

**Institution: Teesside University** 

Unit of Assessment: 30 - History

#### a. Overview

History forms a long-standing centre of research excellence and scholarship within the University. Historical research is housed within the Institute of Design, Culture and the Arts (IDCA), one of five Research Institutes at Teesside undertaking cross-disciplinary research and collaboration. IDCA is dedicated to the promotion of research into design, culture and the arts, and it takes as its axiom the sustainability of international excellence in established areas of research, in particular, historical research. The relatively small research team in History (11 FTE) is comprised exclusively of staff drawn from the History Section (13 FTE). Within IDCA, History forms a single coherent unit. Research interests range across three broad disciplinary areas: modern and contemporary political history; cultural and intellectual history; and regional and local history. Research strengths and synergies are brought together in the Centre for Regional and Local Historical Research (CRLHR); and the newly-established Centre for Fascist, Anti-Fascist and Post-Fascist Studies (CFAPS).

# b. Research strategy

Reflecting on our performance in RAE2008 and on feedback from the History sub-panel, our strategic aims for History have been:

- (a) to sustain the overall critical mass of research in History;
- (b) to provide a sharper focus to our portfolio of research activities (see below);
- (c) to invest in, and nurture early career researchers and thereby support research capacity;
- (d) to further encourage developmental opportunities offered by international visiting fellowships, collaborative exchanges and conferencing;
- (e) to raise the level of overall research performance (output quality and quantity; completion of doctoral research students; external income including doctoral studentships from RCUKs);
- (f) to extend public engagement and impact activity to a broader range of beneficiaries.

Teesside's historians continue to benefit from a University Research Strategy that is committed to History as an area of international research distinction. Over the period 2008-2013 History benefited from a comprehensive programme of University-level investment. Recurrent QR expenditure, alongside strategic funding from a central Research Investment Fund, totalled some £650,000 (or, £130,000 per annum). Historians have also received more than £30,000 from the competitive University Research Fund (URF), which provides conference funding support as well as seed-corn funding for collaborative national and international research projects. Under Teesside's competitive International Visiting Academics Scheme, the University has sponsored collaborative visits from several overseas historians: Professors Pieter Judson (Swarthmore) in 2009; Steven Ellis (NUI, Galway) in 2011; and Mats Greiff (Malmö) in 2012. This scheme funded **Armstrong** as Visiting Fellow at Uppsala University's Religion and Society Research Centre in 2013; and **Newton** was funded as Visiting Fellow at Yale's Center for the Study of Representative Institutions (also in 2013). History further benefited from £216,000 of full-time doctoral scholarship provision.

Strong and continuing institutional support has enabled a recruitment policy that has sustained and enhanced established areas of international research excellence (as represented by the aforementioned research centres), as well as encouraging greater disciplinary breadth, particularly in developing areas of cultural and intellectual history. Three staff members returned in 2008 are included in this return (Copsey, Newton, Vall) but seven individuals selected for return to RAE2008 (10.41 FTE) are no longer with the University (three moved to other universities; three retired; one died in service). Since 2008, following a series of outstanding appointments, History as a UoA has been almost entirely reconstituted. Strategic recruitment has achieved a sustainable balance between seniority and early career researchers. One Reader (Feldman), three mid-career researchers (Armstrong; Higgins; McGuire); one recent British Academy post-doctoral fellow (2007-10) (Gillen); and three early career researchers (Darcy; Moore; Schiller) have been appointed. Meanwhile, established researchers continue to be recognised and rewarded through a rigorous and non-quota based scheme for the conferment of Readerships/Professorships. Copsey was conferred a Chair (2010) and Vall was conferred a Readership (2011).



