

<p>Institution: University of Oxford</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: Sociology (23)</p> <hr/> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>Sociology at Oxford focuses on rigorous empirical research, advanced methods, and analytical theory. Occupying a distinctive niche within the discipline in the United Kingdom, Oxford Sociology has an international reputation; the QS Rankings consistently place it in the world's top ten departments.</p> <p>Research strands reflect the evolving interests of the unit's core members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative sociology (Heath, Kan, Kariya, Payne) • Crime, violence, and governance—focused on the Extra Legal Governance Institute (Hamill, Payne, Varese) • Religion and cultural consumption (Chan, de Graaf) • Gender, family, and households—including the ESRC-funded Centre for Time Use Research (Billari, Gershuny, Kan, Monden, Sullivan) • Education, inequality, and labour markets—focused on the Oxford Network for Social Inequality Research (Chan, Ermisch, Gallie, Jonsson, Kariya, Mills) • Health and wellbeing (Monden, Stuckler) • Demography—including the newly established Oxford Population Centre (Billari, Ermisch, Monden) • Political sociology and social movements (Biggs, de Graaf, Fisher, Heath, Payne) • Research methods, including experiments (Billari, Ermisch, Fisher) • Internet and society—based in the Oxford Internet Institute (Hogan, Schroeder) <p>The number of sociologists at Oxford has grown by over half since RAE 2008, especially in the fields of demography, family, and health. Currently the Department has 33 academic staff, including 8 professors and 14 early career researchers, along with 62 doctoral students.</p> <p>The Department of Sociology has created alliances across the Social Sciences Division, with Latin American Studies, Japanese Studies, Social Policy and Intervention, the Centre for Experimental Social Sciences, and the Oxford Internet Institute. Thus some sociologists will be returned with other units of assessment (Goldthorpe under Social Policy, Kariya under Japanese Studies). The Oxford Internet Institute is an autonomous interdisciplinary department whose members will be returned for the REF under their respective disciplines; 3 sociologists (including 1 professor and 1 early career researcher) come under Unit of Assessment 23.</p> <p>The Department works in partnership with Oxford's colleges, which support research and facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue. Nuffield College is a hub of advanced research in the social sciences.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Sociology at Oxford is committed to rigorous empirical research and to analytical theory. This entails advancing the methods of social research. It also means producing research on contemporary societies that is useful for policy-makers and understandable by the public. A shared understanding of social science cements the intellectual coherence of Oxford Sociology, and creates an environment that exceeds the sum of its parts.</p> <p>Oxford's emphasis on empirical research and quantitative analysis gives it a distinctive place in the diverse ecosystem of British sociology. Recent reviews of the discipline highlight the value of such</p>

research. The ESRC's *International Benchmarking Review of UK Sociology* (2010) called for 'additional efforts to bring quantitative research methods into closer alignment with institutional and state-of-the-art standards'. According to the Nuffield Foundation, HEFCE, and ESRC (2012), 'the UK has a shortage of social scientists trained in quantitative methods and consequently is unable to meet the demand from employers across all sectors—academia, government, charities and business—for staff who can apply such methods to evaluating evidence and analysing data.'

The Department's strategy since 2008 has been to build upon this distinctive intellectual tradition, concentrating on areas where it has a clear strength, while also expanding to cover additional substantive fields in the discipline and to broaden its portfolio of research methods. This strategy was reaffirmed by the quinquennial review conducted in 2010, involving external members from Columbia (Peter Bearman) and Manchester (Alan Warde).

To implement this strategy, the Department has appointed staff in new fields: health (Costa, Fledderjohann, Hujits, Reeves, Stuckler), gender (Altintas, Janus, Kan, Sullivan), demography and family sociology (Billari, Ermisch, Garcia-Mangano, Monden, Sironi), and experimental methods (Aksoy, Przepiorka). Joint appointments at Oxford with Latin American Studies (Payne) and Japanese Studies (Hertog, Kariya) have broadened the geographical scope of research. At the same time, new appointments have strengthened existing concentrations in crime (Campana, Nivette, Varese), stratification (de Vries, Jonsson), and political sociology (Pettinicchio). The Department's Centre for Time Use Research (CTUR) has been sustained by £2.4m funding from the ESRC (2008-14), reinforcing its position as the world's leading centre for the collection and analysis of data from time diaries.

