

<p>Institution: University of Exeter</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: 27: Area Studies</p> <hr/> <p>a Overview</p> <p>The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (IAIS) is an internationally recognized centre for research and teaching on Islam, the Muslim world and Muslim communities. Its 30-strong staff body, including 5 language teaching fellows, is supplemented by related expertise in other university departments (Politics, Law, History, Classics & Ancient History, Theology & Archaeology). IAIS, formed in 1999 from the Department of Arabic and the Centre for Gulf Studies, has been housed in a purpose-built building exclusively used for IAIS research and teaching activities since 2001. From 2008 to 2010, IAIS was part of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2010, IAIS was a founding unit within the College of Social Sciences and International Studies (SSIS), as the University restructured Schools into discipline-based Colleges. IAIS is a multidisciplinary unit, employing an Area Studies approach to the study of the Muslim world, with a particular focus on the Middle East region. Staff disciplinary backgrounds stretch across the humanities and social sciences, and IAIS was founded on the principle that effective research on the region and its peoples requires the application of numerous, complementary techniques of analysis. This principle informs the research activities of IAIS staff and doctoral students and IAIS continues to foster an environment where this regional studies approach thrives. IAIS research is divided into 3 disciplinary clusters, with the cluster lead coordinating disciplinary research activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Islamic Studies (Cluster lead: Taji-Farouki; Staff: Baig, Gleave, Kristo-Nagy, Lewisohn, Netton, Rizvi) - Middle East Humanities (Cluster lead: Gallois; Staff: Agius, Allison, Axworthy, Cooper, Onley, Pappé, Phillips, Scalbert-Yücel) - Middle East Social Sciences (Cluster lead: Gao; Staff: Ashour, Catagnani, Githens-Mazer, Najjab, Newton, Richter-Devroe, Stansfield, Storm, Valeri) <p>Furthermore, following a rigorous Area Studies approach, much IAIS research activity takes place in 4 sub-regional University Centres, where an area's culture, politics and language is subjected to interdisciplinary analysis. The Centres form the principal context for IAIS research, with nearly all staff and doctoral students having a core or affiliated Centre connection. A Director coordinates each Centre's research encouraging collaboration, mentoring research staff and students whilst maintaining disciplinary rigour within an Area Studies framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGS - Centre for Gulf Studies (Director: Valeri), CKS - Centre for Kurdish Studies (Director: Scalbert-Yücel) CPIS - Centre for Persian and Iranian Studies (Director: Axworthy) ECPS - European Centre for Palestine Studies (Director: Pappé) <p>The Islamic Studies cluster also has Centre status through its CSI - Centre for the Study of Islam (Director: Taji-Farouki). Centres host visiting speakers, conferences, workshops, reading groups and are home to externally funded research projects. The promotion of these interdisciplinary Centres forms an important element of IAIS research strategy, transforming a critical mass of expertise into a productive cross-disciplinary research environment. More recently, IAIS has begun collaborating with the SSI - Strategy and Security Institute (Director: Newton), with research programmes and SSI-IAIS joint events. Catagnani, Githens-Mazer, Newton and Stansfield are major contributors to SSI research. In this way, staff share in and contribute to a rich research environment in which the Muslim world is examined through the prisms of both disciplinary and regional studies.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>In the RAE2008 submission, the IAIS Research Strategy aims were outlined as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) to establish and maintain a leading international research role in its main areas of strength: Islamic Studies, History and Social Science, and Language, Literature and Material Culture; (2) to consolidate its position of international excellence in specialisms where it has built comparative advantage: Iranian/Persian studies, Kurdish studies, Gulf studies, Sufism, Islamic Philosophy, gender studies, maritime culture and the politics and IR of the Middle East. <p>Through external research funding, strategic investment, and regular scrutiny of the IAIS research strategy, the unit has made significant progress in fulfilling these aims.</p> <p>In 2008, IAIS commenced a detailed review of its research, and a comprehensive Research</p>
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Strategy was developed, the implementation of which has been overseen by the Director of Research (DoR) and the Research Committee. In order to fulfil the aims set out in RAE2008, the Research Strategy acted to strengthen existing research centres, establishing new centres when critical mass was achieved, and embedding the disciplinary clusters in IAIS research life. These developments form part of the overall aim of bringing more focus to IAIS activity to fulfil the aims set out in RAE2008.

