

Institution: University of Leicester
Unit of Assessment: 30 – History
<p>A. Overview</p> <p>This has been an outstanding period for research in History at Leicester. The School of History comprises 37 Category A staff of whom 65% work within the remit of Research Centres that are hosted by or directed from the School. It is part of the College of Arts, Humanities and Law (CAHL), created in 2008/9, and is home to three well-established Research Centres: the <i>Centre for English Local History</i>; the <i>Centre for Urban History</i>; the <i>Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies</i>. Historians also lead three interdisciplinary Research Centres at Leicester, namely the <i>Centre for American Studies</i>, the <i>Medieval Research Centre</i>, and the <i>Centre for Medical Humanities</i> (founded in 2012). We have also recently established the <i>Global, Colonial and Postcolonial Network</i>, and the <i>Leicester Migration Network</i> was set up and is co-convened by one of our postdoctoral Research Associates. These Centres and Networks frame the distinctive character of historical research at Leicester which builds on a strong tradition of the study of local communities in rural and urban contexts, synergised by global approaches to the study of the past. Our Centres act as centrifugal forces generating and sustaining a vigorous research culture that embraces all our colleagues, and which promotes authoritative scholarship by individuals as well as innovative research teams within and far beyond the School of History</p>
<p>B. Research strategy</p> <p>The strategic goals laid out in RAE2008 set the bar high. We aimed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase research income 2. Raise aspirations for publications and consolidate support for individuals' scholarship 3. Develop new pathways for building large collaborative research programmes, strategies for KE / KT [see REF3a/b] as well as funded international networks 4. Invest new staffing resources in areas of strength and potential growth 5. Recruit more early career fellows, supporting them to become fully independent researchers 6. Expand our PhD programme by increasing numbers of research students, diversifying supervision teams, recruiting more international students, and securing funded studentships <p>In each of these areas, colleagues' efforts have exceeded expectations, and – importantly – these achievements have been spread across the chronological and thematic expertise of the School of History, demonstrating the depth and range of innovative historical research at Leicester. Our Research Centres concentrate research excellence, and have been catalysts for generating and sustaining a culture of high achievement, percolating through the School. Our grant capture has been impressive, with a headline figure of <u>new grants awarded</u> to Leicester historians in excess of £5 million since 2008. Our total <u>research income</u> over this period exceeds £2 million, averaging £404k per annum, thus demonstrating a clear improvement over our RAE2008 annual average of £350k (goal 1). These figures for average research income and total research awards illustrate the fundamental success of our RAE2008 strategy, which aimed to deliver sustainable growth, enrich our research environment and contribute to the discipline by diversifying the range of research projects, the proportion of staff holding awards, the variety of funding sources, as well as increasing the number of early career fellows and doctoral students.</p> <p>The success of our ambition to raise aspirations for published research outputs (goal 2) is illustrated by the number of books (32), scholarly essays (36) and articles in refereed journals (69) presented by colleagues for this assessment exercise; very many other outputs have been published alongside these items. We have given high priority to individual scholarship (supported via study leave, teaching relief, and annual research-interview mentoring), enabling colleagues to publish 25 substantial monographs. We aimed to diversify research by developing new ways of achieving knowledge exchange, as well as large-scale collaborative research programmes and research networks (goal 3). Madgin's success in linking her work on heritage and urban planning (<i>REF2: Madgin1–3</i>) with the long-term strategic objectives of a number of external partners is detailed in REF3b; her achievements have been mirrored, for example, by Hopper and Sweet who – by drawing together expertise in our Centres for English Local History and Urban History, in partnership with the Victoria County History – have secured £384k from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a community project on <i>Charnwood Roots: People, Community and Place</i>. This project runs from 2013–2017, and provides opportunities for 400 volunteers to investigate the local history on their doorsteps; it is an exemplar for Leicester's knowledge transfer aspirations.</p>

