

<b>Institution: The University of Edinburgh</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 24 Anthropology and Development Studies</b>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>This submission combines staff from Social Anthropology (SA) and the Centre for African Studies (CAS), both units within Edinburgh's School of Social and Political Science (SPS). Our impact and engagements beyond academia relate to the entire range of research activity in the submission, but have been most marked in international development, sustainability, law, science and technology, and health. Impacts have included <b>policy-making</b>, participation in <b>public debate</b>, and engagement with the <b>creative arts</b>. Our audiences have been diverse, and often enduring: SA and CAS have had co-operative relationships with agencies such as DfID/ODA and Practical Action since the mid-1980s. Other audiences include: <b>government agencies</b> such as the Nepal Ministry of Health, the Kenyan Department of Energy, the UK Ministry of Justice and DfID; <b>global agencies</b> such as the World Bank, UNDP, WHO, and the Gates Foundation. We also work with hands-on <b>practitioners</b> such as asylum lawyers, activists, NGOs (e.g., Target Tuberculosis, ICG, and MSF), filmmakers, artists, and <b>cultural organisations</b> such as National Museums Scotland.</p> <p>Our impact is rooted in the rich understanding of specific cultural, political, and social contexts around the world, which are then placed in comparative perspective. We use the findings of our research to feed directly into public and policy debates, but we also have a strong record of co-developing research projects with practitioners and local communities. Our work frequently challenges established norms, modes of thought, or practices, and our findings have not always been welcomed, but have nevertheless contributed to public debate.</p> <p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>We have continuously sought to engage as wide an audience as possible for our research. The UoA supports staff at all levels in achieving the forms of impact most appropriate to their project, rather than adopt a one-size-fits-all or mechanistic approach. To facilitate this we have developed, in conjunction with SPS and the College of Humanities and Social Science (HSS), a number of formal support mechanisms. SPS has had a Director of Knowledge Exchange since 2006, and both CAS and SA have Knowledge Exchange Officers (Anders and Kelly). Impact and engagement are included in annual staff reviews, are a standard item on staff meeting agendas, and are explored in our annual awaydays. HSS has a Knowledge Exchange Office, which provides pro-active advice and support. Since 2008 HSS has also provided grants worth over £12,000 to specific KE projects in the UoA. The UoA has organised training sessions on writing for the media with College press officers and journalists (Roger Hutchinson in 2013, Tony Trueman in 2012).</p> <p>We believe that impact is rarely achieved through one-off events, but is best produced through longer-term dialogue. Long-term engagement creates relationships in which research and impact feed into one another. For example, Harper's early work as a public health practitioner in Nepal, gives him a network that has been built up over decades (case study: TB Control). Spiegel worked as an advisor to UNEP, before starting his academic career (case study: Mining and Resource Governance). Kelly has a long-term relationship with the leading anti-torture NGO Dignity that has resulted in a new ESRC/DfID collaborative project to develop new techniques for the documentation of torture. Where relationships do not already exist, we have developed mechanisms to encourage them to grow, building impact into the design of research projects. For example, our ESRC-funded Institute for Innovation in Genomics (INNOGEN), of which Smith is Director of Developing Country Research, and Carsten an associate member, has dedicated impact and public dissemination roles. The DfID PISCES project has established multi-stakeholder policy working groups (PWGs) in Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania (see case study: Effectiveness of Alternative Energy). ABORNE, of which Zeller is the coordinator, signed a 2011 MoU with the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) in order to integrate research findings into AUBP's work. Smith's appointment as a senior advisor to the ESRC-DfID Joint Scheme for Research on International Development can be seen as an endorsement of our track record in building practitioner engagement into research design.</p> <p>We deliberately employ the fullest possible range of modes of engagement. These include:</p> <p><b>1. Policy-making at international and national levels.</b> We strategically and productively contribute to policy-making processes. Jeffery, for example, has acted as a consultant for FCO on</p>