The RAE2008 sub-panel had praised our work on regional and local history, particularly its organisation and creativity. Strategic thinking beyond RAE2008 foresaw regional and local history as central to future developments. This area retains its vitality and strategic importance; and continues to flourish through the long-standing infrastructure of the Centre for Regional and Local Historical Research (CRLHR). Through the CRLHR, directed by Newton, History has further strengthened its engagement with local communities [see REF3a]. The CRLHR sustains vibrant programmes of research seminars, workshops and conferences, attracting audiences from within the University (both staff and PGRs), the wider academic community, and from within the local community. The Centre's annual public history conference organised in conjunction with the Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society, draws audiences of around hundred (that of 2013 forming the sixteenth such conference). The twentieth edition of the peer-reviewed Teesside Papers in North Eastern History, published by the CRLHR, appeared in 2013. The CRLHR remains embedded within the regional research environment. A leading facilitator of regional scholarly exchange, the CRLHR functions as the Teesside branch of the North East England History Institute (NEEHI). Between 2006 -10 NEEHI was under the directorship of Newton. Three more books were published in NEEHI's Regions and Regionalism series by Boydell in this period. Feldman's appointment as Reader in Contemporary History in 2012 enabled the historians to give greater visibility to established expertise in political extremism. One aspiration flagged in RAE2008 was a new research centre on extremism - realised with the formal launch of the Centre for Fascist, Anti-Fascist and Post-Fascist Studies (CFAPS) in July 2013. CFAPS builds upon the expertise of co-directors Copsey and Feldman, providing a platform for enhancing academic and public understanding of historic and contemporary right-wing extremism and its opposition. Impact in this area - an area of contemporary resonance - is already substantial, reaching national and international constituencies [see REF 3b].

A metrics-based review of this REF assessment cycle reveals that a high performance research culture has been sustained. The historians (11 FTE) have produced 8 monographs; 14 edited editions; 34 peer-reviewed journal articles; 39 book chapters; and delivered over 135 conference/seminar/workshop papers. External research income, as recorded in RAE2008, was £164,457. REF income is £329,801, an increase of 200%. This assessment period has seen us match our doctoral completion rate for the period 2001-07, as well as secure competitive block grant RCUK (AHRC BGP) studentship funding (in 2011). Teesside's historians are now members of a consortium (led by Hull University) that secured AHRC BGP2 PhD studentship funding, and will form part of a new £1.8 million Doctoral Training Centre in Heritage.

Building upon the momentum of recent appointments, History will consolidate and extend all six strategic objectives over the next five years (2014-19). There will be further focus on: developing public engagement and impact activity through both the CRLHR and CFAPS; encouraging research and knowledge transfer partnerships with other HEIs and public/third sector bodies (with CFAPS rolling out a programme of bespoke training sessions for *Prevent* policy practitioners, countering ideologies of far-right extremism) [see REF3a]; more concentration on developmental activity for researchers (including PGRs); further strategic investment in special collections material to support CFAPS; and fostering collaborations locally, nationally, and internationally in order to capture increasing levels of external research funding.

#### c. People, including:

## Staffing strategy and staff development

Generating research of international excellence has been an essential prerequisite in recruiting new academic staff. An Initial Development Plan for new staff members (supplemented by annual Personal Development Reviews) provides the institutional framework within which researcher development needs are identified. Teesside's Graduate Research School (GRS) offers initial and on-going researcher development. Research degree supervisors attend an accredited research supervision module. New members of staff are appointed to PhD supervisory teams as soon as possible. Researchers use Vitae's Researcher Development Framework to reflect on their skills and training needs, and to discuss this with their line manager during Personal Development Reviews.

Strategic allocation of teaching remission is implemented through Research Institute (IDCA) membership, which makes provision for concentrated blocks of research time. Institute membership is categorised into four levels, ranging from newly research active to internationally leading. IDCA stresses inclusivity. Newly active researchers apply for membership on appointment



(all staff returned in this submission are members; **Copsey** served as Institute Director, 2011-13). Research Institute members, particularly those classed as newly active or as being of national standing, are encouraged to qualify for the next level of membership within a reasonable timeframe. Each level of membership is based both on research attainment up to the point of application, together with a judgement of the significance and impact of the proposed research over the next academic session. Historians are assigned senior research mentors (of Professorial/Readership standing) who advise on research plans, including proposed external funding bids and pathways to impact. ECRs are allocated lighter teaching loads. New researchers are encouraged to present work internally through seminars, informal research circles, and through cross-university 'TURN' (Teesside University's Research Network) events as well as nationally and internationally.

