Impact template (REF3a)

Institution: City University London

Unit of Assessment: 23 Sociology

a. Context

The Department achieves impact and influence through working to improve knowledge and understanding; policy and practice; training, standards and service provision; and wider behaviour change. Beneficiaries from this work include:

1. **Government bodies**: our impact relates to crime and justice, food quality, labour markets, media and communication, deportation and migration.
2. **Professional organisations**: our impact relates to comparative survey methods, food law enforcement, crime and justice, nutrition and public health.
3. **Civil society organisations and the vulnerable populations they represent**: our impact concerns atypical workers, crime victims, low-income consumers and migrants.
4. **The general public:** our impact covers the full range of societal transformations, hotspots and policy challenges captured by our research interests and expertise.

b. Approach to impact

We have sought to increase our impact across all of our research areas:

- Centres: Comparative Social Surveys (CCSS), host to the European Social Survey (ESS); International Communication and Society (CICS); Law, Justice and Journalism (CLJJ); Crime and Justice Research (CCJR); Food Policy (CFP).
- Clusters: Work, Class and Gender (WGC); Cultural Sociology (CS).

1. ADVISORY ROLES AND UPTAKE OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

We achieve impact through acting in an advisory capacity, whether short-term and one-off or formalised and official. In this REF period we have advised and influenced the following:

UK Local Governmental bodies: **Caraher** (CFP) advised Bristol City Council on its Food City policy. **Myers** (CCJR) advised the Greater London Authority (GLA) Community Safety Unit on bullying, ran anti-violence workshops for Wandsworth Council Youth Offending Team (2009) and is a GLA Project Oracle panel member for Violence and Youth Crime (since 2012).

UK National Governmental bodies: **Jowell** (CCSS), knighted in 2008 for services to social science, was the first Chair of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Social Science Research Committee (2008-2010), establishing its flagship survey 'Food and You'. He was a General Advisory Committee on Science member and deputy Chair of the UK Statistics Authority (2008-2011). **CCSS** ran seminars on *Attitudes to and Experiences of Ageism* (Department for Work and Pensions, January 2013) and *Work Wellbeing and Recession* (Cabinet Office, April 2013). **Harrison** (CCSS) is Technical Adviser for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) *Measuring National Wellbeing Programme* (since 2011). **Gash** (WCG) presented findings on the economic crisis, work and social cohesion to the Treasury (April 2013). **Iosifidis** (CICS) advised UK Government's Digital Inclusion Champion on increasing public computer literacy (2009-11). **Myers** (CCJR) advised the Department for Education Anti-Bullying Alliance Effective Practice steering group (2005-2010). **Bloch**'s £184,000 Paul Hamlyn Foundation-funded work on undocumented migrants formed the basis of a meeting with government and NGOs, including SETF, Trust for London and JRF.

International Governmental bodies: **Ryan** (CCSS) was cited in the Council of Europe Ministerial resolution on gender mainstreaming (2012). **Harrison** (CCSS) was on the European Policy Centre's Wellbeing 2030 Steering Group. He advised Eurostat's European Statistical Advisory Committee on *Measuring and Comparing Quality of Life in Europe* (2013) and Eurostat's ESSnet on implementing the European Socio-economic Classification (2012) and helped design the 2011 European Quality of Life Survey Questionnaire. **Schuster** (CCJR) helped draft the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation 5 year Strategic Plan (2012) and the Labor Migration Policy for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (November 2013), presented research on Migration and National Security at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (November 2013) and provided expert reports in asylum cases in France and the UK. As part of the FP7 Fiducia project, **Hohl** (CCJR) co-authored a report for the European Commission (2013). **McLaughlin** advised the International Council on Human Rights Policy on *Modes and Patterns of Social Control* (2009). **Myers** (CCJR) is a panel member for European Research Network COST on school violence and cyberbullying.

Jones (WCG) advised the South Korean Prime Minister and Education Minister on the national free semester for secondary students, presenting to 500 Korean school heads and policy-makers (2013). **Iosifidis** (CICS) assisted the Greek Ministry of Press and Media with the national digital switchover plan (2008-2012) and advised the South Korean ICT Minister on UK-South Korea cultural cooperation (November 2013).