The new HLF Charnwood Roots project is testament to the concerted efforts of Leicester's historians to develop large-scale, collaborative research programmes (**goal 3**) that aim to open up new domains of research and challenge disciplinary boundaries. It follows other achievements since 2008, such as: **Story** (PI) and **Jones** (CI) with the multi-disciplinary research programme *The Impact of Diasporas on the Making of Britain: evidence, memories, inventions* (£1.37m, Leverhulme Trust Programme Award, 2011–16, run jointly with colleagues in Historical Linguistics, Archaeology, Genetics, and Social Psychology, with 6 RAs and 1 PhD student); **Hurren** (CI) and **P. King** (CI) on *Harnessing the Power of the Criminal Corpse* (£201k, Wellcome Trust Research Programme 2011–16), with colleagues at Leicester and 2 partner universities, in Archaeology, Philosophy, and Anthropology); **Anderson** (PI) with *CArchipelago. The Carceral Archipelago. Transnational circulations in global perspective, 1415–1960* (€1.493m, ERC Starting Grant, 2013–18, with 3 RAs and 2 PhDs); **Gentilcore** (PI), *Rough Skin: Maize, Pellagra and Society in Italy, 1750–1930* (£430k, ESRC 2013–2016, with 1 RA). These research programmes have been complemented by externally-funded research networks, such as **Jones'** *Sense of Place in Anglo-Saxon England* (AHRC 2008–9) and **Housley's** new Europe-wide network on *Crusading in the Fifteenth Century* (Leverhulme Trust, 2013–16). The number and variety of these collaborative research initiatives reflects the profound changes in Leicester's research culture since 2008, and demonstrates our willingness to innovate by actively seeking new themes and partners for our research, in order to open up new areas of knowledge and to push forward interdisciplinary research methods. Many Leicester historians now have direct experience of working on and managing substantial research collaborations, which is evidence not just of the depth of talent but also of the effectiveness of the research support network in the School, College and University; collective experience provides a firm foundation for future research initiatives.

Our plans for research in the next period build on these substantial achievements, and contribute directly to the *University of Leicester: 2013 Research Strategy* that seeks to address global challenges through sustainable, ambitious, and innovative cross-disciplinary research. To achieve this we will maintain our commitment to producing excellent international scholarship by fostering a research environment that simultaneously facilitates the research of individual scholars at every stage of their career and also encourages innovative collaborative projects that extend the reach of Leicester's historical research to new partners and audiences within and beyond academia. Our Research Centres are at the heart of our research profile, and we will facilitate the agendas of these Centres and nurture the new Networks to reach their evident potential. To maintain a vigorous and sustainable research environment, our plans and aspirations include:

- **Research funding and infrastructure:** consolidating our excellent record of attracting external funding and increasing the range of staff awarded substantial grants; improving the mechanisms, practices, and resources that promote a vibrant and sustainable research culture
- **Staffing:** sustaining staffing in areas of proven research strength and driving forward investment in growth areas with support from the University and College so that we can continue to lead research activity and innovation across the discipline
- **New researchers:** enriching our research base by recruiting and nurturing additional postdoctoral fellows; strengthening our PhD cohort through international recruitment and funded studentships
- **Discipline contribution:** developing collaborative projects with academic colleagues beyond Leicester and research-led partnerships with non-HEIs to facilitate activities that lead to wide-ranging research impact within and beyond the discipline.

C1. People: Staffing strategy and staff development

Our staffing strategy has been underpinned by a long-term commitment to sustaining wide chronological, geographical, and thematic coverage. This complements strategic planning over this cycle, which has sought to nurture our distinguished specialisms, especially in Local and Urban History, and to invest in growth areas such as global history, medical humanities, history and heritage that offer natural synergies with these established centres of excellence. We have pursued this strategy through the appointment of new researchers right across the career spectrum and a pro-active policy of retaining and supporting existing staff through promotion and career development opportunities that foster and reward research excellence. Our staffing strategy is governed by the College Plan, which is revised annually with input from departments. Our present academic staff profile comprises 12 professors, 9 readers and senior lecturers, 14 lecturers, plus 15 post-doctoral scholars employed via early career fellowship awards and research project grants.

In line with our staffing strategy, we have made 11 appointments since 2008: four at

professorial level (**Anderson**: global history; **P King**: local history; **S King**: economic and social history; **Peel**: cultural and social history); one readership appointment (**Hurren**: medical humanities); six open-ended lectureships (**Korb** and **P Moore**: modern European history; **Lincoln**: Chinese urban history; **Madgin**: urban planning; **J Moore**: modern history and heritage; **Toner**: modern American history). Some of these appointments were planned arising from the predicted retirement of senior colleagues (Cottrell, Fearon, Davies, Dyer) while others arose from opportunities created by departures to other institutions (Colls, Mettele, Szejnmann, Frenz) and by winning new, capacity-building, investment posts (e.g.: **Lincoln**, **J Moore**; **Toner**; **Anderson**; **Hurren**). **Lincoln** was appointed under the university's strategic investment scheme to build critical mass and develop new research capacity in Urban History, responding directly to Urban History's internationalism agenda that aims to develop research opportunities in Asia. These appointments have been made across the career spectrum to balance research and grant experience with efforts to build for the future through the appointment of early career researchers whose contribution will be central to our research culture in the future. Fixed-term posts are used only as replacements for those who have obtained funding for research leave.

