

Environment template (REF5)

Institution: University of Salford
Unit of assessment: 34, Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory
a. Overview <p>Research in art and design at Salford is located within the School of Arts & Media (SAM). The School forms part of the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS). The School's submission to UoA34 is centred on the activities in the Centre for Media, Art & Design Research and Engagement (MADRE) http://www.salford.ac.uk/arts-media/research/MADRE/. MADRE comprises three strategic research cluster areas: (i) Creative Technology & Communications; (ii) Design Innovation & Socially Responsible Design; and (iii) Contemporary Fine Art & Public Engagement.</p>
b. Research strategy <p>The Research and Innovation Strategy section of the University's 2009 Strategic Plan confirmed research as core to the mission of the University; it is to be purposeful, applied and impact distinctively on the knowledge economy. Research also has to underpin and support teaching and community engagement. A small number of strategic interdisciplinary themes or peaks of excellence were established as areas of institutional distinctiveness and leadership. These are: (i) <i>Built Environment</i>; (ii) <i>Energy</i>; (iii) <i>Health & Wellbeing</i>; and (iv) <i>Media, Digital Technology & the Creative Economy</i>. As well as being a core competency, creative practice in art and design contributes to all these research themes, most significantly to <i>Health & Wellbeing</i> and the <i>Built Environment</i>.</p> <p>At Executive level, research strategy and planning matters are within the purview of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (R&I) and supported centrally by the Director and Division of R&I, whose staff work with College and School research management staff in the provision of support for research activity. Research strategy and planning is overseen within colleges by the Research & Innovation Committees, which meet regularly and have the responsibility for oversight and monitoring of local and university-level research targets. At School level, an Associate Dean (R&I) works with Research Centre Directors on implementing strategy and supporting research. In implementing the University strategy at local level, we recognise that research requirements vary, and adopt flexible planning and operating strategies to support this.</p> <p>In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), art and design staff from the School of Arts & Media made their first submission to a national assessment of research. Our results positioned the School in the top half of UK Higher Education Art & Design institutions.</p> <p>Since the 2008 RAE, the School of Art & Design has gone through significant reorganisation and staff changes, becoming in 2012 the School of Arts & Media. A new School research structure has been developed, replacing the former autonomous Research Institutes with four Research Centres (http://www.salford.ac.uk/arts-media/research), one of which is the 'Centre for Media, Art & Design Research and Engagement' (MADRE). As a consequence, responsibility for management and strategic planning of research was transferred from the former Research Institutes to the School. This reorganisation has produced several benefits, including the more effective integration of colleagues new to research as associate research centre members and being able to disseminate good research practice and impact more effectively across the School. This research structure has enhanced research-informed teaching and increased the exposure of students to real-world, creative professional practice. The Research Centres provide strategic support for the School and an infrastructure that reinforces and supports the MADRE research objectives and the development of a strong research environment.</p> <p>This reorganisation established three strategic research clusters within the MADRE research centre: (i) <i>Creative Technology & Communications</i>; (ii) <i>Design Innovation & Socially Responsible Design</i>; and (iii) <i>Contemporary Fine Art & Public Engagement</i>. Cluster leaders were established to developing the research activities. MADRE established a new strategic research management team consisting of four research coordinators, each taking one of the following lead roles: Bidding and Research Impact; Research Development; Postgraduate</p>

Research; and Research Engagement. As MADRE has approached the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), it has built on the strategic platform provided by its initial 2008 submission through the impact of long-standing research initiatives such as *Design Against Crime*. The strategic focus is on achieving high quality research outputs that provide significant impact, making use of the world-leading research facilities at MediaCityUK—particularly the Digital Performance Lab and the EGG media exhibition space.

At MediaCityUK, staff are now engaging in cross-disciplinary research and further developing the School's reputation for working effectively with those engaged in shaping and delivering the creative and media economy. The School's academic staff conduct research that informs teaching, adding depth and relevance to the quality of students' experience. We are building on our distinctive provision of art & design education and strong links with the creative economy with a renewed commitment to high quality, specialist and interdisciplinary programmes closely informed by research. Such programmes are increasingly international. The School also leverages research to form closer relationships between fine art practice and design disciplines, which have traditionally adopted different ideological positions. The strategic aim is to develop and inform a distinctive teaching and research culture characterised by a bringing together of fine art critique and design thinking.

