

<p><b>Institution:</b> Plymouth University</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 30 – History</p>
<p><b>a. Context.</b> The main non-academic user-groups, beneficiaries and audiences for the unit's research are wide-ranging, comprising local history societies (Plymouth Historical Association, Friends of Devon Archives, Richard III Society, Devon and Cornwall Record Society) and local and national archives, libraries, galleries and museums (Plymouth and West Devon Record Office, Devon Record Office, Plymouth City Museum, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Plymouth Proprietary Library, Britannia Naval College, Bodleian Library, British Library and The National Archives). The unit's research is also used by local and national charities and organisations (Sheepstor Parish Church, Ford Park Cemetery, UK Supreme Court); local inter-faith religious groups (Plymouth Islamic Society and the University Chaplaincy); and international cultural organisations, including Nikkei Cultural Society, Okinawan Cultural Society and the Japan Society. Finally, user-groups also include local and national media, radio, TV and film (BBC1, BBC4, Radio 4, Keo Films, Quickfire Media, Discovery History, Longbow Productions), as well as government departments and institutions (Cabinet Office, Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and the Royal Navy) and policy-related think tanks (Global Justice Centre and Phoenix Think Tank). As a unit, we actively seek wider dissemination of our research through a series of pathways, for purposes of public engagement and knowledge transfer to achieve impact in four main ways: by contributing to civil society and cultural life through public lectures, podcasts, websites, popular publications, exhibitions, consultancies, the media, documentaries, films and archive enhancement (Daybell's work with Devon Record Office to catalogue and conserve the Seymour MSS; Mackintosh's oral history project to record the testimonies of Japanese-Canadians in southern Alberta) as well as contributing to current debate on policy-making and public discourse e.g. the Olympic legacy and sport policy (Jefferys' research on sport and politics and involvement with History &amp; Policy, DCMS, Sport England and 10 Downing Street), current policy towards the future of the navy and armed forces (Bennett's work on modern military history with Phoenix Think Tank). Finally, SOLON, the interdisciplinary history and law network (co-founded and directed by Stevenson) works with human rights groups, the Global Justice Centre and international lawyers on issues including war crimes, state violence and the US government's policy towards abortion.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact.</b> The unit's approach to impact has been three-fold: to identify and develop relationships with user-groups; to support impact across the unit in strategic ways; and to pursue follow-up activities and identify and audit resulting impact.</p>
<p><b>I. How staff interacted with or developed relationship with users, beneficiaries and audiences to develop impact from research.</b></p> <p>The unit's approach has emphasized a number of pathways to impact in order to disseminate our research to various non-academic users and to foster mutually beneficial relationships with external bodies in order to develop impact from our research that is intentional as well as serendipitous. Staff disseminate their work through public lectures and events, to our network of local schools and colleges; to local history societies, museums, archives and cultural societies; via the media, documentaries and film; through websites, podcasts and other social media; through exhibitions; and to government departments and think tanks.</p> <p>The History public lectures run by Peninsula Arts, the University's cultural umbrella organisation, are vital to the dissemination of the unit's research to non-academic audiences and foster links with local history societies, such as the HA, Plymouth Proprietary Library, the Richard III Society and interfaith religious groups. Historians within the unit present their research as part of these termly series. This included a lecture on 'Muslim curiosity of other faiths' in a series on 'Islam and Christianity' (May 2012), organised by History and the University Chaplaincy in association with the Muslim advisers and Plymouth Islamic Society and aimed at addressing contemporary issues across the faith.</p> <p>The unit has adopted a strategy of developing relationships and networks with external partners ranging from historical societies, libraries, museums and archives, to local properties and charities. Staff forge links through committee work for local historical societies and organisations, e.g. Historical Association (Daybell, Gregory), Friends of Devon Archives (Gregory) and Council of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society (Daybell), and Britannia Naval Museum Trust (Bennett as trustee of historical books, manuscripts and artefacts). History hosts an annual local history networking day, aimed at engaging with local societies, businesses and institutions. This led to contacts with Ford Park Cemetery and the Richard III Society. At a university level, Plymouth</p>

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University Enterprise Solutions acts as a gateway to link academic research to individuals, businesses and the community and this has led to fruitful relationships with several local user-groups, including parish churches, inter-faith religious groups and local societies. As a result of this, Tingle used her expertise as a Reformation scholar to provide interactive podcasts for Sheepstor Parish. The unit developed a database of external partners, supported by a University grant, which facilitates a more systematic approach to relationship building. We have actively sought to build relationships with archives, institutions and potential user groups alongside grant applications for research projects. At a national level, we have worked with the British Library, the National Archives, the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court as part of a project to digitize the records of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; and with the History of Parliament Trust as part of Jefferys' involvement with the Oral History of Parliament Project in the South West. AHRC-funded CDA projects have also developed external partnerships generating impact for research. The unit has been involved in three CDAs. The first, with Devon Record Office on 'Networks, News and Communication: Political Elites and Community Relations in Elizabethan Devon', catalogued and preserved the Seymour MSS as an important archive enhancement. The second CDA is connected to an LGBT oral history archive project linked with Plymouth Pride Forum, which has Heritage Lottery Funding, and support from Plymouth City Council, and Plymouth and West Devon Record Office, and led to an exhibition at Plymouth City Museum. The third is based on the Cottonian collection at Plymouth Museum. Finally, historians within the unit have used their research expertise to engage with and influence public policy debates and government initiatives through interactions with government departments (including the Cabinet Office, DCMS, Sport England and 10 Downing Street through Jefferys' work with History and Policy at King's College, London); and consultancy work for policy think-tanks (Bennett and the Phoenix Think Tank). Stevenson, through her work with the interdisciplinary history and law network SOLON, is helping to publicise a campaign launched by Professor Janet Benshoof (Founder and CEO of the Global Justice Centre) to convince the US government to change its current policy on abortion, which prevents proper medical care (including appropriate abortions) for women and girls who are impregnated as a result of rape in conflict situations.