As a result of these initiatives, the Department has grown rapidly in academic staff, research income, and doctoral students. For RAE 2008, 19 Category A staff (full-time equivalent), were submitted under Sociology. For REF 2014, the number has increased to 33 (full-time equivalent). The Unit of Assessment's research income has more than quadrupled from an annual average of £586k over the RAE period to £2,453k over the REF period. Doctoral degrees awarded have tripled, from 4 to 12 per year.

Over the next five years, the Department has four strategic objectives. First, to expand further by recruiting outstanding sociologists to develop our distinctive research profile. Second, to continue the growth in research income (including funding for doctoral students) while diversifying its sources. Third, to enhance impact for non-academic users. Fourth, to establish a new centre for population studies. These strategic objectives are mutually supportive; the centre will attract external research income as well as enhance impact with users.

These strategic objectives are now being pursued. A successful QStep bid will fully fund a Lectureship in Quantitative Sociology (starting in July 2014) for five years. To increase research income, the Department has appointed a (full-time) Research Grants and Projects Administrator to gather intelligence on funding opportunities and to assist in the preparation of applications. This post is important for pursuing sources of funding outside the UK (where research funding is likely to remain constrained in the foreseeable future), especially those from the European Union. Building ongoing relationships with alumni also will enable fund-raising in the future; the Department recently (September 2013) launched its first event at Oxford's alumni weekend. Strategies for maximizing impact are elaborated in the Impact Template (REF3a).

The Oxford Population Centre has just been established, with £60k seed money from the University's Higher Studies Fund (associated with Billari's appointment). It focuses on explaining macro-level population changes by adopting a micro-level perspective on individuals and households, gender and generations. The Centre unites several research strands within the Department, and also involves researchers from the Department of Social Policy and Intervention

and the School of Anthropology. The Centre has already organized a series of population seminars, a collaborative blog on global population issues (www.openpop.org), and four workshops and conferences at Oxford.

Mechanisms for reviewing strategy exist on three levels. Within the Department, a Board of Management comprising all permanent members of staff meets six times a year. The Social Sciences Division evaluates the Department's plans annually, from financial and academic perspectives. Major quinquennial reviews are conducted by the Division and the University's Education Committee, inviting members from other universities; the next will take place in 2015.

c. People:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Central to the Department's strategy has been the recruitment of outstanding sociologists who contribute to the cohesive research culture.

At the senior level, Billari was successfully recruited to an established Professorship in 2012, and is currently Head of Department. His international reputation in demography was recently recognized by the Population Association of America's biennial Clifford Clogg Award for the most 'outstanding innovative scholarly achievements' by mid-career. A second established Professorship, now augmented by additional funding from Nuffield College, will be filled just after the REF census date (interviews take place in November 2013). Gershuny and Heath continue to play leading roles as Senior Research Fellows (Heath's time is now split equally with Manchester). Two new professors have been recruited to Oxford as Senior Research Fellows: Ermisch (Fellow of the British Academy) and Sullivan.

The Department has invested heavily in early career researchers. Postdoctoral Early Career Fellowships provide support for independent research for two years with no teaching obligations. Four fellows are currently in post (de Vries, Janus, Pettinicchio, and Sironi). Nuffield College endows Prize Research Fellowships extending over three years. Generally one of these Fellowships each year is offered to a sociologist (currently Nivette and Garcia-Manglano). In addition, the Department has been extremely successful in winning funds to establish positions for early career researchers in particular fields: experimental social sciences, one post (Przepiorka) funded by Nuffield College and the University's John Fell Fund, another (Aksoy) funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research; longitudinal analysis (Kan), funded for five years by RCUK; sociology of Japan (Hertog), funded for five years by the Sasakawa Foundation; time use (Altintas), funded by the British Academy; organized crime (Campana), funded by the European Commission; health, three posts (Fledderjohann, Hujits, Reeves) funded by the ESRC, one post funded by the ERC (Costa).

