

Institution: University of Warwick
Unit of Assessment: Sociology
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Sociology at Warwick centres on the Sociology department and members of research units with specific interdisciplinary concerns. These include the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM); the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender (CSWG); Comparative Labour Studies (CLS); Centre for Rights, Equality and Diversity (CRED) and the Social Theory Centre (STC), all bar the first are based in the Sociology department. This distributed infrastructure ensures a sustainable research environment while also facilitating strategic interdisciplinary initiatives to address big problems of global societies. The University continues to make significant investment in Sociology at Warwick, through the appointment of new staff, support for the Warwick ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (DTC), and by providing wider research support explicitly designed to promote interdisciplinary research as well as national and international research collaboration. This includes: outstanding specialised research support services (including a Brussels office to build European networks of researchers and stakeholders); a funded, interdisciplinary Global Research Priorities programme on topics including Food, Sustainable Cities, Connected Cultures, Global Governance, International Development, Science and Technology for Health; and international partnerships, with the Centre for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP), NYU and Monash University, Australia. Two members each from the Centre for the Study of Safety and Well-Being (SWELL) and the Institute of Employment Research (IER) are included: the first as their research involves close collaboration with CSWG and the second as they worked with a unit member on two major EC Framework programmes.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Sociology at Warwick has an outstanding record of public sociology that informs its commitment to scholarly, relevant social research. It is dedicated to public engagement with policy-makers, political activists, social movements, and the institutions of civil society. This emphasis on public sociology will continue as part of Warwick's contribution to the development of the discipline, to be enhanced by promoting an interrogation of the relation between theory and methodology with reference to the research clusters identified below. Our approach to public sociology is distinctive in three respects. First, we adopt a reflexive approach to address a variety of normative concerns, with an explicit focus on theory, epistemology and the authority of knowledge claims. This reflexivity informs a wide range of positions, covering innovation in modes of public engagement, interrogations of knowledge practices, and critique of both the conceptual foundations of different forms of expertise and Euro-centric histories of sociology itself. Second, we emphasise the importance of rigorous empirical research and methodological innovation, rooted in our longstanding dedication to and excellence in social theory. One striking characteristic of Sociology at Warwick stems from the way in which theoretical and methodological challenges are addressed together in response to transformations in the social world. Third, Sociology at Warwick acknowledges the variety of publics in question for a truly public sociology. It engages this variety through support for diverse research methods (from visual sociology to digital sociology, ethnography to cutting edge quantitative methods), innovatory modes of public engagement (such as exhibition and performance) and by engaging regional, national and global publics.</p> <p>The University's commitment to Sociology at Warwick is demonstrated in the appointment of 17 new members of staff over the REF period at both early career and senior levels, to ensure a balance of experience and new perspectives. The creation of CIM (2012) illustrates the University's ambition to promote innovative and experimental interdisciplinary knowledge. The University supports the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (DTC), the third largest single institution DTC in the country, through which we make a significant contribution to the training of future social scientists (Lury was the first Director; ten other unit members offer core and advanced training).</p> <p>Recent expansion has led to a reconfiguration of our primary research clusters, which now are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory and Methodology • Body, Science and Society • Inequalities and Social Justice

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- Culture, Media and Creativity
- Politics, Community and Civic Engagement

The descriptions below demonstrate an overlap in the membership and themes across the clusters. This is centrally important for the sustainability and cohesion of the unit.

Theory and Methodology (Archer; Beckford; Bhambra; Blencowe; Davies; Fine; Fuller; Gane; Hughes; Lury; Mast; Osuri; Smith; Stark; Thrift; Tkacz; Turner; Uprichard; Walsh) *Funded by: ESRC: ESF: AHRC: HERA: British Academy: Canadian Humanities and Social Science Council: Leverhulme Trust: Intel.*

Sociology at Warwick has an outstanding reputation for social theory. This cluster is distinctive for its global reach and its active exploration of the relations between theory and methodology, redefining the disciplinary and public relevance of social research. It brings into dialogue the internationally known work of established scholars (Archer, Beckford, Fine, Fuller, Lury, Stark, Thrift and Turner) with a unique emphasis on relations between theory, methodologies, and the constructions of research subjects and objects.

