

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Unit of Assessment: UOA 22 SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY

a. Overview

The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) is a large inter-disciplinary School delivering theoretically informed social policy research to a wide range of audiences: the academic community globally; national and international governments and policy-makers; the NHS, local government and social care providers; NGOs and third sector organisations; user and advocacy groups; and postgraduate and undergraduate students. The School has an outstanding reputation in social policy research evidenced by the continued strength of its research funding, the excellence of its published outputs, and its overall impact on contemporary social policy theory and practice. The School has sustained and developed this reputation for a number of key reasons:

- It is a uniquely multi-disciplinary school providing a home for researchers from social policy, social work, sociology, economics, psychology, criminology, cultural studies, history and geography which enables the School to bring truly interdisciplinary perspectives to bear on existing and emerging social policy issues and problems.
- The scope and range of the School's expertise allows the deployment of a wide range of quantitative approaches that produce innovative large-scale analyses (e.g. systematic reviews, longitudinal data analysis, clinical trials) as well as original qualitative work using interviews, ethnography, visual and sensory methods.
- It works hard to encourage a lively intellectual environment to stimulate ground-breaking original research that has challenged established thinking in the subject.
- It has focused strategically on policy-relevant research underpinned by critical social theory, recognising that policy-relevant knowledge needs to be grounded in an awareness of shifting social, economic and political contexts.
- It provides a supportive environment for new career researchers, with relatively low teaching loads, an established study leave system, and research mentoring to foster a collegiate research culture in which all are encouraged to develop their own interests as individuals whilst also maximising the opportunities for collaboration.

The School hence maintains a strategy of recruiting, developing and nurturing excellent researchers in a number of established, as well as emerging, social policy fields. Research in the School is currently structured through six formal research clusters: **Health, Social Care & Embodiment; Civil Society; Risk & Uncertainty; Work, Employment & Economic Life; Crime, Culture & Control;** and **Migration, Ethnicity, Religion & Belonging**. All research staff in the School are affiliated to one or more clusters, including staff in the three applied research centres: the **Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU)**, the **Centre for Health Services Studies (CHSS)** and the **Tizard Centre** (which specialises in the study of intellectual disability).

b. Research strategy

The School's overarching research strategy remains, as stated in the last two RAE exercises, to 'develop work at the leading edge of theoretically-informed social policy in the widest sense'. At the time of RAE 2008, our key research groupings related to Health & Social Care; Ethnicity, Gender & Difference; Employment & Working Lives; Risk, Trust & Welfare; the Changing Politics of Welfare; and Criminology & Criminal Justice, with a strong commitment to international comparative work (evidenced through 13 EU-funded projects led by SSPSSR researchers). Since 2008 we have augmented and developed these groups in line with the strategies outlined in RAE2008 as follows:

- The **Health, Social Care & Embodiment** cluster continues to develop by providing both policy-related studies (with over £7.5m from the Department of Health) and more theoretically inclined research on the embodied experiences of well-being. The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) has enhanced its international reputation for work

on the performance and functioning of social care, particularly on the economic costing and delivery of services (**Beecham, Curtis, Darton, Forder, Jones, Netten, Towers**), while members of the Centre for Health Service Studies (CHSS) (e.g. **Coulton, Peckham**) have written widely on performance in the primary care sector. Moving beyond formal sites of care, **Warner's** work on cafes as affective community spaces challenges traditional views of 'care in the community'. Research on caring is also central in work on intellectual disabilities (**Beadle-Brown; Gore; Langdon; McGill; Murphy**) and child welfare through safeguarding, adoption and foster care (**Kirton; Shemmings**). The School continues to undertake consultancy research in the diagnosis, screening and treatment of addictive behaviours (**Coulton**), infant hearing loss (**Coulton**) and dementia (**Coulton; Milne**). Across the School, staff expertise provides capacity for clinical trials, psychosocial interventions and quantitative analyses of health records. The strand of more theoretical work on embodied subjects and their performative characteristics has become increasingly central, as signaled by the change to the cluster name: indicative here is **Twigg's** work on embodiment, age and dress (*Fashion and Age*, **Twigg**, 2012), with her ESRC-funded research on dementia and dress highlighting concepts of embodied dignity. Dignity is also central to **Calnan's** work on patient care, including ESRC-funded research on service users in acute facilities, while **Milne** and **Towers'** work on care homes has contributed to understandings of well-being in later life (e.g. see *Mental Health & Care Homes*, **Milne**, 2012). The work of **Shilling** (see *Changing Bodies*, **Shilling**, 2008) continues the Kent tradition of advancing social policy theory.