These strategies have enabled Sociology to recruit outstanding academics from around the world. Since 2008, staff have been appointed from Essex (Ermisch, Reeves), Cambridge (Stuckler, Nivette), and Imperial College (de Vries) in Britain; from Bocconi (Billari), Turin (Campana), Tilburg (Monden), Utrecht (Hujits, Aksoy), Swedish Institute for Social Research (Jonsson), European University Institute (Costa), and Turku School of Economics (Lehdonvirta) in Continental Europe; from Wisconsin (Payne), Maryland (Garcia-Manglano), Berkeley (Janus), Pennsylvania (Sironi), Pennsylvania State (Fledderjohann), University of Washington (Pettinicchio) and Toronto (Hogan) in North America; and from Ben Gurion (Sullivan) and Tokyo (Kariya).

The Department fosters staff development by providing time and resources for research. Guaranteed sabbatical leave is accumulated on the basis of one term for six terms of service. In addition, new lecturers have one year of research leave—over and above sabbatical entitlement—

during their probationary period. This leave is usually taken in the third year, and enables staff to develop their research agenda early in their career. All members of the Department are affiliated with a college, which provides funding for their research. Nuffield College, for example, offers an annual research allowance of £12,032. The Department also provides an annual research allowance of £1,500. The University's John Fell Fund provides competitive grants, especially seed money to prepare applications for external funding. There is a special category of grants for early career researchers. Sociologists have won grants to a total of £106k from this source over the REF period, with over one third going to early career researchers.

Funding for conferences and fieldwork is especially important for postdoctoral researchers. Prize Postdoctoral Research Fellows at Nuffield College get £2,561 per year. The Department provides £750 to postdoctoral researchers.

In accordance with the national Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, the Department monitors and enhances the career opportunities for staff on short-term contracts through inductions, mentoring, and annual appraisals. Paid teaching opportunities (such as optional papers for the MSc) are available. Since 2008, many fixed-term staff have moved on to positions at prestigious institutions: Durham (Vikki Boliver) and Essex (Neli Demireva) in Britain; Turin (Tiziana Nazio), Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Silke Schneider), and Otto-Friedrich-University Bamberg (Elina Kilpi-Jakonen) on the Continent; Harvard (Stuckler, since returned to Oxford), Pennsylvania (Sandra Gonzalez-Bailon), Columbia (Christel Kesler), Yale (Jennifer Flashman), and Stanford (Michelle Jackson) in the United States.

The Department actively promotes equality of opportunity as an integral part of its goal to recruit and retain the best sociologists. In partnership with the University's Equality and Diversity Unit and the University's Occupational Health Service. Sociology promotes equal opportunities by supporting staff who share any protected characteristic. The University's Ad Feminam mentoring initiative develops women's leadership potential. One participant in this scheme (Hamill) has served as Deputy Head of Department and will resume this post when she returns from maternity leave.

Parental leave entitlements in the University of Oxford are among the most generous in the sector. Staff are entitled to 52 weeks of maternity leave (26 on full pay, 13 on Statutory Maternity Pay, and 13 unpaid) and the University offers additional paternity leave and pay in addition to the Statutory Entitlement (up to 26 weeks' leave after the mother returns to work). Dedicated childcare is provided by four University Nurseries. Equal provision is made, of course, for the parents of adopted children and for same-sex parents. Two members of staff have taken maternity leave over the REF period (Hamill and Hertog): both are returned in REF2.

The University has just (in July 2013) launched a major initiative to advance diversity, with dedicated funding of £1m. Making use of this opportunity and working in partnership with the Equality and Diversity Unit, the Department will redouble its efforts to improve the gender balance among permanent staff.

