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| <p>Institution: University of Wolverhampton</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: History</p> |
| <p>a. Overview</p> <p>Since 2008 the University of Wolverhampton has undertaken a major structural reorganisation, which has had a significant impact on the History Unit of Assessment (UoA). Among the changes has been the creation of a new Centre for Historical Research (CHR), tasked with consolidating existing research strengths and developing new fields of inquiry. The CHR is headed by a management group (chaired by a professor) that meets monthly and liaises with other university research committees. Its role, more specifically, is to strengthen our RAE 2008 score of 5/25/50/20, by encouraging high quality research and dissemination. To this end it guides and monitors the research activities of all members of staff who are engaged in historical research (including the 16 category A staff submitted in the current REF) and provides financial support as appropriate. Since 2008 members of the CHR have published 18 research monographs, 58 journal articles, 11 edited volumes and 46 chapters: a total of 133 outputs, whilst external income since 2008 has exceeded £350,000.</p> |
| <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>RAE 2008 Research Plans</p> <p>Through the CHR we continue to pursue the strategy set out in the plans submitted in RAE 2008, with a particular emphasis on the consolidation and enhancement of staff expertise. While changing staff interests and circumstances have resulted in some inevitable realignment of research priorities, the results of the strategy can be seen in the progress made both with the plans described in the last RAE and with others developed since 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Conflict History: Research in military history has produced publications (including 6 monographs and 2 edited collections); obtained external funding of c. £85K (from e.g. AHRC and EU); organised research seminars; and achieved impact via consultancy, public engagement and policy making (e.g. BBC, Ministry of Defence, Japanese Department of Defence, US Army Combined Arms Centre, Fort Leavenworth, US, Airborne and Special Operations Museum, Fort Bragg, US and Battlefields Trust). Researchers specialising in terrorism and conflict resolution have produced publications (including 3 monographs, 17 refereed articles and 2 edited collections); organised 3 international workshops; obtained external funding of c. £150K (from e.g. Leverhulme Trust, EU and British Academy); and achieved impact via public services and policy making (e.g. Ministry of Public Order, Athens and West Midlands Counter-Terrorism Unit).</p> <p>• Retailing and Distribution History: The long-established initiative in retailing and distribution history, CHORD, has produced publications (including 2 edited collections and 2 special issues of peer-reviewed journals); obtained external funding (from e.g. British Academy and Wellcome Trust); organised a programme of colloquia, workshops and annual international conferences; and achieved impact via commercial consultancy and work with museums and archives (such as Walsall Museum and the Marks & Spencer Company Archive).</p> <p>• Class, Gender and Biography: Scholars working in these areas have produced a range of publications (including 3 monographs, 13 refereed articles and 3 edited collections); obtained external funding of c. £60K (from e.g. AHRC and British Academy); organised 2 conferences and 2 workshops and set up a research network; and achieved impact via public engagement with a range of bodies and organisations (e.g. BBC Learning Zone, History and Policy and North Wales Miners' Association Trust). A long-term international project on labour biography (established in 1972) has produced a new volume (XIII) of the <i>Dictionary of Labour Biography</i> (2010); organised 2 workshops and 3 panels at international conferences; and achieved impact on archives, museums, family history societies and the trade union movement (e.g. People's History Museum, Manchester, Working Class Movement Library, Salford and Modern Records Centre, Warwick).</p> <p>• German and Migration History: Staff working in this field have produced publications</p> |

(including 2 monographs and 2 edited books); obtained external funding (from e.g. British Academy); organised 2 international multidisciplinary conferences; and achieved impact on education and public services through consultancy (e.g. for Brandenburgische Landeszentrale fuer politische Bildung and Integrationsbeauftragte des Landes Brandenburg).

- **Child Forced Labour:** This large-scale research project has produced publications (including a monograph and an edited collection); obtained external funding of c. £200K (from e.g. AHRC, British Academy and Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft); organised 2 international multidisciplinary conferences in Salzburg and London; and achieved impact on public services and policy-making (e.g. United Nations).

