

**Impact template (REF3a)**

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Portsmouth</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 27 Area Studies</p>
<p><b>a. Context</b>          The <b>types of impact</b> that research across this UoA generates can be described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserving, conserving, presenting and interpreting cultural heritage to enhance its value to society and the local economy;</li> <li>• Providing information to policy makers to support better decision-making through expert advice and/or an improved understanding of particular communities;</li> <li>• Informing and influencing social and political interactions for the benefit of citizens and service users;</li> </ul> <p>and, through these, <b>significant benefits</b> are delivered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cultural institutions and actors, including museums, libraries and educational professionals;</li> <li>• public bodies, including local and national government organisations;</li> <li>• local, national and international non-governmental organisations [NGOs] and civil society organisations [CSOs].</li> </ul> <p>All researchers in this UoA are members of the Centre for European &amp; International Studies Research [CEISR], a large interdisciplinary centre for research in the humanities and social sciences. Much area studies research adopts a problem-based approach, which combines a range of disciplinary, theoretical, cultural and social perspectives in order to enhance understanding of issues of contemporary relevance, and inform and influence responses by political actors, societal and cultural organisations and communities. The potential impact of the research is to solve problems confronting stakeholders whose active engagement is integral to this approach. Its impact can be global, European, national or local in reach.</p> <p>Research and associated impact activities are flexibly structured into cross-disciplinary clusters: Francophone Africa, International Development Studies and Security Issues [IDSSI], Language across Borders, Social &amp; Cultural History, Transnational Europe, Women’s &amp; Gender Studies, Cohabited Space and Sociology &amp; Social Theory. A selection of examples from across the wide-ranging work of the research clusters is given below.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b>          Our approach to impact is guided by a commitment to <b>four key principles</b>: (i) delivering international <b>quality research</b>; (ii) securing a <b>high profile</b> for such research in order to ensure that stakeholders and potential beneficiaries are aware of the Centre’s work; (iii) <b>engaging stakeholders</b> throughout the research process, to ensure the research is relevant to societal needs and issues; (iv) delivering <b>sustainability</b> of our impact through ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and supporting and nurturing new talent. Our approach has been to capitalise on areas where there is an existing portfolio of top-rated research, whilst also introducing new projects that support the work of early career researchers (ECRs). For example, our track record of globally renowned research on Francophone Africa has enabled us to establish an international profile and an extensive network of contacts outside academia. This has provided the springboard for a range of activities that focus on impact, in which ECRs work alongside established researchers to identify and solve problems confronting stakeholders.</p> <p>CEISR encourages the research clusters to develop a variety of approaches to their engagement with a range of external actors and provides funding to facilitate this. In particular, they are supported to involve stakeholders at the front end of the research process, to maintain a dialogue with them and to develop an active plan to communicate their research findings. In addition, since 2010 all CEISR’s <b>Strategic Research Projects</b> develop areas of existing research excellence in which impact can be enhanced and extended. All projects must have a sustainable public engagement and impact plan that supports colleagues to translate their research into impact. To deliver this, they are required to allocate a budget for activities that contribute to the resolution of local, national or international problems, and for the dissemination of findings throughout the research process. The research project teams report on their impact-related activities to CEISR’s Executive Committee which, in turn, reports to the Faculty’s Research and Knowledge Transfer</p>

## Impact template (REF3a)

Committee every 6 months on the delivery of its impact strategy. The current projects are: Port Towns and Urban Cultures (hosted by the Social and Cultural History cluster), The Role and Impact of Experts and Expertise In Policy-Making (Transnational Europe cluster) and Francophone Africa: decolonisation and after in a comparative and transnational context (Francophone Africa cluster).

The following section demonstrates how we translate these principles into practice and gives specific examples to illustrate approaches to impact.

**Developing partnerships with cultural institutions and professionals to interpret and exhibit cultural and social history to a variety of audiences.** The Port Towns and Experts strategic projects translate our key principles into practice in the following ways. The high visibility of the research has been assured through creating and maintaining a dialogue with key stakeholders (**profile**). The project teams have developed these links into collaborative, mutually beneficial relationships (**public engagement**), so that the research has influenced museum and exhibition planning. The engagement with museum professionals has, in turn, fed back into the research process, highlighting gaps and questions for future research. For example, *Beaven* (Port Towns project) has built relationships with the National Museum of the Royal Navy [NMRN] and Portsmouth City Museum [PCM]. His research on popular culture and the city led to his 2009 collaboration with PCM to develop an exhibition 'The Game of Life: Exploring Family Life in Portsmouth'. This project led to new collaborations and a consultancy with PCM (UOP27POPULAR). Impact **sustainability** was achieved through an AHRC CDA collaborative PhD studentship (with the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Trust: PHDT) in the field of Edwardian dockyard workers' popular culture. This research has influenced the planned re-development of the PHDT's 'Apprentice Exhibition' and will result in a more comprehensive representation of the dockyard workers' labour and leisure in Edwardian Portsmouth.