In parallel with appointments of these new staff, we have pursued promotion for existing colleagues, recognising and valuing their contributions to our strategy to develop and deliver world-class research and supporting life-long personal and career development. Promotions to Senior Lecturer have been achieved for **Hopper**, **Jones**, **Kidambi**, and **Knox**. **Ball** and **Story** have been promoted to Professor and, as a result of an open competition to develop new research centres at the University, **S King** was awarded a full-time, centrally-funded Research Chair to establish a Centre for Medical Humanities; from 1.11.13 he will be Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of the College of Social Sciences. **Peel** was appointed as Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Law from 1.10.13; his expertise further bolsters the already strong ranks of senior historians at Leicester, in global and comparative histories especially. We have supported 8 academic colleagues, including fixed-term staff and research associates, to win Merit Awards for exceptional contributions to the intellectual culture of the University. Emeritus colleagues have received support for on-going and new research projects, with dedicated office space and full administrative support within the School plus the broader University research infrastructure.

The recruitment and nurturing of Early Career Researchers is a key part of our staffing strategy, in the belief that an excellent academic unit is one that must enhance and promote the careers of new researchers to the discipline. We have pursued this objective in a number of ways: by attracting high calibre applicants to early career fellowships; by recruiting post doctoral research associates through grants; by winning 'new blood' investment lectureships (**Lincoln** to join Urban History with reduced teaching over five years to build his research profile); by actively supporting existing early career staff to develop their research portfolio through grant capture, research leave, membership of PhD thesis committees, an annual research allowance, and career-development mentoring, and developing international exchanges (such as the annual postdoctoral exchange with the Montreal History Group enabling a Canadian early career researcher to come to Leicester and a return visit for a Leicester PDF). Our success can be shown both by the growth in the number of our early career researchers and by their onward trajectories.

Since 2008, 29 scholars have been awarded Early Career Fellowships (ECF) or appointed to Research Associate posts in Leicester's School of History, including 8 full-time and 11 part-time post-doctoral researchers employed through project grants. Eight others were awarded funding for independent postdoctoral projects by the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, or Wellcome Trust. Their specialist expertise dovetails with the research strengths of the School: thus Foxhall-Forbes (LECF 2009–11) and Darby (BA PDF 2010–13) joined the Medieval Research Centre; the Centre for Urban History recruited Bhattacharya (WT ECF, 2011–12) and Hanna (LECF, 2011–13); Price (WT ECF 2009–11) joined colleagues working on Medical Humanities; **Marin** (LECF 2013–16; *REF2: Marin1*) has recently joined the team at the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; **Foxhall** (WT ECF 2013–14; *REF2: Foxhall1*) joins colleagues working in the Global, Colonial and Postcolonial Network. Two other scholars were awarded early career fellowships by the Leverhulme Trust to come to Leicester (Dodds-Pennock in 2009 and Lanicek in 2012) but these awards were declined because the holders won permanent posts elsewhere.

We take the career development of our ECFs very seriously, and the effectiveness of our mentoring can be shown by the fact that seven have gone on to permanent lectureships in this assessment period, namely: Darby to Nottingham; Foxhall-Forbes to Durham; Hanna to Edinburgh;

Bhattacharya to Dundee; T King (LT RF 2011–12) to Leicester (Archaeology and Genetics); Sandall (fixed-term lecturer 2011–13) to Winchester; Dodds-Pennock (fixed-term lecturer 2007–10) to Sheffield. Mettele, who we appointed to a 'new blood' lectureship in 2007, moved to a professorship in Jena in 2010. Others have moved on to substantial fixed-term research posts / lectureships: Price (WT PDF 2009-11, to Keele); Williams (fixed-term lecturer 2012, to Cardiff); Screen (fixed-term lecturer 2009, to St Andrews thence Oxford); Vohra (fixed-term lecturer 2012, to Aberystwyth); Churchill (fixed-term lecturer 2013, to Birkbeck). **Foxhall** (WT PDF, 2013–14) will move to a 4-year lectureship (replacing Anderson) in Leicester in June 2014.

In procedural terms, our staff development strategy incorporates the University's commitment to the implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (as shown by its 'HR Excellence in Research Award' and current Action Plan). We follow institutional policy and best practice on probation, mentoring, annual appraisal and study leave, and support for continuing professional development through access to on-the-job training via the Academic Practice Unit. We stimulate secondment opportunities to external bodies, by facilitating impact activities identified within the research plans put forward by individual researchers as well as in the agendas of our Research Centres (see REF3a). Examples include **Madgin** who has received special study leave to manage a series of KE projects with external partners (REF3b) and **Horrocks**, seconded to the British Library as senior academic advisor for 'National Life Stories'.

Our commitment to Equal Opportunities in all aspects of recruitment and retention of staff is overt and follows University procedures (including its commitments as a Stonewall Diversity Champion); e.g. six staff have taken maternity/paternity leave since 2008, and long-term health issues affecting four others have been carefully managed, through (for example) staged return to work and regular review to help each individual remain research active. Since 2008 the gender ratio has improved: in REF2014 35% of Category A staff are women, against 28% in 2008; 33% of promoted staff are women (incl. three professors), versus 22% in 2008 (one female professor).

