

Institution: University of Bradford

Unit of Assessment: C22 – Social Work and Social Policy

#### a. Overview

Our research is organised into two interdisciplinary groups: 1. Diversity and Identity and 2. Social Work, Families and Inclusion. These have made significant contributions to the shape of research in their areas, with substantial empirical and theoretical contributions along with important impacts going beyond the academic community. These impacts are underpinned by research containing theoretical and methodological innovation and by critical policy engagements. The research groups are situated in the Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR), which was set up in 2011 as a major investment by the University based on the success of the unit of assessment in RAE 2008. This has allowed the development of existing research strengths as identified in that RAE. While the two research groups are distinct to some degree there is a strong emphasis on diversity that runs through all the research in this unit of assessment, reflecting the diversity of the city and University in which we work. A major theme, then, is diversity and social inclusion, directing developments in theory, empirical research, and critical engagement with social policy to foster the social inclusion and well-being of currently more marginalised groups, whether this is on the grounds of race and ethnicity, religion, age, gender, or vulnerable families and children. This is approached through an interdisciplinary research culture in which staff expertise ranges across social work, social policy, sociology, social psychology, and economics.

### b. Research strategy

The research strategy in RAE 2008 stated that our first aim was to build on existing research areas and strengths. In the feedback from that RAE the outputs in the 'Ethnicity, Families and Identity' group was flagged up as containing work that is 'world leading' and the research on ethnicity was mentioned for its strong links to local communities. In this REF period, this group has been reorganised and re-named as 'Diversity and Identity' because work on the family has been moved into the 'Social Work, Families and Inclusion' group to integrate it with work on child welfare and well-being. The setting up of the Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR) in 2011 has been crucial to the support of these two research groups, as staff within them are core members of CASR. Husband, whose work is internationally recognised in the study of race and ethnicity, became Director of the Centre, the aim of which is to promote, disseminate and widen the impact of applied social research at the University of Bradford.

The Diversity and Identity group (research leader, Burkitt) interrogates identity in social theory, social psychological theory, and methodology. The aim of this group is to provide significant theoretical and empirical underpinnings for understanding identity as a socially situated, dialogical construction. Burkitt's work is central to this with the publication of the completely revised and rewritten second edition of Social Selves (Sage, 2008), a landmark work on the topic of the social formation of identity. He continues work on embodiment and emotions with an article in Sociology and a forthcoming book Emotions and Social Relations (Sage 2014). Closely linked work by Sullivan focuses on dialogue with self and others, an approach he has pioneered both theoretically and methodologically. In 2009 he won the British Psychological Society Qualitative Methods in Psychology section prize as outstanding early career scholar. This has been consolidated by the publication of his first book, Qualitative Data Analysis: Using a Dialogical Approach (Sage 2012) which argues for dialogical analysis as a method with advantages over other discursive approaches. Husband continues his research on ethnic identity, based on the development of themes from Social Identity Theory. This is an exemplar of our strong and enduring research on ethnic identities, which has made extensive theoretical, empirical, and critical policy contributions both internationally and on local multicultural communities in Bradford. The aim of the work is to uncover the lived experience of individuals and groups in contemporary multi-ethnic cities. exploding many of the stereotypes of ethnic groups portrayed in the media and held in the popular imagination. Empirically, research has examined and challenged policies of social cohesion and counter-terrorism - policies which are understood to have conflicting effects - alongside life experiences and inter-ethnic dynamics in urban contexts (Husband and Alam; Samad): international studies of ethnicity and media (Husband): pioneering original research on the relationship between Pakistan and the US, particularly around security issues and military policy (Samad): and tackling the non-researched issue of men's experience of forced marriage (Samad). In 2010 Samad reported on his Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) funded study of community cohesion in Bradford, and Husband and Alam conducted research on social cohesion and counter-



terrorism policies in five large metropolitan authorities in Northern England with diverse populations, funded jointly by the JRF and the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities (AWYA). In parallel with this, Lavis is conducting important new research on how diversity is managed in prisons in England and Wales through three projects funded by the ESRC, going beyond the initial concern in the prison service with race and ethnicity into other intersecting aspects of identity, such as religion, gender, and sexuality. In terms of gender, Mehdizadeh, as British Academy Post-doctoral Fellow, is researching the family-work balance for women in the Middle East, especially Iran, and the social policy implications of this in terms of childcare in those countries. Cameron continues his ground-breaking economic analyses of social issues such as hatred and other emotions, leisure, and gay sexuality, following the highly successful *Economics of Sin* (Edward Elgar, 2002) with *The Economics of Hate* (Edward Elgar, 2009).

