Institution: University of Warwick



Unit of Assessment: 30 History

a. Context

The History Department has been engaged in impact since its foundation in 1965. Building on the legacies of Warwick historians such as Edward Thompson and Joan Lane, we believe that research into the history of everyday life, into the dialectic between the local and the global, and into the relationships between the social, the cultural and the political come alive when history moves beyond the frontiers of the academy and reaches wider audiences.

We engage with and communicate our research to local, national and international cultural and heritage organisations, the media, public sector and charitable bodies, and diverse publics. Such activities have intensified during the census period, when we have worked hard to collaborate with the most appropriate partners. The Department's research strengths cross a spectrum of historical periods from the early modern to the present day and a range of regional contexts–Britain, Europe, the Americas, Africa and South Asia–in work that emphasises the global, regional and the local. Flowing from the Department's strong research culture, all academic colleagues are involved in public engagement and impact activities. Our research centres and networks, notably in global and transnational history, the history of medicine and parish history play a critical role in bringing the latest research to appropriate audiences. We work on the basis that all research, from object-based to theoretical, can and should have impact, and recognise that the relationship between research and impact is mutually beneficial, informative and enriching.

Our impact during the census period involved five overlapping areas of activity, which we continue to see as strategically important as our research continues to shape the future impact agenda of the department.

b. Approach to impact

The audiences for our research are:

- Those who work in cultural institutions and the creative industries, especially in museums, where for instance, our research has shaped new approaches to curatorial practice.
- Policy makers, politicians and senior civil servants where we provide information based on systematic research that historicises current policy trends and identifies new ways forward.
- Heritage groups and organisations that wish to extend their own knowledge and engagement with history.
- The general public which has an interest in history and wish to learn more about personal, local, national and international history.

The Department promotes a range of methodological, disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches in its research. Many of our most effective impact activities derive from research conducted in our research centres; the Centre for the History of Medicine, the Centre for Global History and Culture, and the Eighteenth-Century Centre. Through dialogue, workshops, seminars, lectures, public events, advising on exhibitions, scripts and reports, we have reached a broad audience. We have achieved impact through engagement and active collaboration with the following:

Museums and galleries

Our impact on cultural institutions focuses on the development of museum exhibitions and innovation in museum practice and methodologies. Our research has underpinned developments in the display of objects, in the historical frameworks, through which they are presented, and the specific questions and issues brought to audiences, as demonstrated in the 'Selling Consumption' and 'Material Culture, Display and Global Narratives' case studies. We have sustained high levels of interaction and activity with cultural institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum (New York), Peabody Essex Museum (Salem Mass.), the Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam), the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, the Wallace Collection, Chatsworth House, and the Ashmolean Museum, as well as local museums: Leamington Spa Museum and Art Gallery, and the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum (Coventry). The Department's recently established Leverhulme International Network 'Luxury and the Manipulation of Desire' (Riello and Salzberg) will develop new activities with the V&A, including a major exhibition planned for 2015. Much of this work will be based on dialogues with designers and businesses, including seminars and conferences, thus continuing the range of interactions we have with cultural



organisations.

Creative arts

The Department has worked closely with partners in the creative arts, theatre groups, artists and designers, poets and novelists, literary and cultural festivals, and their audiences, informing and enriching their productions and events. We have provided programme notes for plays (Luddy for 'Mrs Warren's Profession' for Gate Theatre Dublin (audience 11,000, 4 April-11 May 2013), Richardson ('Life at the Kerbstone') for performances of 'Pygmalion' at Chichester Festival Theatre (audience 48,000, 9 July-27 August 2010) and the Garrick Theatre London (34,000 12 May-3 September 2011). Through King's translations, Nobel Laureate Mario Vargas Llosa's non-fiction essay collections have been introduced to the English-speaking world. Smyth has worked closely with key members of the Hollywood film industry, including Oscar-winning directors, technicians and scriptwriters, through for example, four 'In Conversation' events at the Getty Research Institute (April 2012). Smyth's work in this area will continue, as will our engagement with novelists and actors, evident for example in forthcoming public events (2014) with the actor Julie Christie and the novelist and writer Duncan Campbell.

