

<p>Institution: University of York</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 23 - Sociology</p>
<p>a. Overview</p>
<p>The vibrant and intensive research environment of the Department of Sociology (DoS) at the University of York is supported and driven by the work of our four research clusters in the areas of: (1) <i>Cultural Practice</i>; (2) <i>Gender, Sexuality and Inequality</i>; (3) <i>Language and Social Interaction</i>; and (4) <i>Science, Health and Technology</i>. The DoS also houses five interdisciplinary research centres which sustain and promote a wider sociology research environment across the University: (a) <i>Centre for Women's Studies</i> (CWS) co-hosted with the Department of English; (b) <i>Centre for Urban Research</i> (CURB) co-hosted with the Department of Politics; (c) <i>Science and Technology Studies Unit</i> (SATSU); (d) <i>European Centre for Cultural Exploration</i> (ECCE); and (e) <i>Chronic Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre</i> (CDC). In addition, DoS staff constitute the largest disciplinary grouping within the multi-disciplinary <i>Centre for Advanced Studies in Language and Communication</i> (CASLC) housed in the Department of Language and Linguistic Science. This REF submission, which comprises colleagues from the DoS as well as Atkin, a sociologist from the Department of Health Sciences, who works collaboratively with us, evidences our commitment to maintaining and enhancing an environment that has consistently generated outstanding and world-leading research. All DoS research activity is overseen by the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) whose composition ensures representation of all the research clusters, research centres, senior and junior researchers, and PGRs.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p>
<p>Achievement of strategic aims for research since 2008</p>
<p>Our 2008 RAE submission identified four strategic aims all of which have been surpassed.</p>
<p>(i) <i>'To enhance the demographic and gender profile of the Department'</i>. We addressed a significant and longstanding gender imbalance through the appointment of eight women to permanent posts, and by proactively encouraging women to apply for promotion. Our HoD and five of our seven professors are now women. We also established a sustainable demographic through the appointment of outstanding early career researchers (ECRs) and junior staff (nine of fifteen Category A appointments since 2008).</p>
<p>(ii) <i>'To enhance our work on culture, urban studies and social informatics'</i>. The establishment of CURB in 2010, and ECCE in 2011 has substantially raised our profile and achievements in the subfields of culture, social informatics and the urban. Both centres have attracted research income, hosted high profile conferences, formalised international networks and, through new appointments, led to a diversification of our methodological and disciplinary base. For example: Atkinson (co-director of CURB), Hanquinet, and Kapoor bring quantitative expertise; Macdonald (director of ECCE) and Millington are established anthropological ethnographers; and Beer has led on explorations into the use of digital data as a resource for research on popular culture. Our work on culture, the urban and social media has become increasingly internationalised through externally funded empirical work in Australia, Belgium, China, France, Germany, and the USA. Since 2008, we have enhanced our expertise in race most notably through the work of Atkin, Millington and Kapoor, who publish extensively on ethnicity and health, 'race' and crime, and 'race' and education respectively.</p>
<p>(iii) <i>'To enhance our internationally recognised research on science, health and technology, exemplified by the achievements of SATSU.'</i> Since 2008 SATSU has attracted income in excess of one million pounds from UK Research Councils, the EU, charitable bodies and government departments. This has supported high calibre research, which has led to outputs of international significance. Through the merger of our former Social Informatics Research Unit with SATSU we have successfully strengthened our expertise in the analysis of social informatics, which has led to an innovative vein of work on politics and social media. SATSU has grown from nine to 14 core</p>

members, and has attracted a stream of visiting scholars from Australia, Asia, and throughout Europe. SATSU has led major projects and collaborative networks (see Section E) and shaped sociological debates on issues such as; pharmacogenetics, stem cell research, blood banking, and social media in both academic and non-academic contexts.