Centre Directors and Cluster Leads, who coordinate research activities, report to the IAIS Research Committee. The DoR reports on research activity to the SSIS Research Strategy Group, chaired by the Associate Dean for Research (ADR). The DoR and ADR oversee the research activities and performance of IAIS. On an annual basis, the DoR and the ADR report to the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research in the annual "Research Monitoring" exercise. At this meeting, information on IAIS research income, doctoral student completion rates, engagement with non-academic users, and the strategy for enhanced outputs performance is discussed. This structure provides continual encouragement and monitoring of the implementation of the IAIS Research Strategy, and the fulfilment of the Research Strategy goals.

Maintaining and Developing Leading International Research Environment

The complementarity of the two structures (disciplinary clusters and sub-regional centres) has served to develop a clear Area Studies approach within IAIS, resulting in increasing international recognition. Humanities and Social Science research is now distributed across centres focussing on Middle East politics and history (Centres for Palestine, Kurdish, Persian/Iranian and Gulf Studies). Islamic Studies research has been consolidated in the CSI. Language, Literature and Material Culture research is focussed within the **CGS**, in particular through the major MARES project (see below) and in the Centres for Persian/Iranian Studies and Kurdish Studies.

The Centre for Gulf Studies (**CGS**) provides an internationally recognised environment for research. It holds the annual International Gulf Studies Conference, at which PhD students, emerging scholars and established researchers present their research findings. The *Journal of Arabian Studies* is published by the CGS under the editorship of **Onley**, with **Agius** as a co-editor. The Centre's two major current research projects are State-Business Relations in the GCC: The Role of Business Actors (ESRC funded: PI – **Valeri**) and the Qatar Unified Imaging Project (QNRf funded: PI - **Onley**). The Centre also hosted the successful project MARES: Maritime Ethnography of the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea (PI - **Agius**, primary funder Golden Web Foundation) and since then The Dhow Imaging Project (QMA funded: PI – **Cooper**). **Agius**, the director of MARES, was elected Fellow of the British Academy (2010) for his contribution to interdisciplinary research in the field. Aside from its annual conference, **CGS** has hosted various international conferences in Exeter, including the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean Conference (2009), MARES Red Sea Conference (2010, 2012) and the Friends of Soqatra Conference (2010). The **CGS** is also a favoured location for visiting scholars from the Gulf Region, with 18 visiting fellows spending between 2 and 12 months at the Centre since 2008. High profile visiting speakers have included His Highness Prince Turki of Saudi Arabia, HH Shaikh Dr Sultan al-Qasimi of Sharjah, Dale Eickelman, Mehran Kamrava and Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles. The reputation of the **CGS** is reflected in the invited lectures given across the world by its members, including Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge (**Onley**), Tübingen, Abu Dhabi, Salalah (Oman) (**Agius**), Cambridge, LSE and Singapore (**Valeri**), Warburg Institute and Egypt Exploration Society (**Cooper**).

The Centre for Kurdish Studies (**CKS**) has established and enhanced its international reputation since its formation in 2006. Through postgraduate scholarships and the appointment of postdoctoral fellows, the **CKS** has established a vibrant research environment for an international array of scholars, particularly those from Kurdistan itself. It has established and hosted the major international Kurdish Studies conference in 2009 and 2012. Through two postdoctoral fellowships, an MA and PhD programme, the Centre has attracted major international attention, not least through its high-profile visiting speakers programme. Speakers have included Philip Kreyenbroek and Hamit Bozarslan. International recognition of the excellence of the **CKS** research environment has led to invitations to CKS staff to speak, at venues including St Petersburg State University, Heidelberg and SOAS.