Appointments to academic and research posts are subject to a period of probation (three years or six months depending on the nature of the contract); an experienced mentor supports new colleagues during this probationary period. The Head of School oversees probation interviews and follows up recommendations relating to research needs with the School's Director of Research. All academic and research staff (permanent and temporary) are supported through a process of annual appraisal, which intersects for academic staff with annual research interviews that focus on six core issues: immediate research and publication priorities; longer term plans and publication strategy (considering issues raised by Open Access policy demands); grant application trajectory; doctoral recruitment; career progression; identifying impact and KE opportunities. These interviews give colleagues a formal space to discuss personal research agendas and to flag up particular needs in terms of enhanced leave, mentoring, research expenses, or training requirements. These interviews inform an on-going research review by which we track plans for grant applications, publications, and doctoral student projects, as well as searching for and encouraging thematic synergies, or identifying training or other significant research support needs. An example of this review process in action arose from a wish to boost PhD recruitment and to diversify PhD supervision expertise throughout the School. As a result a decision was made to pool QR income to create studentships to bolster PGR recruitment in under-represented areas and to draw in a much wider range of colleagues at all career stages into PhD thesis committees; as a result 75% of Category A staff act as supervisors for doctoral students in the School.

Academic staff can apply for study leave once in every seven semesters. Applications are not affected by leave funded from other sources, or by periods of ill health or maternity leave, and leave is subject to the submission of an agreed research and publication plan approved by the College. This system has allowed 26 staff to take study leave since 2008. Study leave applications and reports are received and reviewed by the College. In addition, the University offers special study leave or teaching relief in response to strategic research need, for example, to those managing large charity-funded research projects (in recognition of the limitations of the Charity Support Scheme) (e.g. **Story**, 2012–13), or multiple KE grants (**Madgin**, 2013, REF3b), or secondment to third-sector organisations (e.g. **Horrocks** to the British Library, 2011–13), or to bring significant research projects to fruition (**Ball** in 2011 > REF2:BALL1, and **Korb**, 2012–13). Nine staff have won grants that have funded additional leave, including: Leverhulme Fellowships (**Kidambi**, 2009; **Coffey** 2012; **Gunn** 2012 [deferred to 2014]); AHRC Fellowships (**Story**, 2008; **Coffey**, 2010; **Johnstone**, 2012); Wellcome Trust Fellowships (**P King**, 2011–13; **Hurren**, 2011–

13); ERC Starting Grant (**Anderson**, 2013–18); British Academy (BARDA) (**Lewis**, 2011–12). These successful applications, and many more, have been facilitated by a constructive system of seed-corn funding and peer-review from the School of History and wider College infrastructure.

C2. People: Research Students

The development of our post-graduate programme (in the context of sharp reductions in external funding for PGR students) has been a key objective for this assessment period. We have focused on consolidating domestic recruitment, increasing international students, developing new funding streams, launching new a research training degree (the MRes), and diversifying the supervisory base. We have been able to optimise expertise throughout the School and College by channelling PhD grants into areas where doctoral students traditionally have been harder to recruit, facilitating interdisciplinary supervision, and constructing thesis committees that provide supervisory experience to new staff and post doctoral RAs with specialist knowledge. This strategy has succeeded, and since the last assessment overall PGR figures at Leicester have more than doubled, with almost four times the number of full-time research students working with us in 2013 than in 2007 (2007: 11 FT / 38 PT [i.e.: 30 FTE]; 2013: 42 FT / 47 PT [i.e.: 65.5 FTE]). Our part-time student base – traditionally a strong source of PGR recruitment at Leicester, especially of mature students working in the Centre for English Local History – has also grown by more than 50% and has not been affected by the recent sharp nationwide downturn in numbers of such students. Completion rates have also improved with 33 PhD degrees awarded over this assessment period, averaging 6.6 per year (RAE2008 = 4 per year).

At the 2008 census we reported one overseas studentship; in 2013 we can count 19 EU / International students who have come to work with us from Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Iraq/Kurdistan, Pakistan, Sweden, and the USA. The recent success of the *3 Cities DTP Consortium* bid to the AHRC block grant competition means that we will be able to offer UK/EU research students a more certain funding stream and all our students will benefit from an even more ambitious training portfolio in the very near future. The AHRC funds 205 PhD studentships across the consortium, matched on a one-to-one basis by all six consortium institutions. This delivers 410 arts and humanities studentships for the *3 Cities DTP Consortium*, which will play a major role in the future sustainability of research in History at Leicester.

