

<p>Institution: University of Bristol</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 30 History</p>
<p>a) Overview History at Bristol (co-located with History of Art within Historical Studies) is part of the School of Humanities, one of three Schools within the Faculty of Arts. Sharing streamlined administrative structures with Classics and Ancient History, English and Religion and Theology, and promoting an interdisciplinary environment, each department retains a Head of Subject with responsibility for providing strategic leadership. The reconfiguration of History with History of Art in the Department of Historical Studies has led to increased research synergy, and has facilitated one of our stated aims in RAE2008, namely the development of new research areas, including joint recruitment and supervision of research students. Particular areas of research strength are represented by well-established clusters of scholars working in: Medieval and Early Modern, Contemporary, and Global, Transnational and Colonial history.</p> <p>The subject area of History at Bristol has outstanding achievements in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality research outputs • Recruitment of postgraduate research students (continuing a trajectory of growth in RAE2008) • Attainment of research grants and awards (almost doubled since RAE2008) • External recognition within the national and international academic worlds • Service to national and international bodies, outside the university system
<p>b) Research strategy The department's research strategy strengthens Bristol as a world-class environment for historical scholarship and intellectual leadership in particular branches of the discipline. Discussion of aims and strategy is continual, self-reflection habitual – in particular through annual department away days and a cycle of formal and informal meetings and networking events throughout the year. The research strategy has three key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To produce publications as authors and editors that shape debates in the field. • To provide leadership by enhancing the resources of the discipline and by training future generations of historians. • To bring benefits to a very broad range of audiences from the excellent research undertaken at Bristol by both academic staff and postgraduate students (see Impact Template). <p>To achieve these goals we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioned excellent research as underpinning everything we do as a department – teaching, public engagement, knowledge transfer and exchange – within a joined-up departmental plan. • Appointed the best possible staff, and offered them the best possible support once appointed with clear career pathways and support for early career researchers (a central part of the University's Research Strategy). • Increased both the number of high quality PGRs and research income to boost both our research environment and productivity. • Encouraged widespread collaboration in teaching and research. • Strengthened designated research clusters, while also identifying and defining new trends. <p>The three research clusters identified in RAE2008 (Medieval and Early Modern, Contemporary History, Global, Transnational and Colonial history) have flourished in the period and will continue to be central to our strategy, while we will remain alert to the development of new thematic clusters – such as an emerging cluster in Materialities (growing out of, and broadening an earlier cluster in Visual Culture) that cross-cuts History and History of Art and the period specialisms that have long been a particular strength. These clusters are neither restrictive in their constituency nor mutually exclusive but provide a clear profile that reflects the shape of the Department, a supportive network for the evolving research interests of current staff and a focus for new appointments (we plan to appoint four new colleagues in these areas in 2013-14).</p> <p>Cluster meetings and workshops provide fora for colleagues to exchange ideas, read each other's work in progress and frame plans for common activities such as conferences and research grant applications. Another forum is the programme of research seminars in which staff, postgraduate students and visiting speakers present papers. Beyond the department, colleagues are engaged in faculty research themes and networks (e.g. 'Fear' co-led by Austin). These provide a Bristol-based research environment that complements national (especially the GW4 network of Bristol, Bath, Cardiff and Exeter) and international networks of scholars that colleagues lead and participate in, including a particular input into the Worldwide Universities Network (see below).</p>

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Further opportunities are presented by the hosting of visiting scholars – during the REF period these included Bruscoli (Florence); Colley (Princeton); Ke (North East, China); Makarov (Saratov State); Okabe (Kobe Gakuin); Salice (Rome); Schneider (Indiana) and a group of research-active Senior Research Fellows (Doyle, Greene, Moore, Pemble, Reid, Skidmore) as well as networking and collaborations with the creative and public sectors through e.g. the REACT Hub (see below) co-directed by **Bickers** (2011-13) and **Cole** (2013-15)

Our research and teaching strategies are intimately linked within an overall strategy that seeks synergy at all levels. Our undergraduate programme is unusual in having research-intensive, primary-source-based ‘specials’ and research projects in all three years allowing all staff to teach their research specialisms. The institution of weekly lunchtime lectures (2010-) for staff, postgraduates and undergraduates when colleagues and visiting speakers discuss their research in order to draw undergraduates into the departmental research culture and prepare them for postgraduate study, is an exemplar of the departmental ethos.

