

<p>Institution: University of Leicester</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA 30 History</p>
<p>A. Context</p> <p>The UoA generates and supports a wide range of historical research, with established research centres of English Local History and Urban History (founded in 1948 and 1985 respectively), and an emerging nexus of research excellence in the Centre for Medical Humanities (founded 2012). Our research interacts with and benefits a diverse range of non-academic audiences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>International governments and heritage organisations</i>, e.g.: UNESCO; Government of Australia. • <i>National governmental organisations</i>, e.g.: NHS Trusts, English Heritage; The British Library • <i>City & borough councils</i>, e.g.: Leicester City Council, Melton Mowbray Borough Council • <i>Third sector / charitable organisations</i>, e.g.: Edinburgh World Heritage Trust; Historic Royal Palaces; the National Army Museum, the Industry-Business Parliamentary Trust; The Soil Association; Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust; Lamport Hall Preservation Trust; The Historical Association; The Society of Apothecaries • <i>Professional organizations</i>, e.g.: GP commissioning groups; RIBA; the Town Planning Institute • <i>Voluntary associations & local community groups</i>, e.g.: Southwell Community Archaeology Group; Norwell Parish Heritage Group; Northampton Malawi Group; Andaman Local Born Assoc. • <i>Commercial organizations</i> including digital and print media outlets, theatre and production companies, e.g.: BBC; Apercu Media; Wall-to-Wall Productions; Peer Productions, Loftus Audio, Goat and Monkey Theatre Company. <p>The impact of these research-led collaborations is wide-ranging, significant and enduring. From January 2008–July 2013 it included contributions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Services</i>: by providing expert evidence, in dialogue with policy makers, to improve and inform policy making in areas such as heritage conservation, landscape stewardship, and urban regeneration; by developing research capacity in third-sector organizations • <i>Cultural Life</i>: by adding value to the public experience and understanding of cultural heritage and historic sites; by enhancing public knowledge, the quality of tourist experience, visitor engagement, and visitor numbers; through diverse multi-media engagement which assists the creation and interpretation of cultural capital, e.g.: theatre productions, literary novels, TV, radio, web-based resources, museum exhibitions • <i>Public discourse and civil society</i>: by facilitating community-based projects that enhance public understanding on issues such as migration and rural settlement in the UK • <i>Economic prosperity</i>: transfer of knowledge gained from research to create wealth in the creative and cultural sectors, e.g. publishing, theatre productions • <i>Education</i>: CPD, human capital development within the health services, including GP training. <p>All this originates in research generated across the full chronological and thematic expertise of our UoA including medieval, early modern, modern, medical, and global/colonial/post-colonial history. Our three Research Centres are especially important, acting as centrifugal forces for attracting and innovating research collaborations that produce results which impact on non-academic users in ways that can be measured, sustained, and developed over time.</p>
<p>B. Our approach to achieving impact</p> <p>Leicester historians expect their research to have an impact on a wide variety of users and audiences, as outlined above; the role of the UoA is to nurture and facilitate a thriving research culture that builds capacity and optimises the opportunities for impact from the research that we produce, both as individual scholars, as members of our Research Centres, and in collaboration with colleagues elsewhere in the UK and overseas.</p> <p>Professional reputation is the catalyst for all our research relationships with non-HEI partners and underpins our interactions with external audiences. Our approach to realising research impact over this REF period has had six main strands: 1) planned impact via funded research, incorporating Knowledge Exchange and Knowledge Transfer projects, including 12 AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs) with 8 external partners since 2009; 2) programmes of direct public engagement, especially through Research Centres; 3) following-up past projects where impact had not been evaluated, proactively pursuing evidence of that impact, and generating additional impact through renewed relationships; 4) 'snowball' impacts – where one project producing impact leads to another, developing over time a linked series of outcomes, the form and scale of which could not have been predicted at the outset; 5) exploiting existing and developing new professional and</p>

informal **networks**; 6) **optimising serendipity** or unplanned opportunities (e.g.: the discovery of the grave of King Richard III in Leicester).