The Social Work, Families and Inclusion group (research leader, McAuley) researches the way in which social factors impact on the lives of individual, families, and vulnerable groups, and how social work and care services can respond to this. A major focus in the group is child well-being and welfare with McAuley's research exploring the relative influence of family stressors and socioeconomic factors on children's happiness and subjective well-being, with articles in *Child Indicators* Research, Child and Family Social Work and in the first international Handbook on Child Well-Being (Springer 2013). A recent invitation from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to submit a bid for catalyst funding to analyse data on children in the Born in Bradford cohort study (one of the biggest medical research studies in the UK, tracking the lives of 13,500 babies and their families) offers the opportunity to explore the well-being of children with a range of health conditions from diverse backgrounds. A doctoral student (Rashib, supervised by McAuley) is researching forced marriages, Asian men and family well-being. Building on earlier research on abuse within Bradford's diverse communities. Gilligan's work in this period has predominantly focused on the role of religion and belief in child protection (in Child Abuse Review) and developing a framework on religion and belief for professional social work practice (in British Journal of Social Work, with Furness). The latter research has been widely recognised as path-finding and a highly original contribution to knowledge in social work, especially with the publication of Furness and Gilligan's Religion, Belief and Social Work: Making a Difference (Policy Press, 2010). More recently, Gilligan's writings have provided valuable critical analysis of clerical sexual abuse and the response of the church as an institution. The effective engagement of fathers in Children's Services has also been an element of his research (British Journal of Social Work, with Manby and Pickburn). The themes of parental engagement and working in partnership with children and families is also considered by Holt in relation to the introduction of the Public Law Outline and its impact on the administrative and judicial decision making processes in child care in the context of human rights. Her work also considers the effect of neo-liberalism and rising levels of inequality on social workers building partnerships with children and families (British Journal of Social Work with Featherstone and Broadhurst).

The group is also concerned with the **management, leadership and regulation of social work.** Lawler's research is central here. He has focused on the importance of critical management for social work and the management of complexity with creativity. His co-authored book *Social Management and Leadership: Managing Complexity with Creativity* (with Bilson, Routledge 2010) is being taken forward with an edited collection on the same topic (with Hafford-Letchfield, Whiting and Birch 2014). His writings also provide an innovative examination of the social process of individualisation and a critical consideration of its relationship to concepts of leadership as an individual activity within public sector management (in *Public Administration*); and a Sartrean perspective on theorising leadership authenticity (in *Leadership*). Alongside this, Furness' research has focused on the contribution of inspection to the quality of care in homes for older people (in *British Journal of Social Work*) and on the importance of social work conduct and related regulation (in *British Journal of Social Work*, *forthcoming*) to improve the lives and the safety of the elderly in care.

To further develop the strength of these successful research groups and the research environment they constitute, the Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR) has hosted expert symposia to forge national and international research links, as well as sessions with users of research, on a range of subjects linked to the interests of the groups. CASR also aims to develop new submissions for research funding in our key areas and to develop the capacities of a wider range



of staff in applying for research funding. In RAE 2008 comment was made that research funding was concentrated in the hands of just a few academics. CASR has redressed this imbalance by supporting all staff in making research bids through a system of mentoring and reviewing research proposals by research leaders. Members also have regular lunchtime meetings to talk about their research, along with the more formal seminars and symposia, to create networks and synergies both within and outside of the University. An early result of this strategy is the success of both Lavis and Walker in winning significant funding for applied social research projects (see section d).

