

Institution: Edge Hill University
Unit of Assessment: 30 - History
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The History Group at Edge Hill is a well-established, expanding unit. It has a professor (Verney) and two readers (Brown, Renton) who provide research leadership. This includes collecting/disseminating information about grants, giving advice on funding applications, ensuring research activities/publications are monitored and recorded. From 2008-11 Verney was Associate Head of Department (AHOD) with responsibility for coordinating and promoting research activity. Since 2011 Brown has been AHOD whilst Verney has been Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS). The AHOD chairs the Department Research Ethics Committee and provides leadership on a new Masters by Research Programme.</p> <p>In addition to research seminars the department has a research forum 3-4 times a year at which all staff and postgraduate researchers are encouraged to present papers. In 2013 a research forum was established by, and for, postgraduates within English and History. The History subject area contributes to a research group located within the department of English and History on 'Ethnicity, Race and Racism' (ERRG). The group holds regular research seminars with papers given by staff/research students and high profile external speakers. Established in 2010, the ERRG has developed rapidly and an application to become a research centre will be submitted to the University in the next REF cycle. Further details on the group are included in <i>section b</i> on <i>Research Strategy</i>.</p> <p>At institutional level research strategy is overseen by the University Research Committee (URC) and the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC). Each of the three Faculties in the University has its own Research Committee (FRC) and Research Ethics Committee (FREC), including cross-Faculty representatives from the other Faculties. The Faculty committees report to the URC and the UREC. The University Research and Enterprise Support Office (RESO) supports staff applications for external funding and manages internal research funds. It coordinates a research capacity building workshop programme (RCB) and internal research mentoring and peer review systems. The REF Steering Group oversees the distribution of internal research funds and monitors the progress towards an optimum REF outcome. Staff research activity is monitored via Annual Academic Returns, which are reviewed by the Head of Department, Dean of Faculty and Director of the RESO, as well as annual individual performance appraisals conducted at department level.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The principal research objectives identified in RAE 2008 have been achieved. Specifically, this has been to maximize the number of research active staff. 87.5 per cent (7 of 8) members of full-time staff in the subject area have been submitted to the REF compared to less than 50 per cent for RAE 2001. The return would have been 100 per cent but for a decision by a late career researcher to concentrate on teaching and administrative responsibilities as part of a considered strategy to maximize the research opportunities for other members of the History Group.</p> <p>The Group seeks to offset the limited number of staff in the subject area by active involvement in collaborative research initiatives with colleagues in other institutions, not just within the North West region, but on a national and international level. This is evidenced by the examples provided later in this section and <i>section e collaboration and contribution to the discipline</i>.</p> <p>The research plans of individuals have also been fulfilled. This is reflected in outputs submitted in <i>REF 2</i> - Brown's monograph on Dartmoor Prison, Gordon's monograph/journal articles on France in 1968, Renton's articles on the Balfour Declaration and the origins of the Zionist-Palestinian Conflict, plus his AHRC Fellowship and Verney's essay collection/journal article on the NAACP.</p> <p>The Group has a vigilant and flexible approach to new developments, as indicated by Verney's role as co-investigator of an AHRC funded research network on Barack Obama and the focus on impact/public engagement detailed in <i>REF 3</i>.</p> <p>The increase in the number of staff submitted to the REF (7) compared to RAE 2008 (5) highlights the growth of the History Group. This is part of an on-going strategy of expansion to increase the depth and range of research expertise in the subject area, as demonstrated in the appointments of Nicholson, with specialist knowledge in the digitization of historical resources,</p>

Environmental template (REF5)

Tsougarakis, the subject area's first full-time medievalist, and **Whitham**, a researcher in diplomatic history. **Nicholson** and **Tsougarakis** are Early Career Researchers (ECRs), reflecting a strategic objective to maintain a balance between experienced researchers and younger members of staff. The new appointments are underpinned by a rapid growth of student numbers on the History B.A. throughout the REF cycle (including a 60 per cent rise in the number of applicants 2011-2013), highlighting that plans for expansion within the subject area are both realistic and sustainable.

The Group works to enhance its growing strength in the area of race and ethnicity, as is borne out by the formation of the ERRG, **Gordon's** and **Verney's** research on immigration, **Renton's** study of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and **Verney's** research on African American history.

