

<p>Institution: DURHAM UNIVERSITY</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 30 (HISTORY)</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Department of History forms the unit of assessment, comprising 37 research-active staff. Its research spans the early medieval to contemporary periods, and embraces Europe, eastern Africa, China and the USA. Researchers benefit from interactions across disciplinary boundaries through inter-departmental seminars and reading groups, faculty research centres, and the University's research Institutes of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS), Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR) and Advanced Study (IAS).</p> <p>Strategic direction is provided by the Head of Department, Deputy Head of Department (responsible for impact and staff development), and Director of Research (DoR – responsible for oversight of publication and dissemination, grant applications and research leave). The Department's Research Committee, chaired by the DoR and reporting to the Board of Studies, oversees research support and policy. Research support for all staff from post-doctoral fellows to senior professors is offered by a team of advisors. The Director of Postgraduate Studies and a Higher Degrees Committee are responsible for ensuring the quality of supervision for doctoral students and their participation in departmental research culture. Department officers work in co-operation with the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, whose Research Group, Postgraduate Subcommittee, and Deputy Heads for Research and for Postgraduate Studies provide co-ordination for the Faculty's seven departments, and whose Pro-Vice Chancellor controls budgets and academic appointments. University Research and Education Committees provide overall strategic direction and management in research and in postgraduate education.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The Department's research strategy, as developed from RAE 2008, sets out priorities and objectives for the period leading to REF 2014 and beyond. These are: (1) development and publication of the highest quality research; (2) wider inter- and intra-disciplinary engagement, collaborating both inside and outside Durham, and disseminating research to new audiences; (3) development of a research culture that enables students to become effective early career researchers; (4) expansion in selected areas of strength. Achievements during the census period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publication of monographs of international and disciplinary significance (e.g., Brooks on law and society in early modern England, Scales on German identity in the 13th–15th centuries, Schiller on the cultural and political significance of the Munich Olympics) and articles in the leading journals (<i>English Historical Review</i>, <i>Historical Journal</i>, <i>History Workshop Journal</i>, <i>Journal of African History</i>, <i>Journal of British Studies</i>, <i>Journal of Modern History</i>, <i>Past and Present</i>) • diversification of external funding sources beyond RCUK to include government agencies and NGOs, with a total of 13 national and international institutions • in association with IMEMS, a partnership with the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto, including a joint publication series and postgraduate programmes • leadership of an inter-institutional group including both early modernists and modernists in the AHRC project on British state prayers (Williamson, Mears and Taylor, originally at Reading University) • collaboration with social scientists and scientists in the Leverhulme Strategic Award on 'Tipping Points' and the AHRC network on the 'Ordered Universe' • increased contribution to the discipline through leadership roles within subject associations, learned societies, editorial positions, and through the establishment of the Durham-Newcastle ESRC North East Doctoral Training Centre <p>The Department has focused resources on distinctive institutional strengths, on areas of disciplinary importance, and where it has identified most potential for collaboration within and beyond the University and the academy, and it has maintained its commitment to outstanding individual research across the full range of its interests. The Department built research capacity in its existing specialisms in medieval and early modern Europe and north-east Africa, and more recently it has exploited considerable institutional investment in order to prioritise the history of China, economic and social history, and the cultural history of modern Europe.</p> <p><u>Developments in existing specialisms:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies lies at the heart of the deepening

interdisciplinary collaboration of medievalists and early modernists across the University and beyond. Led in part by members of the Department and building on a long tradition of distinguished scholarship, the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies became an Institute in 2010, and then merged in 2013 with the Centre for Seventeenth Century Studies to create IMEMS, bringing together around 60 scholars from the University's three faculties. With the aim of supporting the Institute's mission, the Department secured investment for appointments and library resources. **Small, Taylor** and **Wood** were recruited to strengthen leadership and, with **Barber, Clay** and **Foxhall Forbes** as early career lecturers, they bring the total number of historians in the field to 18. With the assistance of the IAS and external funders, the Department has attracted an increased number of fellows, visiting (Wrightson, Morrill, Duffy), senior research (Taylor, Wood), and postdoctoral (**Brown** and Coast). Durham's internationally-recognised manuscript and printed book collections have been enhanced by the purchase of major electronic editions (e.g., SPO, ECCO) and by the modern cataloguing of Ushaw College library (see section d). Departmental initiatives facilitated by IMEMS have led to important projects. The Institute's programme on the 'History of the Book', led by **Gameson**, provided the intellectual context for an exhibition marking the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels to the North East (see impact CS4). A related series of IMEMS seminars culminated in a conference on the production of Christian culture. Together with conferences on early modern Catholicism and intellectual networks in the 17th century, designed to emphasise the research potential of the Durham and Ushaw collections and organised by historians in IMEMS and the Centre for Catholic Studies, this brought together almost 300 scholars in July 2013.