Archer's pioneering work in the field of critical realism is globally acknowledged. Her morphogenetic approach is employed across a wide range of interdisciplinary fields whilst her more recent work on reflexivity is central to developing international interest in relational sociology. Bhambra's analysis of the Euro-centric character of much social and political theory employs historical and post-colonial perspectives to argue the case for connected sociologies within an increasingly inter-dependent world. Fuller's work on epistemological engagement with science also informs a renewal of the discipline in processes of self-critique: his scholarship on creationism, evolution and the nature of knowledge challenges academic boundaries between disciplines. Beckford's focus on the sharp and continuing confrontations between secularism and religious faiths reveals the coercive knowledge underpinning all socio-political organisation, an approach complemented by Fine's continuing contribution to cosmopolitanism, its relation to transnationalism and to the promotion of human rights. Turner offers a fresh approach to understanding the historical tools and techniques of theorising in sociology while scrutinising current social and political thought. Future strategy builds on these foundations to make social theory and methodology relevant to contemporary social developments. Blencowe analyses relations between empowerment and racism in twentieth century Europe and Africa, Osuri works on religious freedom and (anti)conversion debates in India and Smith researches comparative relations between science, bio-politics and religion in the UK and the USA. Gane's work shows how classic sociological theory can critique contemporary capitalism and identifies the sociological roots of neo-liberal thought: projects central to the discipline and to public debate on the economy.

The main strategic development for this cluster derives from CIM, whose research builds on epistemological and ethical concerns to address contemporary issues created by interdisciplinary engagements, using volatile notions of space and fluid digital information to model social, cultural and temporal worlds. Lury (CIM Director; ESRC Professorial Fellow) works on 'live' sociological investigation and its enactments to explore the specificity of contemporary social change. Uprichard adapts complexity theory in the social sciences to include time dimensions that question interpretations of causality and change, and is Director of the new Warwick Q-Step Centre. Thrift is a renowned authority on how modes of representation shape styles of thinking and remains a prominent theoretical analyst of contemporary capitalism.

Body, Science and Society (Blencowe; Pereira; Dowler; Fuller; Hinterberger; Jensen; Smith; Steinberg; Williams) *Funded by: AHRC: ESRC: EPSRC: DEFRA: Food Ethics Council: CPRE: NESTA: Wellcome.*

Innovative research within this cluster crosses disciplinary borders; it addresses nutritional science, food security, pharmaceutical medicine, neuroscience, biotechnology, bio-medicine and genomics and interrogates the epistemologies particular to these knowledge forms. By querying the authority of scientific imperatives and acknowledging a plurality of truth conditions, research in this cluster challenges public debate and policy at national and international levels.

Research is characterised by an over-riding concern to bring different forms of knowledge into productive relation with one another. Building on extensive theoretical and empirical engagements

with the biosciences, Williams challenges the social and policy agendas created by increasing pharmaceutical interventions in human life, notably sleep and the neurosciences: his work attracts extensive media interest. Engagements with medical conceptions of the 'normal' inform Steinberg's research on genetics and sexualities to combat biological explanations of sexual identity and desire. As an internationally recognised public intellectual, Fuller has made dozens of radio and television appearances across five continents, including over 100 contributions to blogs and popular journals, to promote debate on the interface between scientific empiricism and public belief. Jensen's work on zoos and aquaria focuses on communication between the scientist and the public: how such institutions, as research users, can improve the impact of environmental messages on visiting publics. An international authority on household food poverty, Dowler's research engages policy-makers, faith groups and national media to challenge prevailing assumptions about the nutritional problems facing poor households in a context of rising prices and analyses how the political ambiguities of sustainable and affordable food should be addressed.

The strategic development of this cluster has guided recent recruitment. Pereira examines the epistemic status of feminist perspectives in scientific and technological debate to analyse how academics from different disciplines demarcate the boundaries of scientific knowledge. Hinterberger's research analyses the production of knowledge about human difference in genome science and explores the questions raised by the embodied blurring of human-animal 'borders' in emerging bio-medical technologies. These explorations question not only epistemic borders and boundaries but also the very definition of the human itself: a research theme to be carried forward in collaboration with Charles on changing constructions of human-animal relations.

