

<b>Institution: Kingston University</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 4, Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience</b>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>The applied nature of much of the research in the Unit has led to the development of several research projects that have (or are having) significant impact outside an academic context. The key beneficiaries of such research have been charities, local government, schools and social enterprises. The Unit's goal is to extend the reach of its research from the local community outwards. Recently, contracts have been secured from national and international private companies to apply the Unit's research to specific business needs. The key impacts across all sectors have been changes in organizational practices to improve well-being (particularly of children); these impacts have built on the Unit's research in developmental, cognitive and health psychology.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>Much of the Unit's research is applied and has implications for education, health and well-being. The Unit's emphasis on the applications of research in developmental psychology reflects an acknowledgement that it comprised our strongest area of research in terms of critical mass and quality of publications at RAE2008. Then, the Unit's research in children's education was being led by Dr Harriet Tenenbaum (departed 2012), supported by Dr Prior. Their research in schools throughout Kingston and Surbiton established long-term institutional relationships that could subsequently be developed to create research impact (including one of the case studies in REF3b; more below).</p> <p>In 2008, Dr Tenenbaum also approached nationally-significant London museums, starting with the British Museum (BM), to explore the possibilities of applying research-informed practice in a museums context. In this way, the unit was able to foster productive relationships with the BM and the Natural History Museum (NHM). At the BM in particular, Dr Tenenbaum applied the findings of her research to facilitate parent-child interactions with exhibits and to develop educational tools (information packs, new signage) that enhanced the visitors' learning. The work with the NHM on visitor interaction emerged as part of the University's broader engagement with the NHM, underpinned by investment in a research advisor based at the NHM to facilitate cross-institution collaborations. The university also contributed to a project funded by the SouthWest Academic Network, SWAN (linking Kingston University, Royal Holloway, University of London and St George's, University of London), in which Dr Tenenbaum examined ways of increasing women's participation in STEM subjects via mentoring.</p> <p>Since 2010, Dr Samara's research on bullying and its applications to the policies of schools and charities has complemented the work of Dr Tenenbaum on social exclusion of refugee children in schools. The University invested £10k in a project to evaluate the experiences of child refugees from Afghanistan to London; this resulted in the Paiwand charity adopting a mentoring scheme based on Dr Samara's research.</p> <p>Dr Van Herwegen and Dr Uller have also contributed to the Unit's impactful research related to improving educational practices. Together they have devised an initiative to embed research-led practice in local schools, again making use of the network of schools in which Unit researchers</p>

**Impact template (REF3a)**

routinely conduct basic research, extended over the last 5 years by Dr Van Herwegen and Dr Back. Postgraduate students from two MSc programmes (Child Psychology and Clinical Applications of Psychology) are trained to work in six local nursery schools in Surbiton and Kingston to implement research-informed practice. Currently, they train nursery staff to provide numeracy tuition via specific play-based activities. This research-led work experience is assessed as part of the students' courses. Each year, a new research-led initiative will be introduced. In this way, Psychology research at Kingston is becoming integrated with the local community on a long-term basis, reflecting a broader strategy of community impact through postgraduate research placements (outlined below). Researchers linked to the Unit have also served the local community on a project-by-project basis. A Business Development Manager liaises with external agencies including The Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK) and other local service providers to secure tenders for research to inform practice. For example, Dr Nikcevic managed a project (2010-11) funded by RBK to evaluate care provision for adults with learning disabilities, leading to the adoption of new psychometric tools to detect abuse by carers.

Finally, sponsorship has been obtained in response to diverse external calls for tender from a range of organisations that request research input to inform practice: central government (e.g., Department of Health; the Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund), industry (e.g., Sanofi-Pasteur; the National Grid) and charities (e.g., the Klevis Kola Foundation). An example of impact at industry-level is Dr Pavey's application of her work on autonomy and behaviour change to support an anti-obesity programme at the National Grid (2012).

