Institution: University of Glasgow

Unit of assessment: 22 - Social Work and Social Policy

a. Context. Our research is of use to, and in many cases develops directly out of engagement with, a wide variety of non-academic partners at a range of levels. Through the establishment and dissemination of new scientific evidence; through the assessment of existing practices and interventions; through the provision of expert advice and testimony; through development of novel collaborative research with partners outside of the academy; through the facilitation of new conversations between those addressing similar issues in diverse contexts, our research has informed and helped to shape:

- the work of government Ministers, Parliamentarians, civil servants, policy makers and statutory bodies both in the UK and in states around the world, as well as legislation and practice in relation to a number of fields, including criminal justice, gambling and the implementation of equality and human rights legislation;
- the way in which NGOs, third sector and private service providers operate in the health and criminal justice sectors and in the context of work with and for vulnerable and stigmatised communities both nationally and globally;
- the strategies of lobbying and activist organizations, including unions and human rights groups, as well bodies advocating reform in practice and policy related to criminal justice, racism, disability, immigration and sexualities;
- media and public discussion of key issues of social concern more widely, helping to improve democratic deliberation in relation to these questions.

b. Approach to impact. We understand the knowledge produced by rigorous social scientific inquiry to be a public good, and we therefore take it as incumbent on those who are involved in the production of such knowledge that they ensure that it is communicated clearly and accessibly beyond the academy. In accordance with this view, those working within the Unit have pursued a range of often innovative methods for communicating their research findings to diverse public audiences. These include:

- the development of high quality, high profile websites for the presentation of research findings, the interactive discussion of new ideas and the provision of free-to-use resources (e.g. www.traffickingculture.org and www.afternow.co.uk/), as well as the use of new communications media, including blogs (e.g. blogs.iriss.org.uk/discoveringdesistance/: 60,000+ views), *Facebook* (www.facebook.com/HumanRightsSOGICommonwealth: 75,000+ views) and *Twitter*. We also routinely record and make publically accessible key research events such as the annual *Frisby Lecture* and the annual *SCCJR* lectures;
- the discussion of research findings in press and broadcast media. This is common practice across our return and includes involvement in the production of dedicated TV and radio documentaries (e.g. Wyke and Gray: www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/scotland/14239984). In many cases, those included in our return are recognised as expert contributors to a range of public debates (Burman and McNeill, for example, on criminal justice policy, Philo and Hoskins on questions of media and conflict, Hanlon on public health, Batchelor in debates about young women and violence, and Waites on sexuality and human rights);
- novel means of communication such as film projects (e.g. McNeill's involvement in *The Road From Crime:* www.iriss.org.uk/resources/the-road-from-crime; 5,000+ viewings) and pioneering collaborations with artists (e.g. www.jennywicksphotography.co.uk/Working-Spaces-Punishing-Spaces).

For the same reason, we ensure that annual research planning protects the time and space in which staff are able to produce publications which are addressed to non-academic audiences. Examples include: the book length account of the lives of recovering drug users by Pickering and colleagues; Scrinzi's contribution to the *Foundation for European Progressive Studies* open-access public magazine on gender and migration, as well as the work by Philo and colleagues, with *Chatham House*, on the reception of information about climate change.

Crucially, however, our practice is based on recognition that the transformative potential of social research rests on the establishment of dialogue and collaboration with non-academic partners of a sustained kind and we actively support the development and maintenance of such relationships, recognizing and protecting the time required by such work in annual research management processes. The organization of much of our activity in and through

interdisciplinary research centres has, in important respects, helped to facilitate and extend these relations and all of the research centres in which members of our return are based prioritize collaboration with non-academic partners in their objectives and strategic planning.

We recognize, in particular, that the resilience of such relationships depends on reciprocity. Thus, on the one hand, we have sought to contribute directly to the work of non-academic partners through the membership of advisory boards, or through the provision of expert scientific advice. This includes work with:

- **Global and International Organizations.** e.g. the *UN Office on Drugs and Crime* working group on trafficked cultural property (Mackenzie); the Belgian Presidency of the *EU* (McNeill); the *EC Joint Research Centre* (Hoskins); the *OECD* and the EU *GEMMA* project on 'Gender and Migration' (Scrinzi); *EC Directorate-General for Education and Culture* and *The International Council of Museums* (Brodie);
- **National Government and its Subsidiary Bodies.** e.g. *The Responsible Gambling Strategy Board* (Reith, who also chaired the *Board's* Research Panel, 2009-11); *The Scottish Advisory Panel on Offender Rehabilitation* (which McNeill chairs); the *Department of Energy and Climate Change* and the *Westminster Parliament Committee on Science and Technology* (Philo)*; The UK Biobank Ethics and Governance Council* and the *Department of Health's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation* (Hunt);
- **Third Sector Organizations.** e.g. Virdee's participation in various *TUC* taskforces on inequality; Wyke's work with *Cancer Research UK's Population Health Committee*; Clark's membership of the *European Association for Palliative Care Taskforce on Development;* Hunt's membership of the 2 Advisory Groups for *Healthtalkonline.*