- We have significantly expanded the work relating to the **Civil Society** that was emerging as an important theme in the Changing Politics of Welfare grouping at the time of the last RAE. Launched in 2008, the Centre for Philanthropy represents an important investment by the School, supported through new appointments (e.g. **Breeze** as Director). The development of this research theme has been timely given the increasing policy emphasis on the Third Sector, with the award of ESRC funding for a node of the collaborative Centre on Charitable Giving and Philanthropy in 2009 important in energising work around this theme. Illustrative projects include research by **Bradley, Breeze, Sanghera** and **Wilkinson** on Charity and Social Distribution (funded by the ESRC, the Office for Civil Society, the Scottish Office and Carnegie Trust), and successive annual reviews of charity donations among high net worth individuals (*The Million Pound Donors Report*, **Breeze**, funded by Coutts). More widely, researchers in this cluster have sought to understand the social forces and cultural interests that move people to take moral responsibility for responding to the needs of others (**Sanghera**); the socio-cultural dynamics of compassion (**Wilkinson**) and the influence of contemporary humanitarianism on social policy (**Kendall, Taylor-Gooby**). In all cases, there has been a strong interest in demonstrating the multi-agency nature of social policy, noting the shifting role of governmental policies in shaping the charitable sector and philanthropic activity, past and present (for example, *Charities and the Working Classes 1918-1979*, **Bradley**, 2009).
- The **Risk & Uncertainty** cluster originated in the £3m ESRC funded Social Contexts and Responses to Risk Priority Network 2004-9 as the Risk, Trust & Welfare group. It has subsequently developed new understandings of how risk is understood, negotiated and regulated, particularly in the context of globalisation (e.g. **Zhang's** work on the international governance of scientific uncertainty). Other significant research includes **Burgess'** well-publicised work on drink-spiking (British Academy, 2010); **Warner** and **Burgess'** work on public enquiries and risk (BiS, 2008 and 2010); **Furedi's** work on tolerance and authority (funded by the British Academy); and **Taylor-Gooby's** work on private schooling and injustice (ESRC 2012-3), risk perception (ESRC 2012), social cohesion (Leverhulme 2011-13), and risk management (ESRC, 2008-9). The group continues to challenge established public attitudes through a number of well-received books including *Trusting on the Edge* (Brown and **Calnan**, 2012), *On Tolerance* (**Furedi**, 2011), *Risk, Vulnerability and Everyday Life* (**Wilkinson**, 2010), *Reframing Social Citizenship* (**Taylor-Gooby**, 2009) and *The Cosmopolitanization of Science: Stem cell governance in China* (**Zhang**, 2012). Associated with this group is the recently-established *Centre for Parenting Culture Studies* which has

produced studies of the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy (**Lee**), breast-feeding (see *Militant Lactivism*, **Faircloth**, 2013) and attempts to regulate parenting (see *Moral Crusades in an Age of Mistrust*, **Furedi**, 2013). **Warner's** work on risk assessment in social work was extremely timely in the wake of Lord Laming's (2009) damning verdict on social services' role in the death of 'Baby P', while related issues are taken up by the *Centre for Child Protection*, established in 2011, which focuses on risk in relation to abuse (see especially **Shemmings'** research on attachment and disorganisation).

- The **Work, Employment & Economic Life** cluster represents an expansion of our long-standing interest in work, bringing together scholars who have focused strategically on employment and unemployment at a time of recession, fiscal austerity, benefit reform and against the backdrop of an ageing population. Here, appointment of junior staff with expertise in comparative quantitative cross-national research (e.g. **Chung, Baumberg, Sundberg**) has signaled our aspiration to internationalise work in this area. Research has remained responsive to shifting policy contexts, with recent research foci having included the negotiation of work-life balance (**Chung, Baumberg, Vickerstaff**); the implications of the changing nature of work for the social security and pensions system (**Baumberg, Vickerstaff**); histories and biographies of work using oral history approaches and narrative analysis (see *Work and Society: Sociological Approaches, Themes and Methods*, **Strangleman** and Warren, 2008); changes in work across the life-course and transitions-to-work at the beginning and end of working life (**Roberts, Vickerstaff**) and questions of deindustrialisation, working-class cultures and the sociologies of nostalgia (e.g. **Lyon** and **Strangleman**, including work funded through the AHRC Connected Communities programme). Research here has also linked with other clusters through studies of health and ageing (see *Work, Health and Wellbeing*, **Vickerstaff**, Phillipson and Wilkie, 2012).
- The Criminal Justice group has developed into **Crime, Culture & Control** to reflect the broad range of empirical and theoretical work developed in the School since 2008. Recent books by cluster members have made major developments to criminological theory – for example, Jock Young's last book, *The Criminological Imagination* (**Young**, 2011), and *Cultural Criminology: An Invitation* (**Hayward, Young**, Ferrell, 2008) – the latter the winner of the 2009 International Distinguished Book prize from the American Society of Criminology. New staff in this cluster also continue the tradition of work relevant to policy fields: for example, the regulation of sex work – e.g. *Cities and Sexualities* (**Hubbard**, 2011), *Prostitution, Politics and Policy* (**Matthews**, 2008) – and drugs policies - e.g. *Drugs, Crime and Public Health: The Political Economy of Drug Policy* (**Stevens**, 2010), *Drug Policy Harmonization and the European Union* (**Chatwin**, 2011), while **Ray's** *Violence and Society* (2011) provides an innovative integrated treatment of theories of violence. Other key outputs demonstrate the commitment to exploring new forms and definitions of criminality, as stated in RAE2008: these have also included ethnographies of youth crime in Dublin (**Ilan**); reflections on the ethics of secrecy in digital media (**Boothroyd**); studies of Jihadism and terrorism (**Cottee, Hayward**); urban spaces of transgression (**Hayward, Hubbard, Ilan**), as well as significant studies of the history of criminal justice as it relates to youth (**Bradley**) and women in the judiciary (**Logan**). Funding comes from varied sources, including the ESRC, Leverhulme Trust, European Commission, and Department of Health.
- Developing from the Ethnicity, Gender and Difference group, the **Migration, Ethnicity, Religion & Belonging** cluster has responded to contemporary debates on ethnicity, race, religious habitus and multiculturalism, particularly in contemporary urban contexts. Much of this research has emerged in direct response to politically-charged debates concerning community cohesion. **Song's** Leverhulme-funded research is significant in this respect, involving pioneering studies of 'mixed-race' people's experiences in Britain and the intergenerational transmission of ethnic identity by mixed-race parents (see *Mixed Race Identities*, Aspinall and **Song**, 2013). **Kirton's** work on trans-racial adoption has influenced policy through work for the Welsh Office. Other studies are focused on the making of ethnic 'communities': for example, **Miller's** research revolves around issues of belonging and how it is achieved through different forms of 'presence' (see *Understanding Digital Culture*,