As in RAE 2008 the History Group remains committed to maximizing public and scholarly recognition of the work of staff by encouraging their involvement in leading roles in collaborative research initiatives both at home and abroad. This is already being achieved:

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The strategic merger of English and History in 2007 brought together staff with related research interests and was a factor in the introduction of a new team-taught Humanities M.A. The potential for collaboration was widened with the appointment of **Tsougarakis**, with research interests in monasticism, complementing those of Dr Hughes-Edwards (UoA 29) with expertise in Medieval Anchoritism. These developments, combined with the formation of the ERRG and another research group on Gender and Sexuality (GENSEX), highlight the commitment of the department to maximizing opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The History Group takes advantage of collaborative research opportunities with staff in other departments/faculties within the University. For example, **Brown** works with Alana Barton (UoA 20) in the Department of Law and Criminology, co-authoring papers and co-organizing events that reflect their shared interest in the history of crime and the prison system.

The Group attaches particular importance to collaborative opportunities to develop digital and online resources. This reflects University priorities in this area as evidenced by the opening of a £18 million Media Centre on campus in 2013 and a new Institute for the Creative Industries (ICE) which brings together research specialists in animation (Jukes, UoA 36) 3D representations of historic theatres (Hann, UoA 35), and the digitization of historical source materials (**Nicholson**). History staff also collaborate with the new Department of Computing (Anderson and Hall, UoA 11), in partnership with the University of Salford, Brock University in Canada and National Museums, Liverpool, on the *HistorySpaces* project to create a portal for the visualization of historical buildings. The software being developed will enable historians to record research findings related to the development of buildings. The project will produce an interactive alternative to journal publications.

The ERRG is attended by researchers from other departments and has attracted guest speakers from University College, London, and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The Group organizes an annual one day symposium to bring together researchers across the University as well as external speakers and participants. The themes of recent symposia events include 'Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers' (2012) and 'Race and Popular Culture' (2013). The group has also hosted a series of public lectures on race related issues aimed at both academic and non-academic audiences, for example on the International Slavery Museum (ISM), Liverpool, Barack Obama and Woody Guthrie, reflecting the commitment of staff to public engagement.

Other Examples of External Collaboration/Public Engagement (see also section 5e)

Developing collaborations with the ISM (see section 5c ii), and **Brown's** involvement in the Lincoln Castle Project (see REF3a), highlight growing links between the History Group and the museum/heritage industry. This reflects the research interests of individual members of staff and an appreciation of the impact potential of research in this area.

Verney and Dr Benjamin, Director of the ISM, contributed to an AHRC bid by Manchester Metropolitan University (decision pending) to establish a regional centre to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. Events at Edge Hill and the ISM will highlight the contribution made by Commonwealth troops in the war and the neglected subject of the war in Africa.

Environmental template (REF5)

In 2012 **Gordon's** monograph *Immigrants and Intellectuals* was launched with a seminar/reception at the European Studies Centre, St Anthony's College, Oxford. The same year he was invited by the Mayor of Paris to the opening of the Square Saint-Bernard-Said Bouziri, named after an activist interviewed for the monograph. **Renton's** ongoing collaboration with University College, London (UCL), was re-affirmed by his re-appointment as an Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies until September 2015. The Group has clearly identified priorities for the next REF cycle:

1. **Continued emphasis on collaboration** - building on common research interests within the Group, developing the ERRG into a research centre; maximizing opportunities for internal interdisciplinary collaboration created by the growth of research capacity within the University.
2. **A focus on research opportunities in the museum/heritage sector** – enhancing existing links with the Lincoln Castle Revealed Project and the ISM and bringing together the research interests/specialisms of History Group members, Prison Tourism (**Brown**), Resource Digitization (**Nicholson**), black civil rights (**Verney**).
3. **Maximizing impact** – for example by developing links with non-academic beneficiaries, such as museum professionals, targeting periods of heightened public awareness, such as Black History Month in Liverpool and the centenaries of the film *Birth of a Nation* (1915) and the Balfour Declaration (1917), and Renton's well-established media links with *Jazeera* and the online publication *New Democracy*.