2. North-east Africa: The activities of this group centre on the unique manuscript and printed sources on colonial Sudan and its surrounding territories held in the University Library. Since the Department's decision in 1998 to exploit these resources to develop a distinctive specialism in the Sudan and north-east Africa, Durham has become an international centre in this field. In the census period, it has obtained a succession of external grants and attracted a growing number of funded visiting fellows, from established scholars (Mamdani, Columbia University) and early career researchers (Rolandsen, Peace Research Institute, Oslo) to practitioners (Nicoll, Rift Valley Institute; Panozzo, now an EU political advisor in Juba). **Willis** and **Leonardi** have published major work on chiefship, local governance and elections. They have considerable success in winning doctoral studentships – currently two ESRC and three AHRC, as well as two CDAs, one with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2011–14) and one with KPMG (2012–15) – and undertake extensive engagement with government and international agencies (see CS1 and 3). Investment in a new post (**Vaughan**) in 2012 reflects this strong track record of publication, grant capture and public engagement.

New priorities since 2008:

The Department has taken advantage of institutional initiatives in order to extend the reach of its research. The Durham-Newcastle ESRC North East Doctoral Training Centre and **Michie's** participation in the IHRR Leverhulme-funded project on 'Tipping Points' have facilitated the renewal of the research area of economic and social history, with **Wood** appointed to a chair in early modern social history and **Luff** to a lectureship in US labour history. Six ESRC studentships since 2008, a post-doctoral fellowship for **Brown** on medieval English rural economic history and the recent award of two ESRC research grants further indicate sustainability in this sub-discipline. As an integral element in the University's establishment of cross-disciplinary Chinese Studies, based around its Oriental Museum and library collections, the Department obtained investment in a professorship and lectureship and new library resources in the history of China. Bailey, a specialist on gender and labour in China, also adds to the critical mass in economic and social history.

A determination to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration with the School of Modern Languages and Cultures (MLAC) and to take a leading role in the Centre for Visual Arts and Cultures (CVAC) led to the appointments in 2012–13 of **Jordanova** as Professor of History and Visual Culture and of **Stammers** and **Koranyi** as lecturers in modern European cultural history. This MLAC-CVAC initiative has already resulted in the award of an AHRC CDA (**Fox** with Long, MLAC, 2013) with the National Media Museum in Bradford.

Future strategic aims:

On the example of the state prayers project, the Department will increase collaborations in more of its research areas in order to address large and ambitious historical problems. Interdisciplinary collaborations in Durham will be pursued through IMEMS, CVAC and a new cross-faculty Centre

for Nineteenth Century Studies (CNCS). Through IMEMS, historians will help to reinvigorate Durham's periodic international seventeenth-century conference. This will become a biennial event, and, as with the 2013 conference on intellectual exchanges, it will create new opportunities for international collaboration and for postgraduate students, and assist in the preparation of externally-funded projects. **Gasper** will lead a project on the scientific works of Grosseteste, linking scholars across the arts and sciences in four institutions; **Wood** plans an ambitious interdisciplinary project on cities that transcends traditional chronological and geographical divides. The Department will diversify its expertise in visual cultures to aid cross-disciplinary research and will play a leading role (through **Jordanova** as co-director and **Fox** as steering committee member) in CVAC. Durham historians serve on the CNCS Advisory Board, are leading its 'research conversations' series and will contribute to the organisation of the 2015 'Connecting Disciplines in the Nineteenth Century' Conference. New partnerships will be forged: **Olechnowicz** will work with social scientists in the Wolfson Research Institute on a new history of British homelessness.

The value of Durham's outstanding special collections for historical research will be enhanced by a major institutional investment in Ushaw College, the former Roman Catholic seminary near Durham. This investment offers increased opportunities for new collaborations with Theology through the Centre for Catholic Studies. Building on the state prayers project, on **Taylor's** co-directorship of the Clergy of the Church of England Database and editorships of religious history series, and **Green's** work on probate records, the Department will develop the use of resources on Anglican and Catholic history in the University, Cathedral and Ushaw libraries for new collaborative work on religion in the British world.