A commitment to equal opportunities in the recruitment and support of research staff is integral to University practice. The GRS provides guidance to historians on equality and diversity issues in relation to research governance; it advises on policy, procedure and compliance matters and ensures the maintenance of high ethical standards. The University adopted the Concordat Principles when the Concordat was launched, and it has embedded these principles into praxis. All researchers in History (including temporary research assistants and associates) are recruited using transparent recruitment processes. Roles and responsibilities of research staff are clearly defined and evaluated using the HERA job evaluation process. In 2013 Teesside received the European Commission's 'HR Excellence in Research' award.

In conjunction with Sunderland University, Teesside has facilitated the regional roll out of a research development programme ('Leading and Managing Research Excellence'). This follows delivery of a pilot programme led by Sunderland, in collaboration with Northumbria and Teesside, sponsored by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education. Historians participated in the second cohort while further participation in the future will be encouraged.

#### **Research students**

The University is committed to increasing full-time PGR numbers in History, both internally and externally funded. During this assessment period, financial provision for five full-time History PhD scholarships was made. These scholarships were allocated strategically to fields of research strength: regional and local history; cultural history; and political history. Under the AHRC's BGP scheme, History also received an externally-funded full-time studentship; and History continues to attract self-funded full-time (and part-time) students. In this assessment period, the profile of PGR students has been transformed from part-time to full-time, enhancing cohort identity and enriching the postgraduate research experience. Our PhD student headcount at the census date is four fulltime and two part-time (with two on point of submission). Significantly, the sustainability of our future full-time PGR provision has been secured through a successful AHRC BGP2 bid in 2013. The University will provide generous institutional support as part of this award, including matchedfunded full-time PhD studentship provision (and Master's research preparation scholarships). The GRS offers the central support system for History PGRs. All PGRs take a three part core training programme in research skills. Each part is designed to fit the early, mid and late stages of their doctoral degree. The three stages are keyed to the particular issues that arise ('Initial Training'; 'Continuing Training'; 'Completion Training'). The programme is offered flexibly for full and part-time students. Enrolment involves a Training Needs Analysis (TNA). The Research Governance and Training Manager in the GRS meets with new History PGRs to go over their TNA. developing one-to-one relationships to ensure that all students are aware of all relevant training opportunities. Students also consult with their supervisors to determine specialist doctoral training. The TNA then forms part of a Research Student Training Plan which accompanies each student throughout, functioning as a record of their training experience. A Progression Board takes place at the end of year 1 (FT) and year 2 (PT), in which work to date is assessed for quality by external and internal assessors. A formal decision is then made on progression. With the exception of students undergoing a Progression Board (at end year 1 FT, or year 2 PT), all students undertake Annual Reviews.

Transferable skills training forms part of the broader research skills programme so that students are encouraged to think about skills development as an embedded part of their research project. Workshops addressing writing skills, presentation skills, critical reading and analysis are regularly offered. History PGRs have attended GRS workshops in administrative skills, general software