MADRE holds regular Research Congress events focused on strategic research themes that involve all members of academic staff and provide motivating and stimulating discussions and activities with informative and creative agenda setting aims and objectives. The strategic research and engagement intent that covers the creative discourses across media, art and design research and engagement is driven by a determination to advance and sustain:

- International high quality research outputs
- Diversified research and enterprise income
- An internationally renowned research and enterprise environment
- International postgraduate culture
- Pathways to research impact and engagement
- A dynamic and creative community.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Building capacity and capability is an integral part of our research strategy. Our approach to staffing policy centres on the development of existing and new researchers through the mechanisms described below.

The research workload for staff during term-time is set by the Schools. Within the new School structure, all staff participate in an annual cycle of Performance Development Review (PDR) with their line manager, which includes research activity as part of overall academic workload. Line managers consult with Research Centre Heads beforehand to ensure senior research manager input is included within the review. Each review includes formal meetings at the beginning and end of the year and a mid-year progress review. Objectives for these reviews are set within the University's Academic Career Path descriptors, which provide graded expectations for academic staff by career progression. All staff have been eligible to apply for research leave after seven semesters of normal service under the School's sabbatical scheme. To ensure that equal opportunity is given to early career researchers, half of the School's eight sabbatical awards each year have been reserved for non-professorial staff. Since January 2008, MADRE has provided five of its members with sabbatical research leave that have included projects '*All the World's a Screen*' (**Gould**) hosted at the Museum of Contemporary Barcelona Study Centre in 2011 and **Randall's** residency project at Tate Britain in 2012, studying the APG (Artist Placement Group) Archive.

All staff in the School are given the opportunity annually for review against the Academic Career Path criteria, either for HERA re-grading to Senior Lecturer (in the case of Lecturers), or for promotion to Reader / Professor by the University Professorial Promotions Committee.

During the period 2008–2013, **Gould**, **Carson** and **Randall** were each promoted to Senior Lecturer. MADRE's policy is to support career development of staff with a strong research record.

Since RAE2008, we have made a series of strategic new appointments in key areas, including **Walker** (Dean of School), **Barfield** (Associate Dean International) and **Newsome** (Lecturer in Fashion Styling Image Making). Newly appointed staff are placed on a one-year probationary period and are allocated a formal mentor from amongst senior staff in their disciplinary area to support them through their first year of employment at the University. In discussion with their line manager, new members of staff who are early career researchers are normally given partial teaching loads in their first year to ensure that their research activity is not hampered by a large teaching burden.

Research training and development is included within the induction programme. There are University-wide staff support schemes such as: the Vice-Chancellor's Research Scholarship Scheme for early career researchers and members of staff new to research (see below); College strategic investment funds; and a rigorous programme for staff development at Research Centre, School, College and University level. This ensures that staff are able to extend their skills and competencies in a number of areas, whilst ensuring the high-standard infrastructure and services are provided to our students and contract researchers. Early research career staff are encouraged to apply to the University Vice-Chancellor's Early Career Researcher scholarship, which provides financial support for research activities.

Early Career Researchers and new members of staff are encouraged to participate fully and present their work in training programmes. Pump-priming research funds are provided to support their research. The School Research Fund supports researchers in international conference and exhibition participation, with special consideration given to staff new to research and outputs that forward the strategy and development of MADRE.

Supervisory training is also provided to all PhD supervisors as part of improving supervisory skills as well as updating staff on new regulations associated with PhD provision. Such training also includes equality and diversity and widening participation. All research-active members of staff are positioned within one of the Research Centres in the School, and can also become associate members of other centres. This allows members visibility and active participation in the development of thematic research strategies, making explicit research synergies across centres, and ensuring research cohesion. In 2010, the University was one of only 10 institutions recognised by the European Commission for its work in supporting the professional development of its researchers, and meeting a concordat to support career development of research staff. In addition, the researcher development opportunities offered at Salford played a significant role in retaining the European Commission HR Excellence in Research Award in October 2012.

External researchers are linked to activity within the School through the University's Visiting Research Fellow and Visiting Professor schemes. This allows Research Centres to link high-profile staff to the work, and promote the Centres' research. Current Visiting Professors include: Harold Riley, a significant contemporary artist whose work is focussed on urban environments and particularly those of Salford and Manchester; Dick Petersen, a specialist in design management; Paul Sermon, researcher and practitioner in Telematic Media Arts; and Huw Morris, Director of Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning for Wales, who provides expertise in creative industries management.

ii. Research students

Research students are an integral part of our research community. Postgraduate research studies and activities are managed by the Postgraduate Co-ordinator in Arts & Media. We implement a formal Learning Agreement between the Postgraduate Research Student and the University, allowing the optimisation of student experiences and expectations. We also have close links with the North West hub of Vitae, which is committed to working with universities, supervisors and other national organisations to support doctoral researchers.