(iv) *'To enhance our intellectually exciting and sustainable environment in which there is cross fertilisation of ideas.'* The structuring of our work around four research clusters has been pivotal to the sustainability and vitality of our intellectual environment. Each cluster has generated activities such as, informal reading groups, themed seminar series, and the hosting of major conferences. Indeed, the critical mass of shared interests was formative in the creation of our new interdisciplinary centres. A further indicator of our collegiality is the substantial number of research outputs and grant submissions that have been co-authored. Many colleagues are members of more than one cluster, which has contributed to achieving our strategic aim of facilitating a 'cross fertilisation of ideas'. This led to, for example, a monthly health reading group which in turn was a catalyst for the *Chronic Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre*, which brings together colleagues with expertise in language and social interaction and in health and technology. Having secured priming funds in part provided by the Wellcome Trust, the group formalised cross-departmental collaborations with Law, Philosophy, English and Economics resulting in co-authored publications and conference presentations.

The fertile intellectual ground of our four clusters has supported the development of novel conceptual and methodological innovations that have shaped the discipline. For example, Brown's work on the 'sociology of expectations' emerges from our strengths in science, health and technology, and it has already become an established perspective in understanding the role of the promissory in STS. S.Jackson's feminist reworking of pragmatist and interactionist sociology has shaped debates and empirical research on heterosexuality. Similarly, Wooffitt's work (with Hutchby) on conversation analysis (CA) has become one of the discipline's principal methodological texts with over 1700 direct citations. Furthermore, much of our work has been prominent beyond sociology in cultural studies, women's/gender studies, economics, health sciences, management studies, public health medicine, social geography, social policy, and social psychology. We intend to continue to lead intellectual debates during the next five years.

Strategic aims for the next five years.

Driven by our commitment to excellence, impact, interdisciplinarity and internationalization, we will continue to produce empirically rigorous, theoretically innovative and policy relevant research attractive to funding bodies. Drawing upon the strength of established expertise within our clusters and centres, we will set and shape agendas in the sociology of: cultural practice; gender, sexuality and inequality; language and social interaction; and science, health and technology. We will position ourselves at the forefront of the discipline and enhance our world-leading research reputation. To achieve this we will:

(i) Further internationalise the DoS, through cross-national networking and collaboration, with the aim of developing innovative conceptual and methodological tools for comparative research. We are well placed to do this given our established links, particularly in Asia and Europe, and our success in mobilising these to gain research funding (e.g. two ESRC Hong Kong bilateral awards held by members of CWS and CURB, SATSU's strong record of attracting EU funding, and British Academy funding for collaborative work with South African colleagues). Our commitment to internationalisation is evidenced in the new appointment of Xiaodong Lin, a specialist in Asian migration and gender (from 1st December 2013). We aim to extend existing collaborations with colleagues in Australia, Belgium, China, India, South Korea, Japan, Norway, South Africa, and Sweden. SATSU is capitalising on its international networks to seek external funding from, for example, Horizon 2020. Members of the Cultural Practice cluster are collaborating with partners in China for work on the heritage industry, and the Gender, Sexuality and Inequality cluster is seeking further funding to explore issues of gender and modernity across Asia and Europe and global issues of sexual and reproductive rights.

(ii) Maximise research resources, in a competitive climate by: increasing applications for

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seedcorn funding from the University and external sources (e.g. the British Academy; the SHI Foundation) to secure funds that will support the development of large, interdisciplinary grant applications (e.g. working with Archaeology and Management we will develop a bid on culture and heritage for submission to European funding); utilising our international networks to pursue opportunities available through overseas organisations and bilateral agreements with UK funders; and continuing our practices of peer support and subjecting applications to rigorous quality control by the DRC.

(iii) Invest in our existing research clusters and centres to enable internal and external collaborations, and where we establish new expertise we will support new centres (for example, recently enabling the Chronic Disorders of Consciousness Group to become a full research centre from July 2013). We will forge new links with departments/centres at York and elsewhere in order to promote innovative thinking through intellectual cross-fertilisation. Examples include collaborative initiatives with Health Sciences and Biology who share interests in blood and pharmacogenetics with Brown and Webster.

(iv) Expand the audiences of our work, through the use of all available technologies to communicate our research, in order to raise our national and international profile. By enhancing the outward facing aspects of our work, in order to increase engagement with wider local, national and global communities, we seek to maximise the potential of our research to set and shape academic, social, cultural and political agendas. For example, we will build on the success of our existing blogs (e.g. *Thinking Culture*; *ECHR Sexual Orientation Blog*; and our Departmental *sociologyatyork.blogspot.com*), and our experiences of working with the Department of Theatre, Film and TV at York to make films and videos to disseminate our research. We will earmark funds for staff training to enhance our skills in using innovative media technologies.