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2011), **Cottee** explores the stigmatisation of Islamic apostates in the UK, and **Garbin** and **De Hanas** explore the role of religion among South Asian and African communities (the former in partnership with community groups, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund). **Shilling** has extended his internationally acclaimed work on the body into investigations of how the embodied foundations of human being can be forged into particular identities through 'religious body pedagogics'. Extending such research on religious identity, **Ray** has investigated Jewish diaspora, memory and identity, as well as documenting experiences of racial violence (see *Violence and Society*, **Ray**, 2011). Migration (in its many forms) constitutes a major focus of research: for example, **Mitton** has written on the immigration of black Africans to the UK in research funded by the ESRC, while new colleagues **Masocho** and **Robinson** have provided timely critiques of asylum policy.

Since 2008, each of these clusters has hence developed by:

- continuing to attract grant income from prestigious Research Council sources on intellectually pressing issues.
- increasing the amount of research conducted with policy-makers and non-academic beneficiaries, particularly from government departments through consultancy and research enterprise activities.
- responding to changing policy agendas by appointing new staff with expertise in emerging fields of international significance and enhancing future research capacity by developing new doctoral training programmes (e.g. in cultural criminology).
- increasing public engagement and contributing to critical debate around social problems through publication in professional and policy journals.

Looking forwards, the School's research strategy is to build on these successes by developing the careers of all staff, further increasing income generation, improving public engagement and maintaining the vitality of its unique inter-disciplinary culture by developing new research priorities:

- In terms of **improving income generation**, during the REF period we have developed incentives for increasing Research Council funding through collaboration within and beyond the School. Success in the recent MRC/ESRC Lifelong Health and Wellbeing stream of funding illustrates this trend (**Vickerstaff** as PI with colleagues from Manchester, Edinburgh, Bath, Brighton and Leeds Met). An important part of this strategy is developing our capacity to undertake mixed methods research and handle 'big data', via new appointments in quantitative social policy, sociology and health economics at postgraduate, postdoctoral and lecturer level (**Baumberg, Chung, Sundberg, Nizalova**). In 2013, it was also announced that we are to appoint a new Professor of Primary and Community Care funded by the Deanery and Health Education England. Another important strand to this will be collaborative working with quantitative sociologists and social scientists at the University of East Anglia and University of Essex, with whom we have recently brokered a University-wide collaboration (The Eastern ARC) designed to enhance capacity in key strategic research areas. In making quantitative social science one of these priority areas, the University of Kent has signalled its faith in SSPSSR to develop a significant funding stream based around the use of comparative quantitative methods to assess the impacts of social policy on different population groups.
- In terms of **new research initiatives**, we will be appointing more researchers who have the quantitative skills necessary to handle large data sets (following the recent appointments of **Baumberg, Chung, Sundberg**). Our success in winning an award under the **Nuffield-funded 'Q-Step' initiative** (worth £1.15m 2013-2018) will greatly strengthen this strategy providing a timely opportunity to develop our capacity for comparative social policy work based on extensive, quantitative analysis. The appointment of research fellows split between PSSRU and CHSS (in 2013) and further planned appointments in this field add additional future capacity to analyse large data sets and provide long-term forecasts of the costs and benefits of health policies. Recent strategic investment has enhanced research

and teaching capacity in Child Protection (**Shemmings**) - an emerging theme relevant to both our Risk & Uncertainty and Health and our Social Care & Embodiment clusters. **Langdon's** arrival in 2013 also strengthens the Tizard Centre's ability to develop practical interventions for those with intellectual disabilities based on control trials and development of new clinically-tested protocols. Finally, investment from partners, including South East England Development Agency on our Medway site enhanced our capacity to explore urban change (**Hubbard**) a theme that will become more important post-REF2014 (with on-going work exploring the impact of welfare reform on Kent's diverse communities). These new initiatives will produce timely and policy-relevant research at a time of widening disparities in wealth, well-being and security.