skills, personal effectiveness, entrepreneurial skills, business development, impact and knowledge transfer, intellectual property rights, and teaching. Research students can study for a University Certificate in a foreign language alongside their doctoral study (free to all full-time students). Full-time History PGRs are provided with a dedicated office space (located adjacent to staff offices). They have individual computing facilities, and a generous inter-library loan allowance. PGRs are fully integrated into IDCA and are encouraged to participate in both internal and external research events, supported financially from a generous History PGR fund. Supervisory teams offer research students career development opportunities, such as: presentation of academic papers at conferences and workshops (e.g. Institute of Historical Research - IHR); organisation of PGR conferences (in June 2013 two full-time PGRs organised an international symposium entitled 'Citizenship, Identity and Patriotism in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries'); publication opportunities (PGRs have, for example, published in Northern History); and assistance in writing external funding bids (funding has been secured from the Royal Historical Society: IHR; Society of Architectural Historians; Richard III and Yorkist History Trust). Mentored teaching experience is available. Provision is also made for PGRs to participate in informal networking events alongside fellow History PGRs from neighbouring universities. 'History Lab North East' (part of the IHR's national network) was established by a Teesside scholarship student (alongside a doctoral student from Durham). PGRs continue to participate in the 'History Lab' initiative, organising a workshop on 'Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of History' in May 2013.

# d. Income, infrastructure and facilities Research income

Compared to our return in 2008, research income has doubled. The British Steel Archive Project (2008-10) [see REF3a] secured £207,000 of external funding from various sources (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund, Corus, Economic History Society). Copsey and Grant (now Essex) received funding from the British Academy Small Research Grants scheme (Copsey £1,550; Grant £6,900). Rampley (now Birmingham) and Newton also secured conference support grants (£6,000 from the British Academy; £1,158 from the Economic History Society). In 2009, Lee was awarded £170,000 from the Leverhulme Trust for a joint research project (it could not be honoured due to Lee's untimely passing). Vall received £20,000 from the Leverhulme Trust for an International Visiting Fellowship (Dr. Katarina Friberg, Södertörn, with £6,500 spent in period Aug-Oct. 2008); Macklin (now Huddersfield) was awarded over £24,500 as a Leverhulme ECR Fellow. Feldman received £18,000 in sabbatical funding from the Norwegian Research Council (via the University of Bergen) (Oct. 2012-Jan. 2013). Research expenditure from an on-going AHRC-funded PhD studentship is approximately £30,000 to date. Research projects on the far right have generated close to £9,000 (2010; 2013).

#### **Organisational Infrastructures**

Research at Teesside finds support in two key organisational infrastructures: first, the GRS, which provides cross University central support; and second, five interdisciplinary Research Institutes. Historical research is based in the research Institute of Design, Culture and the Arts (IDCA). The GRS assists staff in sourcing, applying for and managing external grants, and circulates funding bulletins through an online information resource (*i on Research*). The GRS provides up-to-date information relating to PGR training; organises research networking events; and oversees the University's open access research repository. The GRS manages the University's internal research support fund (URF) and monitors its use and impact (**Copsey** sits on the URF assessment panel). IDCA hosts research activity in three areas: Art and Design, English, and History. Within History, research is centred on three distinctive thematic clusters (see below): regional and local history; modern and contemporary political history; and cultural and intellectual history. Cross-thematic work is encouraged. Themes are brought together in the two aforementioned research centres.

## Regional and Local History

**Newton's** research interests are set in early modern political and religious history, particularly in North-East England. Working closely alongside Teesside's Professor Emeritus, A. J. Pollard, she co-edited a volume of essays on Newcastle and Gateshead before 1700 (2009), supported by NEEHI, Tyne and Wear Archaeology and Gateshead Borough Council. **Newton** is currently working on a Festschrift to Pollard, resulting from a Centre for Regional and Local Historical Research conference held in his honour in 2013. **Vall**, a leading authority on culture in the North



East, published the first historical assessment of English regional cultural policy in her 2011 monograph, *Cultural Region* (its findings have also been tested in international and comparatively focused journal articles). Forthcoming work will extend her critically acclaimed expertise on North-East regional cultural policy to historical investigations of the popularity of waterfront commercial and residential developments as exemplars of cultural and urban regeneration.