The Department plans to increase its external funding for collaborations outside Durham in order to establish new posts, provide additional research time for its staff, bring more academic visitors for a larger number of research events, enhance the Department's international profile and involve more doctoral students in major projects. It has already secured a major grant from the ESRC for a project on elections and political behaviour in sub-Saharan Africa. Such successes will enable the Department to increase its research capacity in its areas of strength, starting with new appointments in the history of China and economic history planned for 2014. We expect further expansion of the Department with the appointment of a fourth historian of north-east Africa, while plans for the expansion of our postgraduate community have a broad and sustainable foundation in the ESRC DTC, the new Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership (NBDTP), and the University's commitment to provide further funding for doctoral studentships.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development are central to the implementation of the Department's research strategy in the following ways:

New appointments: Since 2008 the Department has reinforced existing strengths and developed new priority areas, with the effect that its full-time staff has grown by 24%. Its appointment strategy prioritises an ethos of collaboration across temporal, geographical and thematic divides, while maintaining a good balance between early career lecturers (11 posts, 2008–13) and academic leaders (5 professorships). In particular, three new professorships in medieval and early modern studies and in visual culture have extended the Department's leadership of interdisciplinary research through University institutes and centres. Existing strengths and new priorities have been developed especially through two early career appointments in each of the following areas: north-east African, early medieval and modern cultural history.

Early career researchers have a reduced teaching load (70% in the first year, rising to 90% in the third), and undertake administrative posts only after further workload allowances. The University's Certificate in Academic Practice provides new appointees with a broad understanding of the national and international research and funding environment and with specific training on postgraduate supervision and grant applications. A three-year Probation Agreement, approved by the Head of Department and the Faculty and reviewed annually, includes targets for publications and grant applications. Appointees are supported by regular discussions with their mentor. Post-doctoral research fellows and project RAs become full members of the Department, with office space, mentors, committee membership and access to research funds. They have the opportunity to undertake appropriate teaching in order to gain experience and enhance their career prospects. Our policies for early career researchers and post-doctoral fellows exceed the expectations of the national Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. The University was one of fifteen awarded the European Commission HR Excellence in Research Award. Where fixed-term

contracts are used to replace staff on externally-funded leave, the Department does not use teaching-only contracts and appoints to 12-month contracts in order to maximise paid research time for new entrants to the profession. All fixed-term appointees receive the same support as other academic staff, and are advised at an early stage whether a contract might be renewed. They receive career guidance and advice on applications: eight have moved to permanent lectureships at Durham and in other universities.

Staff development is facilitated through mentoring and Personal Research Plans (PRP) completed as part of the University's programme of annual staff review. All staff, from post-doctoral RAs to professors, have a research advisor, with whom they have scheduled quarterly meetings to discuss research priorities, draft publications, funding applications and engagement. These discussions inform the individual five-year rolling plan set out in the PRP which specifies aims and identifies training needs, some of which are met by the University's Centre for Academic and Researcher Development (CARD). Advisors are experienced staff (not necessarily professors) who share good practice and inform strategy through a dedicated sub-committee that reports to the Head of Department. A workload allowance protects advisors' research time. Applications for internal research funds are competitively assessed within the Department, and are regarded as valuable preparation for external grant applications, which are assisted by rigorous peer-review evaluation in the Faculty. Staff benefit from an annual departmental programme of development workshops every three weeks in term, often facilitated by external experts. Recent sessions have included large collaborative grant applications, non-academic partnerships and publication in leading journals. Monthly 'work in progress' seminars provide opportunities for the development of publications and grant applications, as well as cross-departmental exchanges. In addition, there is a rich programme of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research seminars, providing fora for staff to interact with leading historians and other scholars from Britain, Europe and the US and with audiences from across the North East.

