

<p>Institution: University of York</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 30, History</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The Department of History's outward-looking research culture and long history of working with local, regional, national, and global audiences has allowed it to respond rapidly and creatively to the emerging impact agenda. As a large Department of 39 permanent staff members and 10 post-doctoral researchers, whose work covers all periods of history from the late Roman era to the present and crosses every continent, our engagement beyond the academy has been diverse and multifaceted. Key partners and beneficiaries include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national and international policy-makers (e.g. Department of Education and World Health Organisation) • museums, libraries and archives ranging from York Museums Trust and the National Railway Museum to the National Archives and the British Museum • charitable trusts concerned with the investigation, preservation and presentation of the past (e.g. York Archaeological Trust and English Heritage) • the heritage, tourism and arts industries, particularly in the city of York • school teachers, such as those who attended the 'Middle Passages' summer school on slavery (2011), and through educational material, school children • church groups caring for historic buildings, and faith communities • programme makers and media industries (e.g. AHRC-funded "Yorkshire Coiners: Turning History into Films"; Roodhouse, advisor on the BBC2 documentary "Wartime Farm") • lay historians and groups and individuals with an interest in the past (e.g. users of databases and catalogues developed through our research; non-professional historical groups) <p>The Department's research feeds into a broad range of significant impacts. It:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides information and analysis to allow better understanding of the past and its legacies • uses historical perspectives to improve the formulation and implementation of policies in fields ranging from the historical built environment to health policy • enriches cultural life by enhancing public understanding of the past • contributes to the creative industries and the heritage sector • assists archivists, curators and those working in historical interpretation to improve the presentation and understanding of the past • helps public groups engage with difficult pasts involving conflict and oppression <p>The Department's nine research clusters (detailed in REF5) all engage with impact. The Public History and Policy research cluster demonstrates the Department's commitment to examining the relationship between History and its consumers. Much of the Department's research dissemination and engagement is organized through University and Departmental Institutes and Centres, notably the Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past (IPUP), the Centre for Study of Christianity and Culture (CSCC), the Centre for Global Health Histories (CGHH), the Yorkshire Country House Partnership (YCHP) and the Institute for Railway Studies and Transport History (IRS&TH).</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>York has long been committed to research-driven impact. In 1994, York faculty advised the National Museums Liverpool on the creation of the Transatlantic Slavery Gallery; in a pioneering partnership with the National Railway Museum (NRM) the Department established the IRS&TH in 1995. In 1999, it developed CSCC and YCHP, and in 2006 it co-founded IPUP. Since 2008 we have integrated impact work into the Department's research strategy ensuring that it is embedded throughout the research development process. We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • added impact to the Departmental Research Committee's strategic responsibilities • appointed an Impact Officer in 2011 to co-ordinate, collate, and archive impact activities • required all applications for departmentally-funded research leave to outline the potential impact of their research outputs and all reports on leave to itemize, assess and reflect upon the impact of the research findings • employed continuing professional development so colleagues articulate the potentially transformative effects of their research findings, identify the potential user-groups of their research, and specify the relationships with non-HEIs which underpin their work. This responds to the University's identification of impact as one of the criteria for appointments and promotion • assumed full managerial and financial control over both CSCC (2011) and IPUP (2012)

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- established CGHH (2010) with its own full-time Impact Officer
- included impact in the research training programme for PGRs and developing an internship scheme organized through IPUP <http://www.york.ac.uk/ipup/internships>

This transformation was facilitated by the establishment of the Humanities Research Centre (HRC) in 2009. Its staff support the impact-related work of the Department by training postgraduates and early career researchers in the need for, benefits of, and pathways to, impact; facilitating interdisciplinary projects and assisting with the development of impact-inclusive grant proposals; providing assistance in identifying, establishing and optimising external partnerships; offering a space in which to nurture external partnerships and deliver university-based project elements; and devising mechanisms for monitoring and measuring impact achieved. In addition, the Department has taken full advantage of University funds for public engagement. For example, one grant facilitated an exhibition on Alcuin's York that toured various public venues in the city.

The Department's approach is characterized by its development of links with local, national and international partners.

In **York** and its region, colleagues have:

- shaped the excavation practice and policies of the York Archaeological Trust (YAT)
- informed and thus transformed curatorial practice and interpretation in local heritage attractions such York City churches (see Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture case study)
- in *Commercial Cultures of Britain's Railways, 1872-1977* (AHRC-funded, 2008-12) developed a major permanent exhibition at the NRM and a phone app in collaboration with *East Coast Rail*. The evaluation report stated: "the project made academic research relevant for the collections and content-development teams and served as a model for what could be achieved in partnership."
- engaged with difficult aspects of York's Jewish heritage, resulting in a phone app, walking tour and changes to the public understanding of the city's past (see The City of York case study)
- contributed actively to the annual York Festival of Ideas first held in 2011

Nationally, colleagues have:

- as part of the AHRC-funded 1807 Commemorated project, helped seven museums to rethink their approach to presenting difficult histories (see Transatlantic Slavery case study)
- effected policy changes at the National Archives (using the expertise of Ormrod), promoting public access to, and understanding of, historical records
- worked with English Heritage and the Church of England, advising and developing interpretational practice and training staff; used our research in order to write innovative interactive tools for visitor comprehension and engagement in seven cathedrals, one episcopal palace, and 17 churches
- brought together curators and historians in the regular YCHP Policies and Issues Research Seminars, the 5th of which was held in February 2013