Inequalities and Social Justice (Casey; Charles; Davies; Gane; Jones; Mah; Mizen; Orton; Ratcliffe; Solomos; Stark; Thiara; Tkacz; Wadia; Whiteside; Wolkowitz) *Funded by: ESRC: AHRC: British Academy: Women's Aid Federation (UK); NSPCC: Rowntree: Friends Provident Foundation: Zurich Financial Services: London Borough of Ealing: European Commission -FP6 and FP7: EU Agency for Fundamental Rights: CSIRO (Australia).*

Research here addresses classical sites of inequality and discrimination (gender, race /ethnicity and employment), their intersections, the solidarities they generate and the socio-political structures that sustain them. Public engagement remains central: through the media, with NGOs and in policy-making circles.

The impact of neo-liberal agendas on social inequalities provides the common framework within which members of this cluster work. The growing hegemony of neo-liberalism and its influences on economy, policy and employment defines how organisational innovation impacts on economic life (Stark, Gane). Davies works at the interface between economic methods and public policy; as neo-liberal economic argument conceives competition as the basis for socio-economic ordering, so policy-making institutions embrace economic psychology and behavioural economics as policy instruments. Drawing on empirical studies of 15 European localities and using Sen's capability theory as critique, Whiteside, Orton and Mah's research on European activation policies demonstrates how state interventions aiming to improve labour market function have counter-intuitive consequences. Neo-liberal approaches fail to address the situated circumstances of the workless, threaten job security and raise household debt as income discrepancies widen (Orton). International research on governance and funded pensions (Casey, Whiteside) analyses how neo-liberal agendas exacerbate market risk and political risk, to undermine income security in old age.

Wolkowitz's path-breaking research on 'body work' offers an innovative and influential concept to analyse gendered employment relations in both public and private services. By comparing forms of intimate work within a common analytical framework, this demonstrates the importance of such work for economic life. Charles and Thiara explore gender-based inequalities underpinning domestic violence, their intersections with other bases of inequality, and the effect of neo-liberal policies on services for women experiencing domestic violence. Similar issues are pursued internationally through an interrogation of conceptualisations of gender in different geographical spaces and in the context of global militarisation (Thiara, Wadia, Charles). The impact of new forms of governance on gendered inequalities and political engagement is the focus of research on Muslim women in France and the UK (Wadia) and on devolved government in Wales (Charles).

Work on the incidence of xenophobia and racism in EU member states by the Centre for Rights

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Equality and Diversity (CRED) monitors European Fundamental Rights for EU authorities in these areas. Inter-racial tensions, the focus of work on migration and social cohesion (Jones, Ratcliffe) has produced significant results for local policy-makers in the UK as well as in Europe. The movement of peoples within the EU, which the EC wishes to encourage, makes local identities more complex and may provoke disruption: a theme picked up by research under the FP7 project MYPLACE (see below). As neo-liberalism exacerbates ethnic, migratory or community tensions (Jones, Wadia) so this focus remains strategically central to future research in this cluster.

Culture, Media and Creativity (Blencowe; Pereira; Fuller; Gane; Goriunova; Jensen; Lambert; Lury; Mast; Mizen; Osuri; Popov; Steinberg; Thrift; Tkacz) *Funded by: ESRC; AHRC; Intel: British Academy: CEELBAS*

Research in this cluster defines the field. It brings together internationally recognised innovation in cultural theory with methodological approaches that address the specific complexities of contemporary culture. This includes major explorations of the non-representational, dynamic and performative dimensions of culture (Lambert, Lury, Mast, Popov, Thrift), as well as approaches that address the implications of growing digital mediation for innovation, knowledge and creativity (Fuller, Gane, Goriunova, Jensen, Tkacz). It identifies novel implications of contemporary scientific, religious and digital practice for culture and society, including the political implications of openness, and the value of fun in computational cultures. A highly distinctive focus analyses how knowledge claims acquire authority and meaning as cultural forms (Blencowe, Tkacz, Goriunova, Lury, Thrift).