Building on these approaches we have used a **variety of methods** to realise measurable impact from our research, such as: **1) creating innovative digital output** which builds capacity and engages the public with cultural capital, e.g.: “Manufacturing pasts: the social life of the factory”, an *iTunes U Course*, with 141 downloads since launch in March 2013 (deriving from *Manufacturing Pasts: Industrial Change in 20th-C Britain*, £102k JISC, Gunn & Madgin); **2) creating cultural capital** which enriches and challenges the lives and imaginations of the public audience, e.g.: *Art and Architecture* by Sarah Kirby, at Embrace Arts, Leicester, March 2013 (resulting from her Leverhulme ‘Artist in Residence’ fellowship at the Centre for Urban History (PI Sweet) or the online exhibition, ‘Sporting Soldiers’ hosted by the National Army Museum in July 2012 (coincident with the London 2012 Olympic Games, attracting 7000 views in 12 months) and the ‘Real Sporting Heroes’ community-curated exhibition at the Fusilier Museum at the Tower of London and Bethnal Green Library, both dependent on Riedi’s 2010 book *Sport and the Military*; **3) public participation**, e.g.: involving community archaeology and local history groups in research by Jones, Hyde, Anderson, and others; **4) CPD & training initiatives**, e.g.: presenting medical humanities at events for GP training consortia.

Much of our impact activity has caused key users to **change practices and elevate aspirations**: e.g.: the establishment in 2011 of the *East Midlands Research Initiative* by the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust and Lamport Hall Preservation Trust ‘to develop, co-ordinate, and promote research into cultural heritage’. The success of this approach is already shown by 12 AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards won in open competition since 2009, including 3 arising from the EMRI initiative.

This UoA has **supported staff in achieving impact** from their research through: **1) a formal system of annual research interviews** in order to help identify projects with impact potential and to devise pathways for realising that potential; **2) workload planning**, including study leave +/- or teaching relief to create time to pursue impact elements of research projects; **3) robust support for colleagues applying for promotion** who have a track record of effective research-led impact; **4) targeted mentoring** of early and mid career staff (RAs, ECFs, new lecturers); **5) peer support** within the UoA and the wider College research community for preparing grant applications which embed impact within a research project, making contact with potential partners or beneficiaries, cascading expertise, and pooling advice via the UoA Research Committee and our application archive.

We have actively supported impact capacity development in many other ways. A notable example is the establishment of three new multi-disciplinary networks at the University since 2011: the *Leicester Migration Network* (Scully/Story); the *Leicester Heritage Network* (Madgin); the *Global, Colonial & Post-Colonial Network* (Anderson). These networks quickly superseded their initial objective – namely, connecting colleagues with cognate research interests across the university, and using these connections as a springboard for generating research with external partners – and yielded opportunities for impact by improving public discourse with marginalised groups (e.g.: *Our Leicester: understanding the multicultural city* and *The Leicester Youth Manifesto*, taken up by Leicester City Council), and by facilitating grant capture that enables the impact of research to be diversified and mapped (e.g.: Madgin CI: AHRC ‘Archives, Assets & Audiences: New Modes to Engage Audiences with Archival Content & Heritage Sites’).

Our approach is guided by the University’s **commitment to maximising** the economic and societal impact of its research. A key aspect of the University’s strategy is the development and sustainability of an internal culture that encourages, supports and builds further capacity for impact. Our approach complements the University-wide strategy and we make use of institutional support to enable impact within the UoA. We have been able to draw on a framework of professional services to realise impact from our research, built on significant investment in PR and communications, IT-based services, an academic practice unit to build researchers’ skills and knowledge, Enterprise and Business Development Office and Research Support Office. Centralised databanks and ring-fenced funding facilitate global Open Access to our research results.