To lead research in the area of families, McAuley was appointed as Professor of Social Work in October 2012 and has already taken a strong leadership role in the development of the Social Work, Families and Inclusion group and its future strategy for increasing publications, building research grant capacity and enhancing its international profile. We have also appointed a Professor of Psychology, a second area of research development mentioned in RAE 2008. Research in the psychology group focuses on health, and the appointment of the Professor is to lead this research group and to enhance the existing excellence of health research at the University of Bradford. Because of this, some members of this group are being submitted in the Allied Health unit of assessment for REF 2014.

In the next five years our main objectives and activities in research are to further enhance the strength of our research groups by taking forward projects on: 1) rethinking agency by empirically investigating different social contexts in which agency is practiced (research leader, Burkitt): 2) to advance research on the lived experience of ethnic diversity through a project on the car as a central feature in the construction of Asian male identity (research leaders, Husband and Alam): 3) to further develop work in Social Work, Families and Inclusion by researching the effects of austerity cuts on families, children, and social work services, and also to develop research with the Born in Bradford project to investigate the well-being of children from diverse backgrounds (research leader, McAuley): and 4) to extend the pioneering work on diversity in prisons in England and Wales (research leader, Lavis). The research leaders on these projects involve other members of CASR with research interests and expertise related to these topics. The drivers for the success of this strategy are the high-level international symposia mentioned above and the networks of research leadership and support in CASR. We have already held symposia that a) brought together representatives of major funding councils (including the ESRC), researchers on ethnicity and users of ethnicity research, to explore the relationships between these actors in shaping ethnic relations policies; b) investigated new forms of political participation, especially among young people; c) hosted a national symposium on austerity cuts and the impact on children, families, and communities which was opened by Baroness Ruth Lister; and d) hosted international speakers from the USA and Europe to rethink concepts of agency in the global context of power relations, everyday lives, and identities. Forthcoming symposia in the next year include one on dialogical methods in the social sciences, and another on diversity in prisons in England and Wales. The outputs of this activity will include edited books resulting from the symposia, published by Policy Press, and research bids to funding bodies.

#### c. People, including:

# i. Staffing strategy and staff development

As noted above, the staffing strategy is designed to dovetail with our research strategy, its objectives and activities. McAuley has been appointed as Professor of Social Work and is tasked with leading the Social Work, Families and Inclusion group and supporting CASR. We have appointed Stewart-Knox as Professor of Psychology to lead research in the psychology team, particularly around health and nutrition. Our established team of researchers continue their work in Diversity and Identity, including Burkitt, Husband, Samad, and Sullivan. Other researchers from the Social Work, Families and Inclusion group include Furness and Holt who have established strong research profiles in this REF period. Prestigious research fellowships in the unit of assessment include Husband who held a Fellowship at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Study (with the title of Research Director) 2008-2011.

In the staffing strategy we ensure the future management of research in terms of the objectives and activities listed above. In managing research activity, the Professors work alongside the coordinator for this unit of assessment, Burkitt, who monitors the performance of individual staff through individual annual reports and meetings, helping and encouraging researchers to develop



their research plans and careers. At a more informal level, each of the research groups has its own leader who convenes regular meetings at which staff members discuss their research and form networks of common or overlapping interests. The School of Social and International Studies in which CASR is located operates a transparent workload management system, common across the School, through which staff receive a workload allocation for research activity, which can be extended through winning external funding. Research activity has also been supported by the provision of sabbaticals and, in 2012, through the creation of a system permitting staff to make a case for teaching/admin relief in order to complete key research outputs. In addition, CASR provides research support funds - an annual allocation of research monies from the School for academic activity, such as presenting papers at academic conferences, doing pilot studies in preparation for funding bids, and supporting impact activities and events. CASR also provides a mentoring system for staff putting in research bids, the mentors being staff with a track record of successful bids. The University has a Research and Knowledge Transfer Unit and a Research Finance Office which offer information and technical advice and support in the preparation of funding bids. The University also has a Committee for Ethics in Research, with a sub-panel dealing with Ethics in Human Research to which all staff and students must submit their proposals if they are working with research participants. The University has a Code of Practice on the preparation of submissions for REF 2014 which is concerned specifically with equal opportunities in the process of selection of staff for inclusion, and adheres to the Concordat to support the career development of researchers.