Plans and Aspirations

Our aim over the next five years is to maintain the vitality and sustainability of History research, by enhancing existing expertise and developing new research projects. Through the CHR we will continue to provide staff with opportunities to pursue their research individually and collaboratively, both with colleagues from the University of Wolverhampton and with those from other universities, institutions and networks both domestically and internationally.

Following detailed discussions with members of the UoA, we have identified a set of key priorities. As well as consolidating our research in retailing history, military history, terrorism/conflict resolution and labour/social history, we will develop research in the following areas:

- **The First World War:** The recently-appointed chair in Military History (Sheffield) will play a leading role in the establishment of a new Centre for First World War Studies, the validation of a new MA in First World War Studies and the organisation of seminars and international conferences.

- **War and its aftermath:** This will involve new research projects on British occupation policy in Germany and post-war humanitarian assistance.

- **Generations, Cultures and Consumption:** This will involve new projects on labour biography, youth, fatherhood, popular culture, and consumption in country houses.

In order to achieve these objectives we have:

- developed a staffing strategy designed to ensure the long-term viability of historical research, by planning, so far as possible, for the appointment of new researchers (Jones) to replace staff who have retired and to strengthen research capacity and the quality of outputs.

- developed plans for enlarging and strengthening the postgraduate research community through the new MA programmes and doctoral studentships.

- reinforced the income strategy so as to build on the success in this REF period, which has seen external income maintain an upward trajectory through successful grant applications.

- recognised the importance of collaboration in fostering a lively and stimulating research environment, in which staff, postgraduate students and honorary researchers are fully integrated through a system of mentoring, workshops and seminars.

Support for Inter-disciplinary and Collaborative Research

We have encouraged staff involvement in collaborative research by hosting workshops, conferences and other events that have acted as international fora for the dissemination of research. Colleagues have organised events in conjunction with bodies such as the Marks and Spencer Company Archive, the Falstad Centre, Norway, and The Subcultures Network; generated income for collaborative projects (with e.g. Walsall Museum); and produced collaborative research outputs (e.g. 2 journal special issues and 2 conference proceedings). We already have a number of collaborative projects planned for 2014-20, placing particular emphasis on involving institutions and organisations beyond the higher education sector. These include research with the University of Salzburg on Children and War; with the Imperial War Museum, Birkbeck College and Royal Holloway on Survivors of Nazi Persecution; with the National Trust on textiles in country houses; and with Western Front Associations on First World War commemoration.

c. People

i. Staffing Strategy and Staff Development

History staff have the opportunity to develop their skills and experience, with strategies in place to foster and monitor progression at all stages of their careers. All staff benefit from a School-wide mentoring scheme and from rigorous School-level annual appraisal. Staff also submit biannual 'Research Activity Forms' to the CHR management committee, covering their progress in such areas as publications, external funding applications, postgraduate supervision, impact and other research activities. This in turn informs annual appraisal. The CHR has also established reading panels to support external funding applications and provide advice on publication.

- Early career researchers are supported at CHR, School and University level. During the first year of their appointment, they receive a reduced teaching load, are mentored by senior staff in developing a coherent research strategy and are encouraged to apply for funds managed by the CHR which support such activities as delivering papers at national and international conferences. Members of the UoA have also applied successfully for the competitively allocated University-wide Early Researcher Awards. These provide mentoring and financial assistance to staff within five years of completing their doctorate in order to bring to fruition a new piece of research.

- The School sabbatical programme is open to all staff, with a maximum of one semester-long sabbatical per person, per REF cycle. All History staff submitted to this REF have been awarded such a sabbatical since 2008. The CHR also manages a 'top-up' sabbatical support scheme, which has enabled 4 staff members to complete large-scale research projects by extending their sabbaticals to a full academic year.