The Centre for the Study of Islam (**CSI**) was formed in 2010 to bring coherence to the various Islamic Studies related activities within the Institute. It holds a fortnightly Reading Group for PhD students and staff. Visiting speakers in Islamic Studies have included internationally recognised speakers such as Amina Wadud, Robert Hoyland, Ali Allawi, Walid Saleh and Juan Cole. The

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Centre's major current research projects are *Islamic Reformulations* (ESRC/AHRC funded: PI – **Gleave**) and *The Sharia Project* (AHRC-NWO: PI - **Gleave**). *LIVIT: Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Islamic Thought* (ESRC/AHRC funded: PI – **Gleave**) ran from 2009-2013 and, in association with the CSI, has held major international conferences in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, attended by international experts including Professors Maribel Fierro, Geert Jan van Gelder, Jean-Pierre Filiu, Andrew Rippin, Stephen Humphreys, Michael Bonner and Hugh Kennedy. Until 2011, the Centre has also hosted *Clerical Authority in Shi'ite Islam: The Hawza Project* (British Academy: PI – **Gleave**) and *Ibn 'Arabi and his Legacy in Contemporary Damascus* (British Academy: PI – **Taji-Farouki**). CSI members have been invited to give public lectures in Leiden, Jerusalem and Chicago (**Gleave**), Toulouse, Dublin and Virginia (**Kristo-Nagy**), Manchester (**Netton**), Georgetown, Paris and Tehran (**Rizvi**) and Harvard and Leiden (**Taji-Farouki**).

Nurturing Developing Research Areas

In 2008, IAIS identified a number of potential areas of future research activity, and one of its aims was to develop these areas of “comparative advantage” to a position of international excellence. In fulfilling this strategy, IAS has supported members of staff in emerging or under-developed areas with a view to eventually establishing a Centre or research grouping as a conduit for research activity in that area. This has occurred in Palestine Studies and in Persian/Iranian Studies, and is currently in progress in Gender Studies and Middle East Politics.

In Palestine Studies, the strategic recruitment of relevant staff enabled the establishment of the first and only centre for Palestine Studies in Europe. This centre, the European Centre for Palestine Studies (**ECPS**), is directed by **Pappe**, an internationally recognised leader in Palestine Studies working first with Dr Ruba Salih (who transferred to SOAS in 2010), and then with **Richter-Devroe** and **Najjab** (the full-time **ECPS** Research Fellow). **Richter-Devroe**'s research has been recognised in awards from the Gerda Henkel foundation and an AHRC Early Career fellowship (2014-2016). Doctoral students in **ECPS** have established the Palestinian Studies Reading Group, and have founded the Network of Palestinian Studies, an international network of doctoral researchers in Palestine Studies. **ECPS** has hosted a major international workshop on the Bedouins of the Negev (2010) and a high profile list of invited lecturers including Filippo Grandi (Commissioner-General of UNRWA) and Shlomo Sand (Tel Aviv University). The Centre's growing international stature is evidenced by international members' engagements including **Pappe** (Vancouver, Harvard, Helsinki, Sydney) and **Richter-Devroe** (Ramallah, Marburg, Rio de Janeiro and the UN).

The Centre for Persian and Iranian Studies (**CPIS**) was founded in 2008, directed by **Axworthy**, drawing on the expertise of **Lewisohn** and other staff members (**Gleave**, **Rizvi**). The Centre has hosted numerous visiting fellows from Iran and elsewhere, and acquired research funding including *Flowers of Persian Song and Verse* (British Academy: PI - **Lewisohn**) and an AHRC Fellowship for **Lewisohn** on Timurid Persian Poets and their poetry. The Centre sponsors the Rumi Studies group, and publishes, in collaboration with other institutions, the *Rumi Review*, the only international journal devoted to the thirteenth century Persian poet Rumi. The impressive international speakers list of CPIS includes Rageh Omar, Ed Chaplin (FCO), William Dalrymple, Shireen Ebadi and Ziba Mir Husseini. **CPIS** members have given invited lectures in Chicago, Tehran and Minnesota (**Lewisohn**) and the British Academy, Washington and Amsterdam (**Axworthy**).

IAIS research strategy has focused on two developing areas:

- Middle Eastern Language and Literature: following the retirement of EI-Enany in 2010, IAIS has invested in emerging scholars in this area through the appointments of **Phillips** and more recently **Kristo-Nagy**. Through its on-going relationship with other areas of cultural and historical studies (most recently through the appointments of **Gallois** and **Cooper**), this will form an area of strategic priority over the next five years for IAIS.