Individual research plans for the next REF include journal articles on prison tourism and the inter-war gangster Ruby Sparks (**Brown**); journal articles on French and British anti-racist movements and a socio-political history of transport users in post-war France (**Gordon**); a monograph on *America and the Victorian Press* and research on the role of print in the late-Victorian city (**Nicholson**); a monograph on *The Middle East: The Rise and Fall of an Idea* and a journal article on Whitehall perceptions of Zionism (**Renton**); journal articles on medieval ecclesiastical history, heresy and the crusades (**Tsougarakis**); a monograph on the African American Freedom Struggle in Mobile, Alabama and representations of the civil rights movement in museums/the heritage industry (**Verney**); book/journal publications on U.S. military bases in Europe (**Whitham**).

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Edge Hill is committed to supporting people to develop as researchers and committed to equal opportunities in both its recruitment processes and training and development. Staff with disabilities are provided with support to enable them to progress their research careers and supported in accessing funds from the Government's Access to Work Scheme. The University has been awarded the Disability Two Ticks marks, which guarantees an interview for disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria for the post. Staff for whom English is not a first language have access to funds to provide assistance in writing for publication and staff from overseas have a dedicated HR Wiki resource to help them settle into a new job/country.

In keeping with our commitments to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers we have a comprehensive programme of training through a centrally-provided Research Capacity Building programme (RCB). This is explicitly mapped on to Vitae's Researcher Development Framework (RDF) with workshops aligned with the RDF domains and guidance on how to access the RCB. To maximize the potential of the RCB staff use the RDF planner to establish a needs analysis. The University is currently piloting a new electronic version of the RDF with staff and PGRs. The RESO wiki provides guidance on how to link needs analysis to the RCB.

In addition, FAS runs writing for publication workshops for early career researchers and funds external research-related staff development activities, for example attendance at AHRC Town Meeting events. **Verney**, as Associate Dean, disseminates information on external research funding opportunities and provides guidance on research issues. The Faculty and Department jointly meet the costs of conference attendance, with the expectation that every member of staff will be funded to deliver a paper at a minimum of one academic conference a year.

All full-time staff have individual five year research plans. These, and the resources needed to support them, for example archival research, conference attendance, are discussed in annual individual staff appraisals, with the HOD or AHOD, where personal development needs/objectives are agreed. Professors and Readers in the Department provide mentoring tailored to the individual needs of staff. The Department has a strong record in the development of ECRs reflected in the 2013 award of a readership to **Renton** who joined the Department as an ECR in 2007. In 2010 Mark Ledwidge, then an ECR and Associate Tutor in the Department, was included as a member of the Steering Committee of the AHRC funded Obama Research Network to ensure that it met the needs of ECRs. He is now in a permanent full-time post at Canterbury Christ Church University.

We are in the process of making an application to Athena SWAN and given our research interests, we are particularly keen to ensure we support all colleagues to realise their potential. One of our two readers is a woman (**Brown** who is also Associate Head of Department) but we recognise that the submission is dominated by men. This reflects the make-up of the subject area so we are aware that we need to focus on the recruitment process to ensure that there are no obstacles to women applying and being shortlisted for posts. Once in post, we shall monitor their development to ensure that they have equal opportunity to progress. The leaders of the research groups will actively monitor progress of all ECRs to ensure that they are able to reach their full potential.

The RESO provides a mentoring database where individuals can look for professors/readers with relevant experience to help them with their research projects and personal development. Mentoring is initiated by the researchers and focuses on specific project related issues from initial proposal through to publication. It complements the formal mentoring for new staff.

The University has the IIP Leadership and Management Gold Award and IIP Health and Wellbeing Award as well as being nominated for a number of national awards for wellbeing provision, reflecting a commitment to staff welfare in its broadest terms.

ii. Research students

Since 2008 two PhDs have been awarded to History research students (Bayley 2009, Dalziel 2013). Two PhD students (Mason Norton, Philip Williams) are currently being supervised by History staff (**Brown, Gordon**). **Brown** also contributes to a supervisory team for one PhD student in English. The 2007 merger of English with History, bringing together PhD students from the two departments, has contributed to a stronger, sustainable, postgraduate community, as evidenced by the creation of a student-led research forum that will host its first annual conference for postgraduate research students in March 2014.