Since 2008, seven of our postgraduates have held AHRC studentships and six more won ESRC 1+3 studentships in open competition. Six other PhD studentships were externally funded through large research projects held in the School (via AHRC, ESRC, Wellcome Trust, Leverhulme Trust, and ERC), and several students have secured support for their study and research trips from external funders such as the Economic History Society, the Crowther Fund, the DAAD, or the Foundation Fund for Women Graduates. In addition colleagues have won a further 12 full PhD studentships through the competitive AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award scheme which is designed to facilitate strategic research and knowledge transfer between academic researchers, students, and external partners: (2013) *The English Versailles* (x3, **Sweet**, **Hurren** and **P King** with the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust), *Selling Health* (x3, **S King**, **Horrocks** and **Hurren** with Society of Apothecaries and GW Pharmaceuticals), *Experience of war widows in mid-17th-century England* (**Hopper** with TNA); (2012) *After Baxter: Edmund Calamy and redefining the history of dissent* (**Coffey** with Dr Williams's Library), *Wallpaper in the 18th century* (**Sweet** with English Heritage), *Connecting Charnwood: a medieval woodland landscape in Leicestershire* (**Jones** with VCH Trust); (2011) *Gender, patronage and architecture in the 19th-century country house* (**Sweet** with Lamport Hall Preservation Trust); (2009) *Women and Change in the Work Place* (**Sweet** and **Horrocks** with the Media Archive for Central England). Several of these externally funded studentships have been secured late in this assessment period; students recruited to these projects will play a major part in our doctoral cohort in coming years.

In addition to studentships from Research Councils and Charities, we have worked hard to supplement PGR funding through a dynamic partnership between the School of History and the College; as a result, internal funds, including grant overheads, have been used to create numerous full- and part-time scholarships and bursaries for History students. These include four Graduate Teaching Assistant posts, where students have 4 years to complete a thesis alongside paid teaching experience. Modest endowed funds produce small grants for students of Local History to provide bursaries for fees and to offset travel costs, and research expenses (5–10 annual awards); these enable many students to embark on and complete research degrees, often part time, and often living far from Leicester. One such grant-aided student completed a local history PhD in

2009, commuting weekly from west Wales; her thesis on rural-urban migration in Victorian Wales was published by University of Wales Press in 2011. Two students have won AHRC Library of Congress Scholarships to study in Washington DC, and two others were awarded ESRC funding for secondments of up to six months to the British Library (developing social science resources) and to the Welsh Government (on social media and sustainable transport). The School has taken an active part in recent University initiatives to establish links with Kurdistan. Both **Sweet** and **Korb** visited Iraq as part of University delegations, bringing 4 Kurdish students into our PhD programme.

University procedures and mechanisms ensure that our PGR students are recruited according to sector-standard EO practices, which follow through into all aspects of their learning and life at Leicester. Our research students come from a highly diverse range of socio-economic and educational backgrounds, and range in age from early 20s to early 70s; many make use of the support services of the University to ensure that they are equally able to become active historical researchers. One example serves for many: a mature student, with degrees from the OU and no family background of academic attainment, studied with us part time, gaining a PhD in 2009 while acting as sole carer for her partner; the book of her thesis, *Worth Saving: disabled children during WW2*, was published in 2013 by Manchester University Press. Induction, training, and monitoring follow University practices and regulation. The immediate training needs of each student are identified at the first supervision, and a bespoke programme for meeting these needs is agreed using University, College and School resources. Subject-specific training is provided by the School, and is supported by generic research and professional skills training through the College and University (e.g.: language, library, quantitative and IT skills; project management; HE teacher training; viva preparation; career development planning; publishing research). The record of this training and confirmation of its completion is submitted to the Graduate School as part of the package of documentation required to secure upgrade from APG to PhD status at the end of the first year of study. Regular supervision meetings are documented by the research student, and research targets are agreed by all parties. Students submit formal progress reports every 6 months, which are commented on by supervisors and reviewed by the School's PG committee. Annual monitoring of the progress of each student by a member of staff independent of the student's thesis committee ensures students move steadily towards completion.

The research culture of the School and College integrates – and is enhanced by – the academic achievements and skills of our research students. They regularly attend research seminars (broadening their theoretical and empirical knowledge) and present their own advanced work to these audiences; they help to organise seminar programmes within the research centres by contacting and facilitating visits by external speakers. Our research students gain valuable experience by working with academic staff to run conferences (e.g.: 2013, *Land Agents Conference* at Lampton Hall, and *Imperfect Children*), or as research assistants for small elements of other projects (e.g.: 2012, *Diasporas: Lindisfarne case study*). They contribute formal lectures to the University's Inaugural Doctoral Lectures Programme and are given assistance to apply for grants from the School, College, University or external PG research funds to support academic initiatives – such as attending national conferences, organising the popular Leicester PG History Conference, or the two-day Specialist Interdisciplinary Workshops run with postgraduate medievalists from the College. In 2012/13 the School gave conference grants to 13 students, and 15 small grants to fund research expenses; the College PG Fund awarded similar grants to seven others. Our students run national conferences at Leicester, e.g.: the *China Postgraduate Network Conference* in June 2013 (with a grant from the College); *British Society on the Small Screen* in June 2012 (with funding from the Economic History Society); *Memory: America Past, Present, and Future* in November 2012 for the British Association of American Studies. Leicester's much-imitated *New History Lab* has been run by our PG students for five years, with staff support and annual funding from the School, University and Royal Historical Society, garnering national press attention; it runs a full programme of provocative and high profile academic as well as employment-led events. All of these draw graduate students from across the Midlands, and the *Lab* provides a template for student-led research initiatives under the new AHRC *3 Cities DTP Consortium*.