Research quality and integrity are enshrined in the University's Code of Practice; most practically, these are assured by staff submitting their work to peer-reviewed journals and publishers. All research involving human participants has to gain approval from the Central University Research Ethics Committee.

Staff have been very successful in winning overseas personal research fellowships. Gambetta is currently Professor of Social Theory at the European University Institute (2012-2017; as his leave extends for five years, his publications are ineligible for REF2). Kariya was Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of Education, University of Tokyo (2010-2011). Ermisch was Visiting Scholar,

Russell Sage Foundation in New York (2008). Jonsson was Guest Professor at the Centre for European Social Research. Schroeder was Erskine Visiting Fellow at the University of Canterbury, in New Zealand (2012).

ii. Research students

Fostering the development of early career researchers is a key element of the Department's strategy. Over the REF period, 61 doctoral students graduated from the Department. Students are an integral part of our research community, as evidenced by the fact that many have published in leading journals before graduating. Since 2008, counting only articles in which students are sole or first authors, these journals include *Sociology* (twice, by Morag Henderson and by Pia Horvat), *European Sociological Review* (James Laurence), *Politics and Society* (Raheel Dhattiwala), *Social Problems* (James Densley), *Social Science Research* (Lindsey Richardson and Thomas Grund, in collaboration), and *Journal of Legislative Studies* (Didier Ruedin).

About a third of DPhil students come through our own rigorous MSc (one-year) or MPhil (two-year) programmes, with almost all the others having excelled in comparable Masters programmes from other universities. We attract students from all over the world: of the 56 students currently in the programme, 17% come from the United Kingdom, 20% from other European Union countries, and 63% from further afield.

Funding is crucial for attracting excellent students. Of the doctoral students entering the Department from 2008 to 2012, 46 were funded. Oxford gave full funding to 21 students: 12 from ESRC studentships from the Doctoral Training Centre; 4 from the Department's own annual scholarship, covering three years of university fees plus an annual stipend of £6k; 4 full studentships from Nuffield College, covering fees plus an annual stipend of £12k; and 1 from the University's Clarendon scholarship, covering fees plus an annual stipend of £14k. Partial funding was given to 10 students from Nuffield College, ranging from £3k to £6k each year. The remaining 15 students gained funding from external sources: the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, the AXA Research Fund, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, the European Union's NORFACE project, and the governments of Brazil, Brunei, Canada, China, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, and Turkey. From 2013 onwards, one doctoral student per year will potentially be funded by the Max Planck Society.

Students are supervised by one or two permanent members of staff, and also have an advisor at the college. Student and supervisor submit an online report each term, which is read by the Director of Graduate Studies and the college advisor. This allows progress to be tracked and, occasionally, problems to be identified. A crucial part of the programme is formal assessment of the student's work by two additional staff members. At the first stage, after nine months, the assessors interrogate the feasibility of the project. At the second stage, in the third year, the assessors scrutinize two substantive chapters. The assessors read the written work, hold a formal interview, and write a detailed report—the outcome is either pass, resubmit, or fail. These assessments are valuable for both students and supervisors. They introduce a broader range of expertise, since one of the assessors is often from another discipline or specializes in the country studied by the student. In effect, the student benefits from substantial advice from three or four academics.

The core of the doctoral programme is the individual student's engagement with supervisors and assessors. The Department also provides for collective learning. In their first year, students attend a workshop with eight sessions of two hours. Students are randomly paired and each presents the other's research proposal; this presentation and the resulting comments helps the students to hone a thesis topic that is feasible and exciting. In their second year, students and staff attend a full day workshop to present their initial findings. The presentation of ten minutes is followed by detailed

Environment template (REF5)

comments from another student and from a member of staff. In their third year, students attend a professional development workshop of four sessions. Topics include applying for academic jobs, publishing in journals, turning the thesis into a book, and research careers outside academia (the latter is detailed in the Impact Template, REF3a).