Workloads and research leave: A workload model allocates 50% of time for research activities. During term, teaching arrangements reserve one day a week for research. Staff apply for one term's research leave in every seven, specifying objectives for research, impact, publications and/or grant proposals. The applications and subsequent reports are reviewed by the Department's Research Committee and approved by Faculty officers. Leave is used strategically: by agreement with the Head of Department and Director of Research, it may be accelerated, accumulated or delayed in order to assist particular projects or to supplement externally-funded fellowships. This practice has facilitated the completion of major projects in the census period (**Liddy** on the bishopric of Durham in the late middle ages, **Scales** on German identity in the 13th–15th centuries, and **Mears** (with **Taylor** and **Williamson**) on national prayers and special worship since the Reformation).

Career progression is supported by the advisory system within the Department. The University has demanding criteria for probation and promotion, with significant research components. For promotion, the expectations include publications of international excellence, ability to win competitive funding, doctoral supervision, public engagement, evidence of research leadership and contributions to the wider discipline. Advice on promotion, including detailed commentary and debriefing on applications, is provided by the Head of Department in consultation with the head of Faculty. The Department has a good record of career progression: since 2008, 10 staff have been promoted to senior lectureships, two to readerships and four to professorships.

Equality and diversity: The University's Diversity and Equality Policy requires all departments to meet the standards of the Athena SWAN Charter, and it participates in the Stonewall Diversity Champion programme. The Department has joined the University's pilot programme in preparation for accreditation for the Equality Challenge Unit gender equality charter mark in 2014. Training in equality and diversity is provided for all engaged in recruitment. The Department arranges additional support for those returning from paternity and maternity leave, ensuring the opportunity to re-establish themselves as researchers before undertaking a major administrative role, and providing an experienced mentor to offer appropriate guidance. It has helped to address the gender imbalance within the discipline by encouraging female applicants for all research positions. 43% of its postgraduates during the census period have been women. From 2008 to 2013 the proportion of female staff has increased from 20% to 25%, among whom there are now two professors (none in 2008) and four senior lecturers (two in 2008). The Department has supported its senior female staff in taking on prominent positions within the discipline (see section e).

Exchanges: The Department facilitates the secondment of staff to non-HEI organisations, benefiting its research culture and leading to impact case studies. Since 2008 three members of staff have worked with the British Institute in East Africa (**Willis**, 2006–9), the Rift Valley Institute and US Institute for Peace (**Leonardi**, 2009–10), and Durham Cathedral Library (**Gameson**, 2013–15).

ii. Research students

Recruitment, studentships and equal opportunities: The Department has two studentships per annum under the AHRC BGP1 scheme, and can bid for studentships from the ESRC North East Doctoral Training Centre and from a University doctoral scheme. In 2008–13, 9 doctoral students have been funded by the AHRC (one attached to the ‘British state prayers’ project), 6 by the ESRC, and 4 through University studentships. The Department has also secured three collaborative doctoral awards and allocated funds from its ‘History of the Book’ initiative to provide a doctoral studentship. Many students are attracted from other universities in the UK; others from the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, the Republic of Ireland, Cyprus, Spain and Finland. Durham’s successful application for a BGP2 award in the NBDTP with Newcastle and Queen’s Belfast includes 157 full studentships over a 5 year period. As part of the NBDTP, the University is funding 60 new studentships, available only to Durham arts and humanities students. These are in addition to the existing Durham Doctoral Studentship scheme, which funds 10 PhDs annually at RCUK rates.

Monitoring and support: The University’s commitment to postgraduate support is demonstrated by its £1.8m investment in a new Postgraduate Centre for Arts and Humanities, with state-of-the-art IT facilities. Postgraduate research students also benefit from dedicated workspace within the Department, and a substantial fund for research trips and conference attendance (over 10% of the Department’s non-staff budget) is administered by its Higher Degrees Committee. Inter-library loans are fully subsidised, and library acquisitions are responsive to student requests. Supervision and monitoring are conducted according to the national Researcher Development Framework and the QAA Code of Practice. Prospective supervisors work closely with applicants for doctoral places, commenting on research proposals in order to maximise their prospects for funding and to ensure that they begin with robust and realistic projects. All students have two supervisors; both comment on drafts and approve submission of the thesis. A record of each supervision is kept, and student and supervisors agree appropriate targets. The University requires reports from both student and the lead supervisor which, along with a substantial piece of written work, form the basis of review meetings (at 9, 21 and 33 months, appropriately adjusted for part-time students) conducted by two independent members of staff with the student. This monitoring is overseen by the Department’s Director of Postgraduate Studies and the Faculty, while pastoral support within the Department is complemented by a tutorial system in the University’s colleges, of which all students are members. Successful PhD completions have risen from 22.9 for 2001–7 to 27.8 for the shorter period 2008–13.

