

<p>Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: C23 Sociology</p> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>Sociological research at MMU brings together staff from three Faculties who belong to the Departments of Sociology (12 researchers), Human Geography (7), and the School of Law (4). In addition to the staff presented in this submission, the strength of sociological research at MMU is also demonstrated by the UoA22 submission, which incorporates a further cohort of Sociology staff (4). Indeed, collaboration, and especially recent major bidding successes, characterises the relationship that exists between key professorial researchers in the two UoAs, specifically Pollock (UoA23) and Fox (UoA22). In total researchers have produced 16 books, 7 edited books, 128 refereed journal articles, and 65 book chapters during the census period.</p> <p>Research is focused on three core areas: the Identities & Rights group includes work on sexualities, gender, and legal rights (Arun, Atkinson, Binnie, Brahic, Cook, Jacobs, Klesse, van Hooff, Waughray, and Whittle). The Urban Cultures & Infrastructures group includes staff with shared thematic interests in tourism, urban aesthetics, global mobility, consumption, urban regeneration and resilience (Cheng, Edensor, Holloway, Kennedy, Miles, O'Hare, and Young). The Knowledge, Discourse & Society group contains work on media representations, cultural narratives, body modification, youth transitions and the relation of history and experience to contemporary habits and practices (Edwards, Latham, Meyer, Milestone, Pollock, Scanlan, and Young).</p> <p>Research in Sociology is managed through the Centre for Transitions in Society & Space (CTSS), headed by a Director (Miles) and a Research Committee composed of senior research staff and the Head of Sociology. CTSS replaced the <i>Manchester Institute of Social and Spatial Transformations</i> (MISST) in 2009, and its activities occur within the wider context of the <i>Institute of Humanities & Social Science Research</i> (IHSSR), which was created in 2009 out of a strategic merger of the <i>English Research Institute</i> (ERI), the <i>Manchester European Research Institute</i> (MERI), the <i>Information Research Institute</i> (TIRI) and the <i>Manchester Institute of Social and Spatial Transformations</i> (MISST). At university level research is managed through the <i>Research and Knowledge Exchange</i> (RKE) office, whose Director of Research and team of three professorial section heads (for Research, Knowledge Exchange and Postgraduate Studies respectively) report to the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Strategic Planning.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>In RAE 2008 Sociology at MMU improved from its Grade 3a rating in 2001 to an average current star rating of 2.15. 35% of our research was recognised as 'world leading' and 'internationally excellent,' with 75% in total recognised as work of a quality that is 'internationally recognised' in terms of 'originality, significance and rigour.' For REF 2014 our principal goal has been to enhance our research capability and facilitate the delivery of a greater proportion of international quality outputs. The success of our strategy for delivering a sustainable research environment within which we could increase our proportion of world-leading and international class research can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21.25 Category A staff are returned (cf. 22.5 in RAE 2008; 19 in RAE 2001). • Researchers included in this submission have published 23 books and 193 articles or book chapters since 2008 • During the current REF period, the total external income generated by the UoA was almost £1.2M (a 100% increase on RAE2008). • Promotions and new appointments were made at both senior and junior levels, including: 2 Professorships (Miles, Pollock), 1 Readerships (Jacobs), 1 Senior Research Fellow (Kennedy), and 6 Lecturers / Senior Lecturers. • There have been 20 PhD completions in the period 2008-13. <p>IHSSR's strategic aim is to deliver world-class research with high impact that supports the economic and social development on a regional, national and global scale. Our strategic vision at UoA level is drawn from the University's corporate objectives to 'deliver research that has a real</p>

impact on current and future global challenges' and to 'ensure that educational and scholarly activities of the University are enriched through its interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary activity'. Our vision is to promote research in Sociology that 'lives in the world'. Our strategy for achieving this is through *quality and cohesion* and *knowledge exchange*.