Students naturally take advantage of many other development opportunities, tailored to their own interests. They take courses offered by the Social Sciences Doctoral Training Centre, both substantive (e.g. content analysis; structural equation modelling) and professional (e.g. preparing for the viva; applying for postdoctoral grants). The Oxford Spring School in Quantitative Methods (discussed further in Section e) offers many courses in advanced techniques; several students have enrolled in these courses (e.g. analyzing network dynamics using Rsienna; multilevel analysis; presenting statistical results effectively), with the cost covered by the Department. Students run their own weekly seminar—Graduate Research in Progress in the Social Sciences (GRIPSS)—which provides a safe space to present work to their peers. Several students have taken advantage of the dedicated Springboard Programme for Women, offered by the Doctoral Training Centre.

All doctoral students are offered workspace within the Department. Financial support for fieldwork and conference attendance is available from the student's college. Nuffield College, for example, offers a total of £2,750 over the degree. The Department also uses its own funds (£32k since January 2008) to provide small grants on the basis of academic merit.

Doctoral students must present their work in at least one conference; and most present at multiple conferences before graduation. There is a longstanding annual conference for Sociology students from Oxford, Harvard, Columbia, and Stockholm; it rotates among four locations. Students are encouraged to present papers at major disciplinary conferences; 21 students have presented papers at the annual meeting of the British Sociological Association in the REF period. As an illustration of the vibrant research culture, two sociology students (Samina Luthfa and Sumeet Mhaskar) took the initiative to organize an international conference on South Asia in Transition, held at the Department in November 2011. It attracted 42 presenters, travelling from as far as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the United States.

d. Income, infrastructure, and facilities

The Department has been increasingly successful in winning external research grants. The Unit of Assessment's annual research income has increased by a factor of 4.2 from RAE 2008 to REF 2014. Grants now provide 44% of the Department's total income. Sources of research income in 2012/13 are:

UK Research Councils	61%
EU Government	31%
UK Charity	6%
Non-EU Charity	2%

The ESRC remains a primary source, funding major projects like the British Election Study ethnic minority survey (Heath and Fisher, £1.3m) and the Centre for Time Use Research (Gershuny and Kan, £1.2m to 2014). Oxford Sociology is strongly positioned to take advantage of the ESRC's emphasis on the secondary analysis of existing British datasets; a recent example is the use of longitudinal data to investigate intergenerational relationships (Chan, £154k). Alongside these quantitative projects, the ESRC also supports qualitative projects such as the investigation of recruitment into insurgent and extra-legal organisations (Hamill, £320k from 2006). The AHRC has invested heavily in the qualitative and comparative analysis of transitional justice and human rights (Payne, £485k to 2014).

The international reputation of Oxford Sociology has enabled the Department to win several major grants from the European Union. These fund the investigation of human trafficking (Varese, European Commission, €200k to 2014) and the generation of new longitudinal data on the children of immigrants across four European countries (Heath and Jonsson, €1m in total, NORFACE).

The continuity of research income in the future has been boosted by the recent appointment of Stuckler, who has gained a series of major grants on the social determinants of health from the European Research Council (£1.5m to 2017) and the Wellcome Trust (£742k to 2018). In addition, the European Research Council has just awarded Gershuny an Advanced Grant (€2.5m to 2019) to develop the Centre for Time Use Research.

Academic staff are keenly encouraged to apply for grants. Within the Department, an informal workshop is held each term to provide comments on draft proposals. A committee of three (including the Head of Department) is convened to formally evaluate each proposal. Specialized knowledge of funding opportunities and application procedures is concentrated in the University's Research Services and the Social Sciences Division's research support team, who are closely involved in grant preparation. The newly appointed Research Grants and Projects Administrator will further streamline the process of applying for grants.

The Department of Sociology's infrastructure begins with a lean and efficient support team led by the Administrator (Victoria Bancroft), comprising the research grants and projects administrator (Abigail Vogus), finance officer (Khalid Omer), graduate student officer (Anne Millard), and secretary (Jane Greig).