There are currently around 82 Postgraduate Research Students in the School of Arts and Media with 15 PhD students (9 full-time, 6 part-time) based in MADRE. International students in MADRE account for 27% of current Postgraduate Research Students from countries including Korea, Chile and Turkey.

Postgraduate research supervision is supported by a supervisory team (two supervisors for each candidate) and a Personal Tutor for each candidate. Postgraduate Research Representatives

are elected from the student body, who work closely with academic staff, and sit on school committees to make sure that the voice and expectations of students are heard and acted upon. Students are able to select from diverse PhD modes/pathways, which also enables us to provide more flexibility and support. These pathways include full-time, part-time, split site and PhD by published works.

We strongly believe that the supportive research-focused environment that we provide for our students is critical to their success in terms of the quality of their research and the general satisfaction of their research experience. The University-wide Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) policy, which started in 2003, funds PhD studies and provides training for teaching for the candidates, and has been very successful. To date this has funded over 30 GTAs, including 6 GTAs in MADRE since 2009. We have also received external funds from the AHRC to provide studentship opportunities. Salford is a member of the North West Consortium for one of the UK's AHRC new Doctoral Training Programmes: a total of 40 studentships *p.a.* over seven years from 2014, with a total AHRC award of over £14m.

All PGR students in the Research Centres complete their doctoral studies under the University regulatory framework for progression. Students are required to meet three formal points in their studies in order to proceed – the Learning Agreement, completed with their supervisors within three months of registration, to identify their broad research plan, training and development needs and doctoral timeline; b) the Interim Assessment, after the first year; c) the Internal Evaluation, after the second year. These are accompanied by annual progress reports by supervisors and self-evaluation documents by the students, which are scrutinised by the College's Director of Postgraduate Research, with any issues arising brought to the attention of the Postgraduate Co-ordinator in Arts & Media.

The University, College and School all provide appropriate development in generic and subject-specific skills for PGR students. The University Research and Innovation unit (formerly Research and Graduate College) provides generic training through the Salford Postgraduate Research Training programme (SPoRT) workshops, which are aligned with the national Researcher Development Framework. These cover aspects of doctoral study, such as expectations in the Progression Points and “surviving the viva”, as well as introductions to core research skills, such as getting published, making a presentation, writing conference papers. It also provides introductions to key methodological approaches and software – interviewing techniques, focus group research, NVivo and SPSS. This programme has grown significantly since 2008, with the number of annual sessions offered rising from 51 in 2008–09 to 76 in 2012–13; participant numbers have increased similarly, from 441 participants in 2008-09 to 844 in 2012-13. The sessions are largely delivered internally by academic staff, R&I development staff, HR, and careers & employability, with additional specialist sessions delivered by external facilitators. Review of this provision is conducted annually, based on attendance figures, supervisors' views and student feedback collected after each individual training session. Developments in national and institutional strategy relating to researcher development are also taken into consideration. For example, in response to the evaluation of the 2011-12 programme, R&I introduced additional sessions on Getting Started with the PhD as part of induction, an expanded suite of sessions on academic writing, and new sessions on impact, project management, focus groups and personal branding. Using Blackboard Collaborate, R&I and the Library have also expanded the availability of one-to-one online support for students to access off campus.

The Graduate Programme for the School of Arts and Media features a number of internationally renowned academics and writers at a series of interactive seminars throughout the academic year. The 2013/14 programme addresses timely questions of media, power and digital activism, film, sound and voice, and creative writing and aesthetics, reflecting the diverse research make-up of the School of Arts and Media. These talks are open to all in the PGR and research communities at Salford, and beyond, and offer a forum for intellectual stimulation, innovation and discussion. All PGRs are also included in the MADRE Research Centre Seminar series.

The University also runs the Salford Postgraduate Annual Research Conference (SPARC) where students and early career researchers across the disciplines can present their research and gain feedback. SPARC has run for over 12 years and attracts students from many other

institutions including the Universities of Reading, Bristol, Exeter, and the Open University. The programme assist researchers in developing effective research skills as well as transferable skills to enhance employability. The programme maps fully onto the national Researcher Development Framework (RDF).

Within the College, a specialist adviser on PGR careers is available. More generally, the Students' Union elects a dedicated postgraduate Vice-President (two previous Union Presidents since 2008 themselves being postgraduates).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

MADRE researchers work closely with both the University's central research bidding support and contracts teams, which provide dedicated support for all academic staff seeking external funding. The bidding support team provide support with identification of appropriate funding opportunities, guidance through submission processes, proposal preparation and development, budgetary and FEC preparation. The contracts team also undertake liaison with project partners and relevant funding bodies to ensure appropriate contracts are in place, and monitor and advise on grant expenditure. In a typical REF year the contracts team will deal with over 200 contracts across the university with total amounts ranging from £6m to £9m.