# Modern and Contemporary Political History

Copsey remains at the forefront of scholarship on British fascism, co-editing British National Party (2011) with Macklin (arising from an international symposium at Teesside). Current projects comprise a co-edited volume on the post-war cultures of British fascism (est. 2014/5); followed by a new monograph, Re-thinking Britain's Far Right (est. 2015), which seeks to unsettle and revise orthodox opinion on the historical significance of Britain's far right. Copsey continues to advance scholarship on anti-fascism, offering more pluralistic conceptualisations of the phenomenon in a co-edited volume, Varieties of Anti-Fascism (2010). The subject of fascist propaganda looms large in **Feldman's** research on fascist extremism. This research has yielded a monograph (2013) on Ezra Pound's thousands of hitherto unstudied radio broadcasts, position statements and correspondence with leading Axis functionaries. Feldman has also edited/co-edited three volumes: A Fascist Century (2008); Clerical Fascism in Interwar Europe (2008); and Doublespeak: The Rhetoric of the Far-Right since 1945 (2013). Gillen's research is concerned with political thought and culture in the age of the French Revolution. During this REF cycle, Gillen's publications have focused on Ireland, setting political developments there in comparative and transnational contexts. He is currently completing his monograph on the political thought of Wolfe Tone, and will also publish comparative research into counter-revolution in Ireland, Britain and France. McGuire's monographs on Roddy Connolly (2008) and Sean McLoughlin (2011) challenge mainstream interpretations of Irish political history, which underplay the significance of socialist activity and ideas. McGuire has also undertaken an oral history of post-1945 construction workers in Britain, the focus of which yielded a co-authored article in the History Workshop Journal (2013). McGuire will develop his research on the Irish Left, concentrating on the Northern Ireland conflict, the Irish Labour Party and the Irish revolutionary movement in Britain (1916-1923). He will also develop his interest in labour conflicts in the Teesside steel industry.

## Social, Cultural and Intellectual History

In the first half of this REF cycle, **Armstrong** was engaged in publishing material from his doctorate on the history of the English Christmas in the long nineteenth century. This resulted in his MUP monograph and related journal articles. Armstrong's work investigates the interplay between modernity and tradition, but his chronological focus is now shifting to the post-1945 period. He will finish a monograph project investigating 'The Christian Churches, Community and Welfare in England c.1950-2000', having completed start-up activity in 2012-13. Higgins's work on cultural history focuses on the politics of historical memory. Since 2008 she has published Transforming 1916 (2012), which won the James S. Donnelly Sr Prize for History; and the coedited volume. The Life and After-Life of P.H. Pearse (2009). Her research also extends to heritage (she co-authored Places We Play: Ireland's Sporting Heritage in 2011). Higgins will further develop research into the politics of memory and local heritage through work on commemoration of the First World War, exploring remembrance and monuments at local and regional level (thereby embedding herself within Teesside's CRLHR). Darcy's work on social history in mid-seventieth century Ireland resulted in his Royal Historical Society monograph on the Irish Rebellion of 1641 (2013). He also co-edited The 1641 Depositions and the Irish Rebellion (2013). **Darcy** is now working on a study of oral culture in early modern Ireland. Future research will build on work conducted in the CRLHR on the impact of the Reformation and cultural policies pursued by the Stuart authorities in the seventeenth century. **Schiller's** research in cultural history concerns the history of enslaved, formerly enslaved, and slave descended Americans from the nineteenth-century South. It deals with the under-explored history of enslaved letter-writers; and the role of black literacy and literate communication in shaping complex social networks. He is currently working on a book that develops these themes and this will be submitted to University of Georgia Press in 2014. **Moore's** research interests in intellectual history include the historiography and reception of Classical philosophy (especially that of Plato), gender theory applied to ancient cultures, Pythagoreanism, Classical metaphysics, and political philosophy. Moore's monograph,



Plato, Politics and a Practical Utopia (2012) builds on earlier work dealing with philosophical utopianism and urban planning in Plato's Laws. **Moore** has been invited by Bloomsbury to edit a volume on Alexander the Great; he is also negotiating with Brill for a monograph on Classical Greek sexuality for their Metaforms series (est. 2014/15).