Eight graduates from our PhD programme since 2008 have gone on to full-time academic careers: **Madgin** (2008) returned to Leicester to a lectureship in 2011; **Lorca** (2009) won a lectureship at Santiago in 2013; **Deeming and Latham** (2009), **Pluskota** (2011), **Murray, Neale, and Hulme** (2013) have been appointed to Research Associate posts in the UK and overseas.

D. Income, infrastructure and facilities

We have been outstandingly successful in attracting external funding for new research projects. Research income over this period amounts to £2.015m. This figure has been fuelled by 110 new grants awarded since 2008 from 33 different external funding bodies, with total awards in excess of £5m. These new grants were secured by 42 individuals including 28 current Category A staff, and include 10 awards of more than £100k made to 10 different academics. In this period, 24% of current Category A staff have won a grant in excess of £100k for their research, and a further 18% have secured an award valued at £50k–100k. Many of these projects are on-going and expenditure will underpin our research income data in the next period. Our record of grant capture reveals the strength of research across the School. Our Research Centres and Networks power a culture of aspiration, innovation and achievement, and cultivate an environment for research excellence; our success is due to the energy of many, not just a few. Since 2008 the Centre for Urban History has secured £822k in external grants for 26 research projects and the Centre for English Local History has won £747k for 24 projects. Colleagues working in the Stanley Burton Centre have won £95k for three discrete projects, and the medievalists have secured a further 13 different awards totalling £889k; American historians have pursued 14 projects with grants of £155k. Our early modernists have gained £569k for 12 awards and colleagues with research expertise in Medical Humanities have secured £611k for eight more projects. Global, Colonial and Postcolonial researchers have won £1.112m for two research programmes.

The increase in research income has been facilitated by several infrastructural initiatives. Of seminal importance was the decision by the School in 2007 to redirect resources from an academic post to a full time (Grade 8) School Manager who, among other duties, costs research grant applications, administers awards, and liaises with the central University Research Support Office. This new post has created the capacity for us to develop ambitious collaborative research projects and to build up a critical mass of local experience in research development. Reconfiguring the School's administrative team has also created dedicated clerical support for the Research Centres. Since bringing this specialist administrative support in-house we have increased the number of applications submitted and improved the proportion of successful bids; year-on-year the School of History has exceeded internal grant targets, culminating with research grant awards in the academic year 2012–2013 alone totalling in excess £2.5m.

Another structural change has also been crucial to the evolution of our research environment. In 2008/9 a restructuring of the University created the College of Arts, Humanities and Law (CAHL), which incorporates the School of History. The existence of the CAHL has changed the dynamics of Leicester's research environment in several practical ways: regular seminars and a dedicated VLE/website hosted by the CAHL enable us to share best practice, advice, information and practical assistance to optimise research funding opportunities, and a cross-College peer-review network provides constructive support for researchers seeking to develop new research projects and to improve draft applications. The CAHL facilitates the genesis of interdisciplinary research initiatives by mentoring applications and organising regular exploratory workshops designed to bring researchers together from across the university. A biennial competitive small-grant fund for research staff is designed to fund travel and conference attendance, and to facilitate pilot projects and impact pathways; 15 researchers from the School of History (including research associates and teaching fellows as well as academic staff) have obtained grants of between £500–£10k since the scheme began in 2011; the largest of these, to **Hopper** and Fisher, facilitated the Student County Historian project in summer 2012, which helped build the research and outreach framework behind the successful HLF bid for the VCH Charnwood Roots project. The College prioritises matched-funding for early career fellowships, which has been fundamental to our success in attracting excellent applicants to these schemes. Our Research Centres are reviewed annually by the CAHL Research Committee, which provides focused feedback and advice on how to improve performance and enhance impact, and a forum for discussing new initiatives.