Progress on all the above will be entered into the University's research information system (Pure) and monitored by the DRC who meet bi-termly to report and review progress on research activity such as; applications, collaborations, awards and progress on open access. Achievement of our targets is further facilitated through Departmental 'Away Days' devoted to the pursuit of our strategic aims.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Recruitment Strategy: Since 2008, the DoS has continued to recruit in accordance with our research and curriculum development strategy. There are three intersecting objectives: (i) investing in senior scholars to provide leadership in the DoS's four research clusters; (ii) recruitment of junior colleagues with outstanding potential to augment our areas of research excellence and ensure future sustainability; and (iii) consolidating a staff base with a range of substantive and methodological skills to facilitate innovative collaborative research and ensure dynamic teaching programmes. During the REF cycle we have achieved a good balance of research leaders, established mid-career scholars, and junior colleagues. A mark of our sustainability is that, although a number of senior colleagues have left or retired, our research clusters have all remained strong and vibrant, thus ensuring a stimulating intellectual environment. Advertised posts have attracted strong fields and enabled us to appoint high calibre scholars. By way of example, in 2012-13 we appointed three senior and eight junior colleagues (of whom six are ECRs) who brought both substantive and methodological expertise that enhanced our work in: *Gender, Sexuality and Inequality* (Annandale, Beynon-Jones, Johnson); *Cultural Practice* (Benson, Kapoor, Macdonald, Martin, Millington); *Science, Health and Technology* (Annandale, Beynon-Jones); and *Language and Social Interaction* (C.Jackson, Reed, Toerien). With the exception of Manning whose contract runs from September 2013 to 2015) all our category A staff are currently on permanent contracts, a practice we are keen to maintain.

Staff development: For those on teaching and research contracts, staff development is facilitated by five integrated mechanisms: (1) workload allocation; (2) research sabbaticals; (3) mentoring; (4) annual performance review; and (5) training. **Workload allocation:** for their first two years, ECRs

are allocated reduced teaching and administration loads to allow them to become firmly embedded within the DoS, the research clusters and to establish their own research initiatives. Senior appointments are also allocated reduced teaching and administration duties for their first two terms. *Research Sabbaticals*: our research leave policy document is available to all staff and is overseen by the DRC, who ensure that colleagues are relieved of teaching and administrative duties for one term out of every nine. Staff members must provide a viable proposal for and report on the outcomes of their sabbatical. *Mentoring*: junior staff are mentored by a senior colleague and are matched by research interests. The University provides additional support through its Postgraduate Certificate of Academic Practice (PGCAP) scheme, mandatory for all new lecturers. The PGCAP includes a specific focus on research activities, with workshops on writing for publication, doctoral supervision, research career development, research planning and management, and research ethics. *Annual performance review*: consisting of an intensive one to one discussion based on prior completion of a report of activities in the past year; future research plans and forthcoming research sabbaticals are discussed in the meetings. *Training*: the DRC organises a series of research fora for the whole DoS on writing and publishing, research integrity, open access, ethics and impact.

For those on research contracts, we have embedded the principles of the 'Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers' to facilitate a strong, nurturing research environment for staff. In support of the University's plan to implement the Concordat (endorsed by the European Commission's award of the 'HR excellence in research' badge) we identified a series of actions, which include ECR representation on the DRC and regular discussions on continuity of employment at an early stage. The career development of ECRs is further underpinned by an ECR's forum, funded by the DRC. Examples of career progression include: Beynon-Jones, a Wellcome research fellow promoted to an anniversary research lectureship against University wide competition; and Toerien, who transferred from an RCUK fellowship to a lectureship in 2013.