- The SSI, housed within SSIS, has provided a research context for a number of IAIS researchers (**Stansfield**, **Githens-Mazer**, **Ashour**). The SSI incorporates individuals with strong research funding acquisition (**Stansfield** on Ethno-politics - a major Leverhulme award; **Githens-Mazer** - on Radicalisation/Counter-radicalisation from ESRC and other sources). With other more recently appointed IAIS lecturers in Middle East politics (**Storm**, **Gao** and **Valeri**), this pool of research expertise constitutes an impressive critical mass, and will be brought together in a coherent structure in the next 4 years.

Supporting Interdisciplinary research

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IAIS is, by nature, an interdisciplinary unit, and therefore has established mechanisms for the support of interdisciplinary research. The Centre structure is designed to encourage inter- and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Area-based Centres form sub-disciplines of Middle Eastern Studies (Gulf Studies, Kurdish Studies, Iranian/Persian Studies, Palestine Studies), and in each Centre researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds come together for research collaboration and exchange. This strategy mimics the larger Area Studies model, drawing on expertise in language, literature, history, political science, religious studies and anthropology.

In Islamic Studies, the subject itself is necessarily interdisciplinary, encompassing a number of disciplines, and this is reflected in the Centre's personnel. **CSI** staff include those with disciplinary backgrounds drawn from both social sciences and humanities. Collaborative research is also encouraged through the regular fortnightly Staff-Student lunchtime seminars, overseen by the DoR and the IAIS Research Committee. This interdisciplinary strategy has resulted in projects such as the AHRC-NWO Sharia project (PI – **Gleave**, using textual, historical and social science methodologies to study Islamic law) and The Qatar National Museum 3D Boat Recording and Digital Imaging Project (PI – **Cooper**, using archaeological, scientific and anthropological methodologies to scan and model Dhows for the Qatar National Museum).

IAIS Research Strategy Aims and Priorities, 2014-2019

For the period 2014-19, IAIS research strategy aims are:

- to continue the upward trajectory of our research staffing base, through strategic investment in priority areas and the conversion of postdoctoral fellows into permanent members of staff in order to increase capacity within Exeter and within the discipline generally. This has been achieved in part through securing research funding from external sources in the first instance, and developing a secure income stream (through degree programmes, PhD students and additional research funding) for permanent appointments in priority areas (see below). Maintaining this upward trajectory is a strategic aim for IAIS in the next 5 year period.
- to enhance and develop the support given to emerging and early career IAIS scholars in order to secure their international profile; particular concentration will be given to engendering excellence in research outputs and expanding research income to fund collaborative and cutting edge interdisciplinary research in an Area Studies context.
- to maintain and where necessary raise the profile of more advanced researchers, such that output excellence, research grant income and PhD recruitment is distributed across the senior staff, creating a balanced institute with high-quality research in all areas.
- to increase our postgraduate research student numbers in both established areas (Middle East Politics and Society, Islamic Studies) but also in emerging areas of research focus (Gender Studies, Palestine Studies and Persian/Iranian Studies).

IAIS has identified research strategic aims for the next five years:

- The success of both the **ECPS** and **CPIS** has led to an increased IAIS international profile in Palestine and Iranian studies. These are already growth areas, showing great potential for expansion. Embedding these two Centres within the IAIS research profile is a major objective of the next 5 years. Strategic investment, research income and increased PhD numbers will secure this objective.
- the strengthening of the study of the gender, society, culture and history of the modern and pre-modern Middle East through strategic appointments. Recent new appointments in these areas (**Cooper, Gallois, Gao, Kristo-Nagy**) form the basis for this next strategic development.

c. People

IAIS consists of 30 members of academic staff, of whom 5 are Education and Scholarship lecturers (non-research, formerly "Teaching Fellows"), and 2 are Research Fellows with a full-time research brief. The remainder are contracted to perform both research and teaching.