**II. Support of impact**

The unit has sought to build a strong culture of impact across the team in several key ways. Mentoring on pathways of impact by the research coordinator and our professorial consultant is a key component of research mentoring at all levels, from early career researchers to more experienced colleagues. A pathway to impact strategy statement forms an integral part of all personal five-year research plans, sabbaticals in 2012-2013 were given to staff (Jefferys and Bennett) who could develop case studies to disseminate as best practice for impact. A stream of internal funding is allocated for impact-related research activities and forms used for internal funding require an impact statement similar to those required for external funding bodies. Staff have attended impact training and workshops organised at the school and university level, as well national impact awareness/training events and have reported back to build expertise across the unit. Relationships with external partners have been sponsored by internal funding at a university level, which has been directed towards projects between Plymouth University and local non-HEI partners. The Vice-Chancellor's annual Community Research Awards scheme provides opportunities for University researchers to work on projects designed to help community groups, charities and social enterprises, and History has received funding for a project with Ford Park Cemetery (2011) and for a major oral history project examining the impact of the Blitz on Plymouth during WWII and also the huge social housing project that helped to create a new Plymouth in the decade after the war (2013). At the Faculty level, History is supported by a dedicated unit, Innovation for the Creative and Cultural Industries (ICCI), which acts as a central point for the development, communication and project management of creative and cultural activities, external projects and related academic research. We work closely with the University Press and PR Office to disseminate our research through placement in the local and national media. An example is the attention gained by Jefferys' research at the time of the Olympics.

**III. Follow-through and identifying resulting impacts**

As a key part of developing the impact side of modern research culture, all staff members are encouraged to record and collect audit data (including emails and communications with feedback) relating to the impact of their own research. This is centrally filed and reported to the research coordinator. A Plymouth University-based consultancy group, SERIO, works closely with us in

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auditing our impact reports and ICCI provides institutional support for the collecting, administering, and processing of impact data. Peninsula Arts captures audience feedback and footfall on public lectures delivered by members of the History team, the SOLON website reports visitor traffic, receiving over 22,000 visitors to date, and external consultants History & Policy collected feedback and audited outcomes for Jefferys work with DCMS, Sport England, and 10 Downing Street.

**c. Strategy and plans.** Strategy and planning is devised by the research co-ordinator in conjunction with the History research strategy group, and reviewed at monthly meetings. The unit's goals and plans for support for impact from research in the future are fourfold. We firstly aim to continue developing an active engagement with the impact agenda across the unit, by continuing to develop the wider dissemination of our research through our pathways to impact. This will be developed through training programmes (provided by SERIO for new and current staff members), research mentoring, and will be overseen by the research co-ordinator and individual progress in the area of impact will be assessed as part of the appraisal process. We will strengthen and broaden our range of links with external partners and develop new ways of targeting wider user-groups and identifying their research needs. This will be achieved by building a fuller database of external partners, and appointing an impact co-ordinator within the unit responsible for liaising with individuals, businesses and communities. A third strand is to develop new ways of capturing and recording impact data, taking advantage of university-wide initiatives and support (ICCI and SERIO), but also embedding audit procedures as an everyday-part of individual research. Finally, we will establish a range of activities and relationships in which each member of the unit engages through mentoring, training, appraisal, and research plans.

**d. Relationship to case studies.** The case studies have been selected because they reflect best practice across the researchers in the unit. They also show the degree to which the research within the unit impacts not only at a local level (on the cultural life, civil society and economic prosperity of the South West region) but also at a national level on debates on the future of public policy in the area of sport, Olympic legacy and the funding and strategic development of the combined armed forces. The case studies thus highlight an important element of our strategy – which is to contribute towards policy debates at a national level – and they are exemplary of wider practice in relation to impact across the entire unit. Reflecting on the case studies has informed the development and revision of our approach and strategy towards impact. It has made us more mindful of forward-planning to identify user-group needs at the outset of a project; led to embedding structures and processes to monitor follow-up activities and continuously audit impact; and encouraged collaborative and individual impact-related projects to generate impactful research across the unit. This is apparent in a number of projects in which we can apply the lessons learned in the case studies. The first of these is Jefferys' continued research on politics and sport, which will produce a new monograph, entitled *Serving Sport* that looks at the development of agencies like Sport England and seeks to continue the debates about public policy well into the period after the London games. Alongside this project, Jefferys has collaborated with the History of Parliament Oral History Project, which aims to create a sound archive of people involved in politics at a national and constituency level, thus producing a unique record of British political history for the period post 1945. This will be of benefit to user-groups beyond academia, including politicians, journalists and the general public. The impact of this on-going research project will provide a sophisticated and detailed understanding of the politics of Westminster and beyond during the second half of the twentieth century, by illuminating changing patterns of parliamentary politics. Mackintosh's new oral-history project on Japanese internment camps in Canada during WWII investigates and archives the experiences of Japanese Canadians. It is already engaging with user-groups among local community groups (including Nikkei Cultural Society and Okinawan Cultural Society, Lethbridge, Canada) in an attempt to understand this period in their lives (through the development of a Digital Story-Telling Repository) within a broader framework of studying how community and identity are shaped in cross-cultural contact and how this contact enables us to understand identity in a wider trans-national context. Finally, Grey's new work on the history of child abuse will be disseminated through involvement with SOLON, and will provide a valuable historical dimension to current policy debates concerning child welfare and protection.