Equality of opportunity. All those involved in recruitment undertake equal opportunities training. Research sabbaticals and financial support schemes are applied irrespective of leave of absences or part-time status. Other personal circumstances that might inhibit the productivity of researchers are taken into account when conducting performance reviews and as part of the mentoring process. To identify equality issues that require resolution, senior and junior researchers and an elected representative of the PGR community are members of the DRC.

ii. Research students

Since 2008 our PhD registrations have increased to 88 compared with 66 for the previous RAE period, with applications especially buoyant during the last two years. We have awarded 39 PhDs, of which 16 were to international students. Our reputation for world leading sociological research on health and technology, popular culture, social media, language and social interaction, and gender and sexuality have proved to be attractive to home and international applicants. PGRs are an integral part of the intellectual vitality of the DoS and fully participate in seminars, research fora, and conferences, which in turn facilitates their networking throughout the discipline. Our PGRs are highly qualified and funded from a range of sources including the ESRC; AHRC; the University of York's Overseas Research Scholarships fund; the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission; the Bial Foundation (Portugal); and various overseas universities and governments. Supervision of doctoral work is overseen by a Thesis Advisory Panel which meets at least twice a year to review progress and training. York sociologists played a leading role in securing the White Rose ESRC DTC, which together with its partners, Sheffield and Leeds, offers excellent training programmes. The DTC reaches over 1,000 PhD students, has awarded 120 ESRC studentships, and attracted over £1.4m in matched funding. Sociology at York leads on various DTC Pathways, including a Science and Technology Studies pathway with four current students distributed between the centres. We have also secured three multidisciplinary four-year PhDs in 'Biosciences and Society'. Two White Rose training networks have been established: for Advanced Quantitative Methods and for Advanced Qualitative Methods (led by York sociologists). Employability is central to the training programme, for example, we have encouraged our PGRs to apply for competitive internships with successful results. One of our PGRs spent three months at ACAS (2009), another three months at the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (2009), and another six months at the ESRC

(2013). All PGRs in Sociology are allocated £500 to support their work throughout their studies. They all enjoy bespoke designated office accommodation and social facilities. If they wish, PGRs may also have a base in the new Research Centre for Social Sciences (RCSS) opened on the York campus in 2013 (see below) as well as access to single and group study spaces in the extended University Library.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Since 2008 our strategy for securing research income (detailed in REF 4b) comprised:

(i) Requiring all staff to be either holding or preparing a research grant. All submitted staff applied for grants during the assessment period and 75% have been awarded or held external grants whilst at York since 2008. This is a demonstrable increase over the RAE 2008 period, when fewer than 40% of submitted staff held grants. Despite a change in our demographic, with a relative increase of junior to senior staff, our average annual research income has increased to £461,585 in the current REF cycle from £454,906 in the RAE 2008 assessment period.

(ii) Investing in a Research Development Officer (a permanent joint appointment with Politics) to support researchers in identifying appropriate funding sources, to contribute to the preparation of grant applications and to support grant holders with project management.

(iii) Introducing an internal peer review process to enhance the quality of our applications. All applications are submitted to the DoS Peer Review College that draws on the expertise of staff with considerable experience of acting on research-commissioning panels. For example, this process was instrumental in developing the quality of the proposal for the ESRC research grant 'Life in the "Alpha Territory"' (£466,650; CI: Atkinson), a project developed in York with former colleagues Burrows (PI) and Savage (CI) who left in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

(iv) Securing pump priming funds from the University (matched by DoS) to develop new research projects. These awards have provided the basis for generating significant external grant income. For example, with the support of a University International Seedcorn Award Toerien established a partnership with Rhodes University (South Africa), leading to a grant with Beynon-Jones from the British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Scheme.

(v) Successfully targeting a diverse portfolio of funding bodies, reflecting both the vitality and variety of our research priorities. In this way, we have secured grants from major funders including the AHRC, British Academy, ESRC, EPSRC, EU, MRC, NIHR, and the Wellcome Trust. We have diversified our portfolio by successfully targeting non-traditional funders such as, the Spencer Foundation and Bial Foundation.

(vi) Strengthening our collaborations beyond the academy, particularly with representatives of bio-technology industries, charitable organizations, government departments, health and social services, and cultural industries. For example, SATSU has developed research relationships with industry, including Pfizer and Astra Zeneca. Research into health issues has resulted in working collaborations with Royal Societies and Colleges e.g. the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Royal College of Physicians, and the Royal Society of Engineers.