Internationally, the Department has:

- had a major impact on institutional practice of the WHO through the work of the CGHH (see History and Global Health Policy case study)
- worked with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to transform public understanding of the History of Slavery in the USA and with the Gilder Lehrman Institute, advancing the historical understanding of the history of slavery among African, European and North American school-teachers
- enhanced lay, community and family history and the presentation, interpretation and understanding of classes of archival documents by developing free digital resources as part of externally funded research projects, notably *Medieval Petitions* (AHRC & Mellon), *Cause Papers in the Diocesan Court of York, 1300-1858* (Mellon) and *Taxation of the Clergy in England and Wales, 1180-1664* (AHRC & Leverhulme). These have a global reach and significance. For example, in August 2012- July 2013 the *Cause Papers* website received 10,408 visits from at least 44 countries.

c. Strategy and plans

The Department's strategy consists of:

Development of existing impact work. The Department will continue to fund IPUP (£23k p.a.) and CSCC (£192,000 p.a.). IPUP is developing a public history partnership with the Brown Center for Slavery and Social Justice, Providence, Rhode Island, including virtual seminars. CSCC begins

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£100,000 of new interpretation work for Bishop Auckland Place on 1 August 2013; its projects with Worcester Cathedral (to 2015) and Holy Trinity, Micklegate, York (to 2014) will continue. Its training programme for clergy and church custodians will be enhanced by a new distance learning course from 2014. The YCHP's exhibition 'The Country House at War' will be held at seven country houses across Yorkshire in 2013-14. Recently awarded pump-priming money will enable Garrison and C. Cubitt to develop their work on Anglo-Saxon York in order to engage the heritage sector more fully with this neglected aspect of the city's past.

Ongoing and about to commence research projects. The Department's recent success in capturing major external funding is testimony to its strategic commitment to high-impact projects. We are working to document and to measure the ongoing impact of: *Conversion Narratives in Early Modern Europe* (AHRC 2010-13); *England's Immigrants, 1330-1550* (AHRC, 2012-15); *St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster: Visual and Political Culture, 1292-1941* (AHRC, 2013-16) and *War as Cultural Encounter* (HERA, 2013-16).

Strengthening and developing partner engagement. In 2012 the Department established an advisory board, part of whose responsibility is to provide expert input on impact. It includes users of historical research, such as Bobby Duffy, Managing Director of Social Research, Ipsos-Mori; Stephen Pittam, Joseph Rowntree Trust; Janet Barnes, York Museums Trust; and Kersten England, York City Council. The confirmation of CGHH as the first WHO Collaborating Centre for Historical and Social Studies will be the basis of even more significant integration of York historical research into the policy-making of the WHO. These developments provide the basis for collaboration with other national governments. A 2012 University of York memorandum of understanding with the Brazilian Health Ministry and Fiocruz (the most prominent science and technology health institution in Latin America) places collaborative work with the CGHH as a major strategic goal.

Continuing Professional Development. The successful AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership, the White Rose College of the Arts & Humanities, puts impact at the heart of the Department's training of PGRs. This includes innovative compulsory researcher employability projects with 12 partners, including the BBC; the British Library; Continuum, a regional creative industry, which evolved out of Jorvik Viking Centre; English Heritage; the National Archives; Revolution Software; and the Victoria and Albert Museum. This will ensure researchers understand the potential impact of their research. The Departmental Impact Officer will work with the University Research Office and the Humanities Research Centre to create a matrix of support for impact. This will include training in drafting pathways for impact, identifying beneficiaries, engaging users, and producing targeted summaries.

New appointments and impact potential. New staff bring new opportunities for impact. Moon has recently established a Leverhulme-funded network 'Exploring Russia's Environmental History and Natural Resources'. McCann's research on the Indian diaspora in Africa has significant policy implications; he has provided briefings on India as a global power and on India-Africa relations at the Open Society Institute, Chatham House, and at the Spanish government's 'Casa Africa'.

d. Relationship to case studies

The case studies exemplify the wide reach and great significance of York's impact, demonstrating both the diversity of our research and the local, national and international impact of our research:

- 1. The City of York.** The City of York enjoys a rich heritage of historic buildings, museums and archives which attract 7.1 million visitors annually. Between 2008 and 2013 members of the Department of History have transformed the public interpretation and conservation of this heritage.
- 2. Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture.** We employed our research expertise in religious history to improve understanding and sustainability of historic churches and cathedrals. These together form England's largest single 'estate' of built heritage, with over 11 million visitors each year.
- 3. Transatlantic Slavery: Influence, Legacy, Representation.** Our researchers have worked closely with museums and educational practitioners to establish a 'virtuous circle' in which research influences the content of heritage and educational presentations. Our research played a significant role in the introduction of Slavery into the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 in 2008.
- 4. History and Global Health Policy.** As a result of our research into the history of disease control, the social determinants of health, and primary healthcare, the Department's Centre for Global Health Histories was invited to formalize and develop the WHO's Global Health Histories project, including its flagship seminar series. This research programme has had a major impact on institutional practice within the WHO headquarters and its regional offices.