Research on performance has many dimensions, including an active exploration of the implications of digital technologies, and a critical and generative exploration of the sociological value of practices of participation and audience engagement. Research on punk scenes in post-socialist societies involved the development of RottenBeat, an electronic resource that brings together musicians and new publics while Lambert's collaboration with Fierce Festival demonstrates the value of live art as political form. A sustained theoretical consideration of both performance and performativity and a critical and a creative consideration of how the use of performance can transform politics includes an interrogation of the implications of mediation for diverse forms of political engagement, from party politics (Mast) to community integration and urban life (Jones, Mizen, Thrift) while studies of cultural emergence and digital networks demonstrate how performance creates new kinds of political collectives and knowledge practices (Goriunova, Tkacz, Thrift). The focus on the value of creativity for sociology is highly distinctive.

Research also involves significant methodological innovations in the study of culture, including the use of visual methods (Lambert, Mizen), the use of methods that actively engage with audiences (Jensen, Lambert, Popov), the use of speculative design to study the performativity of numbers (Lury), and the creation of open or live archives (Goriunova). Two significant seminar series (Envisioning Sociology; Sens(e)tising Sociology) fostered interdisciplinary collaboration with cultural practitioners, including collaboration with Warwick Arts Centre on an Arts Council-funded project 'This is Tomorrow'. Davies, Jensen and Lury are members of the Warwick Commission on Cultural Value. This innovatory cluster contains imaginative and exciting approaches to culture and performance that will continue to define the state of the art in the coming years.

Politics, Communities and Civic Engagement (Beckford; Blencowe; Carpenter; Charles; Jones; Mah; Mizen; Osuri; Popov; Smith; Solomos; Thrift; Wadia) *Funded by: EC-FP7: ESRC: AHRC*

This cluster includes pioneering research on what a community is and how communities are changing in relation to globalising economic and political processes that operate at many different scales in diverse regional, national and international contexts. The EC-FP7 MYPLACE project (Carpenter, Charles, Mizen, Popov, Wadia) is exemplary in this respect. It examines the political culture and engagement of young people across Europe and the former USSR as these countries engage with their totalitarian pasts. Collaborating with universities from 14 countries, this path-breaking international research combines survey, interview and ethnographic instruments to provide pan-European data. It explores young people's receptivity to populism and will provide an important resource for EU policy-makers facing mass youth unemployment in member states.

There is also a distinctive emphasis on the significance of time-space relations for the politics of social change in a globalising world. Thrift's influential research demonstrates how transformations in time and space currently engender new forms of politics. Solomos is internationally recognised

as an expert on the changing dynamics of race, multiculturalism and social policy; Beckford remains a pre-eminent analyst of the transformative role of religion on social life and Mah's research on experiences of urban decline and post-industrial change in three cities in different continents offers an innovative exploration of the political challenges for communities living with uncertainty. As co-investigators, Mah and Carpenter collaborate on a current major project 'Community Engagement and Mobilisation', which links different 'imaginings' of community within histories of changing economic, social and political circumstance, urban regeneration policies, and local community activism. Osuri's study of religious freedom and (anti-)conversion in India informs an influential revision of the concept of sovereignty; Blencowe's research pioneers new authority studies; ethnographic research by Jones shows how local authority officers, politicians and policy practitioners negotiate inequality, belonging and place through the implementation of community cohesion policy; and Uprichard's research uses changes in food and eating in the city of York to study longitudinal socio-spatial change and continuity. In all these projects, methodological rigour and innovation produce significant findings for rethinking communities and the changing qualities of political life. Significant new funding carries this research agenda forward for future years.

Main objectives and activities for the next five years

Sociology at Warwick has undergone a period of renewal over the last five years, building on established research strengths to reinvigorate research on core sociological concerns and to demonstrate the relevance of the discipline for contemporary society and culture. It has broadened the range and scope of its expertise, and developed a distinctive approach to collaborative and interdisciplinary research as well as to strategies of public engagement. A special concern has been to develop expertise in research that recognizes the multiple scales of social life to create the foundations of a global public sociology. So, for example, established strengths in sociologies of science and medicine and growing expertise in the ethical dimensions of economic sociology will enable the unit to address global questions of rising political significance, such as the development of green economies: the ethical questions raised by scientific developments that challenge human-animal boundaries: religious faith and its impacts on political engagement. Key aspects of future research will be: the development of new modes of collaborative research to reflect the currently changing distributions of data, methods and expertise, the reconfiguration of publics and the identification of new research subjects and objects. This orientation is supported by the University's research strategy, its investment in international partnerships and the creation of CIM (2012).