All permanent staff have offices in the Department, while postdoctoral fellows and doctoral students have dedicated desks. All members of the Department have computers with software applications such as Stata and Nudist, along with space on University servers. The Department shares an IT team of six specialists within the building. The team supports both Windows and Apple platforms.

For research, the Bodleian Libraries provide the most comprehensive collection in the social sciences of any UK university. The annual budget for purchasing materials in the social sciences is £1.3 million. The Social Sciences Library is housed in the Manor Road Building. This is a lending library, which contains 325,000 items; it is open for extended hours (until 10pm) during term. Nuffield College has its own library, which is open to all staff and graduate students in Sociology. It contains 225,000 books and government publications. Nuffield College also supports a Data Library, available to all social scientists at Oxford, which specializes in multi-national surveys. A dedicated data librarian helps staff and students access data from repositories such as the UK Data Archive.

A crucial component of infrastructure is seminars given by visiting sociologists. Each week during term two sociology seminars are held, one in the Department and one at Nuffield College. Sociologists visit under the auspices of many other weekly seminar series, including the weekly seminar on social networks (organized by the Oxford Internet Institute and Nuffield College). Speakers have been invited from UK institutions such as Aberdeen, Birkbeck, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Essex, Exeter, Imperial, Kent, LSE, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Sheffield, Stirling, Surrey, Swansea, and UCL. The roll call of overseas speakers runs from Aarhus and Arizona State to Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung and Yale. The Department has successfully bid for University funding to bring prominent sociologists—like Robert Mare (UCLA), Theda Skocpol (Harvard), and Sam Bowles (Santa Fe)—from the United States to give multiple seminars and to share their knowledge with doctoral students.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

One element of the Department's strategy is to collaborate with other disciplines within the University. Current examples include Heath's work with social psychologists on ethnic diversity and social trust (funded by a Leverhulme grant totalling £1m), Fisher's research with political scientists on electoral systems, and Payne's collaboration with political scientists and legal scholars on transitional justice. The newly established Oxford Population Centre will ramify these interdisciplinary alliances, especially with the Department of Social Policy and Intervention.

Beyond Oxford, the Department and Nuffield College are members of the European Consortium for Sociological Research, which links institutes and departments with expertise in empirical social research in twenty countries. Gershuny and Jonsson serve on its governing board. The Department and Nuffield College are members of EQUALSOC, created by the European Union to mobilise and develop research expertise on economic change, quality of life, and social cohesion. Gallie serves on its governing council and coordinates its network on employment. The Department (along with the Department of Politics and International Relations) has a joint venture with Sciences-Po in Paris (OXPO). This supports the exchange of students and scholars between the institutions, and organizes an annual conference.

Oxford sociologists are involved in several international research projects. Gallie coordinated a European team that won the contract for the design of a module for the 2010 European Social Survey to examine the implications of economic recession for work, family, and well-being. Heath coordinates a European research group (funded by the EU through EQUALSOC) on ethnic minority education and entry into the labour market.

Sociologists have organized several major international conferences at Oxford:

- CTUR hosted the annual conference of the International Association of Time Use Research in 2011, with 280 presenters drawn from countries from Australia to Zimbabwe
- Fisher organized the annual conference on Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties in 2012, attracting 180 participants from 17 countries;
- Payne organized workshops on 'Amnesty in the Age of Accountability: Brazil in Comparative and International Perspective' in 2010 and 'Ways of Knowing After Atrocity: A Colloquium on the Methods used to Research, Design and Implement Transitional Justice Processes' in 2012;
- the Oxford Population Centre hosted the annual Conference of the European Network for the Sociological and Demographic Study of Divorce in 2013.

Oxford sociologists have also been active in organizing panels at established international conferences. Hamill put together a panel on Perpetrators of Political Violence for the European Consortium of Political Research in 2011; Biggs organized three panels on collective behaviour for the American Sociological Association in 2013.

