society of Edinburgh funded network opportunities, such as the Hjaltland Network led by Shetland staff member Jennings, and our staff are part of several global research networks and societies such as the Global Human Ecodynamics Alliance (GHEA), the International Society for Cultural History, the Viking Society for Northern Research, the Scottish Society for Northern Studies, the Cultural and linguistic practices in the international university (CALPIU) network, the Royal Historical Society, the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES), the Nordic Research Network and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and of London and many national and international committees and editorial boards such as *Northern Studies*, and *Journal of the North Atlantic*. CNS peer review extensively across our respective disciplines for journals such as *World Archaeology*, *JONA*, and

the *Scottish Historical Review* and for funders such as the European Science Foundation and the Carnegie Trust.

International recognition Our creation of a locative academy has been influential in the field and our expertise has been sought by a number of other universities, such as Sheffield, Faroe Islands, Newfoundland, and Copenhagen in setting up similar centres and integrative research programmes. Jennings was elected to the International Advisory Board for the Centre for Advanced Migration Studies at the University of Copenhagen in 2012 and serves on the organising committee for the International Viking Congress. All staff members have been recognised internationally for their research – for example, Sanmark is now an honorary reader at the university of Uppsala in Sweden and Ljosland is an external examiner in sociolinguistics at the University of Stavanger. Since the CNS's inception, international collaborative links have been established with the Universities of the Sorbonne, Reykjavik, Akureyri (Iceland), Oslo, Vienna, Uppsala, Copenhagen, Lund, Western Australia, Bergen, the Faroe Islands, and Newfoundland. As part of the developing research strand in Island Studies, CNS has formal memoranda of understanding with the University of Prince Edward Island and the University of Malta.

Conferences

CNS has held seven international conferences since 2008, all thematically linked by concepts of perceptions of heritage and identity, with all the concomitant benefits to the community, to valorising the region, and to the creation of global research linkages. CNS has also chaired a number of external conferences and sessions, and team members are frequently sought as guest speakers at conferences across the world.

Voices of the West Minority Languages Conference I and II in association with the Minority Languages Song for Europe competition, 21st June 2008 and 20th June 2009, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness. The 2009 conference was broadcast on BBC Alba as a key linguistic initiative and was the setting for a key Scots language announcement by Michael Russell MSP, Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution at the time. This was reported worldwide.

Looking at Shetland Outside the Box: The Meeting of Nations and the Creation of Shetland Culture 7th – 10th May 2009, Shetland Museum and Archives. This was organised with the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, and was attended by over 150 delegates from eight countries

9th Triennial International Conference of Forum for Study of the Languages of Scotland and Ulster, 21-25 July 2009, Orkney. This is the key conference in the discipline and led to a conference proceedings.

Inaugural St Magnus Conference, 14-15 April 2011, Orkney. This was an international conference sponsored by both the Norwegian and Swedish Embassies and attended by over 100 delegates from 12 countries. The conference proceedings formed a special issue of the *Journal of the North Atlantic*.

Women's History Network Conference, May 2013, Orkney. This is the annual conference of this important research network.

3rd Island Dynamics Conference, 14-18 May 2013, Famagusta, North Cyprus on in collaboration with Eastern Mediterranean University's Center for Cyprus Studies and the Institute for Anthropological Research's Center for Island Studies.

CNS will also be organising the second international St. Magnus Conference in April 2014. This will take place in Shetland.

Multimedia interface

CNS have an extremely popular website (25,688 hits between January and October 2013) and Facebook page which are regularly updated with papers, articles, staff blogs, Posterous and other multimedia postings, recordings of seminars and general information on lectures. These can be found at <http://www.nordic.uhi.ac.uk> and <http://www.facebook.com/cns@uhi> and are accessed worldwide.