Quality and Cohesion. CTSS aims to increase the volume and quality of its research, and create a high-calibre research culture, with the aim of optimising long-term performance and sustainability. We will do this through: (a) a staffing policy that maintains the number of research leaders whilst attracting emerging talent in key areas; (b) on-going staff research development with peer review and mentoring for staff at all levels; (c) a transparent and easily-accessible system of financial support; and (d) active promotion and implementation of the University's Research, Knowledge and Exchange (RKE) priorities. Wherever appropriate staff research training and funding opportunities have been opened up to our postgraduate students, and both PGT and PGR programmes are now firmly embedded within the research environment and culture of CTSS.

Knowledge Exchange. CTSS is increasingly engaged in outward-facing, cross-disciplinary research. Our successes to date are demonstrated by our impact case studies and by an increasing number of collaborative projects both with external partners (such as Pollock's EUFP7 project, 'MyPlace', conducted with researchers from 16 partner institutions) and within MMU (such as the recent cross-disciplinary bid for Leverhulme funding under its 2013 'Innovations for Sustainable Living' theme, where CTSS researchers Edensor and Cheng, have worked with Science & Engineering and Business colleagues). Since RAE2008, the University's commitment to a collaborative approach has been consolidated by a thorough overhaul of existing research-management structures. The IHSSR, created in 2009 from the merger of four discrete, subject-specific research institutes in the humanities and social sciences, fosters cross-disciplinarity by bringing together staff and students from four different Faculties (Humanities, Languages & Social Science, Science & Engineering, Business & Law and MMU Cheshire), its members working across nine disciplines: English, History, Human Geography, Information & Communications, Law, Languages & Linguistics, Philosophy, Politics and Sociology. The IHSSR's brief of supporting cross-disciplinary research has been realised through the development of cross-departmental channels of communication, including a multidisciplinary Annual Research Programme (since 2010/11 – and renamed 'Humanities in Public' in 2013), the IHSSR website [www.hssr.mmu.ac.uk], various Institute-wide information and training initiatives (such as bidding and media training) and, most significantly, the formation of seven cross-disciplinary University-wide research clusters led, in two cases, by CTSS staff. At University level the Research, Enterprise and Development (RED) office has undergone transformation into the Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) office, reflecting a significant shift towards understanding research and knowledge exchange, which encompasses public engagement, impact generation and commercial enterprise as part of a continuum which facilitates a two-way flow of knowledge and expertise between the University and wider society, placing knowledge production alongside societal impacts and economic benefits.

CTSS's expansion of knowledge exchange activity is supported by: (a) active engagement with the IHSSR's Annual Research Programme, a staff-led series of weekly public events featuring high-profile participants from both outside and within MMU, and organised into research strands of interest to researchers across the Institute (e.g., talks by Brahic, Cook, Edensor, Kennedy, Latham, and Young). These strands have focused on 'Globalisation', 'Community', 'Digital Humanities', 'Human Rights', Ethical Issues in Humanities Research'; for 2013-14 they will include: 'Contemporary Gothic', 'Global Citizenship' (run by Kennedy), 'Feminism in the Twenty-First Century', 'Bodies and the Law' (run by Latham and involving Young), and 'Cultural Geographies' (led by Edensor and Millington); (b) the integration of CTSS members into cross-faculty research clusters and the organisation of research away days on themes and issues of cross-disciplinary relevance; (c) the provision of relevant training opportunities, e.g. the Embedding Impact in Research Workshops run by RKE and the IHSSR media training workshops run by a BBC broadcaster. The HLSS Faculty Plan includes a commitment to increasing research grant income over the 2012-17 period by 100% and the number of Principal Investigators by 20%. To achieve this aim CTSS staff are supported by the IHSSR, which (a) provides bid-writing training workshops

for all Institute members, including overnight bid-writing 'retreats' run by Young and Smithson and attended by nine UoA staff this year (b) introduces individual researchers and/or research groups to funding schemes of particular pertinence to their work, and provides tailored training where applicable; and (c) supports the production of viable research bids through a (recently introduced) system of internal peer review – 18 staff in the Unit are members of the peer review college (see: www.hssr.mmu.ac.uk/secure/peer-review-college/).