To further these aims Warwick Sociology will continue to:

- Build international interdisciplinary networks and partnerships
- Search for, appoint, nurture and reward the most able academics.
- Build research capability in the social sciences, by playing a key role in the Warwick ESRC DTC and collaborating with other multidisciplinary DTCs to develop new innovative interdisciplinary approaches for postgraduate research skills training.
- Present our major areas of research strength around key global challenges with particular emphasis on research that can make an internationally distinctive contribution.
- Focus on the positive impacts of our research on society at large through developing strategies for collaborative research and public engagement.

c. People: At the census date, the unit covers 41 people (34.55 FTE)

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Since 2008, Sociology at Warwick has strengthened its research capabilities through new appointments: currently 13 early-career staff and two postdoctoral research fellows reinforce research capacity in core clusters; four new senior staff offer academic and research leadership. This strategy of renewal follows the retirement or part-retirement of eight eminent senior staff and other staff movements (including eight appointments to chairs elsewhere). With the establishment of CIM, interdisciplinary research across intellectual and global borders is extended. Strategic success has won external recognition with the award of competitive fellowships, honours and prizes. Fuller was selected President for Sociology and Social Policy at the British Association for the Advancement of Science; Charles has become a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales; Lury is a Fellow of the RSA. The unit also hosts three Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences (Fuller, Charles, Solomos). Gane has been awarded a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship,

Smith holds a Senior Leverhulme Research Fellowship and, in 2013 Lury was awarded an ESRC Professorial Fellowship. Over the review period, Bhambra and Mah both won the BSA Philip Abrams prize for published work and Orton was short-listed for best published paper by *Work Employment and Society* in 2012. Davies won the Bernard Crick Prize for his article in *Political Quarterly* (2013). Stark's 2011 'Structural Folds' paper (with Vedres) won the Roger V. Gould prize (*American Journal of Sociology*); Viviana Zelizer Award (American Sociological Association); Polanyi Award (Hungarian Sociological Association) and the Prize for Best Article (European Academy of Sociology). He received an honorary doctorate from ENS – Cachan in 2013.

Staff Development All research-active staff receive generous funding to finance research presentations at major conferences. In addition, early career researchers and probationary staff have a reduced work-load (66%) to provide time for research and writing for two years; research support is gained through an annual review with a senior colleague. Warwick's Research Development Fund provides financial support for academics to develop research projects. The Learning and Development Centre website offers access to staff training and online case studies. The Institute for Advanced Study and the Humanities Research Centre foster international collaboration, notably through the University's Strategic Partnership links, to promote interdisciplinary and international collaborative research, impact agendas and public engagement.

Equality of Opportunity Gender equality is sustained at all levels of seniority. 13 unit members are from ethnic minority groups or were born outside the UK. Warwick offers study leave to all academic staff on the basis of one term in seven. A managed teaching programme distributes teaching equally across the staff body to complement this policy. Since 2008, staff have taken a total of 38 terms' study leave and six staff took six terms' externally funded research leave.

Beyond existing university policies, laid down in Warwick's Concordat to Support Career Development of Researchers, Sociology organises workshops for research staff, provides opportunities for teaching and professional training (with university and external agencies) and a budget for research development and conferences. All research staff have a mentor to advise on career development, publication and job opportunities. Sociology's Research Support Committee (RSC) offers workshops on writing, publishing, CV preparation and presentational skills. Some research students are also appointed annually as sessional teachers. Training and monitoring programmes ensure that doctoral students and research staff have the skills and competence to contribute effectively to undergraduate teaching and to develop their professional profiles.