During the REF cycle new appointments have contributed to a managed, temporary, fall in the number of PhD completions. This is because within the subject area early career researchers, or new members of staff who have not supervised PhD students to completion, are required to gain experience of PhD supervision by joining established supervisory teams before recruiting PhD students in their own right. During the course of the REF cycle **Gordon** and **Renton** have both become established independent supervisors. This additional experience, combined with a widening of the range of research interests of staff in the subject area is one of a number of initiatives at department, faculty and university level that will lead to a significant increase in the number of PhD completions during the next REF cycle.

In September 2009 the department introduced a team-taught pathways M.A. In addition to encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration this enables staff to teach modules related to their research interests at PG level. A new Masters by Research (M Res) was validated in 2012. These initiatives are part of a strategy to increase the numbers of PhD students, with both M.A. routes providing a 'bridging' qualification for students to progress on to doctoral study.

At Faculty level a new bursary scheme was introduced in 2012 for the recruitment of 12 full-time Graduate Teaching Assistants/PhD students each year up to 2016. Each student receives a full-time PhD fee waiver, an annual stipend of £7,380 and free accommodation on campus or a cash payment of £5,200 per year in *lieu*. Additional PhD bursaries are also supported from the internal Research Investment Fund. These initiatives reflect an ambitious, far-reaching strategy by the University to develop a community of full-time postgraduate researchers over a five year period.

Environmental template (REF5)

The registration of research students at Edge Hill is dependent upon the experience of the student, the expertise and experience of the supervisory team, the nature of the project and the facilities available. The progress of students is carefully monitored by the supervisory team and the Graduate School. All PhD students and their Director of Studies are required to submit annual reports to the Graduate School Board of Studies (GSBOS). Where appropriate, students have to obtain ethical approval for their research from both the Department Research Ethics Committee (DREC) and the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC).

The History Group will use the GTA scheme to recruit doctoral students in targeted subject areas relating to the research interests of staff and to further strategic research objectives outlined in section *b* on *Research Strategy*. For example, in September 2014 **Verney** will recruit a collaborative doctoral student to be co-supervised with the Director of the ISM to research comparative representations of slavery and the African American freedom struggle in museums and the heritage industry in Britain and the USA. Faculty fee waivers for full-time doctoral students combined with financial contributions from non-academic partners, like the ISM, and external funding applications, such as to the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards scheme, will also be used to expand the numbers of PhD students in the subject area.

Edge Hill received its own research-degree awarding powers in 2008 and a Graduate School was established in 2010 to co-ordinate the central training of PGR students and the appointment and training of all PGR supervisors with a two-year rolling training programme. The Graduate School is overseen by a Graduate Board of Studies (GSBOS), of which **Brown** is a member, and supported by a Working Group which includes **Renton**. The University upholds national benchmarking standards for the training/development of postgraduate researchers (PGRs) and PhD supervisors as embodied in the national concordats to support research integrity and the career development of researchers. There is a well-developed network of monitoring/support for research students. All research students undertake formal induction training. The Graduate School administers an annual £10,000 bursary fund that provides support exclusively for PhD students to attend conferences, undertake archival visits and fund other aspects of their research. The RESO organizes seminars/workshops within its RCB programme that are open to PhD students as well as staff. These sessions involve a wide range of activities, including guidance on submitting research papers and presentations on preparing book proposals by commissioning editors from academic publishing houses, training in various methodologies and data collection techniques, workshops on presentation skills: these complement training provide by the department and Graduate School. In April 2014, the University will hold its inaugural 3-minute thesis competition designed to encourage students to be able to present their research in a concise manner for the non-specialist. The School also organizes training for supervisors to ensure the quality of the student experience. In addition to department based accommodation, PGR students have a dedicated study room with its own suite of computers, access to printing facilities and presentation equipment.

The collaborative doctoral studentship with the ISM equally denotes the commitment of the subject area and the University to provide vocational experience and work placements for PhD students to equip them with the skills needed to flourish as researchers in their future careers.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The History Group recognizes the importance of securing additional external funding, notwithstanding a high level of institutional support for research and a significant increase in the external research income reported for the REF (£50,570) in relation to RAE 2008 (£5,475). Measures have been put in place to achieve this goal. Specific objectives include developing funding applications with non-academic partners, such as in the museum/heritage industry; gaining increased experience of project management as co-investigators (COIs) in collaborative funding awards and identifying priority areas of external funding bodies.