In order to implement the research strategy we have prioritised (and will continue to prioritise):

Providing staff with time to undertake their research through:

- The well-planned application of a generous leave policy. All staff (full-time and part-time) can apply for one year of research leave in every five, subject to approval of viable research projects the School Research Committee. All staff requesting leave have been granted it since 2000.
- Timetabling to enable staff to have a clear research day each week.
- Increased research workload allocation and early leave entitlement for new staff to enable them to develop their research careers.
- Rationalizing key administrative roles and meetings through the process of schoolification to release additional time for more staff to concentrate on core activities.
- Workload recognition of journal editorial roles and national/international research leadership.

Providing staff with a vibrant and stimulating research environment through:

- A regular roster of research seminars, lectures, clusters, work-in-progress groups, networking events and workshops that involve permanent academic staff, TFs, RAs and PGRs.
- A flexible agenda within research clusters to fit changing circumstances.
- Faculty research themes encouraging cross-disciplinary initiatives, facilitated by administrative structures.
- Faculty and University support that provides networking grants and conference funds.
- Departmental, Faculty and University initiatives to develop links within the GW4 (Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter) hub of Universities and with international Universities through the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) and Bristol-Kyoto partnership.

Providing staff with support to achieve their ambitious research aims through:

- Research mentoring for new staff (at departmental and faculty levels) and Staff Review and Development and Annual Research Review for all staff.
- Faculty and University support through grant-writing workshops, seed-corn funding, networking grants and conference and research travel funds.
- School administrative assistants to provide dedicated administrative support.
- Faculty scheme (REAP) to provide internal peer review of all grant applications.

The successful implementation of this research strategy has enabled us to fulfil the commitments made at the last RAE by:

Delivering excellent publications as authors and editors. Key achievements from across the range of research clusters include:

- Colleagues publishing three articles in *Past and Present* within the review period (**Hutton**, **McLellan** and **Saha**).
- The three monographs by our department’s modern Europeanists taking leading places in ranking for the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History (**McLellan** was awarded the 2011 Fraenkel Prize with the jury also commending **Cole’s** *Traces of the Holocaust* and (in 2010) **Fürst’s** *Stalin’s Last Generation*).
- **Wei’s** *Intellectual Culture in Medieval Paris*, as well as being shortlisted for the Longman and *History Today* Book Prize, forming the basis for a workshop at QMW to discuss the book’s significance to a range of disciplines.

- Publications issued in translation during the period include **Bicker's** *Empire Made Me* (Japanese 2008; Chinese 2012) and **Coates'** *Environment and History* (Chinese 2009).

Offering research leadership in the discipline, through enhancing the resources of the discipline and training a new generation of scholars. Colleagues have taken on important national and international leadership roles in the discipline (see Collaboration and Contribution to the Discipline) and the department has seen a significant growth in PGRs since RAE2008 (see People: Research Students).

Over the next five years, the department intends to reinforce the achievements outlined above, and develop further the identity of existing and emerging research clusters, holding more workshops and conferences that pool their activities, and publicizing their shared accomplishments to create a strong sense, at home and abroad, of what makes history at Bristol distinctive.

c) People, including:

i) Staffing strategy and staff development The fundamental tenet of our staffing strategy is excellence. Our approach to recruitment is to cast the net as wide as possible in order to attract outstanding candidates from an international field. The REF period has seen new appointments in the areas of **Global, Transnational and Colonial (Potter** to a Readership and **Saha** to a Lecturership), **Contemporary (Bates and Michlic** to Lecturerships) and **Medieval and Early Modern (Donkin** to a cross-over Lectureship in History and History of Art and a core member of the new **Materialities** cluster) which fit within an appointment strategy of seeking to broaden and deepen existing research strengths, while also being aware of new trends.

In accordance with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, staff are fully supported by the University, Faculty and School at all stages of their careers. Early career researchers receive particular attention at Bristol. In accordance with the University's policies, newly-appointed staff receive a three-year programme of structured mentoring on all aspects of their duties, alongside a dedicated Faculty induction programme. All new staff are assigned a mentor who advises on research and teaching. They are given increased work load credits for research, and administrative duties are light at first. Career progression, from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer (3 during period), is based on assessment of performance within established role profiles, with accelerated progression to Senior Lecturer available in cases of exceptional performance (1 during period). Readerships (2 during period) and Professorships are achieved by promotion and may also be accelerated (e.g. Senior Lecturer to Professor, 1 during period) in exceptional cases. The policy requires continual mentoring and monitoring, with the stress on ambitious but attainable goals in all aspects of the job. New staff are eligible for early application to the one year in five leave system, and like all staff, benefit from the range of support in applying for research grants offered across the faculty and university. All staff have an annual Staff Review and Development (SRD) meeting (with senior colleagues trained in supporting this process) as well undertaking Annual Research Review, and have access to an extensive range of training opportunities through Staff Development; relevant to research include IT training, workshops on academic writing, grant writing and leading research teams, alongside information sessions on research initiatives and funding opportunities.