c. People, including:

(i) *Staffing Strategy and Staff Development*: CTSS's recruitment strategy has built critical mass in established and emergent research areas (such as sustainability, urban regeneration, and consumption) and made moves towards ensuring a sustained development of the environment through new appointments. Since 2008, the long-term future of research has been strengthened by the appointment of six new full-time staff, and two fractional staff, in positions ranging from Lecturer to Professor. In our three core areas these are: ***Identities and Rights*** (with new appointments, Atkinson, Brahic, van Hooff), ***Urban Cultures & Infrastructures*** (Kennedy, Miles, O'Hare) and ***Knowledge, Discourse & Society*** (Edwards, Scanlan). Our research maintains continuity with the past, but is also evolving to establish concentrations of talent with individuals who are on an upward research trajectory and well positioned to benefit from the considerable strategic developments since the inception of IHSSR and the development of the RKE agenda. All support processes and structures for research comply with the principles of the 'Concordat for the Development of researchers' and MMU has been awarded the EU HR Excellence in Research Award in recognition of the quality of these processes.

Staff Development: CTSS is committed to supporting the professional development of researchers at all points of their careers. The University has implemented the HERA framework to support progression from Research Associate through to Research Professor. Researchers engage in an annual Professional Development and Review (PDR) in order to map out career and research objectives. Career advancement for researchers exhibiting three and four-star work is available through the annual round of Applications to the Professoriate Committee, which considers appointments at the level of Professor, Visiting Professor, Reader, Professorial Research Fellow or Senior Research Fellow. Recent successful applicants through this scheme within the UoA are Pollock (Professor, 2012) and Jacobs (Reader, 2009). At Research Institute level, IHSSR uses the University's competitive *Research Accelerator Grants* (RAG) scheme to nurture new talent. The RAG scheme provides early career researchers with i) the costs of, for example, a small piece of exploratory research, travel or equipment; and ii) help in the development of the skills and confidence to apply for funding from external bodies. IHSSR has also established a *Research Fellowship Scheme*, appointing one Junior and one Senior Fellow twice a year. The aim of this scheme is to nurture and augment homegrown research capacity. Young was one of the first recipients of this award, which requires Fellows to deliver an external funding bid at the end of the secondment period (the other recipient was Smithson, a member of Sociology staff submitted to UoA22). Additionally an annual Knowledge Exchange Project Awards scheme was instituted in 2013, with prizes of £1000 and £500 awarded to individuals in faculties across the university who have shown outstanding knowledge exchange activity.

These initiatives exist alongside the previously mentioned system of internal peer review for funding applications, the *Bidding for Success* (for all staff) and *Writing for Success* (for postgraduates and ECRs) workshops, and the introduction of new flexible researcher categories that are aimed at facilitating upward research progression for new researchers and achievable individual career development objectives. All research-active staff are also given an individual annual research allowance [1.5k max] for conference attendance and other research trips / activities. (The amount reflects the expectation that research-active staff attend one international and one national conference per year.) In general, active researchers benefit from reduced teaching and administration loads. The typical teaching-load reduction for research leaders stands at 50%. Research activity and research success are measured annually with reference to a variety of factors including career stage, grant income and recent publications. All staff in CTSS are also eligible to apply for teaching and administrative buy-outs, which are effectively equivalent to a period of research leave.