## Impact template (REF3a)

the possible resettlement of Chagos Islanders. Spencer was a member of the reference group for the major 2011 evaluation of Norwegian intervention in the Sri Lankan peace process. Harper worked on the Evidence for Scale-up Group by the Gates Foundation, and was an advisor for the WHO Guidelines on Operational Research in TB Control. Anders serves on the board of the Scottish-Malawi Partnership, and advises the Scottish Government on international development policy. Copeman's work has been used by the Association of Voluntary Blood Donors, West Bengal, in order to improve donation services. Street worked as a consultant for AusAID on their evaluation of health citizenship in PNG. We have also provided expert evidence to advisory boards. Copeman and Carsten, for example, gave evidence on blood donation to the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, whilst Smith contributed to the Nuffield Council's report on Biofuels. Zeller has served as an expert on a European Commission evaluation of their support to Integrated Border Management in Africa. Members of the UoA have written hundreds of expert reports for asylum cases (case study: Use of Expert Evidence). School initiatives free up staff time to engage specifically in impact activities: Harper, for example, was seconded, with financial support from the University of Edinburgh, to the Nepal Ministry of Health for 6 months in 2010.

**2. Classic 'public intellectual' work.** We have participated in public debates, using press, radio, TV, and blogs, with support from the HSS communications teams. Anders, for example, has written multiple opinion pieces based on his Sierra Leone research for *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. Street's research has been widely reported in the PNG national press, and in 2011 she appeared on national news discussing the challenges facing the national health system. Fontein has acted as an advisor on several documentaries, including the BBC's *Lost Kingdoms of Africa*. Spencer has commented on events in Sri Lanka for Al-Jazeera, the BBC *Today* programme, and CBC national news in Canada. Hoek has been interviewed on Dutch Radio and the Bangladeshi national press, as well as acting as a talking head in a television series on Bangladeshi cinema. Zeller has contributed to discussion programmes on the pan-African TVC News, the Guardian's Comment is Free, and *Deutsche Welle*. Colleagues have also created new public forums for debate, for example the Good Solar Network co-founded by Cross. Cross and Street are also founding members of the New Economies of Development Network which, with its associated blog [responsiblebop.com](http://responsiblebop.com), brings together academics and policy-makers.

**3. Engagement with the creative arts** allows us to reach a variety of publics in innovative ways. Edinburgh's merger with Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) in 2011 has provided a perfect institutional opportunity to expand our engagements with creative practitioners. For example, Cross and Street's 2013 ESRC Transformative Research Grant, will work closely with visual artists in order to develop graphic techniques to represent academic ideas to broader audiences. Baxstrom has organised exhibitions in Kuala Lumpur and Baltimore based on his published work. He is now working with composers and the National Gallery of Scotland, to produce a new score for screenings of the classic Norwegian film *Haxan*. Hoek's work on the Bangladeshi film industry became the basis for an exhibition at the Rotterdam gallery *Nieuwe Oogst*, and her ESRC Future Leaders project includes work with artists in Bangladesh, India and the UK. Jeffery has acted as a consultant for playwright and director Adrian Jackson, whose play *A Few Men Fridays* had a month-long run at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith. Mayblin is editing a documentary film *Vote of Faith* as part of her new research on priest-politicians in Brazil. CAS has been a central partner in the Africa in Motion film festival, founded by our former ECR Lizelle Bischoff, for which Anders is on the Board of Advisors. The Festival is a major cultural presence, both in Scotland and amongst wider diaspora communities. Hoek and Baxstrom, with National Museums Scotland (and supported in part by a HSS KE grant), co-ordinated the 2013 RAI film festival, which brought together filmmakers and anthropologists.

### c. Strategy and plans

Our strategy is to spread best practice in achieving impact from our research, and to move knowledge exchange from the status of a tacit craft skill to a formally recognised, fully embedded and properly supported aspect of our research and teaching. SPS strategy, adopted in 2012, commits the School to: employing a full time Knowledge Exchange Officer and half-time Events Officer as part of our expanded Research Office; raising awareness of best practice (e.g. dossiers of impact exemplars); providing internal and external training; collaborating with other units in the University to develop a 'register of experts'; moving on from embedding impact and knowledge-

**Impact template (REF3a)**

exchange work in annual staff reviews to incorporating it fully in promotion procedures; and, expanding the use of social media through blogs, twitter etc.