#### ii. Research students

Over this REF period there has been a positive drive to increase the number of research degrees awarded. We have done this primarily by making sure that each student has a supervisory team of at least two academic staff, a principal and associate supervisor. Early career researchers progress from initial involvement as associate supervisors to principal supervisor status, at which point they will have supervised at least one research student to successful completion of a PhD. We have also strengthened our process of transferring students from MPhil to PhD registration, a process in which the Director of Postgraduate Research chairs all the transfer panels. These transfer panels also involve two members of academic staff independent of the supervisory team, who assess the student's progress on the basis of their thesis outline and a chapter from the thesis. To transfer to PhD registration all three panel members, including the Director, have to be satisfied that the work is of sufficient standard. After the meeting a report is provided to the student to support the decision and a list of recommended or suggested amendments is given to enhance and improve the quality of the work. This has proved successful in that students get independent, substantial, and constructive feedback at an early stage in the development of their research projects. An annual report is made on the student's progress, with sections for comment by both the supervisory team and the student, who is given the opportunity to raise any concern about their supervision with the Director of Postgraduate Research. All research students are members of the University Graduate School, a dedicated complex of teaching and computing facilities, staff and administration, and during their first year they normally take the Diploma in Research Methods which integrates research training with doctoral preparation. There is also a fortnightly seminar series in which staff and research students take turns to present their research, providing students with the opportunity to develop their presentation skills and to get feedback on their research from academics across the School. This also helps to integrate the students into the research culture of the School and provides a supportive system of supervision and mentoring. We have used this structure and these mechanisms to improve the completion rate of research students in this unit of assessment. We also aim to increase the number of research students, initially by funding four Postgraduate Research Scholarships, two in each research group. In the Social Work, Families and Inclusion group these Social Work Postgraduate Research Scholarships are advertised to final year BA and MA social work students and are also open to qualified social workers within our formal partner organisations.

## d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income has doubled in this unit of assessment since the last RAE, with particular success in generating research income from UK charities, especially the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), and research councils, primarily the ESRC. In the research groups mentioned in the strategy, research income has been generated around the following activities:



Diversity and Identity: Empirically, research has examined policies of social cohesion and counter-terrorism alongside experiences of life in multi-ethnic cities, focusing particularly on Bradford (Husband and Alam, JRF), a comparative study of inter-ethnic dynamics in urban contexts (Husband with Dr Joerg Huttermann, University of Bielefeld (Project Director), DFG), an international comparative study of bilingualism, identity and the media (Husband with Professor Tom Moring, University of Helsinki (project director), funded by the Finnish Academy), and a pilot study of news reporting on minority ethnic communities (Husband with Dr Myria Georgoiou and Dr Julie Firmstone, University of Leeds, funded by the Fundamental Right's Agency). Samad also presented his report entitled Muslim Community Cohesion: Bradford Report (JRF 2010). Lavis is investigating diversity strategy in prisons through three research projects funded by the ESRC; Appreciative Inquiry into the Diversity Strategy of HMP Wakefield; Opening up communicative space: towards a collaboratively generated impact in responding to diversity in HMP Wakefield; and An Appreciative Inquiry into the Response to Diversity in Three Yorkshire Prisons, a new £823,173 ESRC grant. Walker has also won £107,000 funding from a £240,000 research project on 'Women Offenders Repeat Self-Harm Intervention Pilot II (WORSHIP II)' funded by the National Institute of Health Research [RfPB] in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention at the University of Manchester. Lavis and Walker are also contributing to GENOVATE, a £3.2 million FP7 project led by the University of Bradford to promote equality and diversity among academic researchers in the EU. Publications from the research in this group include Social Cohesion and Counter-terrorism: A Policy Contradiction? (Husband and Alam, Policy Press 2011), The Invisible Village: Small World, Big Society (Alam, Route Press 2011), Pakistan-US Conundrum: Jihadis, Military and the People - The Struggle for Control (Samad, Hurst & Co. 2011), and articles by Lavis, Cowburn, and Walker in British Journal of Community Justice, and Prison Service Journal.