Staff Mentoring: The development of junior staff is enhanced through a system of mentoring. All new appointees are assigned a mentor whose role is to offer guidance on research development. Mentoring is also often done through joint postgraduate supervision. For instance, Meyer (returned as an ECR in RAE 2008) acted as co-supervisor with Kennedy (acting as Director of Studies) for a PhD that was completed in July 2011 (Brahic, included as ECR). Mentoring can also occur through joint course administration of postgraduate taught programmes: our MA in European Urban Cultures, for instance, is run by a senior member of staff, Miles, and a junior colleague, Grimm, who is a recent appointee as Lecturer (not returned in REF2). Additionally, considerable emphasis, where the opportunities are evident, is also placed on collective projects involving a mix of senior and early career staff. The purpose of this is to facilitate the academic development of early career staff. Good examples of this can be seen in the Binnie / Klesse, Edensor / Millington and Jacobs / Brahic collaborations, which have delivered considerable research outputs in leading journals; in the Young / Cheng and Edensor / O'Hare mentoring relationships – Young and Cheng were recently successful in attaining internal funding support from RKE for knowledge exchange activities in China. It is through such means that the University's research strategy accords with the key principles for the support and management of research careers as described in the 'Concordat for Supporting the Career Development of Researchers'.

Equality and Diversity Support: The University's commitment to equal opportunities is set out in MMU's Equality and Diversity Policy, Vision for Equality and Diversity and Single Equality Scheme (SES). The implementation of these policies is supported in the Single Equality Scheme Action Plan including extensive staff development activities, and has informed other strategies such as the Human Resources Strategy. Importantly our commitment to the principles of equality and diversity has been exemplified in the selection of staff for inclusion in this submission. A number of staff are returned with a reduction in outputs, and whatever their circumstances (e.g. part-time status, ECR, maternity leave, illness) they have been considered equally alongside staff who are making a full REF submission, and have been able to benefit from having the same access to research funding as any other member of CTSS.

(ii) Research Students: Between 2008 and 2013 twenty PhD students successfully submitted their work (Al-Alami, Bielewska-men, Brahic, Davies, Easton, Falconer, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gu, Harvey, Hoang, Hudson, Echegoyen-Nava, Middlehurst, Mearns, Porter, Price, Shember-Critchley, Walker, West) and there are currently another ten PhD students being supervised by staff in the UoA (Akinsete, El-Abani, Jordan, Kent, McCormick, Mirza, Ngo, Smith, Tajammal, Wisely). Recruitment of PhD students has been supported by the provision of University-wide fully funded studentships (50 available at an institutional level in 2012, and funded by the various Research Institutes; recipients of IHSSR funding in Sociology included Jordan and Kent) and Faculty studentships. Former CTSS students have been successful in finding post-doctoral academic employment (Wisely, to a Research Fellowship at the University of Coventry, and Echegoyen Nava, to a Projects Officer role with the ESRC); and also to MMU lectureships (Porter; Brahic).

Institutional arrangements for research students have been overhauled and improved since 2008 to provide a comprehensive structure of support. At the departmental level all students are provided with dedicated office accommodation, along with IT facilities (a new post-graduate suite with significantly improved opened at the start of session 2013-14). All students have access to research funding to cover the costs associated with conference attendance and contributions, research trips, and other costs related to their work. Funding for a presentation at least one non-UK conference during a standard PhD is the norm. Students are also expected to contribute to the IHSSR's Annual Research Student Symposium (formal feedback outside supervisory teams is provided prior to and after presentations) and to contribute to PG workshops which provide students with an early opportunity to give papers on their research, and are encouraged to attend seminar series in departments where staff share research interests (such as the weekly Environmental and Geographical Sciences Seminars, which are partially organised by CTSS staff working in social and cultural geography). Postgraduates are also encouraged to give papers at research events elsewhere within the university, where shared interests exist across disciplines. A recent example was Wisely's presentation on 'The Genealogy of the Needle' to the Philosophy Postgraduate Seminar, which was later made available online.

Support mechanisms for postgraduate students are embedded at all levels. In collaboration with the RKE Office, the University Graduate School runs an annual student development programme that ensures postgraduate researchers have the skills needed to successfully manage their research career. This Research Student Development Programme – identified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education as an area of good practice in their 2009 institutional audit – is updated on an annual basis and incorporates workshops put together in response to student feedback. At Faculty level, support is offered by the Faculty of Humanities, Languages and Social Science (HLSS) Graduate School that runs an Annual Research Student Symposium, a Research Planning Workshop, and the *Writing for Success* workshop. Research students are also encouraged to participate in and organise seminars and symposia in their subject research groups. During the 2012/13 academic year a variety of inter-disciplinary symposia and workshops were held, reflecting a faculty commitment to research that transcends academic boundaries including a major two-day PG workshop on 'Neoliberalism as Policy, Theory and Practice' (organised by Kennedy) and featuring contributions from CTSS staff (Jacobs).