We hosted a total of 18 research fellows over the REF assessment period, including postdoctoral researchers on Research Council fellowships as well as researchers employed on projects funded by the Research Councils, the EC and other national and local agencies. Postdoctoral fellows attend departmental meetings and receive departmental funding for conferences, research expenditures and the chance to gain teaching experience. Two of the three postdoctoral fellows whose contracts have ended since 2008 have been appointed to permanent posts. There are currently two Warwick IAS Global Research Fellows in the unit (Mast, Walsh).

Maintenance of Standards of Research Ethics, Quality and Integrity The RSC oversees all research proposals to advise on ethical issues; it guarantees co-authorship of publications when doctoral students or post-doctoral researchers collaborate with senior staff. Research grant applications are checked for quality and integrity by University Research Support Services (RSS). Research must be approved by the Faculty Research Committee which has rigorous procedures.

ii. Research students

Sociology at Warwick sustains a large and vibrant body of home and international research students whose projects range widely, both globally and intellectually. During the assessment period, 60.5 PhDs were awarded to students supervised by unit staff. Of those currently registered as doctoral students, about half are in receipt of external funding or a competitive award. 64% are home / EU and 36% international; 90% are full-time and 10% part-time.

Postgraduate research environment A strong research culture and collective identity actively includes doctoral students. They organise annual conferences and seminar series, inviting new and established scholars as plenary speakers, as well as doctoral students from other universities, thereby offering opportunities for all to gain experience in research presentation and public

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speaking. Research students participate in all seminar series and are involved in our online presence using social media and blogs to enhance public engagement with our work.

All doctoral students are jointly supervised: less experienced members of staff supervise in conjunction with a senior colleague. The Warwick ESRC DTC provides core and advanced training, supplemented by path-specific and further general training, including formal sessions on professional development led by the Director of Graduate Studies. All first year Sociology doctoral students take Research Process and Research Design to promote their early integration into our research culture. Doctoral students are also integrated into international research environments. Bhambra has organised three international early career summer schools for PhD students from across the UK and USA over the REF period (workshops held in Warwick and Boston). The DTC has an international PhD partnership agreement with the Centre for Youth Studies at the Department of Sociology in the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg to promote visiting exchanges of staff and students (Popov; Mah; Goriunova). And there is an annual writing workshop for Warwick postgraduates held at the Monash campus in Prato (Italy).

The Sociology department provides communal research facilities for first year postgraduate research students and a dedicated desk, with computer, telephone and IT facilities, in a private office for all final year doctoral students. The University offers competitive postgraduate scholarships (Chancellor's Scholarships; Chancellor's International Scholarships; Wolfson Foundation Scholarships) for outstanding students. The University's Postgraduate Hub helps research students to convene and run collective events and the Wolfson Research Exchange facilitates inter-disciplinary postgraduate research student networks. In the development of the Warwick Portfolio, the Graduate School supplements the unit's sessions on professional development to offer advice on the presentation of a skills portfolio and job applications.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income: Sociology at Warwick has helped to secure over £13 million in research awards since 2008. This is over four times the amount secured over the previous research assessment period. Of this sum, nearly £8 million goes direct to the unit. Major European awards (CAPRIGHT, GUSTO and MYPLACE – the last two hosted at Warwick) involve extensive collaboration with universities within and without the EU. Other examples of major international collaborative research include:

- Research by CRED (PI: Ratcliffe) funded by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and the European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia (RAXEN): £500,000
- Charting the Digital (PI: Lammes, with Utrecht and Manchester Universities) funded by the European Research Council: £564,000
- Post-Socialist Punk (PI: Pilkington, when at Warwick, with partner universities in Russia, Estonia, Croatia) funded by the AHRC and CEELBAS: £505,670
- Superannuation Research Cluster (PI: Monash: Co-Is Casey, Whiteside) funded by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Council (Australia): £430,000

Individual academics have also received European recognition and awards (Bhambra: Popov).