Skills and career development: Since 2008 Durham doctoral students have obtained postdoctoral positions at the Institute of Historical Research and lectureships or fellowships in numerous universities or other research institutions, including Cambridge, Galway, Liverpool, Oxford, University College Dublin, the National Archives, Historic Royal Palaces and the ESRC, as well as at Durham. Their success reflects the Department’s support for them as early career researchers and the training provided for careers in higher education and related fields. The University’s Centre for Academic and Researcher Development offers provision in generic skills, including research methods, presentation and thesis preparation, while the ESRC DTC supplies a range of specialist modules including quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The Faculty offers training in ancient and foreign languages, while IMEMS provides specialist courses in palaeography and codicology. A highly-successful annual Latin and Palaeography summer school, run in co-operation with the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies (Toronto), attracts students from across the United Kingdom. In the Department, an induction programme is followed by a series of student-organised workshops: in 2013, these focused on publication, securing a lectureship and public engagement. An annual ‘Training Needs Analysis’, completed by students in consultation with their supervisors, ensures that every student follows a programme tailored to their individual needs. Students who wish to acquire teaching experience are supported first by a programme of professional teaching development provided by the Department and University, after which appropriate opportunities are offered to them, initially as members of a module team. Other opportunities to develop their skills

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are available: as the Department's assistant web officer, producing the Department's alumni magazine, assisting in the organisation of History Lab North East. Department and Faculty funds facilitate international exchanges and collaborations, including regular joint staff and student delegations to the International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo and two staff-student conferences with exchange partners at Duke University. Students have been mentored in making successful small grant applications to such bodies as the Royal Historical Society and the Economic History Society, and in the publication of articles; they have regularly contributed to panel sessions organised by members of staff, and have assisted in the organisation of international conferences. Two of these conferences led to volumes of essays edited by student and supervisor on peace and protection in the middle ages and on economy and society in north-east England, 1500–1800, providing editorial training and knowledge of publication practices. In addition to the CDAs with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, KPMG and the National Media Museum, wider professional experience has been acquired through secondments outside the HE sector, including the Scottish Governance and Communities Directorate. Further opportunities will be available with our partner institutions in BGP2.

Culture and community: Doctoral students participate in the various seminars of the Department, research centres and institutes, developing cross-disciplinary links as well as their skills as historians. This culture is enhanced by workshops and master-classes from visiting academics, including Taylor (while IAS fellow, 2011) on publication strategies and John Morrill (Cambridge) in 2013 on research grants and research methodologies. Wood convened an early modern reading group while an IAS fellow in 2012. Wrightson (Yale), an honorary professor, is a regular contributor to early modernist summer sessions. The vibrancy of the postgraduate community is demonstrated by its range of independent student-led organisations and events. Historians are prominent as officers and participants in IMEMS's Medieval and Early Modern Student Association, running seminars, reading groups and an annual conference. In summer 2013 three postgraduate conferences took place in Durham: 'The Mutilated body' (MEMSA), 'Obedience and resistance since 1450', and (with eminent outside speakers, part-funded by the EchS) 'Coping with economic and social crises'. Such events connect our students to the wider historical community.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income: Since 2008 the Department has been successful in securing external grants from a wider range of national and international funding bodies, in ways which have reinforced its identified areas of research strength. In medieval and early modern history, collaboration across temporal divides resulted in the project on 'British state prayers, fasts and thanksgivings, 1540s to 1940' (£321,000 and PhD studentship, AHRC: **Williamson, Mears**, with Taylor while at Reading University). Further awards have included two senior Leverhulme fellowships (£129,339, Rollason, and £129,941, **Brooks**), the latter to complete volume 8 of the *Oxford History of the Laws of England* (1625–89), AHRC network grants (**Gasper, Osborne**), a Leverhulme post-doctoral fellowship (Coast, sponsored by **Barber**) and British Academy grants (**Clay, Foxhall Forbes, Liddy, McClive, Mears**). The north-east African historians have won grants from the European Commission and a Leverhulme fellowship (both **Leonardi**), a Leverhulme visiting fellowship (Pannozzo), an EU COFUND Fellowship (Rolandsen, sponsored by **Leonardi**), and British Academy grants (**Willis, Leonardi**). **Willis's** recent ESRC award (as PI, £639,887) demonstrates the potential of this field of research to contribute to the growth of the Department's research income during the next census period. Improved support for grant applications at departmental, faculty and university level (through seed-corn funding and workload reduction, and the facilitation of interdisciplinary research 'conversations') contributed to Michie's involvement in 'Tipping Points' (£150,885, Leverhulme Trust).