This College-centred support is complemented by highly effective University assistance, especially from staff in the Research Support Office who help to cost projects, deliver targeted workshops, disseminate funding calls, and connect academics across the university with cognate research interests and relevant mentoring knowledge. These centralised support mechanisms have proved fundamental to the trebling of research income across the College since 2008, and lie behind the success of many grant applications by colleagues in the School of History. Furthermore, in December 2008, the new David Wilson University Library was opened. This major infrastructure

project (c. £35m) doubled the size of the building, providing state-of-the art research and study facilities not only for campus-based research but also – through greatly enhanced digital resources – for all Leicester-linked researchers. The University's new Research and Infrastructure Fund has augmented digital resources for historians through substantial grants for digital research resources for Medieval Studies (£25k in 2012/13) and a large format scanner to digitise the extensive map archive of the Centre for English Local History (£14k, 2012). Another 2012/13 grant from this University fund will support a technician to facilitate research development in Digital Humanities, directly benefitting existing projects in History and facilitating the creation of new ones.

Infrastructure expenditure for the School of History includes £385k on fitting out a dedicated building (732m²) for the new Centre for Medical Humanities, including modern office space for staff and PhD students as well as fully-fitted meeting rooms. It is adjacent to the Marc Fitch Historical Institute which houses the Centre for English Local History and the Centre for Urban History, as well as the East Midland Oral History Archive and Charnwood Roots VCH/HLF project. Spread across three large Victorian villas, the Marc Fitch Institute houses a specialist topographical library, archives, and a research collection of early maps, as well as seminar rooms, offices for academic and support staff, extensive work space for postgraduate students, early career and visiting fellows (some rooms refurbished in 2011), and common-room facilities for the whole research community.

E. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline

Our contributions to the discipline are manifold, through academic editorial work and examining doctorates, to international and domestic research collaboration and conference organisation. Leicester hosts 4 history journals: **Sweet** and **Gunn** jointly edit *Urban History* (CUP); **Snell** is co-editor of *Rural History* (CUP); **S King** is editor of *Family and Community History* (Maney); **Anderson** is editor of the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* (Johns Hopkins). Sixteen others have served on editorial boards, e.g. **Hopper**, *Midland History*; **Gentilcore**, *Medicina & Storia*; **Aston**, *French History*; **Story**, *Early Medieval Europe*; **Lewis**, *Journal of American Studies*. Academic editorial work spans the career spectrum from early career colleagues, e.g.: **Korb**, review editor of *H-Soz-u-Kult*, to established staff, e.g.: **Ball**, *Parliamentary History*. Colleagues edit book series, including **Jones** (Univ. of Hertfordshire Press: *Explorations in Local and Regional History*), **Story** (Ashgate: *Studies in Early Medieval Britain*) and **Jensen** (Palgrave: *The Holocaust and its Contexts*). Membership of editorial boards includes: **Sweet** for the *British Academy Records in Social and Economic History*; **Hopper** as member of council for the *Worcestershire Historical Society*; **Housley** for Ashgate's *Crusade Texts in Translation* series.

Research Councils in the UK and abroad draw on our expertise for example: **Anderson**, **S King** and **Snell** are members of the ESRC Peer Review Panel; **Anderson**, **Housley**, **S King**, **Peel** **Sweet**, and **Gunn** have served on the AHRC Peer Review Panel; **S King** chaired the Wellcome Trust Medical History & Humanities panel until 2011. Leicester's historians regularly referee for international research councils and foundations (since 2008: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, South Africa, Turkey, USA). Our professional expertise is sought by non-UK HEIs to examine PhD theses or UG programmes (since 2008: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Israel, Mauritius), for tenure review committees (USA, Canada), and to evaluate research in non-UK history departments (e.g.: **Sweet** for Belgium, **Peel** for the Excellence in Research for Australia, or **Gentilcore** for the Italian assessment exercise, ANVUR).

Many colleagues have roles with learned societies, for example: **Anderson** is on the British Academy *Area Panel for South Asia*; **Housley** is a member of *Academia Europaea*; **Lewis** served on the Executive Committee of the *British Association of American Studies* and chaired its conference committee; **Campbell** is secretary of *British American Nineteenth-Century Historians*; **Sweet** is on committees for the *Pre Modern Towns Group*, the *European Association of Urban Historians*, and the *International Commission for the History of Towns*; **Madgin** organises the *UK Urban History Group Annual Conference*; **Jones** and **Story** have served on the council of the *Society for Medieval Archaeology*, and **Peel** on the Executive Board of the Australian Historical Association and two Australian Learning and Teaching Council steering committees.