(vii) Embracing partnerships at an institutional, regional and international level. For example, we co-lead the 'Networking Young Citizens' research group hosted by the Worldwide University Network. As a result of this collaboration we were later awarded a Spencer Foundation grant with other network partners. International partnerships, such as the BA funded project with Rhodes (see iv above) were facilitated by a memorandum of understanding between the universities. At a regional level, Macdonald led York's successful bid as part of the N8 to the AHRC for a set of 'New Thinking from the North' networking activities.

The number and variation of our awards evidence the success of our strategy:

Collaborative research grants (core funders). We have led or collaborated on a series of major

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research grants including ten AHRC/ESRC/EPSRC/MRC research project grants and nine NIHR grants. We led the EU funded REMEDIÉ project and have been partners on a further three (EUCROSS; CIT-PART and 'Positive Action Measures in the EU, Canada, U.S.A. and South America'). All our projects have yielded high quality outputs. For example, Brown was PI of 'The political and moral economy of cord blood stem cell banking' (ESRC 2009-10), which led to five articles in high impact journals, six keynote presentations in the UK and Europe, and a series of engagements outside academia. Nettleton was CI on 'A sociological investigation into the everyday lives of recovering heroin users' (ESRC 2008-10), which led to nine articles in high impact journals, a co-authored book, and over 20 co-authored presentations to national and international academic and non-academic audiences. Two ESRC-Hong Kong Bilateral awards have further strengthened our international collaborations and cross-cultural research, the results of which are being widely disseminated.

Collaborative research grants (alternative funders). In line with our strategy to diversify our funding we have successfully secured awards from a number of smaller and alternative grant funders. By way of illustration they include: the Department for Work & Pensions; British Heart Foundation; the Health Foundation; the Big Lottery Fund; the Spencer Foundation (grant led by the University of Sydney), the French National Research Agency (grant led by Sciences Po) and the Swedish Research Council (grant led by the University of Umeå).

Research leadership and networking. Demonstrating leadership in the field, Webster acted as Programme Coordinator for the ESRC Stem Cells Initiative. We also coordinate an EU COST-Action network on 'Bio-objects', which produced the co-authored book *Bio-objects: Life in the 21st Century* (awarded the Olga Amsterdamska Prize, by the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology in 2012). Since 2012 four staff have been PIs or CIs on ESRC seminars series developing themes central to our interests: *Rethinking Centres and Peripheries* (Atkinson); *Austerity Futures* (Brown); *Advance decisions* (Kitzinger) and *The role of diagnosis in health and wellbeing* (Nettleton).

Fellowships. We secured a series of major, externally-funded fellowships and ECR awards from a range of funders. At the ECR stage this includes funding from RCUK (Toerien, Academic Fellowship), the ESRC (Uprichard, First Grant Award; Montgomery, Postdoctoral Fellowship; Benson, Future Research Leader) and the Wellcome Trust (Beynon-Jones, Research Fellowship). At the mid-career level, both Gane and Rees secured British Academy Mid-Career Fellowships.

Infrastructure and facilities

The DoS is located in Wentworth College, where staff enjoy a conducive working environment. All staff, including research staff, have single occupancy offices and high quality networked computing facilities, as well as access to excellent meeting, seminar and common room facilities. The DoS has a Visual Analysis Lab (VIL) which facilitates our research into CA. CWS, located close to Wentworth, has its own space with similar facilities for staff and research students plus a common room and computing lab. DoS staff also make use of buildings established to facilitate interdisciplinary work such as, the *Humanities Research Centre* (opened in 2009) and the *Alcuin Research Resource Centre* (ARRC) (opened in 2004 and funded by the Wellcome/ESRC Joint Infrastructure Fund) to host conferences and symposia. Colleagues make use of the bespoke rooms for focus groups, interviews, audio-visual recording and editing facilities, and sound-proofed telephone interviewing rooms. The *Research Centre for Social Sciences* (RCSS), which Webster led the development of as Academic Coordinator for Social Sciences, opened in 2013 and with Atkinson then appointed as Director. This is a dedicated building (costing c. £1.8m) that provides all social science disciplines with additional research training facilities, houses the offices of the ESRC DTC, and accommodates up to 80 PGRs, research groups, and conferences, as well as a state of the art training suite of interview and focus group rooms. The University Library has excellent holdings and a commitment to research support; it was invited to join *Research Libraries UK* in 2012. Researchers have access to 11,000 journals, over 100 databases, and over one million books. The University has recently invested £20m in the library buildings, and increased study spaces dedicated for research students to 1400. The University provides a regular mini-bus service to the British Library at Boston Spa.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Publishing, conferences and symposia