All research students have an annual review conducted by a qualified staff member from a department other than the one they are registered with. This allows the student and the Director of Studies to provide feedback on how the student is progressing and the Faculty Research Degrees Committee to monitor the progression of students and to provide additional support to those who are not progressing satisfactorily. In order to enhance our PG students' employment prospects the University has established the MMU Postgraduate Passport that replicates the postgraduate recruitment process and guides students in how to articulate and sell their skills effectively. To earn the MMU Postgraduate Passport, research students are required to participate in, and reflect upon, a range of activities that develop their employability skills. Within the UoA PhD students are provided with teaching opportunities wherever possible. In preparation for this, they take the 'New to Teaching' course run by the MMU Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

(i) *Income*: The work of Pollock represents a key strategic income-generating initiative within CTSS. His 'MyPlace' project (in collaboration with 16 partner institutions) was awarded 7.9m Euros in 2011 under the EU FP7 initiative (the project ends in 2014). Successful bids were: 'MyPlace', *FP7 Programme of the EU Framework*, £885,440 (Pollock); 'Designing Out Fatness: The Built Environment in Anti-Obesity Policy', ESRC, £23k (Evans); 'Women Working Worldwide,' *The National Lottery*, £282k (Hale); 'Closed: Young Offenders in Cheshire', *Cheshire Council*, £8k (Leach).

Pointing the way to the post-2014 future, CTSS was given a further boost by another major award, in August 2013, for Pollock (along with Chris Fox, a Sociology Professor returned in UoA22) of 1.5m Euros of EU FP7 funds for a project scoping the development of a longitudinal study of children and young people's well being in Europe. Other key strategic developments designed to maximise bidding potential include the appointments of Miles and Bannister (the latter returned to UoA22) to Chairs in Sociology and Criminology respectively, posts to which both bring much experience and a record of considerable funding success. Additional bidding initiatives included the development of a cross-disciplinary *Bidding for Success* group (a programme organised by Young and Smithson (UoA22)), who met regularly during session 2012-13 to share experiences and expertise, and to participate in focused workshops that benefitted from the input of senior staff from across the University. Fifteen staff from IHSSR participated, including CTSS researchers Edwards and Klesse. As a result of his initiative and the support of IHSSR, bids worth almost £6m have recently been made to major UK funding councils including two from CTSS staff (Edwards, Young) ranging in value from £25k – £200k and a further six bids from researchers in Sociology who are returned in the UoA22 submission (ranging from £25k - £1.5m). This programme of weekly workshops on bidding will now continue on an annual basis.

(ii) *Infrastructure*: The key infrastructural development for the UoA was the creation of the IHSSR which provided us with an increased discretionary spend budget (£70,000 p/a) over the period 2010-13 and put in place a more effective infrastructure to support research. Some examples can help to illustrate initiatives taken towards ensuring a sustainable future for research in CTSS. Prior

to the recent developments, but in the current assessment period, Klesse was awarded a University 'Promising Research Fellowship' (2009), as part of which he undertook a 10-week structured secondment within the University Research Office to learn about bidding and the institutional role in the research process. Reflecting MMU's new emphasis on Research, Knowledge and Exchange, support is now also available for researchers who are able to extend their expertise into a variety of public engagement activities. In 2012 and 2013 Cook and the team of Cheng and Young were the recipients of awards from a major new initiative, the University's *Knowledge, Exchange and Innovation Fund* (KEIF), a fund that aims to nurture academic entrepreneurship and innovation with the specific aim of maximising the impact of our expertise through external relationships. These awards of £5000 thus support the development of promising initiatives that engage with business, public and third sector organisations. Cook's award (2012) will enable her to act as a consultant with *Independent Choices*, a voluntary organisation that offers help to women experiencing domestic abuse; and Cheng and Young's (2013) award was to undertake a study in 'Developing Geographic Information Science (GIS)/environmental management/urban geography CPD courses for the Chinese market.'