The Department has significantly increased its non-RCUK income, both ensuring the sustainability of its research activity and enhancing its international profile. Staff have won grants from 13 non-RCUK sources since 2008, enabling the development and completion of research projects and assisting in the external impact of the Department's research (see REF3a). New projects have been facilitated through prestigious fellowships at the Huntington Library, California (**Brooks**), Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University (**Fox**), European Institute for Advanced Study, Lyon (**McClive**), Max-Weber Kollegium, Erfurt (**Reinhardt**), Humboldt and Dresden Universities (**Schiller**), the Folger Library (**Barber**), and the Humanities Research Center, University of Texas (**Taylor**). Such fellowships encouraged increased international collaboration

and grant capture: **Gasper's** fellowship at the University of Oslo led to a major award in 2013 from the Norwegian Research Council (£114,627) on religion and money in the middle ages; **Leonardi's** contract (£25,000) from the Rift Valley Institute/US Institute of Peace extended her previous research on chiefship, community and state and benefited international policy-makers and NGOs (see CS3). A legacy of £80,000 has enabled the secondment of **Gameson** to catalogue Durham Cathedral's manuscript books. Further substantial donations to the Department's 'History of the Book' initiative (a fund of £320,000) have not only supported public lectures, travel, library purchases and a doctoral studentship, but have also enabled the development of the 'Durham Illuminations' project to record, study and present Durham's illuminated manuscripts in forms appropriate both to the scholarly community and to the general public.

Scholarly infrastructure: The University Library provides access to over 300 online databases and 17,500 electronic journals. It has an annual resources budget of c.£3.3m, and during 2009–11 a further £1.5m was invested in electronic collections. The main Library buildings have recently undergone a 42% expansion in size, enabling more of its 1.6m book stock to be openly accessible. Working with the liaison librarian, the Department's Research Committee and its Library Officer have strategically deployed funds to acquire online and microfilm resources to sustain and expand its research profile, from *Early English Books Online* and *State Papers Online* to *Nineteenth-Century British Newspapers* and *Mass-Observation Online*. Archives and special book collections located in Durham offer the Department's historians an unusually rich and diverse resource, attract scholars from across the world, provide materials for a wide range of collaborations, and support the work of its doctoral students. Durham Cathedral Muniments and Library include the largest surviving Benedictine archive and library of any English cathedral, with manuscripts dating from the sixth century. These materials lay at the heart of **Gameson's** research on the history of the book, and informed the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition (see CS4). The University's Archives and Special Collections and the Library of Ushaw College have particular strengths in later medieval vernacular works and later medieval service and liturgical books and hold internationally-significant incunabula, book collections, rare pamphlets and archives from the 16th to the 19th centuries. John Cosin's Library, an MLA-designated collection, is the earliest surviving episcopal library still preserved in its original setting, bringing together over 5,000 titles on theology, liturgy and canon law and over 600 foreign 16th century texts (including French religious texts not found in the Bibliothèque Nationale). **Green** advised on the restoration of the Library, and its collection forms the basis of his new book on Cosin. The episcopal and capitular records are used extensively by **Barber, Green, Taylor** and **Wood**. **Green** is developing a new project using Durham's probate records. Durham's collections informed three major historical works published since 2008 and included in REF2: **Liddy** on the bishopric of Durham, **Williamson**, Taylor and **Mears** on British state prayers since the Reformation, and **Wood** on custom and popular memory (completed while an IAS Fellow). The University Library's Sudan Archive, designated as an outstanding collection for the study of colonial Sudan and its bordering states by the MLA, underpins the research of **Leonardi, Vaughan** and **Willis** on north-east Africa. It has attracted five funded visiting and post-doctoral fellowships, and has been a rich source for doctoral students (10 since 2008).