- Procedures for career progression are clear and transparent. Our commitment to this can be seen in the appointment of 4 postgraduates and post-doctoral staff to part-time, fixed-term posts, to enable them to complete on-going research projects. All research-active staff are allocated a reduction in teaching hours in order to undertake their research. They can also apply to the School's External Income Generation Funds Programme, which provides financial support to aid the preparation of applications for external funding. The University-wide annual readership and professorship schemes are open to all members of staff with the requisite records of publication and research activities. Since 2008 2 members of the UoA have been promoted from Reader to Professor, 1 from Senior Lecturer to Reader and 1 from Senior Research Fellow to Reader.

- The University is committed to equal opportunities, for which it has in place a range of policies and strategies (co-ordinated by its Equality and Diversity Joint Committee). The staff recruitment process is open and rigorous. History staff come from a variety of socio-economic and educational backgrounds, including individuals from a range of countries including Italy, Germany, Greece and the United States (c.33 per cent of FTE staff are non-British). We are represented on the University's Women in Research group, and are engaged in a long-standing collaboration with the University's Black and Ethnic Minorities Experience project. The CHR continues to support equality and diversity by promoting flexible working, maternity/paternity and carers' leave, and providing facilities for the integration of part-time and honorary staff (by the allocation of appropriate financial, material and sabbatical support).

- We also seek to stimulate and facilitate exchanges between academia and a range of public bodies. In 2009, we established a working group with the aim of fostering such relationships in order to maximise the impact of staff research. Since then, we have worked with the National Trust and with Walsall Museum, have run study days focusing on best practice in the care of historic textiles in museums and country houses and organised annual research study days for the Ministry of Defence as part of the Armed Forces degree programme.

ii Research Students

Although small, our postgraduate community plays a full role in the research culture of both the School and the University, contributing, for example, to seminar programmes, selected undergraduate teaching and conferences.

- As the University is not a recipient of the research councils' block-grant research

studentship funds, we have sought alternative sources to fund postgraduate studentships: in 2011 and 2013 we were awarded two studentships in University-wide competitions, while in 2012 we were granted an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award in conjunction with Walsall Museum. In addition, we have an established record of attracting self-funding and part-time postgraduate students, who combine research with employment.

- The postgraduate student recruitment process is open and rigorous, and all members of recruitment panels are briefed on equal opportunities, which has resulted in a diverse student community in terms of gender, age and socio-economic background. Since 2008, we have supervised 8 PhD and 3 MPhil students to completion and on the REF census date there were 7 full-time and 13 part-time students studying towards a research degree. Despite these achievements, the growth of a larger community of externally-funded postgraduate students remains a priority, and is central to our post-2014 strategy.

- History postgraduate students have access to a support network underpinned by equal opportunities and diversity policies which guides them through each stage of their programme of research, from induction to post-award career advice. Such support is managed at two levels: the University offers generic programmes designed to meet the requirements of all postgraduate courses, including training in research ethics, intellectual property and copyright issues, as well as in electronic and on-line research tools. For History students this provision is complemented by discipline-specific support, which includes local induction, a training programme that focuses on issues such as history research methodologies, the requirements of the thesis and the viva examination. There are also sessions on teaching, preparing conference papers, publishing and career development. In addition, students have the support of a School Postgraduate Tutor, who oversees the organisation of regular School-wide postgraduate workshops and provides additional advice and pastoral guidance. History postgraduate students' office accommodation is provided in the centre of the Wolverhampton City Campus, in the same building as staff. All postgraduate students have access to computers and related facilities and staff social spaces. There is a postgraduate research budget that supports scholarly activities such as conference attendance and research visits.