- In terms of **developing the careers of researchers**, we strongly support applications to the ESRC Future Leaders programme to ensure we have the on-going capacity to carry out excellent research. In the first two rounds of the ESRC scheme we were successful on three occasions (**Baumberg, Chung** and Benson, the latter now at Goldsmiths): in 2013 we submitted another early career researcher (**Zhang**). We have also had considerable success with more established researchers via Leverhulme Fellowships and consider this a significant route for enhancing continued development at all career levels (**Taylor-Gooby, Song** and **Breeze**). In all applications to RCUK researchers are encouraged to include capacity building in their proposals.
- Finally, in terms of **enhancing public engagement**, the School is guided by the University's Research and Impact Strategy (2013-16) that prioritises innovative, world-leading research that has a positive impact regionally, nationally and internationally. Staff are now financially incentivised to take part in widening participation and outreach events, particularly in the local area, engaging the public both as beneficiaries and participants in social policy research. The appointment of a new marketing manager has allowed for the improvement of the School's web resource, which will be used more effectively as a means of fostering a wider understanding of the School's research. In the coming years we intend to make use of the University's £50,000 per annum fund for new public engagement activities, supporting new ventures designed to promote the public understanding of social science by taking social policy into local schools, colleges and organisations, with the development of student placements as part of our Quantitative Social Science degree encouraging closer relations with key stakeholders in the region.

We anticipate the developing initiatives outlined above will be generating visible outcomes and impact over the next five years, becoming significant strengths by the next REF. At the same time, there will be continued investment in our established research clusters: SSPSSR has been able to maintain its size in times of austerity, and remains one of the largest units of scholarly and research activity in UK social policy. Our future strategy is designed to ensure the School will maintain the capacity to develop and lead international research in social policy.

c. People:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

SSPSSR is a large School, with research and teaching split across the University's two principal sites (Canterbury and Medway). The Head of School (**Vickerstaff**) is supported by a Deputy Head for Medway (**Stevens**), with the Centres each having their own Director (CHSS - **Peckham**, Tizard – **Murphy/McGill** and PSSRU - **Forder**). Our staffing policy is guided by our research strategy in two main ways. Firstly, we seek to grow our research capacity by encouraging researchers to include funding for post-docs and early career researchers as part of their grant applications. Secondly, when we replace staff who retire or resign we seek to balance the overall demographic profile of the School, generally by investing in new career researchers who are 'future leaders'.

Appointments in the REF period include: **Breeze** as the Director of the Philanthropy Centre to strengthen the Civil Society cluster and two posts in Social Work (**Masocha, Robinson**) reinforcing

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the research base contributing to our Health, Social Care & Embodiment cluster. A SSPSSR-funded postdoctoral appointment in 2012 (**Dehanas**) brings research expertise on Islamic cultures and multiculturalism, an important theme in UK policy debates relevant to the work of our Migration, Ethnicity, Religion & Belonging cluster, an issue also explored by **Cottee**, who adds an understanding of religious hate crime and terrorism to our Crime, Culture & Control cluster. Other new appointments have increased the international dimensions of research in the Migration, Ethnicity, Religion & Belonging and Risk & Uncertainty clusters respectively (**Garbin, Zhang**), while investment in Crime, Culture & Control at both Professorial (**Matthews, Stevens**) and early career level (**Ilan**) has allowed this cluster to consolidate its reputation as uniquely combining applied research and cultural, critical criminology. Research on Work & Employment has been enhanced through the appointment of three early career researchers with expertise in comparative welfare, youth employment and social policy analysis (**Baumberg, Chung, Roberts**).

In the wake of these appointments, the School has a balanced profile of 23 Professorial staff, 6 Readers, 10 Senior Lecturers, 20 Lecturers (or equivalents), two category A postdoctoral researchers (**Dehanas** and **Faircloth**) and numerous research assistants and research officers. The University of Kent is an equal opportunities employer, and our submission reflects this spirit of inclusivity, including 24 women and 35 men recruited from a variety of ethnic minority backgrounds. The University is now a Stonewall Diversity Champion, with the School's Equalities Officer ensuring diversity issues are to the fore of our staffing strategy. The University's HR strategy supports this through proactive equality and diversity initiatives, such as Athena SWAN (to which the University has applied for a bronze award). The University of Kent attained the European Commission's Excellence in Research award in May 2013, recognising our ability and willingness to support researchers in what is a diverse, mobile and global research environment.