## Scholarly facilities supporting research

The North East Film Archive is a principal resource for research in regional and local history, as is the British Steel Archive [see REF 3a/b]. PGRs have benefited from a project that digitised over 50,000 pages from newspapers in the Tees Valley area (1800-1920). Further specialist resources include collections of archival materials on fascism/anti-fascism. The Fascism Literature Special Collection, which PGRs and staff regularly consult, comprises rare books, individual issues of journals, fascist and anti-fascist newspapers, pamphlets and microform, including archives from the International Brigades.

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

**Copsey** was general editor of ECPR's *e-Extreme* (2008-10), and founding member of the International Editorial Board of *Fascism: Journal of Comparative Fascist Studies* (2012). He is currently Editor-in-Chief (2013 - ). Feldman was co-editor of Routledge's *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions* (2008-10), and co-edits Wiley-Blackwell's *Compass: Political Religions* (2011-). He also co-edits two Bloomsbury monograph book series, *Modernist Archives* and *Historicising Modernism*, while acting as an advisory board member of another three book series. **Newton** is editor of Teesside University's peer-reviewed *Papers in North Eastern History*; a member of the editorial board of Boydell's *Regions and Regionalism in History* series; and editorial board member of the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*.

## **Invited Academic Papers and Keynote Lectures**

Copsey was invited speaker at the Wiener Library (2013); Peace and Democracy Institute, Korea University (2012); University of Applied Sciences, Düsseldorf (2011), and the ESSHC, Gent (2010). Since 2008 he has delivered papers at numerous UK universities, including Nottingham (as part of a distinguished academic/practitioner series, 2010). He has been keynote conference speaker at Northampton (2011) and he delivered the inaugural lecture of the Fascism journal at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam (2013). Feldman has been invited speaker at Hanyang University, Seoul (2008); University of Paris X Nanterre (2009); and the universities of Barcelona (2010); and Bergen (2011; 2012). He has also delivered papers at numerous UK universities, including Oxford (2008; 2012); Strathclyde (2008); Leicester (2009); and Kent (2010). Gillen has delivered conference and seminar papers by invitation at the University of London (2012), the IHR (2010), German Historical Institute (2009), and universities of Oxford (2009) and York (2009). Higgins was invited to participate in a series of interdisciplinary symposia in Sydney, Canberra, Dublin and Belfast (2009-10) and participated by invitation in workshops at the CEU, Budapest (2012). **Newton** has been invited speaker at the Moore Institute, NUI, Galway (2012) and at the International Congress of Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University (2012). She has also given papers by invitation at the universities of Durham (2009; 2011), Leicester (2011) and Oxford (2010). Schiller was an invited speaker at a 2009 colloquium at the Cultural History Centre, Aberdeen (2009). Vall was panel chair and invited speaker at the Voluntary Action in History Seminar, IHR (2012); and invited speaker at Malmö University (2010). She has also delivered papers by invitation at conferences (e.g. University of Leeds, 2011).

#### **Organisation of conferences**

Copsey has been co-convenor of workshops and symposia at Newcastle (2012), Manchester (2009), and Durham (2008). With **Feldman**, he co-convened a two-day international conference, 'Fascist ideologues: Past and Present', Teesside (2013). **Darcy** has organised conferences at Trinity College Dublin (2009; 2010). Since 2008 **Feldman** has co-organised six workshops and seven international conferences with the latter all podcasted. **McGuire** co-organised a Leverhulme Trust end of project one-day symposium at the University of Westminster (2012). **Newton** has co-organised two NEEHI conferences (2012; 2013), and a conference in honour of A.J. Pollard (2013). **Schiller** co-convened an international symposium on 'Honour and Community' (2012). **Vall** convened a workshop at the Baltic and East European Graduate School, Södertörn (2010)



and a Leverhulme Trust end of project international symposium (2008).