Organisational and operational infrastructure: As noted in section b, the Department has received substantial recent investment from the University and Faculty in its strategic research areas, with new posts in medieval, north-east African and modern cultural history, and new professorships in early modern religious history, early modern social history and visual arts and culture. These initiatives have stimulated the development of projects on European composite polities 1300–1800, manuscript news in early modern Europe and Sudan's borderlands. These are being prepared with the assistance of University grant and impact 'seed-corn' funding of £500,000 p.a. and through the University research institutes. The Department's Research Committee and the Faculty offer funds for individual research and for conference travel. The Research Office organises academic liaison groups for the AHRC and other funding councils and co-ordinates internal research conversations on strategic calls for large grant applications.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Collaboration is increasingly important in the Department's strategy, as shown in the growing number of exchanges, networks and projects involving colleagues in the UK and abroad. Staff are leading both innovative partnerships that reach well beyond the profession, and projects that are creating authoritative reference works for the discipline. These collaborations will contribute to the vitality and sustainability of the Department during the next REF cycle. Through the Rift Valley

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Institute, **Willis**, **Leonardi** and **Vaughan** are collaborating with academic and non-academic experts in law, politics, war studies and anthropology (see CS1 and 3). This long-standing collaboration has led to a recent project with the Peace Research Institute, Oslo on 'The dynamics of state failure and violence' (2012–15). The AHRC-funded project on British state prayers (**Mears**, **Williamson**, Taylor, Raffe) has produced the first of a three-volume critical edition (c. 3,000 pages in total) that will be of lasting value to scholars of religion in early modern and modern Britain and the British World.

New ventures have often developed from existing collaborations. **Mears's** work on the State Prayers project led to her participation with theologians from Durham and Cambridge in an AHRC-network on early modern worship, resulting in two volumes of essays. The IAS visiting fellowship scheme has been used to further collaborative initiatives: the State Prayers project was supported by a fellowship for Taylor (then at Reading); a fellowship for Wood (then at UEA) has led to a seed-corn project involving archaeologists, historians and heritage bodies to create a 3D-visualisation of early modern Durham.

Twenty members of staff are involved in formal international networks outside Durham and have been integral to the organisation of major conferences in Cambridge, Kent and London, in Oslo, Copenhagen and Boulogne/Ypres, and in Kenya and China. These activities reflect the leading research strengths of the Department. Medieval and early modern historians participate in funded European research networks on themes from early medieval monasticism through political culture in Byzantium, Islam and the Medieval West, and national histories in the middle ages, to the global trajectory of murder and genocide, based at institutions from the Instituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea to the Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt. Cultural identity has been the focus of interdisciplinary collaboration for modern Europeanists, in networks on 'Relating identities', 'imaginaires culturelles', and 'Victorian persistence'. All have led to publications and many to essay collections; in total, across the Department collaborations with national and international colleagues have produced 18 edited volumes, exploring current research on major themes within the discipline.

The Department encourages staff to assist the development and management of research initiatives elsewhere. Several serve on advisory boards for major funded projects: 'Who were the nuns?' at the Centre for Dissenting Studies, Dr Williams' Library, Queen Mary, and the 'personal union' between Britain and Hanover at the University of Göttingen (both **Taylor**); the hearth tax project (**Green**) and England's migrants, 1330–1550 (**Liddy** and **Scales**), both at York; and 'historical pageants in Britain 1905–2016' (**Williamson**). **Willis** served on the project management committee for 'Creating' funded by the European Union's FP7 for Research, 2007–9. This work extends to non-HEI partners: **Gameson** advised the British Library on the conservation and display of the St Cuthbert gospel and its project team for the royal manuscripts exhibition.

New collaborations that have emerged towards the end of the census period reflect the Department's strategic priorities. Many will extend its commitment to research that crosses chronological and geographical boundaries and benefits from partnership with non-academic bodies. **Osborne** is the PI for an AHRC network on the language of diplomacy in the early modern and modern worlds involving academics across Europe, the heritage sector and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; **Barber** is leading a project on the nature of citizenship in Europe from the middle ages to the present (with **Liddy**, **Reinhardt** and **Fox**); **Gasper** is co-leader with the Museum of Cultural History, Oslo, of a project on the medieval church and money.