Oxford's expertise in quantitative methods enables it to train the next generation of social scientists, at every stage in the learning process. Fisher directs the QMteachers series of workshops for university teachers of quantitative methods for undergraduates in social science (funded £100k by the ESRC until 2015). Three workshops are held each year, addressed by social scientists with global reputation, including Alan Agresti (Florida), Andrew Gelman (Columbia), and Andy Field (Sussex). Twenty participants attend each workshop, half with subsidized accommodation and travel. The workshops are complemented by an online discussion forum and an archive of teaching materials.

At the advanced level, Oxford's Spring School in Quantitative Methods in Social Research (hosted jointly with the Department of Politics and International Relations) is now financially self-sustaining. Fisher, the founder, served as its academic director until 2010. Each year it offers a week-long intensive course on one topic—since 2008, multilevel analysis, communicating statistical results,

advanced regression, and time series analysis—along with several short courses. The intensive course attracts an attendance of 25 each year, mainly from Britain. It is popular with practitioners outside academia. The Department of Sociology has hosted EQUALSOC spring or summer schools on Panel Data Analysis (2009 and 2013—taught by Ermisch), on Generalized Linear, Latent and Mixed Models (in 2010—taught by Andrew Pickles, Manchester), and on Causal Analysis (2011—taught by Dominik Hangartner, LSE). Two Dutch universities (Groningen in 2009 and Utrecht in 2011) have invited Heath to give a ‘masterclass’: each took two days, during which he discussed the work of their doctoral students and gave a public lecture on his research.

Staff serve on panels to evaluate grant proposals for the ESRC (Chan, Gershuny, and Monden belong to its Virtual Research College, while Billari evaluates research centres), the US National Science Foundation (Payne), the European Research Council (Billari and Monden), the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (Billari and Varese), and the Norwegian Research Council (Jonsson).

For journals, staff sit on the editorial boards of *Annual Review of Sociology* (Heath), *American Journal of Sociology* (Biggs), *Demography* (Ermisch), *European Sociological Review* (Monden is Associate editor), *Electoral Studies* (Fisher), *Work, Employment and Society* (Kan), *European Journal of Population* (Billari), *Population Studies* (Billari), *International Sociology* (Gershuny), *Journal of Latin American Studies* (Payne), *Sociology of Education* (Kariya), *Oxford Review of Education* (Kariya), *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* (Fisher), *Mobilization* (Biggs), *Advances in Life Course Research* (Chan), *New Technology and Society* (Gershuny), *European Journal of Sociology* (Gambetta, Heath), *Revista de Sociología* (Payne), and Oxford Bibliographies Online (Chan). Varese edits the journal *Global Crime* for Routledge, while Billari edits *Advances in Life Course Research* for Elsevier. Payne edits the book series *Cultures and Practices of Violence* for Duke University Press.

Five Oxford sociologists are Fellows of the British Academy (Ermisch, Gallie, Gambetta, Gershuny, and Heath). Gallie is its Foreign Secretary and Vice President; Gershuny served as the Chair of the British Academy’s section on Sociology, Social Statistics, and Demography (until 2009). Heath was honoured (CBE, 2013) for services to social science.

Oxford sociologists are prominent in the discipline across Europe. Four are Fellows of the European Academy of Sociology (Billari, Gambetta, Heath, and Jonsson). Billari is President of the European Association for Population Studies (2012-2016). Monden served on the board of the Dutch Sociological Association. Jonsson is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science and has been appointed by the Swedish Research Council as Chairman of its Data Infrastructure Committee and to its Evaluation Committee of Educational Research. The Finnish Federation of Learned Societies appointed Jonsson to evaluate the country’s research infrastructure. Gallie belongs to the Strategic Advisory Board of the Danish National Institute of Social Research and of the Scientific Council of the Paris School of Economics. He is an ‘Elder’ of the European Consortium of Asian Field Study, which groups the main European overseas institutes in Asia.

Beyond Europe, Heath served as International Adviser on the Indian Election Study of 2009. In Brazil, Payne serves on the Advisory Committee of the Study Group on the Internationalisation of Law and Transitional Justice at the University of São Paulo. Chan serves on advisory board of the Chinese General Social Survey.