York sociology has a high profile throughout the discipline that has been sustained by our production of high quality well cited publications, editorial work, and our hosting of international conferences and symposia. Recognition of the significance of our work is evidenced by regular invitations to deliver plenaries at major conferences.

Although a small department, York sociologists have collectively published in excess of: 246 refereed journal articles, 85 book chapters, 18 authored books, 7 edited or co-edited books and 12 special issues of journals since 2008. We have been home to the editorial offices of three international journals: *Ethnicity and Health* (Atkin Editor in Chief); *Information, Communication & Society* (Loader co-editor) and the Medical Sociology office of *Social Science & Medicine* (Nettleton 2006-2010) and our new HoD (Annandale) was Editor in Chief of *SSM* 2004-2012. We have co-edited special issues of: *Ethnicity & Health* (Atkin), *Journal of Consumer Culture* (Beer), *Science as Culture* (Webster), *Sociology of Health and Illness* (Nettleton) and *Social Science & Medicine* (Nettleton), and Gane was the special issue editor of *Theory, Culture & Society*. We have also been members of numerous journal editorial boards with representation on the boards of: *Cultural Sociology*, *Information, Communication & Society*, *Feminist Theory*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Sociological Review*, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, *Sociological Research Online*, *Theory Culture and Society*, *Sexualities*, *New Genetics and Society*, *Health Informatics*, *Industry and Higher Education*, and *Science Studies*. We have co-edited book series, for example: the *European Sociological Association Book Series*, Routledge (Annandale); the *International Handbooks of Museum Studies*, Wiley-Blackwell (Macdonald); and the *Health Technology and Society* series: Palgrave Macmillan (Webster).

The energy and vitality of our research clusters and centres is evidenced by the fact that the DoS has organised over 42 international conferences and symposia, often resulting in special issues and/or edited collections. By way of examples, our *Cultural Practice* cluster staged the *York Deviancy Conference* (2011) that brought together most of the original key speakers from the 1968 *York Deviancy Conference* e.g. Cohen, Young, and Heidensohn, and reinvigorated the profile of our work on crime. A conference on *Field analysis, boundary drawing and socio-cultural inequality* (2011) resulted in a special issue of *Cultural Sociology* (2013). *Symbolic power and urban inequality: taking Bourdieu to town*, (2012) also drew in high profile speakers e.g. Poupeau (Centre Européen de Sociologie, Paris), Bourgois (University of Pennsylvania) and Wacquant (University of Berkeley). Our *Gender, Sexuality and Inequality* cluster organised major international events e.g. *Gendering the East West* 2009; *A Carnival of Feminist Cultural Activism* 2011 with the York Centre for Modern Studies. Joint funding (Universities of York and Hong Kong) brought together speakers from USA, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, China and South Korea for a conference on *Gender Intimacy and Modernity* in 2012. Conferences have also been co-hosted with Mid-Sweden University (2011) and SungKongHoe University, South Korea (2012). The *Science, Health and Technology* cluster has also organised numerous conferences: *A Decade in Internet Time: Symposium on the Dynamics of the Internet and Society* (2011) included speakers such as Castells and Wellman. *Bringing Regenerative Medicine to the Clinic: Trials and Tribulations in Europe and Beyond* (2011) was the REMEDIe Closing Conference organised by SATSU and held in Bilbao. *The Co-Production of Knowledge: Social Media, and STS* (2012) was an example of SATSU's annual conferences which routinely attract in excess of 250 participants. Finally, our *Language and Social Interaction* cluster continued to host the biannual international conference on *Conversation Analysis and Clinical Encounters* (2011 and 2013), a key event amongst those working in CA attracting speakers from UCLA (Heritage), Portland State University (Robinson), and the University of Wisconsin (Maynard).