The most significant strategic research initiative aimed toward producing a significant increase in research income beyond REF2014 was the instigation of seven cross-disciplinary research clusters launched by IHSSR in 2012. These clusters are designed to reflect the finer grain of the research going on in the UoA and to enhance possibilities for cross-disciplinary research and innovation. These clusters include: 'Football and Community' (Edensor, Millington); 'The Gothic' (Holloway, Young), 'Global Society' (Arun, Binnie, Brahic, Jacobs, Kennedy, Klesse, Waughray); 'Space / Place / Culture' (Binnie, Edensor, Holloway, Klesse, Latham, Miles, Milestone, Millington, O'Hare, Waughray, Young); 'Youth' (Edwards, Pollock, Latham, Miles), 'Sustainable Living' (Edensor, Cheng, Jacobs, Latham, Miles, Scanlan); Feminist Agendas (Brahic, Cook, Jacobs, Latham, Meyer, Milestone). Researchers from the 'Sustainable Living' cluster, for instance, submitted a major cross-disciplinary bid on the theme of 'Carbon and Time' to the Leverhulme Trust's 2013 Research Programme Grants topics, 'Innovation for Sustainable Living.' The IHSSR has also hosted presentations by the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust, the PNO Consultancy and the UK Research Office on current funding opportunities, and has set up a database of successful bids that is made accessible to all staff, and also put in place a new internal peer-review process for all external-funding bids.

(iii) *Facilities*: MMU's recently refurbished Library, which is open 24/7 for much of the year, holds the Special Collections Museum used regularly by staff in the UoA including the Children's Book Collection. In addition to the MMU library, archives and libraries of Greater Manchester hold numerous additional specialised collections including: Chetham's Library, John Rylands Library, The Manchester Museum, the People's History Museum, Manchester Police Museum and Archives, and Manchester Archives (Manchester Central Library).

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Research Networks: Since 2010, Pollock has been the lead researcher for MMU on a European Union FP7 research project titled *MyPlace*, made up of a consortium of 17 international partners, which was awarded 7.9m Euros to look at how young people's social participation is shaped by the shadows of totalitarianism and populism in Europe (www.fp7-myplace.eu). The MMU team coordinates all 17 partners in various aspects of the project: field preparation, measuring participation, and dissemination. This role has developed from Pollock's previous collaborations with a Europe-wide network of researchers, and as a founding member and organiser for the ESA 'Youth and Generations Research Network.' The project will deliver significant outputs post-REF 2014. Young's collaborative work has also seen him develop extensive research networks within Eastern Europe, and amongst scholars of the post-socialist East. During the REF period, for example, he has been Chair of the 'Post-Socialist Geographies Research Group' (within RGS-IGB), and is a member of, and JISC-mail moderator for, the 'Cities After Transition' network – serving over 200 scholars across Europe, Russia, and Central Asia. Binnie and Klesse are members of the 'Anglo-Polish Perspectives in Sexuality Studies Research Network,' and have worked tirelessly to establish the subject of transnational LGBT activism and human rights in Central and Eastern Europe as a vibrant area of academic research. They were awarded the The

Aquila Polonica Prize by the Polish Studies Association for their 2012 article in the European Journal of Women's Studies. This is awarded to the best article in Polish Studies 2011 – 2013.

The following highlights the work of CTSS since 2008, organised by research group, and illustrates the extent of our contribution and collaboration within the discipline and to the research base.