The University of Bristol has a strong Equality and Diversity policy, which is fully implemented in the Faculty and Department in order to ensure fairness in recruitment and to support staff of all backgrounds at every stage of their subsequent careers. In particular, the Faculty Equalities Committee has developed policies to tackle gender imbalances and to support the careers of women in the Faculty. Bristol's policy is to treat fixed-term staff on an equal footing with permanent staff. Post-doctoral fellows and temporary staff are assigned mentors and given full access to training possibilities and a central part of the department's research culture. We have a good track record of success in TFs and RAs moving on to permanent lectureships (**Eberspächer** to Düsseldorf; **Kempf** to Liverpool; **Macpherson** to Highlands and Islands; **Manias** to Manchester; **Pearson** to Warwick; **Redden** to Liverpool; **Saha** to Bristol), TFs (**Biddlecombe** to Exeter) or post-docs (**Broch** to EUI and the Pears Institute). The department actively pursues opportunities for post-doctoral funding; in the period, RAs have been employed through AHRC (**Biddlecombe, Dudley, Howlett, Kempf, Ma, Nourse** and **Pearson**) ESRC (**Eberspächer, Manias**) and Leverhulme (**Redden**) funding.

ii) Research students The department has contributed with exceptional success to a faculty policy of significant growth in numbers of PGRs linked with the development of a dedicated Graduate

School of Arts and Humanities. The growth of the post-graduate community in History is one major achievement during this REF cycle, with strong numbers (given the relatively small size of the department) being admitted to research degree programmes in each year (11 in 2008/9; 12 in 2009/10; 20 in 2010/11; 18 in 2011/12; 13 in 2012/13; 15 in 2013/14). The impact of this growth is beginning to be seen in the rise in numbers of degrees awarded (see REF4a).

The department has been successful in attracting significant numbers of fully funded studentships (17 AHRC, 1 ESRC, 3 cross-research councils Language Based Area Studies Programme, 'British Inter-University China Centre'; 2 University of Bristol Overseas Student Scholarship and 1 Canadian SSRC). One notable area of recent success has been building a team of 6 AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) studentships that reflect and extend a research culture that embraces opportunities for exchange between academia and a broad range of external partners (see Impact Template). Three of our AHRC-funded research students have won Kluge Library of Congress Fellowships and one a Fulbright Postgraduate Award. In addition, the department has been highly successful since 2008 in gaining support from non-academic bodies (Rotary Club, Richard III Society, Wingate Scholarship, EHRI, USHMM, Simon Wiesenthal Institute, Claims Conference) and private individuals to assist self-funding students. A donation of £500k by one donor (the Deas Bequest) has permitted the department to fund two bursaries, held for three years, annually since 2010/11. A further donation has provided an annual 'Keil Scholarship' from 2013/14. In addition, donations from alumni have provided individual grants (ranging from £250 to £6000) to c. 30 students since 2008, and departmental funds have provided sums to c. 30 more students to support aspects of their research. In short, the growth of a very diverse PGR student body has been accompanied by, and supported through, a considerable growth in financial support from a very wide range of sources.

All postgraduate students participate in the departmental research seminar and run their own series of seminars that provide early stage research students with opportunities to give short papers and receive feedback. Alongside these two seminar series are reading groups, designed to enable research students to present and discuss ideas, in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, and Colonial History. Medievalists are well served by the faculty Centre for Medieval Studies, in which historians are a driving force. Students working on modern East Asian history convene within a fortnightly research seminar led by **Bickers**. Since 2008 seven conferences or symposia, most with an international attendance, have been organised by students supervised within the History subject area, with support from the faculty as well as the department. Students contribute regularly to panels at international symposia, such as those sponsored by the faculty's Centre for Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo in three years between 2009 and 2012. It is expected that all postgraduate research students who are aiming at the academic profession should gain experience of undergraduate teaching during the last one or two years of their study. They receive training centrally (in a programme taught by two members of the department – **Cole** and **McLellan**) as well as in the department from teaching mentors. Other skills training is also provided at a number of levels. All students can access a variety of skills training offered by the University and Faculty Graduate School. Within the department, PGRs themselves identify specific training needs each year (such as writing post-doc applications, an academic CV, getting published in history journals etc.) which they invite permanent staff to address through a series of lunchtime workshops arranged by the Head of Subject.