York sociologists delivered in excess of 60 conference key notes, 117 UK and 72 non-UK conference presentations. Examples include: Atkin's opening keynote at the *Qualitative Health Research Conference*, Vancouver (2009); Hanquinet's presentation 'Beauty and the eye of the beholder', at the conference, *30 Years After Distinction*, Paris (2010); Johnson's invited presentation as a panel member at the *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on LGBT Human Rights*

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Advocacy event at Duke University, USA (2013); Kitzinger's opening keynote to the *International Language and Gender Association Conference*, Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos, Brazil (2012); Macdonald's opening keynote to the *Performance – Memory – Museum*, conference at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel (2013); and Webster's opening address to launch the Norwegian government's 'Year of Science' (2011).

Leadership of, and participation in, international networks

Our leadership of international research projects, networks and visiting scholar exchanges is further evidence of our collaboration and contribution to the discipline.

As noted in Section (d) above, we have successfully secured research funds for 7 international collaborations. The EU funded 'REMEDIe project (2008-2011) brought together a suite of international projects examining the cultural, political and scientific elements of Europe's regenerative medicine sector. Building on our successful involvement as a Marie Curie Training Site we lead an EU COST-Action network on 'Bio-objects' (2011-2015) bringing together 70 international scholars from 23 countries. We are also key participants in a World-wide University Network (WUN) on *Biocapital and Bioequity*. Our participation in the EUCROSS project *The Europeanisation of Everyday Life* has consolidated partnerships in Italy, Germany, Denmark and Romania. We have also led a WUN study group on 'Networking Young Citizens', resulting in a transnational Spencer Foundation funded project, 'The Civic Network' (2012-14). York sociologists have strong Scandinavian collaborations. Annandale is a partner on a Swedish Research Council funded project, 'How are sex, gender and health interwoven', and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Research, Gothenburg 2012-14. Macdonald is a member of the steering committee of the University of Gothenburg's Critical Heritage Studies programme and the steering committee of the Medical Museion, Copenhagen. Nettleton advises on studies funded by the Norwegian Research Council. Brown is on the scientific advisory board of the Bagadilico programme (University of Lund). Our two ESRC Hong Kong bilateral awards have fostered collaborations in Hong Kong, China and East Asia. Macdonald was an organiser of the *Living heritage in China* panel at the World Congress of Anthropology (2013) and a visiting fellow at Peking University (2011) and has been pivotal in the establishment of a network of colleagues throughout China.

Since 2008, through our visiting scholar scheme, we have hosted in excess of 20 visiting scholars for stays of between 2 and 12 months from Australia, China, India (including Commonwealth Fellows), Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Norway, Romania, South Korea, Spain, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, and the USA (Fulbright Fellows). York staff have also had formal fellowships at overseas institutions which include, by way of illustration: Brown (Humboldt, Berlin 2012/13); Kapoor (Duke University 2012/13); Johnson (University of Sydney 2013); S.Jackson (Örebro 2008 & 2010; National Sun Yat Sen 2011; Flinders 2012); Macdonald (Humboldt, Berlin 2013; Chinese academy of Arts 2013); and Webster (Sydney 2008).

Participation and representation on professional associations

York colleagues have contributed to the discipline through their active participation in professional associations. By way of examples: Annandale as a Vice President of the European Sociological Association (ESA); Atkin as an elected scholar of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodologies since 2007; and Macdonald as Chair of the Berlin Roundtable on Transnationality for junior scholars (funded by Irmgard Coninx Foundation) in 2013. We routinely review for journals and research funding bodies, and serve on the research commissioning panels such as: the AHRC and ESRC (Beer, Nettleton, Webster); the NIHR RfPB (Yorkshire and Humber) (2007-12) and Public Health Research Commission Panel (2010-ongoing, Atkin); the NIHR Training Fellowships (2012 ongoing, Nettleton); the Norwegian Research Council (Annandale, Webster); the Wellcome Trust and the Social Science Research Council of Canada (Webster). S.Jackson has been appointed to the Social Science Panel for the Hong Kong 2014 RAE.