Significant sources of external funding include EU FP7, HERA, AHRC, ESRC, EPSRC, Arts Council, Home Office, Design Council, British Council, Greater Manchester Police and National Lottery, as well as enterprise/industry-funded collaborations and KTPs, and of course internal competitively allocated funding.

Research is undertaken in collaboration with industry and other disciplines within the University and between universities. Collaborative partners currently include Greater Manchester Police, Catch 22, Xcalibre, Serious Crime Unit, Mines Advisory Group International, CARISMA, Peace FM, Salford City Council and leading museums and galleries such as the V&A, Tate, FACT and Imperial War Museum.

Since 2008, MADRE has energetically targeted external funding to support and develop our research. Indicative awards include:

- Translocal Urban Mobilities: Situating Location Based Media, AHRC, £238,774 June 2008 to May 2011
- *NPCPS Implementation Planning*, Home Office and Greater Manchester Police (March to September 2009), £101,737
- *Supporting Arts and Enterprise Skills*, AHRC (May 2009 to April 2012), £286,410 May 2009 to April 2012
- *Planning Urban Security (PLuS)*, EU Framework 7, (July 2009 to June 2012), total award € 577,696. Partners include German Federal Police.

Infrastructure & facilities

MediaCityUK – The University has invested £30m at MediaCityUK to develop a space that encourages creativity, innovation and collaboration between academics, students, professionals and industry. Located on a campus that includes six national BBC departments and a range of independent specialist creative, digital and media organisations, it has been in operation since October 2011 (<http://www.salford.ac.uk/MediaCityUK>). Working closely with the University Executive team, MADRE members have been responsible for transforming MediaCityUK into a thriving creative community of art and media research, innovation and teaching. MediaCityUK enables staff to develop creative practice-based research and teaching in the areas of digital media, creative technology, games design and ludic interfaces. It provides a state-of-the-art research environment and collaboration opportunities with a range of research partners including: the BBC; ITV; The Lowry; Imperial War Museum; Adobe; BT; CISCO; Avid Technology; Hewlett Packard; and other design and media production and post-production companies. Having been involved since the planning stage, MADRE has played a major part in the development of the media arts facilities including the 'Digital Performance Lab' (<http://www.salford.ac.uk/mediacityuk/venue/digital-performance-lab>), a 200 square metre black-box performance and exhibition space. In the first year of operation members of MADRE have produced six major research and teaching exhibition events at MediaCityUK. This includes:

an international research-informed undergraduate student project involving over thirty global partner institutions for Decode/Recode <http://decoderecode.tumblr.com>; and a telematic art event marking the Centenary of Alan Turing, presented on 23rd March 2012. MediaCityUK also saw the inauguration of the annual *Create @Salford Festival* in June 2013 (<http://www.salford.ac.uk/create>), incorporating Art & Design student degree shows.

The University has begun construction of the Gateway Building, a purpose built £50m project to house the School of Arts and Media, featuring exhibition space and state-of-the-art workshop facilities. Scheduled to open in September 2015, the building represents one of the largest capital investments by the University to date. Taken with MediaCityUK, this will provide art and design researchers at Salford with some of the best facilities in the UK.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Members of MADRE hold positions that influence research policy and the delivery of impact within art and design. For example: **Walker** is a member of the AHRC Peer Review College and AHRC Strategic Review Group; **Wootton** is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Academy of Design (EAD), and he and **Davey** peer review conference and journal papers (including for the EAD Conference and the Design Journal); **Randall** is a member of Sculpture Network, the European organisation for sculpture and a founder member and Chair of SIGMA (Sculptors in Greater Manchester Association). **Newsome** was shortlisted for the Literary Dundee International Book Award in 2011 and is a member of the Islington Mill Creative Strategy Committee and the Islington Mill Art Academy, a peer-led free art school.