Students receive regular supervision from a team of two staff members and pass through a series of milestones to ensure timely completion. At the end of their first year, MLitt students submit a sample chapter and detailed thesis plan with a timetable for completion for assessment by two internal upgraders who undertake a viva on the basis of these materials. All research students and their supervisors complete an annual progress form reviewed by both the Head of Subject who oversees research students in the department and the Graduate Dean. Monitoring and support of students is carried out in partnership with the faculty Graduate School, which has ultimate responsibility for admission and regulation. Any concerns that students or supervisors have are discussed with either the Head of Subject or Graduate Dean. These support structures, processes and milestones mean that completion rates are high. Three PhD theses have been awarded the faculty prize for best PhD thesis and one the Brunel Prize of the Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society. There is a strong culture of publishing while a PhD student, and 6 students have gone on to publish their thesis as a monograph during the review period. The department also has a strong record in PGRs going on, during the review period, to secure post-docs

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(**Biddlecombe** at Bristol; **Dudley** at Ludwig-Maximilians, Munich and Bristol, **Ma** at Bristol), TFs (**Flack** at Bristol, **Harry** at Bristol; **Howlett** at Newcastle, **Jackson** at Oxford, **Jobson** at Bristol, **Ma** at Birkbeck, **Masterston** at Bristol) and permanent academic posts (**Blackburn** at Nottingham; **Chang** at Academia Sinica; **Dryburgh** at York; **Eberspächer** at Confucius Institute, Dusseldorf; **Flavin** at Trinity College Dublin; **Howlett** at York; **Jackson** at Aberdeen; **Jia** at Central Music Conservatory, Beijing; **Ladds** at Hong Kong Baptist University; **Ma** at Exeter; **Mansor** at Malaya; **Moore** at UWE).

d) Income, infrastructure and facilities All permanent members of staff build regular bids for grants into their research plans, with the support of the Head of Subject through SRD and the Deputy Head of the School of Humanities who oversees grant applications for the school. Additional support is provided at faculty level (see below). The department has a strong track record of successful generation of research income, seen in the increased amount and range of externally funded grants compared with RAE2008 from across the three established research clusters and cross-cutting research in co-production, Knowledge Exchange and Knowledge Transfer. The total money awarded to the department is roughly double that in RAE2008 (see REF4b which represents the actual UoA spend within the review period). Colleagues have been PI or CI on a range of larger collaborative grants within the REF period totalling:

Close to £1m for colleagues in the **Medieval and Early Modern History** cluster from the **AHRC** (**Smith** PI 'Robert the Monk'), **British Academy** (**Holdenried** PI 'Men and Prophecia in the Medieval Church'); **ESRC** (**Jones** and **Smith** CIs with University of Ireland, Maynooth 'Ireland-Bristol Trade in the Sixteenth Century'), **Leverhulme** (**Cervantes** PI 'The Celestial and the Fallen'; **Hutton** PI 'The Figure of the Witch' as well as from a range of public and private bodies (**Jones** PI 'The Cabot Project' funded by Bauta Foundation, British Academy and Burning Gold Productions).

Over £2m for colleagues in the **Contemporary History** cluster from the **AHRC** (**Coates** PI with Durham and UEA AHRC 'Local Places, Global Processes'; **Coates** PI with Durham, Nottingham and UEA 'The Places that Speak to Us and the Publics We Speak With'; **Coates** PI with Nottingham and UEA 'The Power and the Water'; **Coates** Mentor with **Dudley** Fellow 'Getting Back to Nature: Access and Recreation in the Protected Spaces of SW Britain, Early Career Fellowship'; **Coates** PI/**Cole** CI 'Militarized Landscapes'; **Fürst** PI/**McLellan** CI 'Dropping out of Socialism'); **Fürst** PI 'Library of Congress Award'; **Macleod** CI 'Invention in the Industrial Revolution'; **Pemberton** CI 'The Penguin Archive Project'; **Thompson** PI 'European Proposal Support Fund'), **British Academy** (**Cole** PI 'Holocaust Landscapes'); **Leverhulme** (**McLellan** PI Research Fellowship) and University of Bristol Alumni Award (**Middleton** PI 'British Historical Statistics Project').