Early career members of staff are encouraged to build up a track record of successful small funding applications as a first step in submitting more substantive applications. For example the series of small awards achieved by **Renton** - £1,947 from the British Academy (BA) and £1,198 from the Kessler Foundation for co-organizing a conference on 'Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in Europe' at UCL in 2008, a £500 BA Overseas Conference Grant in 2010 – contributed to his being awarded a £37,654 AHRC Early Career Fellowship in 2012 for his research on the Middle East.

Renton's Fellowship demonstrates the value of the support given to researchers by specialist staff in the RESO and through internal mentoring. One AHRC reviewer for the award specifically commended the support provided by the University in helping **Renton** draft his application.

Renton's Kessler Foundation award reflects the fact that staff are encouraged to seek out a range of national and international funding bodies, rather than just applying to the most obvious, and often heavily oversubscribed, sources like the funding councils.

In 2010 **Verney** and Professor Inderjeet Parmar (City University) secured a £31,320 AHRC award to form an international research network on the Obama Presidency. This, together with the involvement of staff in an MMU led bid to establish a NW regional centre to commemorate the centenary of the First World War (see *5 b above*) evidences the commitment of the History Group to seeking out opportunities for collaborative funding bids. This approach reflects the strategy of collaboration adopted by the Group and recognizes the fact that joint funding applications, with a variety of academic and non-academic partner organizations, frequently offer the best prospects for success in securing external income in an increasingly competitive funding environment.

The establishment of a sustainable community of full-time doctoral researchers through the GTA scheme (see *cii above*) enhances opportunities for external funding applications for PGR students, as evidenced by **Verney's** planned collaborative doctoral supervision with the Director of the ISM.

All staff must comply with the principles of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. Ethical approval, where appropriate, must be sought from the Department Research Ethics Committee (DREC) and confirmed by the FREC. Staff can seek advice on ethical issues from the DREC chair. More general research issues are governed and administered by the RESO and the Faculty and University Research Committees. Readers and Professors are well represented on the FRC (**Brown, Verney**), the FREC (**Brown, Verney**), UREC (**Brown, Verney**) and URC (**Brown, Verney**) to ensure that researchers have an input into policy and practice, in accordance with the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

Since 2008 Edge Hill has engaged in a strategy to substantially enhance its research profile, submitting to 12 units of assessment for the REF compared to 6 for RAE 2008. The central goal has been to expand research output both in terms of breadth and depth. This has been achieved by supporting all staff in producing quality outputs through the capacity building activities highlighted earlier (see *ci*) and from dedicated research support funds. For example, from 2009-2012 **Renton** received £22,734 from the internal Research Investment Fund for his work on the Middle East and in 2012 **Gordon** was awarded £4,990 for his research project on the history of French public transport. The University has invested in a series of new appointments to provide research leadership at professorial level in all units of assessment. A dedicated Research Support Librarian offers expert advice and guidance on information management, effective use of research resources and specialist tools, such as RefWorks. A comprehensive range of services and resources are available, tailored to the specific discipline requirements of researchers.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Since 2008 History staff have given more than 100 conference papers. They are members of a wide range of professional bodies. In addition to those mentioned elsewhere these include the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the American Historical Association, the British Association for American Studies, British Crime Historians, the Institute of Historical Research, the Crime and Punishment Collections Network, the European Association of Jewish Studies, the Association for Israel Studies, the Middle East Studies Association of North America, the Organization of American Historians, the Royal Historical Society, the Social History Curators Group, the Society for the Study of French History, the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, the Southern Historical Association.

Gordon has been chair of the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France (ASMCF) North West regional group since its launch at Edge Hill in 2006 and from 2005-2009 was a member of the ASMCF national executive committee as well as being its national publicity officer. He was elected to the steering committee of History UK (HE) in November 2009. In 2011 **Renton** was elected to the Committee of the British Association for Jewish Studies and from 2006-2009 **Whitham** was Deputy Treasurer for the Transatlantic Studies Association.