The most important aspect of our strategy for promoting a research environment with a high level of participation is the way we ensure that teaching loads are relatively low and equal for all staff members (noting early career colleagues receive a 25-50% reduction during their first 3 years). A number of staff have been bought out by prestigious external research fellowships (e.g. Leverhulme Awards for **Breeze, Song** and **Taylor-Gooby**). All procedures and facilities are now set out in a formal induction pack. We are especially concerned to integrate contract research staff - currently in excess of 25 - into School activities. Contract staff are full members of the School Staff Meeting, and participate actively in our seminar series. Additionally, we encourage and support a vibrant and inclusive research culture by:

- Ensuring that research activity is explicitly factored into workloads via the Workload Allocation Model that recognises the time taken to produce quality research output and research grant applications. This was modified in 2013 to ensure research active staff allocate at least 40% of their time to such activity.
- All staff are granted access to a proportion of research overheads to fund research-related activity or to buy teaching assistance. Additionally, they receive conference allowances (£600 plus an additional £500 to guarantee attendance at the Social Policy Association, British Sociology Association, or British Society of Criminology conference, £200 for postgraduate research students), plus discretionary supplementation.
- Providing forums for debate, including the weekly School seminar (throughout term) that provides a focus for debate and intellectual exchange, something also pursued through reading groups, Advanced Social Policy and Sociology workshops, Medway seminars, Critical Criminology seminars, CHSS CPD events, and the Tizard seminar programme.
- All Category A staff have study leave (entitlement: one term after seven). In the REF period there have been 65 study leave terms taken.
- The School Director of Research (**Ray**) follows up centrally-circulated research opportunities, encourages cooperation between colleagues, and oversees the mentoring process. All staff benefit from this formal mentoring which encourages staff to target leading international journals and to submit research grant and fellowship applications in accordance with their status as early career or established researchers. The appointment of

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Professorial staff at Medway since 2008 (**Stevens, Hubbard**) has ensured this mentoring extends to those based at this emerging campus.

- The School's research Ethics Committee advises researchers on good research practice, ethical review and regulatory requirements, providing policy, guidance and training to all researchers in the School from UG to Professorial level. The University provides additional ethics support in relation to NHS and Research Council applications.

In this REF cycle nearly 90% of Category A staff are being returned to REF (cf. 65% of staff returned in 2008 RAE). This is testament to a research culture which ensures that appropriate opportunities and support are available across the School: though our submission includes some 23 Professorial staff, we are proud of the outstanding and pioneering research produced by all members of the School (including our c. 90 doctoral research students, and numerous Emeritus Professors, Visiting and Honorary Scholars). Notably, our submission includes all 11 staff meeting the criteria of Early Career Researchers. We are proud that these staff are not merely research active, but already producing exciting and, in many cases, well-cited research.

ii. Research students

The School has a large and thriving postgraduate research community of 105 registered PGR students on PT or FT routes (October 2013), with 65 FTE awards since 2008. Postgraduates are at the heart of the School's research environment, and to these ends the School has increased its national and international postgraduate research student numbers in accordance with our stated research strategy. Many have been recruited from the 12 Masters degrees we offer, including the MA Methods of Social Research which provides an inter-disciplinary grounding in social science research methods especially suited to those intending to embark on subsequent PhD studies.

In continuing to develop its PGR activities, the School awards four fully-funded (at ESRC Level) PhD Scholarships each year and also awarded two University 50th Anniversary Scholarships in 2012-13 and a further two in 2013-14. These scholarships are in addition to the competitive University Studentships derived from the £1.5m central fund established after 2001, and the nine ESRC studentships we received prior to our involvement in the South East Doctoral Training Centre (2011 onwards). Since then we have obtained regular PhD studentships on the Sociology and Social Policy pathways through the ESRC-funded DTC and have also made available three £3,000 MA scholarships to our best UG students in order to stimulate additional interest in the PGR route. We have also received studentships allocated through the Doctorate in Cultural and Global Criminology (DCGC) programme, in which Kent is the lead partner [see REF5 section e].

Postgraduate students benefit from personally tailored supervisory boards, involving at least two academic supervisors, at least one of whom has 'qualified supervisory status' (experience to PhD completion as well as recent relevant research publications). Additionally, there is a comprehensive programme of Advanced Training opportunities open to all PGR students at School level. This includes an Advanced Seminar Series in Social Policy and Sociology, an Advanced Seminar Series in Criminology (PGR students make regular presentations, receiving detailed feedback from academics), and a Professional Development Seminar Series (including presentations from School and external colleagues on such topics as post-doc opportunities, CV development, publishing processes, career pathways, etc.), and dedicated day-long conferences on subjects of core interest (e.g. Ethnographies of Intoxication). All students are required to complete a transferrable skills audit, and participate in the Graduate School's Transferable Skills Training programme. Based in the postgraduate Woolf College (completed 2008), the Graduate School exists to lead and champion the strategic development of provision for graduate education.

The Researcher Development Programme is designed to equip research students with a range of skills that will improve their effectiveness as researchers, and help ensure that they are not only highly qualified but also employable in a variety of careers. All new research students in SSPSSR are strongly encouraged to take modules on social science research methodology, including SO817 Using Secondary and Qualitative analysis, SO833 Design, Philosophy and Ethics of Social Enquiry, SO819 Quantitative analysis and SO832 Techniques of Data Analysis. Successful completion of all four leads to the award of a Diploma in Methods of Social Research.