c.1 STAFFING STRATEGY AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Since RAE 2008, 7 IAIS Cat. A researchers have taken up posts elsewhere or retired (Ahmadzadeh, El-Enany, Mahdi, Niblock, Nonneman, Omri, Salih). These have been replaced with 13 staff: 10 on teaching/research contracts (**Ashour, Cooper, Gallois, Gao, Githens-Mazer, Kristo-Nagy, Pappé, Phillips, Richter-Devroe** and **Storm**) and 2 Research fellows (**Baig** and **Najjab**). Since 2007, IAIS has also hosted 4 additional temporary Research Fellow appointments. This impressive increase in staff is due both to success in the acquisition of external research funding, and strategic appointments in developing areas, balancing our research profile across a range of priority areas. In recruitment, there has been a conscious effort to encourage diversity

within an equal opportunities context. IAIS lost five male and one female member of staff, and has gained six male and five female members of research staff. There has also been a concentrated effort to develop new research talent. The departing staff comprised 2 professors and 3 senior lecturers; the incoming staff comprise a professor, a senior lecturer (since promoted to Associate Professor), 5 lecturers (2 of whom have since been promoted to senior lecturer) and 2 postdoctoral research fellows. Five of our newly recruited staff are designated ECRs (**Phillips, Richter-Devroe, Kristo-Nagy, Cooper, Gao**). The IAIS staffing strategy since RAE2008 has been, then, to identify key priority subject areas within IAIS; to make strategic appointments in those areas, and during the appointment process to recognise emerging researchers and early career talent. In addition to this, a more equitable gender balance within the staff profile has been established through encouraging suitable female candidates to apply for research and research/teaching posts. The result is a much improved 16:10 male:female staff ratio (from 10:2 in 2007). Increasing the number of female researchers in the higher ranks of the Institute is a future priority for IAIS.

IAIS has operated a mentoring system for over a decade in which new members of academic staff are paired with a senior, experienced researcher, overseeing their first 5 years of academic life. The pair meet regularly, discuss research priorities, and devise strategies for balancing the demands of teaching and research. New entry level staff are subject to the five-year Professional Development Programme (PDP) process. The PDP programme includes acquisition of the Professional Certificate of Academic Practice, setting the academic's objectives within the broader aims of the University of Exeter and their role within their own unit. The mentors guide new staff through this process, a key element of which is a series of research targets. These targets are monitored annually by designated Academic Leads (ALs). The AL is distinct from the mentor, acting as line manager: all staff, at whatever stage, have a designated Academic Lead who carries out an annual Professional Development Review (PDR). The PDR process covers research, teaching and administrative contributions of all staff, and for new staff, teaching and administration loads are adjusted in the first years of teaching, giving increased hours for research. The PDP and PDR processes are designed by the University of Exeter Staff Learning and Development Office, complying with the aims of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. The University of Exeter, through its membership of Universities UK, is a signatory to that Concordat.

Lecturer-Senior Lecturer promotion is automatic on the completion of the PDP targets (of which Research targets form an important part). The process can be expedited, and lecturers can be promoted to SL positions well in advance of the 5-year time frame if targets are met early. Promotion from SL to Associate Professor is through a University-governed process, in which targets are set across the Institution, and which is governed by University Procedure. This includes the acquisition of external references to comment on the candidate's research outputs, a statement by the candidate him/herself, an interview and a solicited opinion of the unit in which the candidate is based. The promotion from Associate Professor to Professor follows a similar procedure, and is also a University-governed process in which the IAIS can add its opinion but does not control. All of these University procedures are governed by the relevant Equal Opportunities legislation and practices.

IAIS has been particularly successful in converting researchers on fixed-term contracts into permanent contract staff through this system of mentoring and Academic Lead management. **Storm, Scalbert-Yücel, Valeri, Cooper and Kristo-Nagy** were all previously researchers on fixed term contracts who achieved permanent status within the IAIS framework. **Richter-Devroe** was a temporary teaching fellow who was made a permanent teaching/research staff member.