Members of the History Group routinely act as reviewers for external funding bodies and, publishers, including the ESRC, The Leverhulme Trust, the Nuffield Foundation, the Royal Historical Society, the University Press of Florida, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan.

History staff have reviewed for more than 30 scholarly journals, including the *American Historical Review*, *Economic History Review*, *English Historical Review*, *French Studies*, *Jewish Historical Studies*, *Journal of African American History*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Contemporary History*, *Modern and Contemporary France*, *Reviews in American History*, *Women's History Review*.

Brown is on the editorial board of the *Prison Service Journal* and is a corresponding member for *Social History*. **Gordon** has been a member of the editorial board of *Modern and Contemporary France* since 2012 and **Whitham** is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*.

Individual collaborations and contributions include the following:

Brown co-organized the conference 'Can Values Make a Difference: Co-operatives – Moving from the Rochdale Pioneers to the 21st Century', in collaboration with academics from John Moores University, UCLAN, Universidad del País Vasco, Bilbao, and the Cooperative College, July 2009. She was also involved in the organization of the 2012 co-operative conference, 'Mainstreaming Co-operation'. She was co-convenor of the deviance strand of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 annual Social History conferences held at the universities of Glasgow, Manchester and Brighton.

In March 2013 **Brown** and Barton (UoA 20) hosted a conference at Edge Hill on 'The Prison and the Public'. The keynote speakers were Dr Jamie Bennett, Governor of HMP Grendon and editor of the *Prison Service Journal*, and Eric Allison, the *Guardian* prison correspondent. Papers at the conference will be published in a special edition of the *Prison Service Journal*.

Gordon, as chair of ASMCF NW, co-organized events at Chester, Edge Hill, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester and Salford. In 2012 he was an invited speaker at an international conference at the Maison Francaise, Oxford, on 'French Politics in an Age of Uncertainty'.

Nicholson was awarded the inaugural 'Gale Dissertation Research Fellowship in Nineteenth Century Media' in 2009 in recognition of his innovative use of online archives. In October 2010 he had an article published in the *Guardian* and he was interviewed in the *Times* in December 2010. In 2011 he was the winner of the *Journal of Victorian Culture* Graduate Essay prize. The same year he was one of 57 finalists from more than 1,100 applicants shortlisted by the BBC and the AHRC in their search for *New Generation Thinkers*. He has been invited to present his research at more than 20 external conferences, including events held at the Universities of Freiburg, New York, Oxford and Yale as well as the British Library. He is working alongside colleagues in the Department of English and History to establish a new research centre for the study of print culture.

Renton was awarded an AHRC Early Career Research Fellowship in 2012 for his work on the Middle East. In addition to writing a monograph as a part of his Fellowship he is co-organizer for a series of conferences from 2013-2015 to be held by a group of scholars under the *Translating Cultures* notice led by Professor Charles Forsdick (Liverpool). The *Translating Cultures* group is also organizing a dedicated website, discussion list, research blog, and workshops aimed at involving partners and collaborators from outside of academia.

Verney's co-edited essay collection, *One Hundred Years of the NAACP*, was commended by Professor Manfred Berg, a world leading authority on the subject, as the most important study on the NAACP to be published in its centenary year (Review, *Journal of American History*, December, 2010). Since 2010 **Verney** has been Co-Investigator for an AHRC funded research network on the Obama Presidency. He has co-organized a series of Network symposia events and a schools conference at the British Library, London. This included an annual public lecture at Edge Hill, 2011-2013, given by Melissa Harris-Perry (Princeton), Will Kaufman (UCLAN) and **Verney** respectively. In 2011 the University hosted a research symposium on Obama and Race with speakers from the universities of Copenhagen, East Anglia, Manchester, Swansea and Warwick, as well as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In October 2013 papers from the symposium were published by Routledge in an essay collection on Obama and Race co-edited by **Verney**.

Whitham is joint-coordinator with Professor Alan Dobson (Dundee) of a major transatlantic collaboration documenting the European experience of U.S. military bases, 1945-2005. This multi-disciplinary project includes collaboration with scholars from Britain, Germany, Italy, Portugal and the United States and in 2009 resulted in the publication of an edited collection of essays, *Military Bases: Historical Perspectives, Contemporary Challenges* (Lisbon: IOS Press).