Identities & Rights: This group is highly influential in the analysis of LGBT Identities, Caste Discrimination, Women's Livelihoods and Experiences, and especially in shaping debates in academia and beyond. In terms of the latter, for example, Cook acted as advisor to the Ministry of Justice for the project 'Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide, Proposals for Reform of the Law' (2008), and she is currently legal advisor for Office of the Children's Commissioner research project (by The Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit CWASU at London Metropolitan University); and since 2010, Binnie has been external advisor for the European Research Council project LIVEDIFFERENCE (University of Sheffield). In the assessment period, the group has produced a special issue of the *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* ('Gender, Sexuality and Political Economy', Jacobs and Klesse) and contributes to the editorial guidance of a number of journals as either core board members or advisors, including: *Interalia - A Journal of Queer Studies* (Binnie); *Journal of Sociology and Social Research* (Jacobs); *Journal of Contemporary Health* (Binnie); and *Sexualities* (Binnie, Klesse). The group have produced 4 books, 1 edited book, 35 book chapters, and 49 refereed journal papers.

Researchers in this area are also active as peer-reviewers for a number of leading journals, a selection of which includes: *Gender and Technology*, *Journal of Gender and Interdisciplinary Studies*, *Journal of Gender Studies* (Arun); *Journal of Gender Studies* (Cook); *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Antipode*, *Social Problems*, *Sociology*, *Women's Studies International Forum* (Binnie); *Community, Work and Family*, *Development in Practice*, *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Women, Politics and Policy* (Jacobs); *Body & Society*, *The British Journal of Sociology*, *Sexualities*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *The Sociological Review* (Klesse); the *Journal of Gender Studies*, and *The Sociological Review* (van Hooff).

In addition to participating in external research events, members of the group have co-ordinated a number of international symposia and panels. Klesse and Jacobs organised two Interdisciplinary Workshops at MMU for the Gender & Sexuality Research Group (2008, 2011) as well as an international conference on 'Gender, Sexuality and Political Economy' (2011); Jacobs also organised a workshop on 'Gender, violence and armed conflict' at MMU (2009), and convened a conference stream on 'Land Rights and Food Security' at the Food Ethics Council Conference, London South Bank Centre (2011). Klesse and Binnie organised an International Workshop, 'Debating Anglo-Polish Perspectives on Sexual Politics,' held at MMU (2009), whose proceedings were published in a special edition of *Interalia – A Journal of Queer Studies* (Vol. 4); and with Meg Barker, Klesse organised the 1st Critical Sexuality Workshop up North on the theme of 'Relationships', also at MMU (2011). Members of the group have also acted as PhD examiners at the Universities of Central Lancashire (Arun), Liverpool (Arun), Manchester (Arun, twice; Jacobs), and Western Cape (Jacobs - MPhil), and reviewed research proposals for major funding councils, such as the ESRC (Arun, Jacobs, Klesse), and the Canadian Research Council (Jacobs).

Urban Cultures & Infrastructures: The group leads the field in several areas, in particular through ground-breaking work in geographies of illumination and darkness, consumption, tourism and cosmopolitanism, and contributes to the discipline and the research base through a variety of editorial, advisory and publishing activities. In 2013, Edensor advised the UK Government on Scoping Project, *The Future of Identity* (2013), and in the census period the group has produced a special edition of *Planning Practice and Research* (Vol. 28/3, 'Deconstructing Resilience: Lessons from Planning Practice', O'Hare) and contributed to a number of journals as editorial board members, including: *CMC: Consumption, Markets and Culture* (Miles); *Cultural Geographies* (Edensor); *Geographies of Religion and Belief Systems* (Holloway); *Global Networks* (Kennedy); *Journal of Consumer Culture* (Miles, editor-in-chief: Impact Factor: 2.793, 1/38 in Cultural Studies and 8/137 in Sociology worldwide) *Journal of Global Ethics* (Kennedy); *Journal of Youth Studies* (Miles); *Leisure Studies* (Edensor); *Tourist Studies* (Edensor, editor); *Tourism Geographies* (Edensor). The group have produced 6 books, 3 edited books, 17 book chapters, and 43 refereed

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articles since 2008.