Research with potential impact is also supported by a number of funding streams and support mechanisms. Two projects to achieve impact were each supported by university investment, one to Dr Samara (see above) and one to Dr Tenenbaum to set up and evaluate an educational initiative at the NHM ("The Great Debate": an interactive learning exhibit based on the Huxley-Wilberforce evolution debate of 1860). University investment is available on a competitive basis to pump-prime projects that are likely to have impact: the preschool project presented here was part-funded in this way. The Unit has formed an Impact Working Group to develop, monitor and review research that may provide impact: it reports to the Departmental Research Committee.

**c. Strategy and plans**

The cornerstone of the strategy is for future impactful research to be led by the best researchers. Thus both of the Unit's two case studies directly involve researchers with established track records of excellent research publications. Researchers are expected to attract external funds to support their impactful research; recent research that has resulted in impact has been supported by the Qatar National Research Foundation and Sanofi-Pasteur France. Multidisciplinary research with impact is encouraged: for example, Prof Terry is collaborating with the Department of Drama on a programme to evaluate and improve arts-based approaches to recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. This work emerged from an interdisciplinary research conference held at the University in 2012 (*Addiction and Performance*). Specific organizations the Unit is working with to explore the applications of recovery research include Outside Edge and Vita Nova.

A key aspect of the strategy over the last two years has been to implement research-led changes in practice through developing long-term relationships with community organisations in London and Surrey. The Unit is now building on its successful work with local schools (described above) by developing a similar scheme whereby postgraduates from the MSc Clinical Applications of Psychology programme work with a regional social enterprise (the Recovery Initiative Social

**Impact template (REF3a)**

Enterprise, RISE) to implement research-led practice in the management of people in recovery from drug problems and other mental health problems. The same approach is being developed with the two refugee charities that Unit researchers have worked with (Paiwand and Klevis Kola).

The Unit established a partnership with Sanofi-Pasteur in 2011 when Dr Villejoubert led a research programme to examine the company’s employees’ perceptions of vaccination, resulting in a set of recommendations for improving employee engagement in this area. This engagement is ongoing, and the impact will be extended from the local level (Sanofi-Pasteur vaccine facility in Lyon, France) to a national level (all units in France) and ultimately an international level across all of the company’s facilities. This strategy, from local to international, will serve as a model for future industry-embedded decision-making research with impact.

Hence the strategy is to extend the Unit’s impactful research to national/international levels where possible, to support applications for funds to support applied work, and to ensure that research outcomes are disseminated to the right audiences. Thus for example the Unit intends to roll out the evaluation tool that it developed for RBK to assess care provision for adults with learning disabilities to other councils across the region. The outcomes of the refugee work led by Dr Samara will be used to underpin applications for commercial evaluation work, particularly in relation to interventions. The results will be disseminated to the Refugee Council and the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation, so that the maximum number of other professionals benefit from the findings. One of the case studies, led by Dr Samara, is based in Israel, and Dr Samara is also working with the Palestinian Trauma Centre in the Palestinian Territories to develop recommendations to improve PTSD treatment among children in the Palestinian Territories. Finally, our work with the vaccines section of Sanofi-Pasteur will be rolled out to all parts of this major multinational company.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

Improving number learning in preschool children through delivery of the “PLUS” learning scheme

This case study exemplifies the strategy of applying research in one of the unit’s strongest areas: developmental psychology. It illustrates the Unit’s practice of embedding researchers in local services and institutions to achieve impact based on research-led practice. The project was supported by university investment funds. Its success has informed the development of the broader strategy, which has now been extended to Kingston RISE (Recovery Initiative Social Enterprise).

Implementing new anti-bullying policies in the Arab sector of Israel

This case study illustrates how our researchers have worked with schools, charities and other institutions (Islamic High Court in Israel) to translate the results of their research into policies that improve well-being. From 2010 to the present the university supported Dr Samara’s visits to the Arab sector of Israel to implement - for the first time - research-informed anti-bullying policies in their school system. The engagement is continuing, and reflects the Unit’s aim of extending the reach of its impactful research from city to regional/national/international levels. Dr Samara is now also working with UK schools to implement research-informed anti-bullying policies; postgraduates will be involved in the delivery and evaluation of the schemes, part of the Unit’s broader strategy.