d. Income, Infrastructure and Facilities

Income

Since 2008 we have acted as paid consultants for academic publishers and organisations such as the BBC, the Libertine Advertising Agency and the Japanese Ministry of Defence. We have also attracted financial support from major UK funding bodies and comparable international organisations. For example, Steinert's research on young forced labour in National Socialist Germany and German Occupied Eastern Europe between 1939 and 1945 has been supported by grants with a total value of over £200K from the AHRC, the British Academy, the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Düsseldorf and the Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft, Berlin. Kassimeris's work on Greek terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism has secured grants with a total value of over £80K from the Leverhulme Trust, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Smith Richardson Foundation, the Nuffield Foundation and the British Academy. Buckley and Steinert have been awarded AHRC Fellowships and Ugolini and Ponsonby have secured an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award, with a combined value of almost £200K. Buckley and O'Kane have also been awarded over £70K to hold workshops on conflict resolution at the Falstad Centre, Norway, as part of the EU-wide Leonardo Programme, while Kassimeris has been awarded more than £40K by the same programme for a project on 'Why People Riot? Causes, Realities, Ways Forward'.

We have also been successful in attracting funding to support conferences and other events. The work of CHORD has been funded by grants from commercial sources, the British Academy, the Royal Historical Society, the Economic History Society, the Pasold Research Fund, the Wellcome Trust and the Design History Society; while the joint conferences organised with the Imperial War Museum on 'Beyond Camps and Forced Labour' have received support from bodies that include the German Embassy, the Austrian Cultural Forum and Renovabis.

Scholarly Infrastructure

We host a number of open access specialist scholarly archival collections that support research both within the University and beyond. The Dictionary of Labour Biography Archive contains files on 950 individuals and organisations linked to trade unions, socialist organisations and Labour Members of Parliament. The collection is consulted by academics, journalists and local, community and family historians. The Dictionary of Traded Goods and Commodities Archive includes files on the entries for more than 4000 terms used to label and describe traded goods in early modern England. The New Model Army Database is an extensive resource archive, which includes details of officers who fought for Parliament in conflicts between 1642 and 1660. The Gloucester Port Book Database, now lodged in the ESRC data archive at the University of Essex, is used extensively by academics, museum staff and family historians. We also hold an archive of over 50 interviews with British Army veterans of the Second World War. These archival collections underpin the research of a number of History staff and have led to a range of outputs and evidence of impact beyond the higher education sector.

Organisational Infrastructure

The University has recently created a Research Hub, bringing together the Research Policy Unit and the Project Support Office. This facility, overseen by a Dean of Research, has been designed to maximise interaction between research students, staff and support services. It provides support for established researchers and an environment to mentor and support early career researchers. Given the university's strategic move in supporting research through particular organisational developments, the CHR has also refocused aspects of its operational structure. In 2008, it reorganised the UoA into two 'clusters' designed to reflect developing staff interests and research agendas. These clusters administer funds, co-ordinate and manage collaborative projects, and support the organisation of conferences and other events.

- The **Conflict and Peace** cluster is led by Buckley, who represents it on the CHR's management committee. Focusing upon military history, humanitarian aspects of war and peace, terrorism and conflict resolution, it has been strengthened recently by the University's strategic investment in an appointment to a new post of a Professor of War Studies (Sheffield), who will act as a focal point for research on the centenary of the First World War and the establishment of a new Centre for First World War Studies. The cluster oversees initiatives that include the 'Beyond Camps and Forced Labour' and the 'Children and War: Past and Present' conferences and related projects.

- The **Consumption, Identity and Class** cluster is led by Ponsonby, who represents it on the CHR's management committee. Focusing on retail and consumption history, labour history, class, culture and social change, it oversees events such as the annual CHORD conferences and related workshops, symposia and seminars, which since 1998 have acted as the international focal point for new research into retailing and distribution history. The cluster also superintends the *Dictionary of Labour Biography*, the thirteen-volume series published since 1972, which brings together work by researchers in Britain, Europe, the United States and Australia. Based within the UoA since 2008, volumes 14 and 15 are at the planning stage for publication post-2014.

Operational Infrastructure

Our research is supported across the University in a variety of ways. A dedicated team of School administrators are responsible for discrete areas of its activities, such as finance, postgraduate students and event organisation. The University's Research Hub supports and administers funding applications and awards, while technical staff, at both University and School levels, provide technical and IT support, including data management and archival facilities.