c.2 RESEARCH STUDENTS

The (currently) 138 IAIS Research Students form a distinct and vibrant community. Many students are also affiliated with one of the Institute's research centres, and are incorporated into the life of that Centre during their time as research student. This includes participation in the Centre's reading groups, input into the Centre's visiting lecture series and participation in each Centre's seminar series. Some of the research centres (such as the **CKS**) have designated research studentships attached to them. Other studentships are linked to research projects housed in one of the centres, such as the MARES studentships in the **CGS**, or the ESRC-funded LIVIT project studentships within the **CSI**. This system enables a core of affiliated students to act as channels for the involvement of other MPhil/PhD students within each centre. In addition, the IAIS receives scholarships through the University Scholarships Scheme, the SW Doctoral Training Scheme and the AHRC Block Grant Partnership. These are selected on the basis of two principal

criteria: research excellence and fit to unit research strategy, . This process gives IAIS studentship selection a strategic element such that the research culture of a developing or nascent centre can be boosted by the introduction of designated research studentships. Doctoral students have a newly refurbished Postgraduate Research Study Area which can hold up to 75 students at both Masters and Doctoral level.

Research students are enrolled at MPhil for the first two years of their study. All students are allocated a First Supervisor (normally designated as 0.8FTE), a Second Supervisor (0.1FTE) and a Mentor (0.1FTE). The mentor performs a purely pastoral role. MPhil students are subject to an upgrade to PhD status through an interview and the submission of written work towards the end of year 2 of enrolment. All students, both MPhil and PhD undergo an Annual Monitoring Review each year: they are interviewed by two members of academic staff (not including their supervisor). The system of research student recruitment and maintenance is overseen by two members of staff, a Director of Doctoral Studies (responsible for the oversight of the system, recruitment and award of scholarships), and Postgraduate Recruitment Officer (responsible for the monitoring of student progress). Additional input from the disciplinary Cluster Lead is used when appropriate. The system has enabled good completion rates for students within a four-year timeframe.

Research Students are subject to a series of research training courses in the first year of their MPhil/PhD, including extensive research methodology training. Some students, on ESRC linked scholarships, have a programme of training designated as part of the ESRC doctoral training scheme. Those who are not on such a scheme, are subjected to IAIS's own research training programme, which requires 80 credit points of specialised training in the first year, together with the completion of research thesis plans and annual skills audits. Through the submission of this work to their supervisor, skills training requirements are identified early. Ensuring the acquisition of skills necessary for thesis completion also feeds into the preparation of research students for their future career, in academia or elsewhere.

Research Students are not only integrated into the IAIS research structure through their attendance of IAIS research seminars, centre and cluster reading groups and the Annual College Postgraduate Conference – they also have access to a national structure through the British Society of Middle Eastern Studies graduate student section. Exeter hosted the BRISMES graduate conference in 2010, and the full BRISMES conference in 2011 – on both occasions, students were able to present and engage with the wider scholarly field of UK Middle Eastern Studies. Evidence for this engagement includes IAIS research students' work has been published in non-graduate peer review journals, and graduate destinations of Exeter graduates, including posts at universities in the UK and internationally.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

IAIS has an established tradition of acquiring funding for research activities to supplement QR income. Since RAE2008, this has continued, with significant income in external charitable funding for Kurdish Studies (from the Ibrahim Ahmed Foundation and the KRG), MARES (through the Golden Web Foundation), Iranian Studies (through the Iran Heritage Fellow, currently **Lewisohn**), Islamic Studies (through the Institute of Ismaili Studies) and Gulf Studies (for the annual **CGS** conference). These sources have continued to supplement a steady income from Research Council sources, with major grants from AHRC, ESRC and British Academy for **Gleave, Githens-Mazer, Valeri** and **Lewisohn**. These resources have been used to employ research fellows who have since become core funded (**Scalbert-Yücel**) or postholders have become independent researchers and members of IAIS (**Kristo-Nagy, Cooper**).

IAIS is housed in a purpose-built facility, with excellent teaching and research amenities, including language laboratories for training PhD students in key skills for Middle Eastern Studies, through a well-resourced language teaching cadre, drawing on IAIS's internationally respected language teaching profile. This covers Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Kurdish – all taught for research purposes as part of PhD training where necessary. The proximity of offices of all staff in one location enhances research exchange and collaboration. Aside from its excellent library services in the newly built Forum, the Arab World Documentation Unit, which is a nationally recognised collection of official and government documentation from the Middle East, provides an important resource for researchers based in Exeter and further afield. It also houses the personal archives of well-known Middle Eastern politicians, travellers and diplomats. The excellent University Library Middle Eastern Studies collection, with a dedicated Middle East librarian Afzal Hasan, has been relocated to the Forum, a £13million redevelopment of the University campus. Of

particular importance is the development of the best Kurdish Studies library in the UK (arguably in Western Europe), with a strategic purchasing policy of Kurdish books, continually from 2007 to 2013.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline and research base