SSPSSR prides itself on cultivating productive relations between staff and students, and was identified as a model of good practice in the 2012 six yearly University review. PGR student representation on the School Graduate Studies Committee provides an important formal means of communication where issues pertaining to the quality and further development of PGR activity are discussed and decided upon. All students are encouraged to participate in the School's research activities, including the weekly School Seminar Series (which includes presentations from major international figures), monthly Graduate Social Ideas and Issues seminars, a sociology fieldwork group, and various other study groups. All students make presentations to the wider School through annual continuation and review presentations. There is also funding for a select number of students (currently, four) to attend the annual postgraduate Advanced Writing workshop in Prato (Italy). It provides students with a focused period of working on an article in dedicated space and acts as an extension of what SSPSSR provides at Kent for all of its students.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

SSPSSR's strategy for obtaining research income has been guided by the University's Research Strategy, and supported by a dedicated Research Support Office that provides advice in developing, costing, negotiating and managing research grants. This includes facilitating interdisciplinary working, through regular 'PVC Lunchtime Seminars' and internal funding to support the development of large, complex and interdisciplinary projects, and an ECR Network, which encourages ECRs to meet those in other Schools and share good practice; All of these initiatives are supported by a comprehensive information service, utilising traditional and new media, including a ground-breaking blog, '[Research Fundamentals](#)'. All staff are encouraged to attend Grants Factory workshops, facilitated by the University's Research Support Office and including senior researchers (e.g. **Taylor-Gooby**) when preparing research grant applications. In addition, the University has introduced formal peer review of all research grant applications since 2011, whose introduction to the School has been overseen by the Director of Research.

The success of such strategy is evidenced in a sustained record of research funding: SSPSSR has attracted £17m in research grant and contracts income since 2008, with an increasing number of awards from Research Councils including the ESRC (49 awards since 2008, including three prestigious Future Leaders awards and five ESRC Seminar Series awards encouraging collaboration between members of SSPSSR and other institutions). The majority of outputs in REF2 have been made possible through funding from grant awards from external bodies. The award of £1.15m from the Nuffield (in collaboration with HEFCE and the ESRC) in 2013 to develop research capacity in quantitative sociology is noteworthy in this respect, providing the basis for a significant future investment in staffing relevant to the handling of large data sets.

Alongside Research Council successes we have also developed stakeholder engagement, particularly with governmental organisations, from whom we have attracted over £10m in grant and contracts income since 2008. Substantial funding has been acquired from the Department for Work and Pensions (e.g. funding **Vickerstaff's** work on extending working life, carers, pensions and trust), while the Department of Health has provided significant funding to the PSSRU, CHSS and Tizard research centres. In 2009, CHSS was awarded a contract by the Department of Health to run one of ten National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Services. CHSS and the Universities of Surrey and Brighton were awarded over £5m to provide research support services over five years to the NHS in Kent, Surrey and Sussex through the Research Design Service South East. In 2013 this was renewed for another five years. In 2009, PSSRU and Tizard became partners in the School for Social Care Research (NIHR), awarded £3m over five years.

Other notable sources of income since 2008 have included charities such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Leverhulme Trust and British Academy, as well as diverse stakeholders and funders including Demelza, the Patient and Public Involvement Fund, Astor Foundation, Melissa and Bill Gates Foundation, Challenging Behaviour Foundation, Help the Aged, Kent Police, Kent County Council, MCCH Charity, Pilgrims Hospices, Redbridge Community Housing, Hesley Group, Coutts

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Bank, La Caixa, and the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union. Here the Kent Innovations and Enterprise Office has provided tailored consultancy services as well as significant support for tenders.

This sustained record of funding has allowed for the creation of Lectureships, post-doctoral research fellow positions and Visiting Professorships that enhance the research environment. As noted above, appointments in key strategic areas during this REF cycle (e.g. **Breeze** in the Civil Society cluster; **Faircloth** in the Risk & Society cluster; **Cottee** in the Crime, Culture & Control cluster) have allowed for the enhancement of research capacity in emerging research areas. Pump-priming for new initiatives (e.g. the launch of the Centre for Philanthropy in 2008 - <http://www.kent.ac.uk/sspsr/cphsj/> and the Centre for Parenting Culture Studies in 2010 <http://www.kent.ac.uk/sspsr/research/centres/parenting-culture.html>) demonstrates the ability of the School and University to support research on topics of emerging social and academic concern. Another example is provided by the University's major investment (of £500,000) in the Centre for Health Services Studies (2012) to support the development of research on integrated care delivery.

This record of funding has also been important in providing the infrastructure that nurtures the School's research culture. Research staff in SSPSSR are split between the campuses at Medway and Canterbury: at the latter the applied research units (Tizard, PSSRU, CHSS) occupy bespoke accommodation with dedicated computing rooms and library/document centres. All full-time HEFCE-funded staff are provided with an individual office, networked PC, webcam, printer, and phone. Research Assistants, Visiting staff and Emeritus Professors have individual workstations in shared offices. Seminar spaces, dedicated staff common rooms and kitchen facilities foster collegiality at both Medway and Canterbury. Postgraduate research students benefit from a suite of 25 dedicated PGR rooms, and all are provided with desk, PC, phone, photocopying, other printing facilities, and travel and research support grants (students are normally required to attend at least one major disciplinary conference in their second and third years). The Templeman Library represents an important research resource for both research students and staff, containing 1.3 million items: the Library is currently undergoing a £27m refurbishment and extension which will create 512 additional study spaces and add new postgraduate facilities (completion: Dec 2015).