Professional bodies: **Jowell** (CCSS) was a long-serving Trustee of IPPR. **Jones** (WGC) is on ACCA's Global Advisory Board and gave a web-presentation to 1000 global participants on the impact of technological change on the profession (2013). **Greer and McLaughlin** (CCJR, CLJJ) provided research for the review that produced *Policing Public Order* (HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, 2011). **Hohl**'s (CCJR) work on the attrition of rape allegations was discussed at a Home Office organisational change roundtable, chaired by the Home Secretary (October 2013). **Lang**, as Vice-President of the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health (EH), annually reviews its Practitioners' strategy and in 2013 he reviewed FSA structures and credibility following the horsemeat scandal.

Civil Society bodies and vulnerable populations: **Bloch**'s work with NGOs and policy organisations resulted in the creation of Supported Options Initiative (2012), a £1M Fund (Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Unbound Philanthropy) to improve support for young migrants. **Schuster** (CCJR) co-founded the Afghanistan Migration Organisation to reduce risks to migrants through information on regimes and conditions in destination countries. **Mercea** (CICS) co-founded the Independent Centre for the Development of Environmental Resources to support communities in Romania facing anthropogenic environmental threat (2006). **Ryan** (CCSS) was appointed SOVA Trustee (Supporting Others Through Voluntary Action, 2008-2012) to strengthen mentoring support for ex-offenders. **Jones** (WCG) is an Advisory Board Member for Raleigh International on international volunteering. **Lang** was appointed lead Trustee to Borough Market on education and community skills (2012-2013) and President of Garden Organic, writing a quarterly column for its 30,000 members. **Barling** and **Halliday** (CFP) worked with the Sustainable Food Cities movement.

2. DISSEMINATION TO NON-ACADEMIC AUDIENCES

In the REF period, **Iosifidis** (CICS) organised five City conferences (one EPSRC-funded) which engaged policy-makers, industry players and NGOs around UK Government's smooth conversion to digital television; and policy debates around an inclusive digital economy. **Maltby** gave invited talks on war and media at Defence Colleges in Cranfield (2012) and Stockholm (2013). Her co-organised (with the War and Media Network) London art exhibition, *War and Body* (2010), was reviewed in the *New Statesman*. The **CCSS** ran ESS dissemination events at the ESRC Festival of Social Science, targeted at journalists (2010); the public (2011); and schoolchildren (2012, 2013).

3. DISSEMINATION TO PUBLIC AUDIENCES

The Department encourages engagement around societal transformations and policy challenges via all forms of media. **CFP** achieved 1300 citations, 2008-13. **Lang** (CFP) has 5300 Twitter followers and writes regular press articles and a monthly *The Grocer* column. **Caraher** (CFP) featured documentaries on food banks (RTE, 2012, 2013; Channel 4, 2012). **Greer and McLaughlin** (CCJR, CLJJ) gave interviews on the 2011 England riots to BBC, Al Jazeera and press in Australia, Brazil, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Italy and Sweden. They authored articles in *The Guardian* on the 2009 death of Ian Tomlinson and the 2011 Anders Breivik killings in Norway. Four outputs were published on the 2012 Leveson Inquiry website. **Schuster** (CCJR) discussed deportation on radio/television in Afghanistan, Australia, France and UK. **Jones** (WCG) was cited in the *Huffington Post*, *The Guardian* and *The Times* on global and voluntary work. **Friedman** (CS) was profiled in *The Guardian* (2013). His co-produced BBC Great British Class Survey achieved 6.9M visits on the BBC website and was the *New York Times*' most read world news story, 2013. **Matos** (CICS) was interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live about the Honduran conflict (2009). **Iosifidis** (CICS) was cited on digital take-up in *The Guardian*, *THES*, Greek and South Korean press.