Strategy

The CHR is responsible for making strategic decisions regarding the identification of priorities and the subsequent allocation of resources in conjunction with the School Executive Team, the School Research Committee, the University's Dean of Research and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The CHR plays a key role in ensuring that the scholarly infrastructure is in place to enable staff to produce high-quality research outputs, engage in a range of scholarly activities and achieve impact. It does so by contributing to the operational (the CHR ensures that research activity is included in the annual staff workload allocation and appraisal), organisational (the CHR is

represented on the School and the University Research Committees) and strategic development of research at department, school and university level (the CHR provides an annual report to the Dean of School, which details research activities in any given year and identifies future priorities).

e. Collaboration and Contribution to the Discipline or Research Base

Collaborative Arrangements

We collaborate with colleagues across the University sector and elsewhere in establishing and participating in national and international networks reflecting our research interests. Dennis is a member of the AHRC-funded international network 'After the Wall: Reconstructing and Representing the GDR'; Kassimeris was involved in a collaborative project 'Preventing Violent Extremism: Lessons, Realities, Ways Forward', funded by the EU, which brought together a broad range of professionals including representatives from the police, local government, community workers and educators. Ugolini is a member of the AHRC-funded network 'Tailored Trades: Clothes, Labour and Professional Communities (1880-1939)'. Gildart is a co-founder of the AHRC-funded Subcultures Network, established in 2009 to foster inter-disciplinary research into youth culture, popular music and social change.

Research Councils and University Research Advisory Panels

We have played a role in the work of the Research Councils and similar national and international committees. Steinert was a member of the AHRC's Peer Review College (2004-2012); Gildart is a member of the Australian Research Council and Ugolini is an invited Member of the Pasold Research Fund (since 2004). We also play a significant role in planning, monitoring and managing University research. Buckley, for example, is Head of School Research and a Member of the University Research Committee; Buckley, Gildart, Steinert and Sheffield are Members of the University Professoriate. Steinert is also a Member of the University's REF Advisory Panel.

Professional Subject Associations

We are playing an increasing role in the work of professional associations. Ugolini has been an elected Council Member and Newsletter Editor for the Association of Business Historians (2007-10); Hussey is a Member of the Steering Group of History UK; Hawkins is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Analysis and Research in Marketing Association (and was proceedings editor of its 2009 conference); O'Kane is Co-convenor of the Irish Politics Group of the Political Studies Association; Gildart is an Executive Board Member of the Labour History Society and a Member of the Advisory Board for the Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick; Buckley is a committee member of the Society for Military History; Fuller is a Fellow of the US Naval Historical Centre, Washington DC.

Editorial Positions

O'Kane has been book reviews editor for *Irish Political Studies*; Benson is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Historical Research in Marketing*; Fuller is associate editor of *The International Journal of Naval History*; while Kassimeris is a member of the editorial board of *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* and joint editor of the book series *Critical Studies on Terrorism*. Gildart is lead editor of the *Dictionary of Labour Biography* and member of the editorial board of *Socialist History*; while Ugolini is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Historical Research in Marketing* and of the *Journal of Management History*, and joint editor of *Textile History*. Badsey, Buckley and Fuller have also collaborated with Helion Publishing, a specialist military history publisher, to set up the 'Wolverhampton Military Studies' series of monographs, for which they act as the editorial board.

Examination of Doctorates

We have acted as external examiners for 12 doctorates at universities both in the UK and abroad: Badsey (Cranfield); Buckley (Leeds, Glasgow and Birmingham); Fuller (London); Gildart (Swansea and the Australian National University); Kassimeris (King's College, London); O'Kane (Queen's University, Belfast); Steinert (Salzburg); Wanklyn (Cranfield and Southampton).

Conferences and Scholarly Encounters

During the period of the REF, we have initiated and organised a substantial - and growing -

Environment template (REF5)

number of seminars, workshops and international multi-disciplinary conferences.