The School of History, which is coterminous with this UoA, sits within the College of Arts, Humanities and Law, which encourages and enables research-led impact through the dissemination of best practice across disciplines. The College has a dedicated Business Development Manager, who works closely with academics to support the development of contract research, consultancy, knowledge transfer partnerships and CPD/short courses (e.g. PG Cert for GPs in Medical Humanities), and an enterprise committee which develops and shares best practice. The College also administers a Research Development Fund which supports measures to disseminate research to, or collaboration with, non-HEI audiences, with a view to generating measurable impact with

Impact template (REF3a)

recent awards to: Hopper (Charnwood community heritage project); Hurren (*Dignity & Dissection* e-resources); S. King (towards production of a new play, *The Anatomical Venus*, & evaluation).

c. Our strategy and plans

Strategy for future impact: Our strategy for future impact has two strands: maximising impact from on-going research projects and ensuring the long-term relevance of our impact activity. A review of the collective experience of identifying, defining, measuring and describing the impact of our research for the 2014 REF will underpin and inform the way in which the UoA approaches *all* of its research activities in coming years, not just its impact strategy. This will help to ensure that our impact goals are up-front and embedded within the research plans of every colleague, enabling us to develop core strengths as well as developing new pathways to impact. We will amplify our existing activity to achieve this through Continuing Professional Development with training sessions that foreground the research needs and impact trajectories of early career (RAs, ECFs, and new lecturers), mid-career and established staff within the UoA. These events will provide a guided and reflexive forum in which to: **(a)** *share good practice* for developing effective outward-facing research; **(b)** discuss strategies for *recognising and pursuing impact* opportunities, including funding; **(c)** explore research issues specific to staff at that career-stage; **(d)** build *a sense of common ownership* of the impact agenda going forward. These meetings will inform both the content and agenda of individuals' annual research interviews, and will feedback into the continuing development of the UoA's impact strategy.

Our **goals** for impact in the next REF period, are to:

- Increase the percentage of staff either actively engaged in impact activities or with first-hand experience of it.
- Target new audiences for impact, under-represented in our current impact activities
- Sustain impact activities with current user groups to enable them to mature and develop, as we have done by establishing in 2011 the *East Midlands Research Initiative*
- Build on our significant success with AHRC CDAs, by continuing to actively seek ways to incorporate external users and audiences within research projects
- Diversify, improve, and extend our use of digital technology to encourage large-scale participation and – wherever possible – open/free access online to elements of our research, e.g.: a Massive Open Online Course [MOOC] on Richard III; *Town Trails* (such as that developed with Apercu Media for Melton Mowbray); web-resources (e.g.: interactive maps; online resources; podcasts; research blog) arising from the *Carceral Archipelago* programme.

Our **plans** for impact over the next REF period include:

- Supporting staff to realise impacts planned for current, large, funded research programmes: *Impact of Diasporas on the Making of Britain: evidence, memories, inventions* (Leverhulme, £1.37m: PI Story); *The Carceral Archipelago: transnational circulations in global perspective 1415–1960* (ERC, €1.493m: PI Anderson); *Harnessing the Criminal Corpse* (Wellcome, £201k: CI Hurren & P. King); *Disputed Bodies: Narratives of Medical Research in Europe, 1940s–2001* (Wellcome, £104k: PI Hurren); *Cultural encounters with migrants in European Cities in the long 19th-century* (AHRC, £130k: PI Sweet); *Rough Skin: maize, pellagra, and society in Italy* (ESRC, £430k: PI Gentilcore)
- Developing diverse pathways for impact from two collaborative, outward-facing research ventures with external partners; *Charnwood Roots*, training 400+ local volunteers in Local History techniques (HLF with Leicestershire Victoria County History, £364k: PI Hopper); *Living & Working in the Old Town* (HLF, Townscape Heritage Initiative £1.1m, PI Madgin with Leicester City Council).

D. Relationship to our case studies

The four selected case studies reflect our approach to impact in different ways. Our **Urban Policy** example demonstrates the effectiveness of the 'snowball' approach to impact and our efforts to support early career staff (Madgin) to develop a substantial research and impact profile. Our **Tourism** case study shows the value of following-up past projects to measure impact and develop new pathways (Story) and of developing networks (Sweet). Our **Local History** case study illustrates the effectiveness of new outreach and public engagement initiatives to develop the impact capacity of a well-established research group and highlights the seminal impact of a pioneering Research Centre on a whole field of study. The **Convict Sites** example shows how impact derives from longstanding focused research (Anderson) and can build capacity in an emerging Research Network.