We are actively increasing opportunities for academics and practitioners to engage with one another. SPS leads the University's Public Policy Network (PPN), an important resource for developing, commissioning, conducting and debating policy-relevant research. Over the last 5 years PPN has facilitated over 50 events, with over 15,000 participants. Members of the UoA who are active in the network include Anders, Bompani, Cross, Harper, Kelly, Munoz, Pradhan, Sharma, and Spiegel. We have also organised a series of different workshops, funded with a College KE grant, under the rubric 'What does academia have to offer anyway?' Workshops so far have focused on health, asylum (case study: Use of Expert Evidence), social work and witchcraft allegations, and the creative arts. The University's Global Development Academy and Global Justice Academy are led by members of this UoA (Smith, Bompani, Cross and Kelly) and were established with the expressed aim of bringing together global practitioners, policy-makers and researchers to issues of global concern. Both Academies serve as forums for discussion between practitioners and academics through weekly seminars, and practice-based workshops.

In making recent appointments, we have sought out new colleagues with strong impact records. Long for example has provided policy advice to refugee agencies such as UNHCR and has a widely-read blog on immigration issues. Edmonds writes opinion pieces for the New York Times and Los Angeles Times, and has been featured in national newspapers in 9 different countries. Furniss has given a TEDx talk, and has been an assistant director on a documentary which was aired on national TV in France and the US, which built on his work on waste removal in Cairo.

SPS promotes a culture in which awareness of the potential and importance of impact is part of the professional development of researchers at all stages of their careers. As well as the regular Scottish Training in Anthropological Research (STAR) sessions in which PhD researchers work with anthropologists employed outside academia, the Scottish Graduate School has introduced practitioner-led workshops as part of its summer schools. Engagements at a STAR session, for example, led to a half-day Scottish Government workshop on the future of Scottish fisheries, drawing heavily on the work of PhD researcher Tom Robinson. In 2012, SPS appointed a placement officer for MSc students in International Development, most of whom now conduct work-based projects with partner organizations. The SPS Research Office has sought to develop KE skills through a series of workshops led by faculty and practitioners, including former students working with agencies like Scottish Government. In 2010 we created an annual KE prize for early researchers. The University has established Principal's Career Development Scholarships, which aim to bring practitioners back into academia and therefore assist the scholarship holders and their peers with the development of KE skills while they complete their research degrees. Three studentships have been awarded in CAS and Soc Anth since 2010 (Khan, Lesshafft, Bardosh).

**d. Relationship to case studies**

All case studies illustrate different strategies for involving non-academic users in research projects, and have drawn on the formal SPS and HSS support mechanisms described here. Good and Kelly (case study: Use of Expert Evidence) started writing expert reports for asylum cases on the basis of their own fieldwork, subsequently researched the use of expert reports in asylum cases, and now engage legal practitioners in further reflection on their findings, including producing a Best Practice Guide, with HSS KE support. Harper's TB research (case study: TB Control) has repeatedly crossed the boundaries between academia and practice, from its origins in his time as a medical practitioner in Nepal. SPS and the University underwrote his period of secondment in Nepal. Spiegel's mining research (case study: Mining and Resource Governance) has been used in policy-making at national and international levels, and his work with miners' associations has blended primary research with institutional capacity building; repeated fieldtrips to Africa and Asia have been supported by SPS research and KE funds. Smith and Cross's work (case study: Effectiveness of Alternative Energy) exemplifies an approach which seeks to promote stakeholder involvement in both policy and research from the very start of research planning. SPS co-funded Cross's [responsiblebop.com](http://responsiblebop.com) website and an Edinburgh roundtable for members of the New Economies of Development Network.