Members of the group regularly act as peer-reviewers for journals in their core research areas, including *Environment and Planning B*, *International Journal of Geographic Information Science*, *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Land Use Policy* (Cheng); *Cultural Geographies*, *Leisure Studies*, *Senses and Society*, *Tourism Geographies* (Edensor); *Borderlands*, *Environment and Planning C*, *Global Environmental Change*, *Journal of Urban Regeneration and Renewal*, *Planning Practice and Research* (O'Hare); and *Urban Studies* (Miles). Miles was one of only 13 scholars nationally to contribute to the British Sociological Association's 60th Anniversary Special Collection.

In addition to participating in external research events, members of the group have co-ordinated a number of international symposia and panels. Edensor organised a session titled 'Geographies of Rhythm' at the *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Boston, USA (2008); and Cheng was a member of the programme committee for the ICWG VII International Workshop on GIS for Transportation, Wuhan University, China (2009) and the 'International Conference on Geo-Informatics in Green Ecology & Environment', also at Wuhan, China (2013). Members of the group have also acted as PhD examiners at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Cheng), Glasgow (Miles), Leicester (Miles), Northumbria (Kennedy), and Western Sydney (Miles), and also as expert reviewers of proposals for major funding councils, such as the AHRC (Edensor, Miles), the ESRC (Edensor, Holloway), Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Portugal (O'Hare), the British Academy (Edensor), the Canadian Research Council (Edensor), the Swedish Research Council (Edensor), and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (O'Hare).

Knowledge, Discourse & Society: This group have developed international profiles for work that has addressed aspects of contemporary media representations, the modification / regulation of bodies, youth transitions and the relation of history and experience to contemporary habits and practices, and have additionally contributed to the research base in a number of advisory and editorial roles. In terms of the former, Meyer was a member of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Advisory Board for the 'Transmission of Drinking Cultures' research project (Liverpool JMU, 2008-10), and Latham was invited to participate in a UK Government review on the regulation of cosmetic surgery (2012). The group has contributed as journal editors and editorial board to, amongst others, *Sociology* (Pollock); *International Review of Social Research* (Young); *Modern Italy* (Edwards); *Psychology of Popular Media Culture* (Milestone); and the *Reaktion / University of Chicago Press Reverb* series of books (Scanlan, editor). In terms of its contribution to the submission since 2008 the group have produced 6 books, 3 edited volumes, 13 book chapters, and 36 refereed articles.

Members of the group have also acted as peer-reviewers for internationally recognised journals, including: *Health Education Journal*, *Modern Italy* (Edwards); *European Journal of Public Health*, *Medical History*, *Medical Law Review*, *Reproductive Health Matters* (Latham); *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, *Journal of Youth Studies*, *Sociology* (Pollock); *The British Journal of Sociology*, *Cultural Sociology*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Sociology* (Scanlan); *Environment and Planning A / B / C*, *Geoforum*, *Journal of Historical Geography*, *Political Geography*, *Urban Studies* (Young).

In addition to these activities, Young was involved in co-ordinating a number of international symposia and panels, including *Cities After Transition: International Workshop on Post-Socialist Urban Geographies* (Tartu, 2009; Bucharest, 2011), *Public Space in European Cities* (St. Petersburg (2008), and *International Meetings on Post-Socialist Urban Identities* (Stockholm, 2008; Krakow, 2009). Young also co-convened sessions at the *Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference* (2009, 'Twenty years after the Wall: post-socialism and geopolitics'), the *Association of American Geographers Annual Conference* (2009, 'Twenty years after the Wall: geographical imaginaries of 'Europe' during European Union enlargement'), and at the *Association of American Geographers Annual Conference* (2009, 'Actually existing neoliberalisms: How do basic neoliberal concepts shift meaning in the post-socialist world?'). Members of the group have also acted as PhD examiners at the Universities of Hull (Young) and Keele (Milestone), and have been invited to act as external reviewers of proposals for major funding councils, such as the ESRC (Scanlan) and the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation, Georgia (Young).