Contribution to the discipline

The Department encourages staff to participate in national and international research bodies, and regards commitment to the academic assessment of research through peer review as central to its contribution to scholarship. Such activities are discussed in annual staff review and are a criterion in assessing promotion. They further the Department's commitment to inter- and intra-disciplinary engagement through serving, contributing to and shaping the wider field. They also stimulate collaboration and enhance the research environment for staff and PGRs. This activity takes place in five key areas:

Involvement in *learned societies and subject associations* contributes to the sustainability of the discipline and its sub-disciplines, through activities such as influencing national policy and supporting early career researchers. Three staff serve on the Council of the Royal Historical Society; two, as officers, on all its policy committees. **Fox** as communications director is playing a leading role in re-designing its website and newsletter and developing a new media strategy;

Taylor as academic editor has implemented the conversion of its Bibliography of British and Irish History into a subscription service, now adopted by most UK universities and many overseas. **Schiller** is on the steering committee of History UK. Durham's historians are members of the councils and committees of 13 national and international societies, sustaining sub-disciplines ranging across ecclesiastical, agricultural, medical, media and regional history. **Bailey** serves on the executive council, British Universities China Committee; **Willis** and **Leonardi** on the governing council of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA). While seconded as BIEA director in Nairobi, 2006–9, **Willis** oversaw the construction of a new office and library building, which serves scholars in the humanities and social sciences, and he had a leading part in founding the BIEA periodical, the *Journal of East African Studies*, which has a growing international reputation.

Durham historians play a prominent role in *peer review*, ensuring the rigour and significance of new historical research. Over two-thirds of the Department regularly provide peer review of books for major publishers, and for all leading British and numerous international journals in their fields of expertise. Many also support academic publishing through service on the boards of 30 journals, record series, and book series from *English Historical Review* to the *Surtees Society*, and from *European History Quarterly* to *Medical History*. This commitment to the enhancement of the quality of scholarship is also demonstrated in their contribution to the work of the funding councils. Sixteen Durham staff have been assessors for applications to the principal British funding bodies and for the Canadian SSHRC, Norwegian Research Council, the Council for the Humanities of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, EURIAS and the FWF (Austrian Science Fund). Four staff have been AHRC peer review college members; three have served as AHRC panels members; one is a member of its strategic reviewers group.

Leadership in *editorial positions* contributes to the shaping of the discipline and sub-disciplines, creating the framework for current and future research. During the census period, staff have edited or co-edited six journals, including the *Journal of African History*. As co-editor of *French History* since 2009, **Wright** led initiatives to encourage early career researchers through a new essay prize and the provision of funds to assist doctoral students. Editorship of monograph and record series ensures the publication of high quality and significant work in specialist areas (e.g. *Church of England Record Society*, 6 vols 2008–13), while also providing particular support for early career researchers. **Taylor** is founding editor and co-editor of both 'Studies in Modern British Religious History' (14 volumes since 2008) and, with **Wood**, 'Studies in Early Modern Cultural, Political and Social History' (13 volumes 2008–13). Both of these Boydell series have been notable for publishing first monographs by leading young historians.

New historical research benefits from exposure to different approaches and ideas; Durham's historians have enriched their own work and that of others by organising and participating in various *national and international exchanges*. The Department hosted scholars at 15 international conferences, including three conferences on Sudanese borderlands and emerging states in Africa (2011–13) and three medieval and early modern Durham conferences in 2013. Its contribution has been recognised in the delivery of over 100 keynote, invited, or public lectures in the UK (including Oxford, Cambridge, Courtauld Institute, Institute of Historical Research, Lambeth Palace Library, Cheltenham Literary Festival) and in 20 other countries (including at Yale, Harvard, Princeton, ANU, Paris I and IV, Zhejiang), and in **Schiller's** 2010 awards (with C. Young, Cambridge) from both the North American Society for Sport History and British Society of Sports History.

The Department undertakes work essential to the future of the discipline by examining doctoral theses and providing advice to, and networking opportunities for, *early career researchers*. Staff have acted as external examiners for 38 theses in 26 universities including York University (Toronto), Paris III and the University of Queensland. Their experience has been drawn upon to enhance postgraduate training and support well beyond Durham. Three colleagues have contributed to the development of Epigeum's suite of online training resources. Others have convened seminars and master-classes for doctoral programmes: **Jordanova** at Bielefeld; **Fox** for the International Association of Media and History; **Willis** at the University of Khartoum; and **Taylor** at Göttingen University.

These activities are central to the Department's research strategy: they not only enhance the work of its own staff, postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate students, but are important to the collaborative enterprise of maintaining the vitality and diversity of the discipline, nationally and internationally.