CEISR has supported colleagues in the Experts project in a similar way to enhance the impact of their research. *Kaiser* (funded by the Norwegian Research Council 2008-12) has played a leading role in the creation of an academic-practitioner network which has made his research highly visible to museum curators (**profile**). This collaboration (**public engagement**) has led to an ongoing dialogue with practitioners to develop transnational narratives of contemporary European history and European integration history and present them in ways that are accessible to diverse museum audiences (UOP27EXHIBITING). Finally, Kaiser, as a leading specialist in the field, contributes to **sustainability** by mentoring ECRs and advising them on impact strategy, as exemplified by Crack's work with the German government and Tremlett's work with the European Commission (see below).

**Building networks and relationships with public bodies, both in government and outside, to inform and influence policies and practices through the provision of expert advice.** CEISR maintains its visibility with leading stakeholders and proactively pursues new collaborations (**profile**) through, for example, membership of Chatham House and Southern England Local Partners (SELP), a partnership comprising local authorities, universities and other public and private stakeholders whose mission is to enhance understanding of and engagement in EU affairs across the region. *Chafer*, (Francophone Africa project), through his links with the Research Analysts department at the FCO, has for the last 14 years acted as a consultant on French Africa policy. Since 2008, he has also worked with Chatham House, chairing or participating in events on sub-Saharan Africa. As a result of this **engagement**, he has been invited to give high-level briefings on opportunities for enhanced Anglo-French collaboration on African issues that have informed policy-making, e.g. to the FCO (West Africa strategy 2009-10) and the France-UK Defence Roundtable (2011-12) (UOP27POLICY). The **sustainability** of this relationship is ensured by a new research partnership: Chafer is, at the time of writing (Oct. 2013), developing, in collaboration with the Africa department at Chatham House, a research project that is of interest to policymakers and practitioners on the roles of the UK, France and the EU within contemporary security regime complexes in Africa. These principles are also exemplified by *Heard-Lauréote* (Experts project), who organised the SELP annual congress in 2012. The congress brought together over 50 stakeholders, including local authorities, universities and business intermediaries such as Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), all interested in enhancing understanding of the European dimension of their work and developing productive collaborations with partners

## Impact template (REF3a)

(government bodies, CSOs, businesses) in Europe (**profile**). This relationship with SELP has developed further, such that SELP is the named local/regional partner in the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence award made to the University in July 2013. Impact **sustainability** will be ensured through planned seminar/conference activities to 2016, through the University's privileged status in assisting the enterprise activities of the LEPs and local government networks associated with SELP and through a Portal developed by the JM Centre of Excellence for Studies in Transnational Europe in conjunction with SELP.

**Working with NGOs and CSOs to inform the research process and influence policy and practice.** The Experts strategic project has funded Crack's impact-related work, allowing her to be active in two key networks that bring together academics and practitioners (International Studies (ISA) and Development Studies associations) (**profile**). This has facilitated a dialogue with stakeholders and *Crack* is now funded by the ISA to maintain a NGO accountability network. Moreover *Crack's* research on NGO peer-regulation regimes has attracted the interest of international stakeholders in the NGO sector, leading to a number of joint activities. For example, she was commissioned by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) to produce a detailed report on legal frameworks and civil society space for NGOs (**engagement**), with a view to ensuring that they are able to operate effectively. Similarly, arising from her research on EU interest groups, which attracted the attention of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), *Heard-Lauréote* is now Special Adviser to the Chair of the Brussels-based European Coalition for Eye Health and Vision. In collaboration with Coalition member organisations like the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, she is supporting Coalition development and promoting activities to enhance Coalition effectiveness and ensure **sustainability** into the future through, for example, the generation of income from research funding.

These relationships with government bodies, think-tanks, NGOs and CSOs and the building of networks with those involved have not only created opportunities for high-profile consultancy and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, but have also led to an increase in commissioned research since 2009. For example, *Flenley* (Transnational Europe cluster) was commissioned by the British Ministry of Defence in 2012, in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, to produce a research report on the causes of revolution, as part of a programme to improve national security by identifying the factors that lead to revolutions.