Social Work, Families and Inclusion: Duncan's ESRC research, Living Apart Together (2011-12, with Birkbeck and National Centre for Social Research) has been a hugely influential study focusing on the growing number of couples who are in an intimate relationship but who choose to live apart, touching also on the changing structure of families in contemporary society. In an associated project Mehdizadeh, as British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow (mentor Duncan), is researching how women combine paid work and childcare in families, with particular reference to the largely non-researched Middle East. Recent papers are published in Critical Social Policy (2012) and the International Labour Review (2010), with a book forthcoming with Policy Press. McAuley was funded by the Irish Research Council and the Department for Children and Youth Affairs Dublin to conduct A Review of the International Literature on Child Protection and Children in State Care. The recently completed report (McAuley and McKeown) is to be launched by the Minister for Children in Dublin. In this period Gilligan won a BAPSCAN Small Grant Award to progress his research on the prevention of sexual exploitation of young people. Also, Holt was joint Principal Investigator (with Karen Broadhurst of the University of Manchester) on a £65,000 research project funded by CAFCAS on the role of the Family Court Advisor in child care preproceedings. She also leads on the GENOVATE change academy team.

Infrastructure and Strategies for Generating Grant Income: The infrastructure and facilities to support a sustainable research environment centre on the major investment by the University in setting up CASR in 2011. The centre has office space for key staff and rooms where meetings, seminars and workshops can be held. The resource has allowed us to fund the appointment of a Research Fellow and also to fund the international expert symposia to widen research networks beyond the institution, both nationally and internationally. CASR also has access to admin support for the management committee, and to take charge of the website. The Centre and its management, with its networks of mentoring and support, is integral to our strategy for generating grant income and, especially, to widen the success at generating such income to a broader group of staff, as set out in our research strategy above.

# e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

As noted above, a key element of our research includes an emphasis on promoting an interdisciplinary research culture and engagement with local, national and international networks of academics and other users of research with shared interests. We do this in the following ways:

<u>Academic research networks and clusters</u>: Burkitt has been a Visiting Research Professor at the Universitat Autonoma, Barcelona, since 2001, and he returned there in 2009 to give a week of



talks to staff and postgraduate students on his latest research. Gilligan participates in an international cluster of researchers focusing on sexual abuse in the church and other institutions, organising an international conference on the subject to be held in Belgium 2014. Lawler is collaborating with UK colleagues at the Universities of Sussex, Chester, and Middlesex researching social work management and leadership. McAuley is a Founding Member of the International Association for Outcome-Based Evaluation and Research in Family and Children's Services (2001-) and the Children's Research Network of Ireland and Northern Ireland (2008-) and has recently been invited to join the European Implementation Collaborative which focuses on the science of implementation to ensure research findings influence policy and practice. Mehdizadeh has been funded by CASR and by the Qatar Foundation to present papers in Qatar on her project "Women, education, labour market participation and childbearing in the Middle East". She has also used this funding to write a research proposal for a project to be funded by the Qatar National Research Fund, on which she is Lead Principal Investigator, to continue her research after the completion of her British Academy Post-doctoral Fellowship. Samad is a member of the British Association of South Asian Studies, a member of the European Association of South Asian Studies, and of the Punjab Research Group.

Research collaborations with industry, commerce, third sector and other users of research: Burkitt's work on identity led to him being one of twenty academics from across the country to be invited to participate in the Foresight 'Future of Identity' project run by the UK Government Office for Science and the Home Office. A scoping workshop took place in January 2012 which fed into the government report "Future Identities - Changing identities in the UK: the next 10 years" (January, 2013). From 2006-2011, Husband was Scientific Advisor to the UNESCO European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) and a member of its Steering Committee. This is an organisation of over 100 city and local authorities across Europe that have committed themselves to an 10 Point Plan of Action to eliminate all expressions of racial discrimination within their urban areas. In 2009 Furness established an advisory committee supporting research to promote good practice in care homes in Calderdale, West Yorkshire. This committee was made up of professionals and members of the public who had either cared for older relatives or had visited them in care homes, and fed into Furness' research on care home regulation. From 2012 Gilligan has been collaborating with the Barnardo's Turnaround Service (Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children) gathering data on the views and experiences of sexually exploited young people in Bradford about which interventions, approaches and services have helped and will help them to recover from and avoid sexual exploitation. McAuley held a Ministerial Appointment to the North/South Ireland Ministerial Committee on Child Protection (2009-2012) and is a member of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs Dublin Research Committee (2009-2013). She also provided consultancy to the US-based Atlantic Philanthropies on evaluating the outcomes for children in the Limerick Regeneration Project (2009-10). From 2011 Sullivan has been collaborating with the BBC's 'Research and Development' team on the organisation of comedy in television, along with Dr Anna Madill from the University of Leeds. Beginning in October 2013, Samad is a member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office cross-Whitehall roundtable on Indo-Pakistan relations.