Policy

The Department directly engages with government departments, policy-makers and charitable and campaigning organisations, influencing the ways in which policy-makers address particular issues and contributing to policy discussions and debates, as evidenced in our 'Ethnicity, Health and Medicine in Postcolonial Britain' case study. Luddy 's work on Magdalen Asylums in Ireland led to her being interviewed by the Chair and Secretary of the Irish government inquiry into those institutions in 2012, and helped shape the final report (2013). Since February 2009 Branch has produced 27 briefs on contemporary Kenyan economic and political affairs for Oxford Analytica, a global analysis firm which draws on a worldwide network of experts to advise its clients on strategy and performance. Branch's reports have been circulated to more than 100 international organisations, government departments, and financial and corporate firms. His essays have been published in the Sunday Nation (02.06.13, circulation 200,000, 3 million page views daily) and cited in 17 Kenyan newspaper articles. Anderson is a regular advisor on African issues to the Foreign Office on East Africa (3/4 briefings per year), and to the MOD and the US State Department on African conflicts. He served on a Home Office Working Party for the Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs, contributing to the final report to government in February 2013. Philp continues to chair the Research Advisory Board to the Committee in Standards in Public Life, Cabinet Office. The Department works closely with the University's Communications Office to ensure public knowledge of our work in these areas.

Media activities

Via the press and popular magazines, digital media, radio and television work, our research reaches British and international audiences, including over 200 television and radio appearances (22 on BBC Radio 4 alone) across the census period. Capp, Richardson and Knights featured on BBC1's 'Who Do You Think You Are' (episode 5, 02.03.09, 6 million viewers; episode 6, 19.09.12, 4.97 million; episode 8, 10.10.12, 4.89 million), and Schwartz on BBC2's 'Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs' (05.10.12, 1.46 million). Luddy was historical advisor for a three-part bilingual television series 'Striapach' shown on RTE Irish television (November 2008, repeated twice 2009, 2010, audience c.300,000). Richardson hosted an episode of 'Document' on Victorian Women Voters for Radio 4 (18.03.13.). A blog entry for Victorian Commons (645 page views), an article for the Telegraph (443 'shares' via social media) and a policy paper on women and politics for History & Policy were released on the day of the broadcast. Chiang produced five online articles based on his research on sexuality and the body for his 'Sinoglossia' column (Oriental Daily News; Chinese language publication), Anderson published 'Atoning the Sins of Empire', a commentary on the Mau Mau Rebellion, in the New York Times (12.06.13) and Smyth's work on the history of cinema and filmmaking has featured in articles for the LA Times (02.04.12) and the Independent (09.07.11). Our work has also reached global audiences via new forms of media, including webinars, iTunesU and other digital media.

Public lectures

We have delivered over 100 public lectures and tailored events catering for local schools and nonacademic researchers, family and local historians. For example, Marshall addressed 200 sixth formers at City Temple, Holborn (04.02.13), and also discussed his research on Tudor religion at a day conference for A-level students at Leicester Square Theatre (05.02.10, audience 300) and the

Impact template (REF3a)



Medical Society of London (27.11.12, audience 70). Lockley presented his work on Maroon communities in South Carolina (27.10 09) and gave a series of public talks on slavery in Jamaica (June 2010) and in Georgia (October 2011, 300 local people and school children). We have built collaborative ventures by creating partnerships with local, national and global institutions and specialist organisations.

Partnerships and collaboration

We have invested time in developing partnerships with museums, arts organisations and theatre groups. These provide opportunities for us to engage in productive dialogue about how our research might enrich our partners' activities, and provide insight into what we can usefully offer to support their work. The Centre for the History of Medicine has worked closely with China Plate, which fosters links between arts organisations and academics, to bring debates on fatherhood and 'being human' to public audiences. This collaboration resulted in several successful theatrical events inspired, in part, by our research (Stein, 'The Irish Giant', May 2011; King, 'Our Fathers', June 2013). Our on-going relationship, first established in 2005-06, with the Coventry-based theatre group 'Talking Birds' continues in a recent production, convened by Marland, which builds on her research into mental illness and its institutions. The chamber piece, 'The Trade in Lunacy' was performed in Coventry's 'Shop Front Theatre' in June 2013, as the first in a series of three productions on the history of mental illness (total audience 150). Berg's long-term collaboration with Waddesdon Manor led to new approaches to the interpretation and display of objects and established a template for more recent collaborations with museum and gallery partners led by Finn, Gerritsen and Riello. We continue to foster new partnerships through engagement events designed to connect heritage and arts organisations with the Department's research; a recent 'History and Heritage' event (23.06.2012) involved representatives from 21 local heritage sector organisations.

Networks

The Department has instigated networks to engage with policy makers and wider publics. The network for Improving the Delivery of Ethnically Appropriate Research, Services and Policy (IDEA), started in 2011 and funded by a Warwick Institute of Advanced Study Incubation Award, has brought together transdisciplinary researchers with health service providers and policymakers in a series of workshops to improve healthcare for ethnic minorities in the UK. Knights leads Warwick's 'Corruption Network' and is producing a report for Transparency International, the leading anti-corruption lobbying organisation, on historical lessons about corruption.