Major national research collaborations include:

- Community Engagement and Mobilisation (PI Manchester: Co-I Mah - and several UK universities) ESRC: £119,000
- Making Science Public (PI Nottingham: Co-I Smith, with Sheffield University) Leverhulme Trust: £265,000
- Medicated Sleep and Wakefulness (PI Royal Holloway: Co-I Williams, with Kings College London) ESRC: £314,500
- Qualia: Automated impact evaluation for the arts (PI: Jensen) funded by NESTA / AHRC / Arts Council: £125,000.
- 'Go Home': Mapping the unfolding controversy of Home Office immigration campaigns (PI Jones: with East London, Goldsmiths, Birmingham City and Bedfordshire) ESRC: £200,000

In addition to eight competitive European grants (EC-FP7; HERA; ESF; ERC), Sociology at Warwick has won 17 new ESRC, seven AHRC and one EPSRC research awards, plus eight British Academy grants. Smith is financed by the Leverhulme Trust. Three of Dowler's projects were funded by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Friends Provident

funded three Orton projects. The Ford Foundation financed research by Fine and Ratcliffe; the Wellcome Trust supported Jenson and Williams. Beckford's research with universities of Ottawa and Montreal is funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Research output has been prodigious. Over the assessment period, unit members have published over 100 books and special editions of academic journals, about 280 academic journal articles and 200 chapters in edited books as well as over 100 other reports and research output. Over 50 publications are translated into other languages. Interdisciplinary research involves colleagues in the humanities, the natural and social sciences: from law and political science to media and the arts: from medicine and nutrition to neuroscience, crop research and civil engineering. Research findings inform public debate in the media and policy-makers at national and international levels.

Strategies for generating grant income The mentoring system is integral to our success. All members have mentors chosen by the staff themselves, with less experienced members steered towards experienced researchers with knowledge of their field. The Research Support Committee monitors the progress of all research and facilitates integration with other research activity. The University's Global Research Priorities programme fosters collaboration across disciplinary borders, to address major contemporary issues, to promote collaborative interdisciplinary research bids. Bhambra runs a Postcolonial Studies network and Smith the Religion, Rights and Social Justice network - both facilitated by the GRP Connecting Cultures and both hosted by Sociology.

Infrastructure and facilities The unit offers technical and administrative support for research bids; all research staff have personal office workspace and computing facilities. The University provides extensive support to enable new projects to win awards.

- The Institute of Advanced Study (IAS), the Research Development Fund (RDF) and some GRP programmes offer seed-corn money for background research to prepare research bids. During the assessment period the RDF funded seven such initiatives (Bhambra, Blencowe, Dowler, Hughes, Lambert, Smith, Uprichard) and the IAS supported a further nine (Bhambra, Charles, Dowler, Fuller, Hughes, Jensen, Mizen, Whiteside and Williams) - these last involving the creation of new research networks, the preparation of research results for publication as well as the development of new proposals. The unit has received over £112,000 in research support from the University over the assessment period.
- The IAS sponsors visiting fellowships, to encourage research collaboration with the GRPs. During the assessment period, Sociology at Warwick hosted eight IAS and Warwick visiting fellows: five from the USA and one each from UK, Pakistan, Australia and France.
- The University Research Support Services (RSS) team offers extensive help to develop applications, to prepare research bids and research costing. Their website and regular bulletins provide information about funding opportunities and they run training courses on bid preparation and facilitate meetings to promote new inter-disciplinary proposals. RSS staff spend one day per week in the Sociology department for direct consultation.
- The Library has extensive holdings on-line that are easily accessible on and off-campus.
 - It hosts the Wolfson Research Exchange, a network of postgraduate and early career researchers, to promote interdisciplinary events, including overseas conferencing facilities that foster academic research across disciplines and promote social and academic networking within Warwick and beyond.
 - It runs workshops on writing, professional presentation and job applications.
 - It has dedicated spaces for research postgraduates and also contains the Modern Records Centre, an extensive archive of trade union and business records.
- IT Services are available, including at week-ends, to tackle problems off and on-campus

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Research initiatives sponsored by Sociology at Warwick involve academic colleagues in Africa, Australia, Brazil, India, the USA, Russia and Eastern Europe, as well as other EU member states. As indicated above (**Income**), such collaborative research generates sizeable research grants. Seven major European and four other languages are spoken by unit members, facilitating the international collaborations for which Sociology at Warwick is renowned.