Over £1m, for colleagues in the **Global, Transnational and Colonial History** cluster from the **AHRC** (**Bickers** PI 'Treaty Port China and its Legacies, 1842-1999'; **Bickers** CI with Oxford 'Old Chinese' Collaborative Provision of Research Training Award; **Bickers** PI with Manchester and Oxford 'British Inter-university China Centre Phase 2' (plus additional award and follow-on funding); **Bickers** PI, 'Knowledge Catalyst Partnership Award : Identification of historic meteorological records to support research into climate change'), **British Academy** (**Bickers** PI 'An Archive for China'), **ESRC** (**Bickers** CI (2008-10) PI (2010-12) with Swansea, Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences and Nankai University 'Colonialism in Comparative Perspective: Tianjin under Nine Flags') as well as a range of private bodies (**Bickers** PI 'Historical Photographs of China' part-funded by Swire Group; 'Digitizing China' funded by Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation).

Cross-cutting co-produced research has seen colleagues playing key roles on large projects worth a total of more than £7.5m. Particularly significant here are:

- AHRC £4m REACT Knowledge Exchange Hub (**Bickers** Co-Director 2011-13; **Cole** Co-Director 2013-) in partnership with Bath, Cardiff, Exeter, UWE. (**Cole** has been PI on two projects).
- AHRC Connected Communities grants 'Know Your Bristol' (PI **Bickers** with CIs **Coates**, **Cole**, **McLellan** and **Thompson** on three grants totalling more than £500k); AHRC Connected Communities grant 'Tangible Memories' (CI **Cole**)
- ESRC £2.4m Connected Communities 'Productive Margins' grant (CI **Cole** with a team from Bristol and Cardiff)

The infrastructure and facilities to support research at Bristol is very extensive:

BIRTHA. The Bristol Institute for Research in the Humanities and Arts is a Faculty institute supporting all of its research centres as well as individuals. Colleagues have made good use of the

resources offered for funding conferences, (**Austin** for European Reformation Research Group conference hosted in Bristol) workshops (**Thompson** 'History of Numeracy' (2012-14); **Potter** 'Animals and Empire' (2013)) and research grants to groups and individuals for interdisciplinary projects (**Potter** 'Remembering Bristol's Empire' (2012)), as well as the Faculty Conference, Publication and Research fund (most staff have routinely applied for c. £1800 p.a. for reimbursement of expenses).

Faculty Research Themes. A number of colleagues are involved in faculty research themes, in particular the Medieval Studies and Colonialism research themes that are firmly located in part within the department.

The Library. Alongside extensive e-journals and monographs, the library houses **Special Collections** with research materials that have formed the basis for past grants (**Pemberton** and Penguin Archive) as well applications currently in development (**Cole** and *Rough Guide* Archive, **McLellan** and the Feminist Archive). Dedicated seedcorn funding is available in order to develop research grant applications that utilise the extensive archival holdings in *Special Collections*.

The Graduate School of Arts and Humanities. Opened in 2009 (and led by historians – **Clark** (2009-13); **Smith** (2013-)) brings all the training and administrative support for postgraduates in the Faculty together in one place, and sponsors many academic and social events. Housed in its own building, it has become the bustling centre of postgraduate life in the Faculty. The message to postgraduates and to staff is that we are all part of one research community. The success of the strategy is visible in the increase in postgraduate recruitment since 2009.

Support for grant application and administration. The faculty employs two Research Development Managers whose role is to publicise new initiatives and possibilities in funding, alert and match staff to them and advise during the application process. Further faculty support is provided by REAP, dedicated support in costings from the Faculty Finance Team and support in developing impact, knowledge exchange and knowledge transfer from staff in the University's Research and Enterprise Development unit (RED). The support of RED has been particularly critical in the department's success in gaining 6 AHRC CDA Studentships and the leading role played by the department in the AHRC REACT Hub. Development of new grant proposals is additionally supported through pump-priming funding provided by the Faculty Research Director.

Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS). **Wei** (2010-) and **Cole** (2013) sit on the Board of the IAS and colleagues are active in the workshop programme series funded by this University institute including co-ordinating workshop series (e.g. **Thompson** 'Interdisciplinary Approaches to Numeracy' Workshops (2010-11) and **Wei** 'Ideas and Universities Project' International Virtual Seminars (2008-13)) as well as drawing on funding for visiting scholars through the Benjamin Meaker scheme (**Holdenried** bringing in McGinn 2010). During the REF period, three colleagues have also been successful in receiving one-year University Research Fellowships administered by the IAS.

School and Department. The School oversees the maintenance of a leave rota and the Deputy Head of Research in the School and Head of Subject assist staff in applying for research leave and external funding. Applications out of rota are allowed in order to conduct major projects. Further small sums of pump priming and seed-corn funding are available from the Head of School and Head of Subject's discretionary accounts.

e) Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base Colleagues play leading roles in a number of national and international research networks, including collaborations outside academia and a very wide range of contributions to the discipline nationally and internationally. Given the relatively small size of the department, Bristol is a history department that punches above its weight within the discipline through:

National and International Collaborations

All colleagues are involved in broader research networks and collaborations, including interdisciplinary networks and collaborations with non-academic partners. Major collaborations include:

Bickers as PI of British Inter-University China Centre; PI of two Collaborative Provision of Research Training awards; Director of the digitisation programme, 'Historic Photographs of China' developed collaborations with the Institut d'Asie Orientale, Lyon, Queen's University Belfast, and the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge to create a research and teaching platform of digitised historic photographs of China, 'Visualising China' which has generated further

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collaborations through 'Digitizing China' with SOAS and Taiwan; BIS China Science Focal Point for the Creative Economy (2013-15).

Bickers and **Cole** as co-directors of the AHRC-funded REACT Hub (with Bath, Cardiff, Exeter and UWE) that initiates innovative research between academics, artists and technologists.

Clark as chair of the South West and Wales AHRC Block Grant Partnership Consortium, which led seven universities in a successful bid for 200 PGR studentships.

Coates as PI of two AHRC research networks with colleagues from Durham, Nottingham and UEA and a range of external partners (AONBs, the National Trust, the Forestry Commission).

Cole as co-leader of international Holocaust Geographies Collaborative with colleagues (historians, geographers, GIScientists, cartographers) in the US and New Zealand.

Jones as leader of the Cabot Project with colleagues in Australia, Canada, Italy, UK and US.

Jones and **Smith** as CIs on research into Ireland-Bristol Trade in 16th c. with colleagues in Ireland.

Middleton as external advisor to Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science funded project on 'Economic Society in Twentieth-Century Britain' at Fukuoka University (2007-11).

Thompson led an EU FP7 bid with colleagues in Finland and Sweden (2013).

Wei as leading member of WUN Ideas and Universities network and through involvement in 'Intellectual Culture in Medieval Scandinavia' with University of Oslo.

Membership of advisory boards/Leading positions in learned societies

It is expected that staff members routinely seek and gain admission to a professional body which reflects their discipline, normally the Royal Historical Society, after producing a first significant book. **Hutton** holds fellowships by election in four such bodies, including election as a Fellow of the British Academy (2013) and Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales (2011), while **Middleton** belongs to eleven societies, institutes and associations, and is the faculty's only Academician of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences.

Other notable roles are played by:

Bickers as a member and vice-chair of the executive council of the Universities' China Committee in London and the advisory council of the Institute of Historical Research (2010-13).

Clark as advisor on the medieval period for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

Coates elected to executive committee of American Society for Environmental History (2006-10).

Hutton commissioner for English Heritage (2009-13) and chair of Designation Review Committee (2010) and Human Resources Committee (2011) and member of Blue Plaques Committee (2011).

Middleton serves on the executive and council of the Economic History Society (where he has the longest continuous service of any member) and chairs its conference committee. He is also a member of the Royal Statistical Society's History Group and an Advisor for the Snowball Metrics Project.

McLellan served on the committee of the German History Society (2006-9) and is a judge of the German History Society/Royal Historical Society annual essay prize.

Sheldon was an elected Council Member and Trustee of the Economic History Society (2004-10).

Smith serves on the editorial advisory panel of Four Courts Press and the international advisory board for the CIRCLE: A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters project, Trinity College Dublin.