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

In addition to providing research which supports policy-making in the UK and beyond, our researchers are recognised as making significant contributions to a range of diverse disciplines through service to professional societies, stewardship of journals, peer-reviewing, conference organisation and keynote contributions to conferences, as well as collaborations with researchers from other institutions. Given the inter-disciplinary nature of SSPSSR, the contributions of staff to the research base are hence inter- and cross-disciplinary, with evidence as follows:

- National and international collaborations:** Staff collaborate on research projects with other Universities in the UK and internationally. For example PSSRU, has a long-established collaboration with LSE and the University of Manchester, while the Civil Society cluster developed a node of the ESRC Charity and Philanthropy Centre with the University of Southampton. Beyond the UK, collaboration is wide-ranging, including research collaborations with prestigious institutions including La Trobe (Australia), Peking University (China), University of Roskilde (Denmark), the Sorbonne (France), University of Frankfurt (Germany), University of Rome (Italy), Shumei University (Japan), Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania), Utrecht University (Netherlands), Jagiellonian University (Poland), University of Valencia (Spain), Uppsalla (Sweden), and Brown University (US). Staff are hence active in international networks (e.g. **Kendall** convenes the European Commission-funded CINEFOGO 'Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe' network; **Matthews** wrote a report on Prostitution Policies for the European Council /ENERGE 2013; **Murphy** organised the European Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities in Rome, 2012; **Taylor-Gooby** chaired the EU DG Regional Development Conference on Social Polarization, Brussels, 2009 and leads the INSPIRES FP7 project 'Resilience, Unemployment and Young People', 2012-2015, €200,000 to Kent).

- Journal editorship and preparation:** Staff edit, or have edited, the following journals in the REF period: *Addiction* (**Baumberg**), *Culture Machine* (**Boothroyd**, Executive Co-Editor), *Environmental Politics* (**Rootes**, Editor in Chief), *European Journal of Risk Regulation* (**Burgess**); *Global Society* (**Hayward**, Associate Editor), *International Journal of Development Disabilities* (**Beadle-Brown**), *Social and Cultural Geography* (**Hubbard**), *Sociology Compass* (**Burgess**); *Sociological Review Monograph Series* (**Shilling**), *Sociology of Education Abstracts* (**Shilling**), and the *International Journal of Drug Policy* (**Stevens**). Staff have also served on the boards of *Ageing and Society* (**Twigg, Darton**), *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* (**Hayward**), *Body and Society* (**Shilling**), *British Journal of Criminology* (**Hayward, Stevens**), *Crime, Media, Culture* (**Hayward**), *Cultural and Social History* (**Bradley**, book reviews editor), *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy* (**Stevens**), *Drugs and Alcohol Today* (**Chatwin**), *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (**Song**), *Ethnicities* (**Song**), *European Journal of Social Theory* (**Wilkinson**), *Identities* (**Song**), *International Journal of Ageing and Later Life* (**Twigg**), *Journal of Integrated Care* (**Billings**), *Health, Risk & Society* (**Burgess, Furedi, Warner, Wilkinson**), *Journal for Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities* (**Beadle-Brown, McGill, Murphy**), *Journal of Ageing Studies* (**Twigg**), *Journal of Learning Disabilities and Offending Behaviour* (**Murphy**), *Journal of Social Policy* (**Twigg**), *Journal of Youth Studies* (**Roberts**), *International Journal of Voluntary and Non-profit Organisation* (**Kendall**), *Max Weber Studies* (**Ray**), *Mobilization* (**Rootes**), *Quality and Ageing and Older People* (**Milne**), *Philanthropy UK* (**Breeze**), *Risk Management* (**Furedi**), *Safer Communities* (**Matthews**), *Sexualities* (**Hubbard**); *Social Movement Studies* (**Rootes**), *Sociology* (**Burgess**), *Sociology Compass* (**Strangleman, Warner, Wilkinson**), *Sociological Research Online* (**Roberts**), *Sociological Review* (**Shilling, Strangleman**), *Theoretical Criminology* (**Matthews**) and *Work, Employment, Society* (**Chung**).
- Peer reviewing and support to Research Councils:** Staff are heavily involved in the refereeing of ESRC grants (**Hubbard, Stevens** and **Strangleman** members of ESRC Virtual College, **Taylor-Gooby** member of Postgraduate Training Scheme Assessment Training College, **Hubbard** performed the ESRC subject benchmarking for Geography and **Vickerstaff** became a member of the grant assessment panel in 2012). Since 2008, staff have also evaluated grant applications for the AHRC (**Bradley** member of AHRC Peer Review College, 2012 onwards), Austrian Science Fund, the Big Lottery, British Academy (**Taylor-Gooby**, Chair of New Paradigms in Public Policy programme), Canadian Research Council, Deutsche Forschungs Gemeinschaft, Dunhill Medical Trust, European Social Fund, the European Union Research Framework Programme (**Forder** National Expert Panel Member), Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (**Wilkinson** board member and advisor), Joseph Rowntree, the Leverhulme Trust, Marie Curie EU awards, Medical Research Council, National Institute for Health Research, the Nuffield Foundation, Qatar National Research Fund, PPP Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the US National Science Foundation, Runnymede Trust (**Song**, academic advisory board member) and The Wellcome Trust.
- Conference organisation and research-based CPD:** Members of staff have been active in organising conference and workshops for, and on behalf of, professional and learned societies. For example, the **Crime, Culture & Control** cluster have organised two international conferences (in Krakow and London) on the issue of drugs and HIV in prison, an international conference (in Canterbury) under the auspices of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (organised by **Stevens**), a conference (in Medway) on *Reinventing Youth Justice* (organised by **Ilan**) and a national conference (in Medway) on the Children's Act 1908 (organised by **Bradley**). The Centre of Child Protection delivered the Technology Strategy Board's Long Term Care Revolution SBRI Challenge 'sandpit' in 2013. Other notable conferences organised include the Gendering the Modern World Conference (**Bradley**, 2010), IASSD Cape Town symposium (**Forrester Jones**, 2008), International Association of Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress (**Murphy**, 2008), Annual British Association of Jewish Studies conference (**Ray**, 2013), Youth and Young Adulthood conference (**Roberts**, 2013), ISSDP Conference (**Stevens**,