Leicester's historians have organised many academic conferences in Leicester and beyond in the assessment period, often in collaboration with partner institutions in the UK and abroad, e.g.: the *British Association of South Asian Studies*, held in 2008 in Leicester (**Kidambi** and **Anderson** with BASAS); *Old Saint Peter's Rome*, held in Rome in 2010 (**Story** with the British School at Rome); *The 24th International Congress on the History of Science, Technology and Medicine*, held

in Manchester in July 2013 (**Horrocks**, co-organiser). Conferences are central to Research Centre activity, and invariably attract funding and national and international delegates. The Stanley Burton Centre (**Jensen, Korb, Marin, P Moore**) has hosted four conferences: *Britain & the Holocaust* (with the Wiener Library, London, 2009); *A Contextual View of Holocaust & Genocide Denial* (2010) and *Genocidal Intent* (2011), funded by the British Academy (with the School of Law), and *Space, Identity & National Socialism* (2010, with Loughborough University). Colleagues in the Centre for American Studies (**Campbell, Clapp, Johnstone, Lewis, Toner**) have won US Embassy funding annually since 2008 to bring over a US speaker for an annual lecture, and have organised major conferences on *Un-Americans and the Un-American* (2011) *US Foreign Policy and Presidential Elections* (2013); *Liberalism in the Americas: Popular, Gendered and Global Perspectives* (2013, with the IAS and British Library). The Centre for Urban History (**Sweet, Gunn, Kidambi, Lincoln, Madgin**) has hosted conferences on *Cheap Print and Street Literature in the Early Modern Period* (2012), the *Transformation of Urban Britain since 1945* and *The Habitable City: Chinese Urban History in a Global Context* (held in Leicester in 2013), and on *Urbanization in Comparative Perspective*, at Hangzhou Normal University, China (2012). Historians linked to the Medieval Research Centre (**Bothwell, Housley, Jones, Story**) co-ordinate panels for the annual International Medieval Congress at Leeds and the Brixworth Lecture on Anglo-Saxon Studies, and the new Centre for Medical Humanities (**S King, Hurren**) organised an international conference in September 2013 on *Imperfect Children*. The Centre for English Local History (**Hopper, Jones, P King, Snell**) has hosted eight conferences since 2008 (as well as many other day events), including the *Fairfax 400th Anniversary Conference* in 2012, *Local History in Britain after Hoskins* in 2009, *County Community in 17th-C England* in 2012, and a series of AHRC Network-funded workshops on *Sense of Place in Anglo-Saxon England* (2008–9); all four of these events had substantial external sponsorship and each has resulted in a book edited by the Centre's staff.

Our major Research Centres act as disciplinary hubs for their specialisms. For example: the Urban History newsletter goes out to 1500 international subscribers; the Friends of English Local History run an annual lecture, a study day and a biannual conference, and publish an occasional papers series, and a bibliography; both Local History and Urban History websites host online inventories or resources for their scholarly communities. Both Centres run a research seminar series, which enable colleagues nationwide to present research papers to expert audiences.

Domestic and international networks play an important role in our research environment, and reflect the entire chronological range of our expertise. Alongside the collaborative research programmes described above, the AHRC funded a formal network on *Sense of Place in Anglo-Saxon England* (**Jones**, 2008–9), and the Leverhulme Trust is funding **Housley's** international network: *Reconfiguring the crusade in the 15th century: goals agencies and resonances*, from 2013–15. **Sweet** was part of a HERA network on Urban Leisure, based in Helsinki (2008–9) and is a partner, with **Gunn**, in the Flemish Research Council network on *Urban Agency since 1500*; **Campbell** won AHRC funding for a project on *Translating Penal Cultures* linking scholars from the UK, Hong Kong, Mexico, Germany and Austria; **Toner** convened the international network of scholars working on *Liberalism in the Americas*, and the *Drinking Studies Network*; **Korb** is a member of the *International Network of Genocide Scholars* (INoGS) and worked for the Research Network Unit 'Herrschaft in Südosteuropa', funded by the Deutsches Forschungsgemeinschaft.

Three Leicester historians have won international prizes: **Gentilcore** won the *Salvatore De Renzi International Prize* for the history of medicine in 2012, and in 2008 the Royal Society of Canada's *Jason A. Hannah medal*; the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists awarded their *Best Essay Prize 2011–13* to **Story** for her 2012 article on 'Willibrord, Bede and the Genesis of the Archbishopric of York' (*REF2: Story1*); **Korb** has won four international prizes for his book on mass violence in Croatia 1941–45 (*REF2:Korb1*), including the highly prestigious *Frankel Prize for Contemporary History* (Cat. A) from the Wiener Library, London.

Leicester's School of History promotes a distinctive research ethos through its international reputation for Local and Urban history, augmented by a broad spectrum of research excellence that embraces the geographical and chronological expertise of the School. We have been outstandingly successful in attracting external research funding, and have sought to ensure the sustainability of our energetic research culture through a strategic staffing policy that invests in younger scholars, attracts established researchers, and generates a vibrant early career and post graduate community. Our research strategy looks beyond the demands of the REF to ensure that Leicester's historians continue to make major contributions to the future of the discipline.