Collaboration with industry, commerce and the third sector. Dowler is a member and elected

director trustee of the Food Ethics Council: the FEC regularly informs policy debate and its reports attract national media attention. One such, *Food Justice* (2011), funded by Rowntree, drew evidence from Chatham House, Fairtrade Foundation, NFU, Food and Drink Federation and The Gangmaster's Licensing Authority. Jensen's research has developed in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London, the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and similar organisations with interests in species conservation and the environment in the UK and overseas. Lury's research on numbering practices is sponsored by Intel; she co-organised a series of high-profile events on topology at Tate Modern. Whiteside is Zurich Financial Services Fellow and, with Casey (consulted by DWP on personal pension finance), wrote a commissioned report for ZFS on UK savings behaviour and pension development. Davies worked as a researcher for the Ownership Commission (set up by Tessa Jowell in 2010 and chaired by Will Hutton) and as a consultant on the Nuttall Review in the Department of Business Innovation and Skills on increasing employee ownership in the private sector (2012). Thiara collaborates with third sector organisations ranging from Ashram (Birmingham), Southall Black Sisters (London), Refuge (UK) and Women's Aid (UK) to MIFUMI (Uganda) and Black Sash (South Africa). Wadia's ESRC-funded research informed workshops run by the Muslim Women's Network (UK) in collaboration with Parliamentary Outreach, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Government Equality Office. Charles collaborates with Welsh Women's Aid and the EAW (Wales) campaign. Such examples illustrate the range and scope of research collaborations with which unit members are involved.

Contribution to journal editorships / conferences / seminar series / research-based CPD Sociology at Warwick takes an active leadership role in the development and promotion of the discipline, its sub-fields and cognate disciplines in the UK and internationally. During the assessment period, members have been international visiting academics / professors / adjunct faculty (Bhambra, Dowler, Fuller (2), Smith, Stark (10), Whiteside). We have been awarded five ESRC / Wellcome funded seminar series (PIs: Jensen; Steinberg; Uprichard; Whiteside; Wolkowitz) in addition to regular departmental and research centre seminars and workshops. We edit four and are editorial board members of 23 academic journals and also edit four book series.

Sociology at Warwick hosted the BSA annual conference in 2008 and the BSA Work, Employment and Society Conference in 2013 (in collaboration with IER and the Business School). Bhambra convenes the BSA Theory Study Group: she has organised three international conferences over the REF period and was a member of the BSA Council. We have given nearly 100 plenary lectures at international conferences over the assessment period, a total that excludes Thrift's many presentations to international audiences on the future of higher education and associated topics.

Contribution to Professional Associations/ Learned Societies Since 2008, unit members have served on the executives or research advisory boards of both national and international research teams (Dowler (3); Lury; Ratcliffe; Solomos (2); Stark (2); Whiteside (3)). Members serve on the ESRC Peer Review College: (Bhambra; Uprichard; Whiteside; Wadia) and on the ESRC Strategic Research Board (Solomos). Two senior members sit on the Research Assessment Panel for Sociology in the 2013 REF (Solomos; Charles). Thrift was a member of the Sexton-Trainor Commission on Links between British and US Higher Education (reporting to the Prime Minister in 2009); a member of the American Council of Education Blue Ribbon Panel on Global Engagement (2010-11) and has been a member of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology since 2012. He chaired the IPPR Independent Commission on the Future of Higher Education (2012).

Co-operation and Collaboration for PGR Training Sociology at Warwick played a key role in the successful bid to the ESRC for a Doctoral Training Centre, and makes a substantial contribution to its programme. Sociology leads three pathways: Sociology, Social Policy, and Women and Gender, while jointly coordinating a fourth with Politics and Law on Security, Conflict, and Justice. Lury was Director from January 2012-October 2013, securing funding for 15 international PhD partnerships and five additional studentships from the University. Bhambra convenes the core Philosophies of Social Science Research module and organizes advanced training; Solomos convenes Practice of Social Research; Lampard convenes a Quantitative Research Methods module. Jensen and Mah contribute to these modules; Goriunova, Smith and Whiteside offer specialist advanced training in ethnographic method, digital methods and archival research and Fuller provides specialist sessions on biological challenges to the social sciences and public understandings of social science.