The University hosts *The Conversation UK* (www.theconversation.com/uk) where UK academics write about research for a lay audience. Sociology's three pieces (**Lang** x2 and **Schuster** x1) have achieved 4,000 downloads. Workload planning ensures time for impact activities and recognises impact as a measure of academic success. The Associate Dean (Impact), School and University Research Offices support the pursuit of impact. The University repository, City Research Online, provides open access to research outputs. The University promotes research through a public lecture series. The Press Office assists staff in placing media-friendly reports on their research.

c. Strategy and plans

We are committed to achieving impact through network development, deriving in part from proactive engagement with existing and potential beneficiaries and in part from opportunities that arise from our London location. In this REF period a three-track strategy has evolved:

Track One **builds external capacity for impact** by establishing and maintaining relations with existing and potential beneficiaries to build trust and credibility, identify research hotspots and policy challenges and create a forum for communicating findings back to beneficiaries, policy-makers and the public. For example: 1) **CFP**'s Esmee Fairburn funding for a Food Research Network (2013-16) will support working with NGOs to improve academic collaboration with civil society networks; 2) Building on her relations with London Metropolitan Police, **Hohl** (CCCJ) is co-designing a Home Office-funded Randomised Control Trial of Officers' Domestic Violence Training (DVT) which will shape DVT policy; 3) **CCSS** is organising an event with other ESRC Strategic Investments on maximising the impact of cross-national survey work (2014).

Track Two **builds internal capacity for impact** by promoting active collaboration between our Centres and Clusters, improving ability to identify potentially high impact research areas and capitalise on event-driven opportunities. For example: 1) Following the horsemeat scandal, Greer and McLaughlin (CCJR, CLJJ) and CFP are collaborating on the notion of 'food scandal', with a seminar series (2014-15) to engage academics, journalists, policy-makers and food professionals around lessons and policy challenges and establish an agenda for research with impact; 2) Gash (WCG) continues to work with CCSS/ESS data to analyse the gender pay gap, informing the EU 6th Framework-funded Equalsoc.

Track Three **is a more traditional model of knowledge transfer**, in which research findings and ideas are disseminated to and adopted by beneficiaries. For example: 1) ESS will target its 3rd Findings booklet (*Exploring Public Attitudes, Informing Public* Policy, 2015) at the policy community. ESS Policy Seminars (2014-2015), hosted across Brussels-based think tanks, the European Parliament and European Commission, will engage policy concerns around e.g., Europeans' attitudes towards democracy and well-being. ESS aims its Topline Results Series (Europe-wide and country-specific results, 2002-2012) at policy-makers, government analysts and the public; 2) Friedman (CS) and the multi-institutional Great British Class Survey (GBCS) team are working with the ONS, Centre for Labour and Social Studies and Intergenerational Foundation to ensure GBCS findings influence policy debate on class inequalities.

Our impact capacity has been strengthened by a University framework which includes a recruitment policy placing emphasis on impact. We have made several appointments partly on the basis of impact (e.g., **Friedman, Gash, Hohl**) and incorporated CFP to strengthen policy analysis and impact. Our postgraduate training stresses impact thinking in supervision and teaching, not least on courses taken by practitioners, to extend long-term networks in line with *Track One* above.

d. Relationship to case studies

The selected Impact Case Studies reflect the Department's vitality and societal engagement. Each Case Study demonstrates a commitment to high quality academic research that addresses societal challenges. Each illustrates our influence and impact outside academia and longstanding expertise that predates the present REF period. Each has been chosen for the depth and breadth of impact on the beneficiaries and publics identified in section (a). We believe they reflect fundamental characteristics of the critical sociology practiced at City.

Case Study 1, *Food Citizenship*, illustrates long-term tensions in modern food consumption between defining societal progress as ever-cheaper food and a more demanding approach asking consumers to act as citizens applying multiple sustainability criteria.

Case Study 2, ESS, shows the dual impact of this world-leading pan-European survey. ESS provides valuable data about European social attitudes over time for academic research and evidence-based public policy. It also represents the highest standards of methodological rigour among its users in academia, survey agencies, statistical offices and the public sphere.

Case Study 3, *Integrated Food Policy*, shows how, following the 2007-08 price spike and EU horsemeat scandal, the structural tensions within 20th century food systems cannot be sustained and require a new policy framework. This position gained legitimacy and traction within government, commercial and civil society processes at national (e.g., UK Cabinet Office), regional (e.g., EU) and global (e.g., UN) levels.