- Ugolini and other CHR staff have organised nine one-day workshops and other events on retailing, distribution and consumption history, as well as five annual CHORD conferences, attracting over 150 speakers. Two of the conferences were run jointly with the Pasold Research Fund (2010) and with the Marks & Spencer Company Archive (2013).
- Steinert has co-organised the third and fourth 'Beyond Camps and Forced Labour' conferences (2009 and 2012) on survivors of Nazi persecution. Attracting over 240 speakers, they were organised with colleagues at Royal Holloway and Birkbeck College, and hosted by the Imperial War Museum, London.
- Steinert and Buckley have co-organised two conferences on 'Children and War: Past and Present' (2010 and 2013). Attracting 280 speakers, they were held at the University of Salzburg and were jointly organised with the United Nations.
- We have organised a number of other events. In Europe: Buckley and O'Kane, 'Conflict Resolution and Peace Implementation' (two EU funded workshops at the Falstad Centre, Norway, 2009 and 2011); Kassimeris, 'Preventing Violent Extremism' (an EU funded five-day workshop in Barcelona, Spain 2010). Dennis was co-organiser of an exhibition on Vietnamese Contract Workers (Brandenburg 2009). In the UK: Dennis, 'Comparative Elite Sports Systems' (University of Birmingham conference, 2010); Gildart, 'Popular Culture and Crisis' (University of Wolverhampton workshop, 2011); Ponsonby, 'Country Houses Then and Now', part of the Design History Society Regional Seminar series (University of Wolverhampton, 2011); Ponsonby and Ugolini, 'Dress, Textiles and Heritage' (University of Wolverhampton workshop, 2012); Ponsonby and Ugolini, 'Embellished Textiles: Interpretation and Care of Fine Needlework in Museums and Historic Houses' (University of Wolverhampton workshop, 2013); Hussey and Ponsonby, 'Single People and the World of Goods', (the Economic History Society Women's Network conference, University of Wolverhampton, 2013).

Academic Publications and Research Proposals

We have acted as referees for a number of academic publishers including Ashgate (Benson, Ugolini); Cambridge University Press (Buckley, Steinert); Continuum (O'Kane); Helion (Buckley, Badsey, Jones, Sheffield); Liverpool University Press (Gildart); Manchester University Press (Benson, O'Kane); Oxford University Press (Ugolini); Palgrave Macmillan (Gildart, Ugolini); Princeton University Press (Buckley); the University of Wales Press (Gildart). We have also acted as referees for sixteen funding applications, including those made to the AHRC (Benson), the British Academy (Gildart and Steinert); the Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, Vienna (Steinert); the Leverhulme Trust (Benson), the ESRC (Kassimeris and O'Kane); the Rothschild Foundation (Steinert); the Volkswagen Stiftung, Hanover, (Steinert); the Pasold Research Fund (Ugolini); the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (Badsey).

Scholarly Awards, Fellowships and Invited Keynotes

Buckley was appointed Visiting Professor in Military and Diplomatic Studies at the Hawaii Pacific University (2009); Gildart was appointed Visiting Professor in British History at the University of Michigan (2009). Buckley and Steinert were awarded AHRC Fellowships (both in 2012). Badsey, Benson, Buckley, Gildart, Sheffield and Ugolini are all Fellows of the Royal Historical Society. Staff who have been invited as keynote speakers at symposia and conferences are Buckley (Military History Symposium, University of Birmingham, 2011); Badsey (24th Conference of the International Association for Media and History, University of Copenhagen, 2011); Ugolini ('Industrious Women: A Conference to Celebrate the Life and Work of Katrina Honeyman', University of Leeds, 2012); Gildart was invited to present lectures at the universities of Reading, Bangor and Salford, Ugolini to the Royal College of Art and University of Worcester. Badsey was an invited speaker at a public conference on the Zulu War in South Africa; Steinert was invited to give lectures at the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford Brookes and Vaexjoe, Sweden.