# Refereeing academic publications and/or research proposals

Armstrong has reviewed for the AHRC and Routledge. Copsey has reviewed proposals and manuscripts for MUP, Routledge, Palgrave and Bloomsbury. Since 2008 he has peer-reviewed for close to 15 international journals. He has reviewed for the ESRC and is currently a member of the AHRC Peer Review College (recently as Strategic Reviewer). Copsey has also been a nominated referee for Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (2009); British Academy Fellowship (2011); and British Academy Newton Fellowship (2011). Since 2008 Feldman has acted as an academic reviewer for more than 10 international journals, six academic publishers (MUP, Bloomsbury, Palgrave, Taylor & Francis, Rodopi, Pluto), and the Irish government's national postdoctoral funding scheme. Newton has also reviewed for the Government of Ireland's Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme (2012). **Newton** has additionally reviewed for the ESRC (2008), the EU's FP6 Cliohnet Network of Excellence (2009), and the Historical Journal. Gillen has reviewed for Palgrave's Intellectual and Cultural History series. **Moore** has peer-reviewed for the *American* Political Science Review, Schiller has peer-reviewed for Eighteenth Century Studies. Vall has reviewed proposals for MUP. Since 2010, she has been been a reviewer for the European Science Foundation. Vall has also been a member of the AHRC Peer Review College since 2012 and was recently commended by the AHRC's head of Knowledge Exchange and Partnerships, for an 'outstanding contribution to the Creative Economy Knowledge Exchange Projects review process'.

## **Visiting Fellowships and Professorships**

**Armstrong** was Visiting Fellow at Uppsala University's Religion and Society Research Centre (2013); **Copsey** has been Visiting Professor at the University of Applied Sciences, Düsseldorf (2011). **Feldman** has held fellowships at the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford (2009-10); the University of Northampton (2012-); the Berendel Foundation, London (2010-11); and at the Cantemir Institute, Oxford (2012-13). Feldman is the University of Bergen's Senior Visiting Researcher in 'Modernism and Christianity' (2011-2014). **Newton** is Visiting Fellow at the Yale Center for the Study of Representative Institutions (2013). **Vall** is Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Stockholm (2013).

## Collaborative partnerships

**Darcy** is a member of the Cultures of War and Conflict Resolution Network (supported by the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies Bangor-Aberystwyth and Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Trinity College Dublin). Feldman currently participates as Senior Research Fellow in the Norwegian Research Council's four-year, circa £1.5m 'Modernism and Christianity' project under the leadership of Dr Erik Tonning (University of Bergen). Gillen was a member of the 'Reimagining Democracy' interdisciplinary network, an international network convened by Jo Innes and Mark Philp (Oxford). Higgins was participant in an Irish/Australian Bi-lateral Research Group on 'Memory and Uses of the Past', funded by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences and Australian Academies of the Humanities and Social Sciences. McGuire is a member of ProBE, (Production of the Built Environment) an international research centre based at the University of Westminster. He also co-ordinated the Constructing Post-War Britain: Building Workers Stories 1950-1970 project advisory group (Westminster, 2010-12), funded by the Leverhulme Trust. **Newton** was Director, North East England History Institute (NEEHI) management committee (2006-10) and remains on the NEEHI management committee (to present). She was participant, Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA) Joint Research Project (JRP) event, Paris (2008), and working group leader for an exploratory workshop on region, memory, agency in Europe funded by the European Social Fund, UWE, Bristol (2010).

## Additional contributions to discipline

**Copsey**, **Newton**, **Vall** are elected fellows of the RHS. **Armstrong** was elected to the executive committee of the Social History Society (2013). **Feldman** is regular contributor to the reviews section of the *Times Higher Education* (September 2011 – to present). **Higgins** was invited to make a formal presentation of her book, *Transforming 1916* to the Irish President (2013). **Newton** has been Member, select UNESCO workshop to discuss Durham as a World Heritage Site (2011). **Copsey** has been external PhD examiner at Birkbeck (2012); and **Newton** at NUI, Galway (2013).