On the other hand, we ensure that our research agendas are open to the insights and concerns of non-academic partners and we routinely develop research and knowledge exchange projects in direct collaboration with such partners. Waites' work on struggles for the decriminalization of same-sex relations across the Commonwealth exemplifies this ethic of reciprocity, developing as it does out of work with a range of local and global campaigning organizations, many of whom contributed directly to the production of the first trans-national, comparative study of these movements, led by Waites and a colleague from the *Institute for Commonwealth Studies*. In a break from academic convention, the published version of this study was then made freely available online, both in order to ensure that it could be accessed globally, but also in order to facilitate further transnational dialogue, including with (and between) counter-publics excluded from mainstream political discussion in parts of the global South. Work conducted within the *Institute for Health and Wellbeing* emerges, similarly, through discussion and collaboration with non-academic organizations. Indicatively, a recent study – 'Enabling Health in Later Life' – was developed in partnership with *NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde*, the Scottish Government's *Joint Improvement Team* and *The Alliance for Health and Social Care.* The *Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR)* also identifies research priorities through conversations with a range of organizations concerned with criminal justice issues including: *CLINKs, SACRO*, the *Institute for Judicial Studies* and the *Scottish Institute of Policing Research*.

Such relationships are constituted more formally through the involvement of non-academic partners in the management structures of our research centres and networks. This is the case, for example, with the External Advisory Board of *SCCJR,* the Advisory Board of the new ESRC research *Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity,* and the Steering Committees of a number of the interdisciplinary research networks in which our staff are involved. Within the more specific context of individual research projects we understand it to be a duty of scrupulous social research that it provides participants, and those affected by the issues under investigation, with opportunities to reflect on the work that is being undertaken and to respond to preliminary findings and analysis (examples of engagements of this kind include: Gibb's one-day workshop for judges, lawyers, interpreters, NGOs and ministerial officials dealing with asylum claims; Armstrong's roundtable event for organizations concerned with 'Reducing Reoffending'; Watson's leadership of a series of public workshops on the lives of disabled children).

The University of Glasgow provides a range of initiatives to support activities of the kind described here, and from which members of our return have benefitted. These include:

- the presence, at School level, of a *Knowledge Exchange* office providing dedicated and disciplinarily-attuned support to various programmes of public engagement, as well as

access to the *Adam Smith Research Foundation's* wide range of dissemination tools*;*
- the University-wide *First Step Awards,* supporting pilot and feasibility studies which bring together academics with small and medium size non-academic organizations (members of our return received awards totalling over £8,000 from this scheme in the current period);
- the University of Glasgow's *Knowledge Exchange Fund* which provides financial support for innovative collaborative work between academics and non-academic communities. In the current year, for example, the fund provided just over £19,000 in support of projects led by members of our return.

c. Strategy and plans. Work undertaken in the Unit is recognized within the University of Glasgow as providing a model of innovative and successful collaborative working with non-academic groups, and approaches developed within this return will shape future practice more widely at the University. One significant development, in this respect, is the recent establishment of a new University research centre, *Policy Scotland,* dedicated to helping academic research more effectively inform the work of practitioners and policy makers; members of our return, especially Burman, have played a key role in its development. Our intention over the coming period is that we will:
- in line with aims identified in the University of Glasgow's *Impact and Knowledge Exchange Strategy,* establish more systematic processes for recording, disseminating and learning from successful examples of collaborative engagement with non-academic partners;
- as part of the articulation of our vision of a *Civic Social Science,* arrange a series of events to foster a wider interdisciplinary and public dialogue about the social role and contribution of policy relevant social research;
- through annual research planning processes, support all staff in securing funding for knowledge exchange activity, collaborative working or other forms of non-academic engagement in relation to their research;
- fully integrate PGR and research associate staff into these processes, particularly through the creation of a new, funded role for a graduate *Knowledge Exchange Assistant,* with responsibility for helping to develop innovative communication and dissemination strategies across the Unit and leading training for PGRs in this area.

d. Relationship to case studies. The case-studies identified here exemplify the approach described above, providing evidence of what it means in practice to treat impact as something emerging out of dialogue and a commitment to reciprocal engagement with non-academic communities. Thus, for example, McNeill's work around desistance is the cumulative product of long-standing research involvement with 'people with convictions' and those providing services to them. This involvement has shaped his development of new theoretical and conceptual models, which have, in turn, helped to challenge criminal justice policymakers and practitioners in all sectors to think in new ways about their work. Wyke, Gray and Hunt's work, similarly, demonstrates the strengths of a collaborative engagement between academic researchers and health professionals in creating an innovative new approach to health interventions and the value of academic research as one part of a wider project, helping to identify what works, and what may need to be finessed, in the practice and promotion of such initiatives. Philo and Watson's work, on the other hand, shows the value of a different kind of public engagement; here the presence a highly regarded academic research centre, which has a long-standing record of working with organizations of and for disabled people, has led to the identification of a specific research need, the response to which has helped facilitate, in turn, a new research collaboration within the academic context. The research findings which emerged from this collaboration are helping to critically inform public debate and the work of campaigning organizations themselves. Burman's work, meanwhile, demonstrates the ability of pioneering social research, informed by engagement with important stakeholders, to help change practice by raising critical questions about existing legislative provision and by focussing attention on the effects of existing procedures and processes in the judicial context.

   Thus we understand research to be something that takes place not in academic seclusion but within a wider social and political context with which researchers have a duty to engage; the social impact of our work emerges out of an understanding of policy research as a civic activity, informed by notions of civic responsibility and by an ethic of reciprocity.