In addition, staff contribute within their specific research areas, as follows: **Design Against Crime** aims to develop and promote a design-led approach to crime prevention and security. The human-centred and holistic approach developed by **Wootton** and **Davey** helps develop solutions that improve urban wellbeing and quality of life. Impact has been enabled through the *Design Against Crime Solution Centre*; partnership between the University of Salford and Greater Manchester Police (GMP). **Wootton** and **Davey** contribute to research policy, projects, conferences and networks across Europe. **Davey** sits on the EU Horizon 2020 Advisory Group to the "*Inclusive, Innovative and Secure Societies*" societal challenge. **Wootton** is nominated UK representative to the Management Committee of the EU COST Action TU1203 *Crime Prevention through Urban Design and Planning*; **Davey** and **Wootton** sit on the Advisory Group of *Transit*, a security research project led by the German police and funded by the German federal government. They were invited speakers at the 2012 and 2013 Annual International Forum of the German Crime Prevention conference, and **Davey** was invited speaker at the 2012 European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS) conference in Paris, which resulted in the European Manifesto for Urban Security. **Wootton** sits on the steering committee of GMP's *Crime Prevention Team*, supporting the force's efforts to embed crime prevention within urban design. In partnership with UK charity Catch22, in 2011 **Wootton** and **Davey** were awarded a Manchester Beacons for Public Engagement Recognition Award. Creative research into security and the urban environment is also conducted by **Ingleson**, who was awarded an AHRC Knowledge Transfer Fellowship (KTF) for an arts-based creative community engagement project in partnership with Professor Paul Haywood (Middlesex University). The KTF resulted in the high-profile project '*Guns into Goods*', developed in collaboration with the charity CARISMA and Greater Manchester Police. **Ingleson's** research won a Manchester Beacons for Public Engagement Recognition Award in 2010, and was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community' in 2010 and 2011.

MADRE researchers in the field of **Heritage Interpretation**, use creative practice to gain new insight into cultural heritage and to stimulate public engagement with museums and artwork. **Randall's** practice-based research investigates how contemporary visual art can be a catalyst for community revitalisation through the reinterpretation of industrial heritage. **Randall** exhibited "Golden Venture" in 2011 at the National Waterfront Museum (National Industrial Museum of Wales) in Swansea, attracting 75,000 visitors. The exhibition went on to tour as the inaugural solo exhibition at the award-winning "Copper Kingdom" heritage centre, Amlwch, in 2012, with accompanying symposium and workshops linked to the creative interpretation of industrial legacy. This research led to partnership working with Menter Môn (Anglesey Enterprise) and Anglesey County Council over five sites, resulting in commissioned artworks and designs for

craft products to be manufactured by local craftspeople. With the support of a sabbatical at the end of 2012, **Randall** developed her research further through a funded Research Residency at Tate Britain. Creative arts practice is used by **Carson** and **Miller** to explore issues of identity. In 2013, **Carson** and **Miller** participated in an exchange programme between UK and Finland-based artists to explore ideas around collaboration and working methodologies, alongside current issues of cultural identity and migratory art practice. **Carson** and **Miller** were also co-convenors and steering group members of the ESRC-funded seminar series '*Generating Alternative Discourses of Childhood*'. **Lovell's** photography research and practice explores issues of identity, gender and feminism, winning opportunities to exhibit her work. **Lovell's** 2008 work "Stand Your Ground" joined the work of five art photographers selected from 170 applications for their "...exceptional previous projects" and "robust, well considered proposals for new work" (Hobson, 2008, p.8) in an exhibition at the National Media Museum, Bradford.

MADRE researchers are at the forefront of knowledge creation in the emerging field of **Ludic Interfaces**, designed to stimulate play. **Gould** produced "Picnic on the Screen", at the BBC Big Screen in Glastonbury in 2009. This work combines her current research into interactive ludic interfaces with the research of former colleague Paul Sermon (University of Brighton) into telepresent environments. The project was part of the BBC Big Screens research project for the Cultural Olympiad, where 22 screens were erected across the country with a remit of public engagement. Together with Universities across Europe, MADRE researchers developed a Masters course in Ludic Interfaces. **Gould** was editorial reviewer for papers submitted to the 19th International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA) in Sydney, and editorial reviewer for the book 'Digital Media and Technologies for Virtual Artistic Spaces' (Harrison, 2013). In addition, **Gould** was invited keynote speaker at the Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association (MeCCSA) 2013 conference.

New appointments have resulted in themes central to MADRE being explored through a range of practice-based research, including: security; childhood and youth; and urban environments. Two established artists known for their research at the interface of traditional and contemporary print processes **Walker** and **Barfield** have applied their work on the perception of urban environments to cultural and urban regeneration. They have linked projects in Salford and the Braddock District in Pittsburgh, USA through partnership with Carnegie Mellon University. In China, **Walker** and **Barfield** have established long-standing collaborations with the leading Chinese architectural historian, Wang Qijun, and the curator for the Venice Biennale, Wang Chunchen. This has contributed to growing interest in research relating to growth of cities in the Industrial Revolution and their subsequent decline and renewal, resulting in exhibitions at the Photo Gallery and Suang-Shi-Yu-Guang Galleries in Beijing. The latter exhibition 'geographies2' was extended for two weeks beyond its original run, and the work purchased for the permanent collection of the Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing.