

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Liverpool</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 31 - Classics</p>
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>Classics and Ancient History at Liverpool is a small unit of 9 staff with a balance of expertise in Greek and Roman history, literary, intellectual and material culture, forming part of a long-standing Department with a focus on the development of human culture across ancient and prehistoric societies.</p> <p>The research focus of the Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology (ACE) ranges from human evolution to the transformation of the Roman world, with a particular geographical focus on Europe, the Mediterranean, the Near East, and Africa (especially Egypt). Classics benefits in particular from expertise in Assyriology, Egyptology, which, with 7 staff, is the largest centre in Europe, Iron Age Europe, and Mediterranean Archaeology (esp. Freeman and Greaves, included in the Classics submission in RAE2008), as well as from specialists in ancient Philosophy, Classical reception, and Late Antiquity in Philosophy, English/Modern Languages, and History; retired staff (notably Davies) are also engaged in our research culture and in postgraduate supervision. This context influences our distinctive intellectual culture. There is a strong accent on the interfaces between Greco-Roman and neighbouring cultures (especially Persia and Egypt). Our research groupings, in Ancient Economies, Receptions, Religions, and Literature of the Roman Empire, are comparative in focus, drawing on staff and postgraduates from across the Department (and beyond). Our fast-growing community of postgraduates form part of a larger community of research students with interests in Antiquity. Research is coordinated primarily at departmental and Classics-group level, with dedicated staff responsible for peer review, impact strategy and seminar activity. The Department sits within the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures which has an oversight role, with focus on resourcing, staff leave, ethics review, and fostering broader collaborations.</p>
<p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>Classics at Liverpool aims to enable the fullest realisation of its research potential (as individual researchers and as a group), and to make the greatest possible contribution to the health and intellectual vitality of our discipline and of the academy and society more broadly. As a group, we ask fundamental questions, challenge stale orthodoxies and established narratives, and strive to be innovative, bold and open in our approach. At the same time we are intellectually generous and supportive of researchers at any career stage. We seek to achieve these overall aims through a number of strategic objectives:</p> <p>First, through exemplary <b>mentoring and support</b>, tailored to individual needs, backed up through targeted resources (described in Section c.i). This planned approach to research support has enabled the completion of major, planned projects since 2008, including: Archibald's regional study of the archaeology of the North Aegean; Tuplin's commentary on the Arshama archive; Harrison's work on the study of Achaemenid Persia; Jones' monograph on bucolic space; Gibson's co-edited volume on Pliny's reception in Late Antiquity; and Hobden's monograph on the symposion. For the next period, a number of major outputs are planned, including monographs on the Chester Beatty Papyri (Adams); geographical concepts in the Levant (Hirt); Belief in Greek religion (Harrison); Roman gardens (Jones); ancient world documentaries (Hobden); Plutarch and representations of writing (Zadorojnyi); the final publication of the Pistiros project (Archibald); an edition of hexameter poetry of unknown or uncertain authorship from Graeco-Roman Egypt (Perale); and a major commentary on Pliny's <i>Panegyric</i> (Gibson).</p> <p>In parallel with individual support, we provide an <b>ideal environment</b> for research activity through a strong emphasis on: research groupings (in the ancient economy, reception, and the literature of the Roman empire); collaboration; and on a planned programme of seminar and conference activity - to allow staff and postgraduates to trial research-in-progress in a supportive yet critical environment and to engage with the widest range of stimuli (both through events in Liverpool described in Section e., and through travel to conferences and research centres elsewhere). Since 2008, we have anchored seminar planning closely to our research groups, with conferences planned, around the spine of an annual Postgate Colloquium and clear focus on common themes and related outputs. The success of this planned approach is evidenced in the patterns of our major published work (see above) and in the common approaches that our published work reflects our aim: e.g., to reflect back on Antiquity through the study of reception, in our developing focus on issues of administration and financial corruption; or in the critical reflection on the practice of</p>

commentaries.

Research groups also coordinate a wide web of **external collaborations and networks** on which we plan to build in the coming period. These include Archibald's CNRS-funded collaboration on the Ancient Market, Gibson's 'Panegyrici Latini' project, and Tuplin's AHRC-funded Arshama project, both of which have resulted in significant collaborative publications to date (see above).

Further outcomes of these (and new) collaborative projects are planned for the coming assessment period: in *economy and administration*, edited volumes on retail trade, storage, and 'Corruption in Historical Perspective', a planned project (with Martina Minas-Nerpel and Mark Humphries) on 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD Egypt; and a further Hellenistic Economies conference on the impact of Rome; the focus of the 'Ancient Markets' project will increasingly turn to a comparative analysis of markets. In *reception*, edited collections on Herodotus in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; a network and project on Herodotean reception is planned, as well as a J.G. Frazer colloquium (in collaboration with Cambridge Anthropology) on the relationship of Classics, archaeology and anthropology in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the *literature of the Roman empire* the publication of the series of panegyric commentaries (including Gibson's on Pliny), and the 4<sup>th</sup> Postgate colloquium (with Emory and the University of Georgia) will take place on the theme of writing. Additionally, the work of the Ancient Religions and Cognition network (related to a new research group on Ancient Religions) combining students of ancient religion with a range of cognitive scientists and anthropologists, will result in co-edited outputs (with Esther Eidinow) on the themes of authority and transmission.

As described in Section c.i), Liverpool Classics is strongly committed to the **development of early career researchers (ECRs)**. This is reflected by the establishment of the Postgate Fellowship during the REF period as well as through successes in developing the research careers of fixed-term staff – both in terms of staff attaining longer-term appointments (see Section c.i) and through the support of landmark outputs (Claire Holleran on Roman shopping, Joanna Paul on cinematic reception and Joseph Skinner on ancient ethnography). We have also sought to give post-graduates the widest opportunities e.g. to organise conferences and seminars, to develop publications and for supported teaching. In the coming period, we plan to develop our commitment in this area by making two further enhancements to our postgraduate environment. Our Block Grant Partnership with Manchester creates the potential for new supervisory combinations in areas of joint strength (e.g. Greek history, Imperial Latin literature) as well as for discipline-specific training drawing on our unique, common resources (e.g. the Garstang, Liverpool and Manchester museums, the papyrological collections of the John Rylands library). In parallel, we are also developing an Irish Sea partnership with Trinity College Dublin and Manchester, including a series of themed research training workshops focused on ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern history and culture, as well as short-term staff exchanges.

The period since RAE2008 is one in which Classical research at Liverpool, supported by the new Postgate endowment, has become even more outward-looking (see Section e. and REF3a). Over the next five years, we plan to extend and deepen our **relationships with a range of research users**, through, for example, creating an offshoot of our Liverpool 'City Forum' in London in 2014); building on Hirt's contacts with the mining industry; developing the work of the 'Documenting Antiquity' forum to create an ethics guide for documentary-makers; and challenging current approaches and narratives; expanding our programme of educational podcasts in partnership with the Historical Association; and through the initiation (in June-July 2014) of the first Liverpool Festival of Classics.

We intend to maximise our exploitation of our **distinctive resources and facilities**. Plans include the use of literary papyri and one astronomical text from Special Collections in publications of Perale (with Alexander Jones); the use of papyrological material from the North West in postgraduate training (see above); and the use of the new Garstang Museum of Archaeology (newly redeveloped since 2008) as a focus for outward engagement and exhibitions (e.g. the planned exhibition, 'The Labours of Hercules', hosted by our Receptions group).

We will maintain our high level of **contribution to the profession** through leadership in subject associations, editorial work, and by developing our pioneering schemes, developed since 2008, to extend access in the school sector and among the public at large (see further, e).

Finally, we seek to **maintain and extend our permanent staff base**, ensuring a balance between different approaches to the ancient world, developing existing emphases and specialist expertise in papyrology and epigraphy. Since 2008, Sommer and Oliver have moved to Chairs at Oldenburg

and Brown respectively; Sommer was replaced by Hirt, developing our focus on the Roman economy, administration and epigraphy, whilst our ambition for the coming year (Oliver left too late to be replaced by the census date) is to reinforce our expertise in Roman literary culture or social history. We will continue to use the Postgate Fellowship (as well as externally funded postdoctoral fellowships) to develop excellent researchers and to extend our range into new areas: in this period, the first Postgate Fellow, Paul, was critical in intensifying our collective focus on reception; Perale introduces new expertise in Hellenistic poetry and literary papyrology.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The overall aim of our staffing strategy is to attract the best staff and to support them to develop their careers, and fulfil their research potential.

The development of **early career and fixed-term staff** has been a key priority, the centrepiece of which was the establishment of the J.P. Postgate Early Career Fellowship, designed to support excellent ECRs to attain permanent academic appointments. Our commitment here is also reflected in practical measures: the prioritisation of research potential and long-term career prospects (ahead of teaching convenience) as a criterion for short-term appointments; the integration of all staff within the support structures for permanent staff (i.e. career mentoring, Professional Development Review (PDR), research advising) and within research groups; the financial support of staff research (through research allowances and an additional discretionary fund) regardless of contractual status, including the funding of conferences and seminars (e.g. Paul's conference on cinema, and Perale's planned colloquium on 'Hellenistic Poetry before Callimachus' (with Jan Kwapisz)); bespoke practical support (e.g. preparation for interviews, trial research presentations); and a policy of offering personalised feedback to long-listed as well as short-listed job candidates. This is additional to Faculty or University initiatives such as Researcher Forums, the annual Researcher Conference, and the Researcher Development Programme. The success of this strategy can be seen in its results. Our first Postgate fellow, Paul, was appointed to a Lectureship at the Open University in 2011. Of our other fixed-term staff, Harman, Holleran, Skinner and Wood have progressed to permanent posts (at UCL, Exeter, Newcastle, and Lincoln respectively), with Earnshaw and Pudsey moving to long-term posts in Birkbeck and Oxford, Coker to a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at Manchester.

A number of measures ensure the **integration of new permanent appointees**. All receive a programme of Departmental and University-wide induction; are allocated a mentor and research planning adviser; undertake the Certificate in Professional Studies (with workshops on research development); and all receive a reduction in teaching and administrative loads of at least 33% across the period of probation to ensure that they establish themselves in all aspects of their role.

As the foundation for **on-going support of their research**, all staff are required to maintain research plans (including plans for grant generation, impact, and longer-term goals) as part of an online 'Portfolio of Activity'. This forms the basis for discussion in three regular forums:

- 1) All staff are allocated an experienced member of staff as a Research Planning Adviser to help to develop their research plans in detail.
- 2) All staff are reviewed annually as part of the PDR process by the Head of Department, with more frequent reviews undertaken for probationary staff, or after return from leave or illness; this focuses on an individual's overall contributions and plans, identifying support needed to achieve those plans (e.g. grant-writing workshops, research leave, financial support for conference attendance or pump-priming (see Section d.), or career mentoring).
- 3) All staff have annual review meetings with the departmental Research Committee, covering grant applications, publication plans and opportunities for impact. In addition to these three formal mechanisms, research development is undertaken through a rolling programme of output-reading, through the research groups (regular presentations of the group's research, as well as formal seminars), and through a Classical work-in-progress seminar for staff and postgraduates, weekly through term.

The priority of developing **relationships beyond academia** is embedded in these support processes. Plans for KE and impact form a key part of individual research plans, then refined through research advising, PDR, and Research Committee reviews. Considerations of KE and Impact inform recruitment strategy (a significant factor in the appointments of Paul and Hirt). As a result of this integrated approach, consideration is given to the variety of possible beneficiaries of any research project, and the appropriate mechanisms and sources of funding to address those

beneficiaries, from a project's inception: examples include Tuplin's Arshama exhibition in the Bodleian Library and Hobden's creation of a national forum for documentary practitioners as well as other academics, both funded by the Postgate endowment (see Section d.). Plans are also in place to appoint a new 0.5 FTE appointee from 2014, with a remit to coordinate external engagement in Classics.

All staff are eligible to apply for internally funded **research leave** for one semester after no fewer than five semesters, and are encouraged to seek funding for additional leave where feasible. Internal leave has allowed for the completion, for example, of monographs by Archibald, Harrison and Hobden, as well as numerous other outputs.

Criteria for **promotion or additional increment** are based on a comprehensive set of role expectations, ensuring clarity of expectations and comparability between staff groups. The Department's commitment to gender **diversity** can be seen from the pattern of appointments and promotions over the REF period. Of the 9 appointments made within the Classics group, 6 have been women; of the permanent staff base in Classics, both women have been promoted to Senior Lectureships during the period. The Department also accommodates flexible working. This has helped a member of staff with caring responsibilities for a child with a disability.

A central reason for the Classics group's innovative programme to develop access to Classics in the state Secondary Education sector is to draw a **wider range of students** to University, to doctoral research, and into the profession. The University's overall progress in this area is reflected in the recent award of the 'HR Excellence in Research' badge for progress in implementing the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers; this application, together with a review of policies in regard to recruitment, probation, promotion, and PDR, was led by Harrison.

#### ii. Research students

The postgraduate community has grown substantially in this assessment period, both in raw numbers (28 research students, including 12 students as part of an EU-funded partnership with the University of Wrocław; 20.5 FTE as against 10.53 in 2007, the 2007 figures heavily inflated due to the inclusion of Freeman and Greaves within the Classics submission) and in terms of the intellectual culture it has generated. Postgraduates are funded through the AHRC, University and Faculty awards, EU funding, self-funding, as well as through our schools outreach programme.

Our research students are closely integrated into the **departmental research culture**, speaking at, participating in, and coordinating seminars at three different levels: a dedicated postgraduate seminar, organised department-wide; a Classical Work-in-Progress seminar for the airing of new projects at an early stage of development; and the Classics seminar, linked closely to (and planned by) research groups, each coordinated by a staff member and postgraduate. This is in addition to an intense variety of other seminars and lectures departmentally (in e.g. Mediterranean Archaeology, the Near East, or Egyptology), and across the Faculty. **Cross-departmental initiatives** have included workshop series, on the themes of writing (co-organised by Oliver) and 'Adaptation and Renewal' (co-organised by Hobden). The latter combined postgraduates and staff researching Classical reception with others working on e.g. musical adaptation or digital media to consider the mechanisms of cultural adaptation in comparative perspective. Research students have also benefited from the wide range of Liverpool-based **conferences and network events** (see Section e.) as well as from the opportunity to develop their own themed conferences. A recent example was a conference on comparative historiography, 'Possessing the Past', organised by three Ancient History postgraduates, drawing in others from across Europe and the US, now being prepared for publication.

Research students have also taken advantage of a wide range of **external opportunities** for development, gaining valuable skills for future employment within or outside academia. They have been involved in the planning and delivery of impact-related activities, notably our CPD courses for teachers, and the 'Documenting Antiquity' forum for documentary-makers. They have benefitted from work placements with cultural partners such as the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology and National Museums Liverpool. As part of our outreach programme, they are also central to the delivery of Latin and Greek provision to Merseyside schools. Two postgraduates have been funded through this scheme, with that number set to increase sharply with the project's expansion.

Our Research Students benefit from a comprehensive programme of **skills training**, comprising generic workshops (as part of the PGR Student Team's 'PGR Development Programme'), an annual Research Day where students present research posters, as well as subject-specific

training, including relevant modern and ancient language provision and bespoke training in, for example, papyrology or epigraphy.

On the basis of its support mechanisms and environment, Liverpool was one of only three institutions nationwide to achieve the 'exceptional' rating in the first AHRC Block Grant Partnership competition; our successful bid for the BGP2 North West consortium was ranked ninth out of 23 fundable applications. From 2013-14 skills training is being enhanced further: developing the research skills and employability of our postgraduates is the central priority of our planned Irish Sea workshops. Further innovations within Classics include the introduction of a '3-minute thesis' competition for our research students.

This dynamic culture is combined with a **strong procedural framework** to ensure that post-graduate research reaches its potential. This includes: on-going supervisor training; the pairing of experienced and new supervisors in supervisory teams; robust processes for equal opportunities recruitment and for annual review (including a detailed report and an intensive interview of each student by a departmental panel); a PGR travel award scheme, open to all research students of £250pa (full-time; £125 part-time); annual monitoring of PGR progress, including a detailed interview with the Departmental PGR director, as well as reports from both supervisors and students.

The success of our supervision and training of postgraduates can be seen in our **completion** rates (an average of 4.05 years across the period), the quality of postgraduate publications (e.g. Skinner's monograph on Greek ethnography, with other monographs forthcoming with leading publishers), and in their **subsequent employment**: most recently (in 2013), the appointment of Skinner to a permanent post at Newcastle, and Scott to a temporary lectureship at Leeds.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

Research in Classics at Liverpool has benefitted from external research funding, on-going structures, new sources of support, and a major University investment in infrastructure.

**External funding** from a range of UK and foreign sources has allowed us to realize a number of our strategic goals, e.g. in supporting: two postdoctoral fellows (Holleran and Pudsey, both Leverhulme ECFs); Ware's postdoctoral fellowship (funded from the Irish Research Council); the completion of a number of planned projects, e.g. Tuplin's work on Arshama and the Achaemenid world (Leverhulme and British Academy); the initiation of Gibson's commentary on Pliny's *Panegyric* (Loeb Foundation) and supporting Adams' Chester Beatty project (AHRC) and Archibald's Pistiros project (Mediterranean Archaeological Trust); PG training workshops on the legacy of Alexander (AHRC), conferences on Polybius (BA), Xenophon (BA), Retail Trade (BA and CNRS) and workshops on 'Ancient Religion and Cognition' (BA).

In parallel to our strategic approach to seeking external funding (see Section c.i, above), research is supported through the disbursement of considerable **funds from School, Faculty and Department**. All staff are eligible for a £500 research allowance for e.g. conference attendance and research travel, and a discretionary fund supports further research travel or the organisation of workshops (funding for Classics staff amounted to £3,720 in 2012/13). Further funding is available from Faculty and University pump-priming schemes linked to strategic research themes; these have supported clusters on '*Writing and Beyond*' and '*Adaptation and Renewal*' (co-led by Hobden and Oliver, respectively), the latter resulting in a special issue (co-edited by Hobden) of the journal *Cultural History*. This funding is supplemented locally through support from the **J.P. Postgate endowment** (with a remit, dictated by Postgate's will, to support the promotion of Greek and Latin). This fund is targeted strategically on: the support of ECRs and postgraduates, the pump-priming of projects, an annual public lecture; an annual colloquium linked to a central theme of our research, the support of conference and seminar activity more broadly (with an annual conference budget of £10K in 2013/14), and the development of links beyond academia, including the support of Classical provision in schools (£15K in 2013/14).

Our **distinctive facilities for research** in Classics have received very significant investment in this period. The extensive Classical collections of the **Garstang Museum of Archaeology** are already exploited widely for research (e.g. in Skinner's monograph, based on a Liverpool PhD); we have also welcomed academic visitors to study finds from Dura-Europus and Sparta. The museum has been relocated to ground-floor accommodation with a dedicated suite for study space and outreach (a £583K project) and with a professional curator appointed for the first time. The Department's specialised **laboratories**, including facilities for environmental, faunal, archaeobotanical archaeology, trace element and stable isotope analysis, metallography, petrography (and more)

are widely used for Classical projects such as Archibald's work in Pistiros. The Department benefits from the specialist support of two full-time technicians for, inter alia, fieldwork, complex IT requirements, and video-conferencing.

The University's **Sydney Jones Library** has received considerable investment, reinforcing its position as a leading research library for Classics and Ancient History. In addition to the depth of its historic holdings and Special Collections (including a papyrological collection used in research training and archives such as the Walbank papers used in Harrison and Gibson's work on Polybius), expenditure on monographs for the department roughly doubled from 2010/11 to 2012/13 (from £13318 to £25439); the Library has continued to purchase all major new electronic resources (a recent example is Brill's New Jacoby) and is one of two UK Libraries to be part of an international consortium for Inter Library Loan journals. On top of a £17M redevelopment completed in 2008, the Library has created a dedicated research postgraduate/staff reading room (£500K), significantly improving the experience of our postgraduate students.

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

Liverpool Classics is intensely engaged with the discipline at large, nationally and internationally, at numerous levels: at the centre of research networks and projects; organising influential research events; and contributing to the sustainability of our discipline through outreach and service.

We encourage all staff, regardless of career stage, to engage energetically in **reviewing of articles, book proposals, manuscripts, and research proposals** - for their own development as well as for the health of the discipline. In this assessment period, for example, 8 Liverpool staff refereed for 24 journals, including leading international Classics journals such as: *American Journal of Archaeology*, *American Journal of Philology*, *Classical Philology*, *Classical Quarterly*, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* and leading journals in other disciplines, e.g. *Iran*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient*, *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*; 7 staff have refereed proposals and manuscripts for academic publishers, including Bloomsbury, Taylor and Francis, Wiley-Blackwell, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Oxford University Presses.

In addition to the regular review of **grant applications** for the AHRC and other UK-based charities, our staff have reviewed proposals for 10 international grant-awarding bodies, including the Danish Council for Independent Research, the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), Research Foundation Flanders, Rockefeller Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Volkswagen Foundation, and Österreichischer Wissenschaftsfonds.

Liverpool staff have served on a wide range of **national and international committees and advisory panels** including the Oxyrhynchus Papyrus Management Committee (Adams), an expert advisory board of the Romanian Academy of Sciences (Archibald), the Philip Leverhulme Prize panel for Classics, and the Irish Research Council External Board (Harrison). Gibson has also served as expert evaluator of research outputs for the Italian *Valutazione della Qualità della Ricerca*, as well as being a REF sub-panel member. Five Liverpool staff have examined 19 **doctoral dissertations** in the UK and internationally, including Aix en Provence, Extremadura, Pisa, and Turku; and 4r staff have advised on **tenure** at 7 North American Universities, and on the **filling of 8 Chairs positions**, including at Copenhagen, San Diego, Virginia, and Yale.

We also encourage and enable staff to take on **leadership roles** within the discipline, whether through **editorial responsibilities** or via subject associations and learned societies. Gibson is co-editor of *Classical Quarterly*; Archibald edits *Archaeology in Greece*; Harrison edits series for Bloomsbury, serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Cognitive Historiography*, the Bloomsbury Publishing Committee, and is the Advisory Board member responsible for Classics at Liverpool University Press.

Numerous Liverpool staff have served on the Councils, Committees or Advisory Boards of the British School at Athens, Classical Association, Egypt Exploration Society, Hellenic Society, and the Institute of Classical Studies. Additionally, Gibson has served 2 terms as Secretary of the Council of University Classics Departments, and Harrison has chaired the Joint Association of Classical Teachers Council, and the Grants Advisory Committee of *Classics for All*, a charity working to extending access to Classical subjects in the state school sector.

Our fundamental **commitment to widening access** to Classical subjects (in the school sector and amongst the public at large), and to ensuring the continued vitality of our subjects, is reflected in numerous activities (many of which had their roots in Liverpool's year as Capital of Culture, 2008), including: our innovative programme of language outreach which has brought the study of Classics to thousands of school pupils on Merseyside, our Ancient Worlds summer school, the design and

delivery of CPD for teachers of Ancient History and Classics, the rebirth in 2008 of the Liverpool Classical Association as a vehicle for the translation of research to a popular audience, as well as our work with documentary-makers, creative artists and financial services.

Liverpool staff are also committed to shaping and developing research agendas internationally, through **workshops and conferences**, and through the leadership of networks. In the REF period, we have organised 19 conferences or substantial workshops, drawing together leading scholars around themes and questions linked to the overarching plans of our research groups. Many of these have resulted in major publications (e.g. *Xenophon. Ethical Principles and Historical Inquiry*, *Hellenistic Economies III*, *Arshama*, or *Polybius and his World*); in other cases (e.g. *Herodotus in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, *Retail trade*, *Interpreting Herodotus*), publications are scheduled. Other events, such as the series of commentary, or Ancient Religions and Cognition workshops have longer-term research ambitions. Still further conferences (e.g. AHRC workshops on the legacy of Alexander) have had an explicit focus on research training, have opened up well-worn topics (e.g. New approaches to Greek religion', or a panel on 'Romanisation' at the Roman Archaeology Conference), or formed a service to the discipline (Classical Association 2008, RAC/TRAC 2012, 'Swords, Sandals, Sorcery, and Space, 2013 – on reception in Science Fiction).

Through conferences, workshops, themed seminars, and other collaborations, we have hosted hundreds of researchers in the REF period, creating a unique context in which staff and postgraduate researchers can test and measure their emerging ideas. **Overseas researchers** alone have included 48 specialists in Classical historiography (notably Erich Gruen, John Marincola, Guido Schepens), 40 specialists in Classical reception (including Suzanne Marchand, Monica Cyrino), 12 in (ancient and modern) religions (including Henk Versnel, Armin Geertz), as well as numerous further specialists in the ancient economy (e.g. Alain Bresson, or in the literature of the Roman empire, Tony Woodman, Richard Martin, and Rolando Ferri).

Liverpool staff have taken the lead in a range of **networks**, drawing together scholars from a wide range of intellectual backgrounds to ask new questions of ancient evidence. Tuplin's AHRC-funded Arshama project (with John Ma) has combined Achaemenid scholars and Aramaic specialists to write an edition and commentary (and associated essays) on the correspondence of the Persian satrap, leading to fundamental new insights on the reality of Persian provincial administration. Gibson's 'Panegyrici Latini' project (funded from a mosaic of sources, with Roger Rees) has drawn together an international team from St Andrews, Maynooth, Navarra, and Nijmegen, and employed new technology, to provide for the first time a series of editions and commentaries of all extant Latin panegyrics. Together with colleagues in Paris 1, L'École française d'Athènes, Lille, Bordeaux, Brussels, Parma, Toronto, and Chicago, Archibald and Davies's CNRS-funded network on ancient markets has led to new understanding of the character of retail trade in the ancient world. Harrison's BA-funded initiative (with Esther Eidinow) on 'Ancient Religions and Cognition' has, for the first time, brought together scholars of ancient religions with cognitive anthropologists and scientists from leading centres such as at Emory, Aarhus and Brno Universities into a sustained and structured dialogue, one which both provides alternative models for understanding ancient religion and which poses fundamental challenges to some of the universalising conclusions of the 'Cognitive Science of Religion'.

Finally, Liverpool staff have been successful in receiving a number of **prestigious awards and fellowships** to support their research. In this period, for example, Tuplin held a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship; Gibson was awarded a Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship; Oliver was Visiting Fellow at the BSA; both Adams and Oliver were Visiting Scholars, St John's College, Oxford (2010); Hobden was a British Council Visiting Scholar, University of Sydney (2009); Hirt was an Advanced Research Fellow of the Swiss National Fund, and Perale a Marie Curie Fellow before taking up their respective posts. All staff have also been invited (and are encouraged) to give keynote papers and lectures at conferences and seminar series at universities across the UK and internationally. These include **named lectures** such as the Dorothy Buchan Memorial Lecture, Leicester (Adams, Oliver), and the Magie Lecture at Princeton (Tuplin). In keeping with our commitment to outreach and the sustainability of our discipline, all staff are also encouraged to consider the **full range of possible audiences** and beneficiaries for their research: in this period, staff have disseminated the findings of their research through popular publications (e.g. *BBC History*, *Teaching History*), through podcasts (e.g. via the Historical Association), and through diverse public lectures and forums.