Editorial positions

Colleagues serve on the editorial boards of *British Politics* (**Middleton**), *Journal of the British Association of Chinese Studies* (**Bickers**); *Contemporary European History* (**McLellan**); *Environment and History* (**Coates**); *Folklore* (**Hutton**); *Gender and History* (**McLellan**); *Journal of Historical Biography* (**Potter**); *Journal of Jewish Identities* (**Cole**); *Media History* (**Potter**) and *Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* (**Fürst**); *Twentieth Century British History* (**Pemberton**) and the advisory boards of numerous other journals. Particularly notable roles include:

McLellan: co-editor of *Contemporary European History* who has overseen the journal's inclusion in the Thompson-Reuters Journal Citation Report.

Middleton: commissioned by Cambridge University Press as general editor of the multi-volume and online British Historical Statistics Project and reviews editor of *Economic History* for six years.

Smith: performed a great service to medieval studies by bringing to completion an unfinished work by the late Rees Davies (OUP).

Examination of doctorates

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Colleagues have been external examiners for over 30 PhD theses at UK universities during the review period, as well as for PhD theses at universities in Australia (**Hutton**), Belgium (**Holdenried**) Canada (**McLellan**) Germany (**Hutton**), Hong Kong (**Bickers**), India (**Bickers**), Malaysia (**Bickers**), Norway (**Coates**) and Sweden (**Cole**).

Organisation of conferences and scholarly encounters

Alongside ongoing collaborative workshops (eg Wei organised four virtual seminar programmes from Bristol and two symposia in Bristol for the Worldeide Universities Network in 2008-11) colleagues have organised high profile national and international conferences and symposia during the REF period, many of which have resulted in highly praised publications - for example **Coates** and **Cole**'s international conference on 'Militarized Landscapes' resulted in a volume that has been signalled as 'the most significant publication on the subject' (review in *Environment and History*).

These include:

In **2008** bringing the annual meeting of the European Reformation Research Group (**Austin**) and an international conference on 'Militarized Landscapes' (**Coates** and **Cole**) to Bristol.

In **2009** conference on 'Languages of Politics' (**Thompson**) and BA symposium on 'Reassessing the Seventies' (**Pemberton**).

In **2010** an international conference on 'Great Mystics Address the Contemporary World' (**Holdenried**), a symposium to mark the 750th anniversary of the death of Matthew Paris (**Clark**), the summer meeting of the IHR's Centre for Contemporary British History (**Pemberton**) and an international conference on 'The Roots of China's Environmental Crisis' (**Bickers**).

In **2011** three conferences in Bristol on Chinese history (**Bickers**) and the Oxford-Kobe Committee Award funded conference in Japan on Environmental Histories of Europe and Japan (**Coates**).

In **2012-13** chairing the programme committee for the 7th biennial conference of the 2013 European Society for Environmental History (**Coates**).

In **2013** hosting a large international conference on 'Connected Histories of Empire' (**Potter** and **Saha**) in Bristol.

Refereeing of academic publications or research proposals

Most members of the department act as assessors and reviewers for research councils including the AHRC, Austrian Science Foundation, DAAD, ESRC, HERA, Hong Kong Research Grants Council, Leverhulme Trust, SSHRC. **Bickers** is on the ESRC peer review college; **Smith** serves on the International Assessment Board of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Science for their postgraduate and postdoctoral award schemes. All permanent staff members regularly review manuscripts for leading journals and publishers.

Advising on academic appointments

Bickers, **Cervantes**, **Coates**, **Cole**, **Hutton**, **Potter** and **Smith** have been external assessors for academic appointments in Canada, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan and the United States.

Invited keynotes/lectures

All staff have delivered major invited lectures or keynote addresses to international conferences in the review period to date. Given the department's commitment to widespread dissemination of research to a variety of audiences, staff routinely address public audiences (ranging from Historical Associations in the region through to international audiences) and address school children ranging from primary school through sixth form. The Deas Bequest has also been used to promote links with state schools in Bristol, with postgraduate students visiting them to lead activities related to the study of history. These events are part of a broader annual festival of history entitled 'Past Matters' that includes public lectures alongside schools' activities (see Impact Template).

Invited visiting scholars

Colleagues have been visiting scholars at Shantou University (**Bickers 2008**), Nanjing University (**Bickers 2011**), UCSB (**Cervantes 2009**), the Cape Town Holocaust Centre (**Cole 2008**), the Harriman Institute, Columbia University (**Fürst 2012-13**) and a member of the School of Social Science at the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton (**Wei 2009-10**).