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2009), BSA Presidential Event on Sociology, Suffering and Humanitarianism (**Wilkinson**, 2012). SSPSSR staff have also co-convened five ESRC seminar series: Carers in the 21st Century (**Milne**), Body Work (**Twigg**), Parenting Cultures (**Faircloth**), Mixing and Mixedness (**Song**) and Rethinking Retirement (**Vickerstaff**).

- **Service to professional associations or learned societies:** In the REF period, staff have served on the following professional and academic organisations: Executive of British Society of Gerontology (**Twigg**); Executive of the Social History Society (**Bradley**); Vice president of the Risk & Society Thematic Group, International Sociological Association (**Burgess**); Executive member of the Society for the Study of Addiction (**Coulton**); President of International Association of Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities (**Murphy**); Convenors of British Sociological Association Youth (**Roberts**) Ageing, Body and Society (**Twigg**), and Risk and Society Study Groups (**Warner**); Director Kyrgyz-British Society (**Sanghera**), International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Research Network editor and network member (**Song**), Board member of the International Society for the Study of Drugs Policy (**Stevens**), President of the British Association of Jewish Studies (**Ray**), Convenor Member of Executive Committee, Secretariat of Chinese Life Sciences Society (**Zhang**), Member of the College of Experts for the Medical Research Council (**Beadle-Brown**), President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science's Sociology and Social Policy (**Taylor-Gooby**), member of the RSA 2020 Public Services Management Group (**Taylor-Gooby**), and SCIE Partners Council Member (**Warner**).
- **Postgraduate and methods training:** Staff are members of multiple inter-disciplinary networks and consortia providing training in social science methods. For example, **Roberts** was lead convenor of the ESRC/NCRM 'Digital methods as mainstream methodology' seminar series (2012-2013). Since 2011, the School has been part of the ESRC-funded South East Doctoral Training Centre (SEDTC) uniting the Universities of Kent, Reading, Royal Holloway and Surrey in providing outstanding postgraduate training to PhD social science students in the M25 region. In the first three years of the SEDTC, the School was successful in obtaining seven funded studentships on the Sociology and Social Policy pathways, making it the most successful School within the SEDTC. From 2011, the University of Kent has also been the co-ordinating partner for the Doctorate in Cultural and Global Criminology (DCGC) programme - a collaboration with Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary, the University of Hamburg, Germany, and Utrecht University, Netherlands. The DCGC is one of the highly prestigious Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programmes funded by the EU Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. SSPSSR provides the introductory taught elements for all DCGC students and leads in the supervision of the doctoral candidates: in 2012-13, the second year of the programme, the DCGC attracted over 90 applications from around the world, and nine awards were made.

The contributions of SSPSSR staff have been acknowledged via numerous awards, including an Emerging Scholar Award from the US Association of Researchers of Non-profit and Voluntary Organisations (**Breeze**, 2008). **Murphy** was given the M B Shapiro Award by the British Psychological Society Division of Clinical Psychology, 2013. Jock **Young**, who sadly passed away in November 2013, received the British Society of Criminology Outstanding Achievement Award in 2012, and **Taylor-Gooby** the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Social Policy Association, July 2013. Staff have been elected as Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences (**Netten**, **Ray**, **Strangleman**, **Taylor-Gooby**, **Twigg**), and Elected Fellow of the British Academy (**Taylor-Gooby**). Jim Mansell (the founder of the Tizard Centre at Kent), who died in March 2012, was awarded a CBE in January 2012, and in June 2012 an OBE was awarded to **Taylor-Gooby** for service to the social sciences. Finally, in 2013 the Tizard Centre was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for its contributions to the study of intellectual disability.

This evidence indicates SSPSSR to be large and vibrant centre of research in social policy and social work whose researchers, collectively and individually, have made important and timely contributions to a variety of academic and policy debates both in established and emergent fields.