Evidence of national and international academic collaborations: Cameron's edited *Handbook on the Economics of Leisure* (Edward Elgar, 2011), brought together an international group of authors, including two chapters written by Cameron and Mark Fox of Indiana University. For over 15 years Husband has had an association with the University of Helsinki where, as a docent, he has been involved in academic collaborations. For the past 4 years he has also been actively involved in developing an international Masters degree at the Sami allaskuvla (Sami University College) in Guovdageaidnu/Kuatokeino, Norway. In May 2013, Gilligan collaborated with staff and social work students at the Western University of Timisoara, Romania, through the *Erasmus* exchange scheme around themes from his research on religion and belief. An indicator of the success of Lavis' ESRC funded research project *Appreciative Inquiry into the Diversity Strategy of HMP Wakefield*, was that it was one of six projects nominated by the Howard League for Penal Reform for the Inaugural Howard League Research Medal in 2011.

Seminar series, contribution to journal editorship and preparation, conferences and research-based CPD: In June 2011, Burkitt gave the keynote address at the annual Complexity in Management conference at Roffey Park, Surrey. He was also invited to give a plenary address to



the Current Issues in European Cultural Studies Conference in Norrkoping, Sweden, organised by the Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden. Cameron is co-editor of the Journal of Cultural Economics whose score in various metrics has risen considerably since he took the post. In 2012 Furness gave a key note address "Impact and significance of religion and belief in social work" to the third European conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health, Bern, Switzerland. Whilst at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, Husband organised an international seminar on Social Cohesion in the Context of Counter-Terrorism Policies (September 2009). This resulted in a special issue of COLLeGIUM, the peer reviewed e-journal of the Collegium, which he edited. Furness and Gilligan organised the conference, Beyond Belief: Religion and Belief in Professional Practice, in September 2011 at the University of Bradford. They also guest-edited a special edition of International Social Work on 'Social Work, Religion and Spirituality' which was published in 2013. McAuley is a member of the Editorial Board of Child Indicators Research (2009-ongoing) and a member of the Editorial Board of Child and Family Social Work (2006-ongoing). Samad is panel co-convenor for the European Conference on South Asian Studies to be held in Zurich, 2014. He is also a member of the editorial board of the journal Contemporary South Asia, and a member of the advisory board of South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal.

Contribution to professional associations or learned societies, and developmental disciplinary initiatives: As a consequence of Husband's work with the Sami allaskuvla, he was invited to present papers at the World Indigenous Television and Broadcasting Network Conference in Guovdageaidnu, Norway, 2012. Gilligan addressed the Association of Child Abuse Lawyers on child abuse by Roman Catholic clergy in June 2010. McAuley is a member of the UK Association of Professors of Social Work and a member of the Joint University Council Social Work Education Research Committee (Jan 2008-May 2009; Nov 2012-ongoing): she is also an elected Board Member of the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health from June 2013. Sullivan is on the organising committee of two 'sections' of the BPS (British Psychological Society): Qualitative Methods in Psychology and History and Philosophy of Psychology, organising annual conferences, inputting into policy initiatives and curricular discussions, as well as awarding annual prizes.

Co-operation and collaborative arrangements for PGR training: McAuley was a member of the ESRC Peer Review College (2008-2009) and is a member of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs Dublin Postgraduate Research Studentship Awards Committee (2009-current). As noted earlier, the School of Social and International Studies is funding four Postgraduate Research Scholarships in this unit of assessment, including Social Work Postgraduate Research Scholarships which will be offered to final year students as well as to experienced social work staff within our formal partner organisations.