The IAIS operates as the hub for Middle Eastern Studies activities in the University, with a constant presence of visiting fellows from the Middle East, Europe and North Africa. Since RAE2008, the IAIS has hosted 35 visiting fellows for a period of a few months to a full-year, exposing IAIS researchers to international trends in research, and establishing networks of researchers outside of the UK. This has contributed to IAIS's existing networks to give IAIS a truly international research reputation and profile.

e.1 Contribution to research dissemination and development

There are three journals housed in IAIS: the *Journal of Arabian Studies*, the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *The Rumi Review*. The last of these is a joint venture with the University of Nicosia. In addition to this, IAIS members of staff are members of numerous editorial boards. The major international conferences held each year include those of the CGS activities, BRISMES annual conferences (2011), the four annual Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Islamic Thought conferences (2009-2013), a major international conference on Islam in Central Asia (2012), two international Kurdish Studies conferences (2010 and 2012) and The Red Sea Conferences (associated with the MARES project).

There has been international recognition for the major IAIS contribution to the development of the discipline of Middle Eastern Studies, including: **Gleave**, President of the British Society for Persian Studies and the International Society for Islamic Legal Studies; **Stansfield** is a fellow at RUSI in addition to being Associate Fellow at the Universities of Pennsylvania and Northwestern China; **Agius** was elected to the British Academy in 2011 and his work *Classic Ships of Islam* was awarded the Keith Muckelroy Award of the Nautical Archaeology Society in 2009; **Rizvi** is a steering committee member for *Contextualising Islam in Britain Project* funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government and is an expert member of the European Network of Experts on Radicalisation (ENER); **Gleave**, **Allison** and **Agius** are AHRC and ESRC Peer Review College members; **Netton** chaired an AHRC panel (Religions and Theology) until 2009. IAIS staff have been invited as visiting fellowship scholars at numerous institutions including **Gleave** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Leiden, and Mellon Professor University of Chicago), **Storm** (visiting fellow at the Sorbonne), **Ashour** (visiting fellow at Brookings Institution, Doha) **Kristo-Nagy** (CSIC, Madrid) and **Onley** (Georgetown, Qatar).

e.2 Engagement with Users

In addition to the various activities outlined in the Impact template and case studies, the IAIS has a rolling programme of providing training for various elements of the military and the police service. These have included **Stansfield** (with regular visits to Afghanistan and Iraq to train officers), **Rizvi** (working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office working on Shi'a affairs of the Gulf), **Gleave** (working with the US Military and Navy through the USNA in Annapolis), **Githens-Mazer** (Radicalisation training for UK and US training centres). **Stansfield**, together with an honorary fellow oversaw IAIS involvement in ARABIC ONLINE, an online training programme, designed and paid for by the European Union.

Consultancy for public bodies and government institutions are numerous and have included Shell (**Stansfield**), the Crown Prosecution Service (**Gleave**, **Rizvi**, **Taji-Farouki**), European Union (**Ashour**, **Stansfield**, **Scalbert-Yücel**, **Pappe**, **Rizvi**, **Taji-Farouki**), Qatar National Museum (**Onley**, **Cooper** and **Agius**), Qatar Museums Authority (**Cooper**), British Museum (**Agius**, **Gleave**, **Cooper**). The recent political changes in the Middle East have led to increased media exposure for IAIS staff in which their research activities is made available to the general public, particularly **Githens-Mazer** (on anti-Muslim hate crime and the internal context of radicalisation), **Stansfield** (on the Iraq question and Middle Eastern affairs generally), **Ashour** (on radicalisation and the developments in Egypt), **Axworthy** (on Iran). IAIS staff have also contributed to raising public awareness of the historical and cultural dimensions of the Middle East, notably **Rizvi**, **Gleave**, **Agius** and **Lewisohn** (media work on Islamic civilisation through, amongst others, the BBC and Channel 4).