Communications

The Department believes that making its research visible and accessible assists with maximising use and impact. Our research and its wider social and cultural resonances are highlighted on the Departmental website and individual staff web pages, many of whom also maintain social media channels (13 staff Twitter) and blogs. The Department's Twitter account (@warwickhistory; 1,000 followers) promotes our research to the general public. Our publications are made available via Warwick's public access research portal (WRAP) and its other media channels such as the Knowledge Centre (e.g. Chiang, 'Transgender Studies and the 'C' Word', Anderson, 'Justice for Kenya's Colonial Torture Victims', both June 2013, and Richardson, 'Have Royal Births Changed in 200 Years?', 19.07.13), YouTube (e.g. YouTube: Marland (with York), 'Madness, Migration and the Irish in Lancashire', June 2011, 1,548 views) and iTunesU.

Supporting Impact

The Department exploits University support to optimise impact. We have been successful in securing internal funding to foster impact activities through the Humanities Research Fund and the Institute of Advanced Study. We use the University Communications Office to coordinate press releases, and media interviews. The Communications Office also provides support in building relationships with stakeholders and media engagement and training. We work closely with the Faculty Research Impact Officer to develop our impact strategy, to advise colleagues on designing impact into their research plans, and to provide on-going impact training, to support the development of funding applications and coordinate workshops aimed at the dissemination of best practice and exchange of expertise. The Department appointed an Impact Officer in 2012 to advise and support its staff in developing impact. A Research Fellowship introduced by the Department in 2011 has a specific remit of developing research into impact, including writing grant applications and developing engagement activities, is also provided by the University's Research Support Services.



We embed impact training and activity in the Department at all levels: training for PhD students and early career fellows is provided and many of the Department's postdocs and postgraduates have worked closely with academic staff in developing impact work and events, thus building future knowledge and capacity.

The Department's Research Committee and the Research Development Manager for Arts located in Research Support Services advise on the impact potential of research applications and encourage the development of funding bids for schemes supporting impact work. Impact is a standing item on the Department's Research Committee which meets twice termly. The Department also makes use of the dedicated Faculty IT support to embed innovative impact methodologies in research projects.

c. Strategy and plans

The Department's strategic aim is to increase our research impact, to identify both new areas for impact and new processes by which to create impact and to use the knowledge and information generated in meeting these objectives to guide both research design and research activity. Plans for achieving these strategic aims include:

1. Continued impact training and recognising and utilising diverse mechanisms for impact delivery involving all academic staff and postgraduate researchers, supporting the next generation of historians.

2. Continued development of our communication strategy, as we organise public events based on projects planned for 2014-19. We will develop stronger links with local and national media, working closely with the University's Communication Office. With dedicated administrative support in the form of a part-time Impact Officer, we will improve procedures for developing, recording, measuring and evaluating impact, and continue to enrich our dedicated (Department and individual staff) Impact web pages. We will use podcasts, and other media, including online interviews, and online exhibitions, to showcase the diversity and reach of our impact.

We will utilise quantitative impact measurement techniques (e.g. Google analytics) to assess our online research reach, and to ensure that we are reaching and thus influencing key user groups.
We will further consolidate and extend our links with external creative and cultural organisations and institutions, and heritage groups.

5. Reflecting recent appointments by the Department in global history and the history of Africa and Asia and the University's programme of international expansion, during the next five years the Department will further extend its range of overseas research and impact activities, building on current collaborations and creating new ones.

6. We will continue to foster the diversity that we currently bring to our Impact agenda. We want to maintain and further our ability to develop substantial programmes of impact activities that involve media work, exhibitions, working with people in the heritage and cultural industries, schools activities, public lecture series, oral history sessions, and theatre productions. We will continue to exploit opportunities to influence public policy by further developing links with politicians and activists.

d. Relationship to case studies

The case studies exemplify the Department's approach towards maximising impact. All demonstrate engagement with diverse public and specialist audiences. The case studies, connected to the Department's three major research centres (History of Medicine, Eighteenth Century Studies and Global History and Culture), and the Warwick Network for Parish Research, demonstrate the success of linking impact activities to clusters of academic staff with shared research interests. They demonstrate our emphasis on producing impact work that builds on robust research collaborations and facilitates enduring projects and partnerships. Close partnerships with heritage organisations, resulting in cultural enrichment and two-way exchanges of practice, methodologies and expertise, lie at the heart of the 'Selling Consumption', 'Material Culture, Display and Global Narratives' and 'Parish Matters' case studies. The influence on political organisations, policy makers and third sector groups in response to issues and challenges related to health emerges from 'Ethnicity, Health and Medicine' and 'Health, Well-being and the Family in Modern Britain'. Our intellectual engagement with the materials that shape new historical knowledge is exemplified in our case studies.