### c. Strategy and plans

The key strategic aim for CEISR in its 5-year plan (2012-17) is to build on the approaches outlined above in order to maximise the impact of its research activities. Specifically, the Centre's objectives are to prioritise **research projects that address stakeholder challenges, involve key partners, include a range of impact activities and ensure sustainability of the impact**; to develop a **robust framework for the monitoring, assessment and evidencing of the impact of research across the UoA and throughout the research lifecycle**, and to ensure **best practice is adopted across all the research clusters**. CEISR will make **significant resources available to support the delivery of this strategy**.

The CEISR Executive Committee is supporting the achievement of these objectives by actions and processes that create an environment in which activities focused on impact are explicitly recognised, resourced and can continue to flourish. Thus, the 3 existing **strategic research projects have been extended**, initially to 2015. A focus on impact and network building is core to each project. For example, *Vince* (Francophone Africa strategic project) has established links with archivists and other educational actors, notably teacher trainers in Algeria and Senegal, which have clear potential for future impact. Similarly, *Tremlett* (Experts strategic project), who works on public and local representations of Roma (Gypsy/Traveller) minorities, has engaged with policy makers at the European Commission through the European Academic Network on Romani Studies. She co-wrote a working paper (with McGarry, 2013), which has provided research-based evidence to policy-makers who are developing EU National Strategies for Roma Integration (2020). The findings of her research have also fed into the policy-making process at the European Commission (see: [http://romanistudies.eu/news/contributions\\_from\\_members/](http://romanistudies.eu/news/contributions_from_members/)) with a view to influencing EU strategy and improving conditions for Roma. In addition, CEISR is supporting the IDSSI cluster to launch a new strategic project in the area of security studies, where we have established research expertise and solid opportunities for establishing partnerships with external

## Impact template (REF3a)

beneficiaries have emerged. Specifically, *Bradley's* research on harmful cultural practices and gender-based violence has attracted the interest of South Asian communities, via the UK-based NGO Southall Black Sisters (SBS). Findings from Bradley's research have been used to confirm the NGO's understanding of the key issues in the areas in which it works, to contribute to policy briefs and to provide justification for project interventions aimed at reducing harm. This emerging partnership has led to the submission of a large ESRC grant to support work with SBS to generate new data, with a view to designing evidence-based project interventions, policy and lobbying strategies.

We will build on our current trajectory by **including activities that focus on impact as part of our annual staff appraisal process**. Impact-related activities also form part of the Annual Research Evaluation Scheme, which involves senior researchers meeting with staff to review research performance and agree their research plans for the coming year. We will also continue to **facilitate a dialogue with stakeholders** by building on our existing links and networks and hosting events for potential beneficiaries that showcase our research (at least one per year). We will formalise **the recording and reporting of impact** through the research clusters and strategic projects.

The CEISR Executive Committee will coordinate this process and ensure best practice is adopted throughout the UoA via a 6-monthly report to all CEISR members and by organising an annual impact workshop, at which examples of best practice will be shared and opportunities for new activities to promote impact identified and discussed. We will also co-opt onto CEISR's Executive Committee a non-academic (key stakeholder) person in an advisory capacity. Finally, we will allocate a **significant annual budget for activities specifically designed to increase the impact of our work**. Resources will be targeted at increasing opportunities for staff mobility, multidisciplinary activity, and practice-led and applied research exchanges with external stakeholders that maximise the impact of research within this UoA.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

CEISR seeks to work closely with people involved to address, and work towards finding solutions to, issues confronting them. The case studies exemplify this overall approach to impact, which has been shaped through the formation of initial relationships that allow for wider networks of stakeholders to emerge.

**UOP27EXHIBITING** and **UOP27POPULAR** demonstrate how stakeholders in cultural organisations are integrated into the research process and how this has influenced the development and presentation of exhibits through opening a dialogue with, and providing research expertise to, museum professionals. **UOP27TERROR** demonstrates how quality research outputs can generate impact in the educational sphere, as well as laying the groundwork for active individual engagement in, and impact upon, public debates about the significance of the past. **UOP27POLICY** shows how efforts to build an extensive network of contacts outside academia have created opportunities for high-level consultancies and provided the springboard for a range of activities that have influenced policy-making and policy processes. **UOP27IRELAND** illustrates how the UoA engages with CSOs and public bodies in politically and religiously sensitive areas to promote understanding and reconciliation, an approach now being developed in the work of our IDSSI cluster with South Asian communities on harmful cultural practices.