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Institution: Queen's University Belfast
Unit of Assessment: 23 Sociology
<p>a. Overview: Sociology in Queen's is located in a School which teaches across other subjects, including social policy and criminology, and trains professional social workers. This multidisciplinary environment shapes the nature of our research, reflected substantively in its orientation towards social and civic engagement and in methodological pluralism. As social scientists we are committed to research that contributes to the development of public knowledge, reflecting the scholarly issues within sociology as a discipline as well as the agendas of the research councils, other funders, government agencies, third sector bodies, and the global intellectual concerns generated by our social location. All staff belong to one of three research clusters designed to nurture and develop the application of research; <i>Social Divisions and Conflict</i>, <i>Identities, Lifestyle and Culture</i>, and <i>Contemporary Social Issues and Policy</i>. Our annual research income is approximately £1.2 million and our funders and partners include the research councils, government departments, the EU, and large foundations.</p> <p>b. Research strategy: Our research focuses on social divisions, conflict and peace building; governance, health, social control and interfaces with the state; and identities and culture. We have expertise in various methodological approaches including qualitative, quantitative, cross-cultural, longitudinal, biographical and comparative history; these are reflected in our research, which is relevant to a range of user groups and informs the development of policies in many areas, including peace-building; the family and the well-being of children; social cohesion; equality; physical and mental health; and substance misuse.</p> <p>Strategy RAE 2008: In 2008 our strategy was to: i) consolidate our strengths in the sociology of identity and political economy and stratification; ii) further develop research on the changing nature of the state and public policy; iii) augment our distinctive contribution to international sociology; iv) increase our research capacity through income and profile, and v) continue to provide leadership in training future generations of social researchers.</p> <p>RAE2008 Achievement of strategic aims: i) We have consolidated our strengths in the sociology of identity by being the lead partner on a Framework 7 project on the evolution of European identity. We have also developed our strengths in political economy and stratification by obtaining ESRC funding in partnership with five other UK universities to further the study and analysis of poverty and social exclusion and obtained NHS, Wellcome and ESRC funding to research public health. ii) We have further developed our research on the changing nature of the state and public policy through three ESRC Knowledge Transfer Fellowships and advanced our critical analysis of the social construction of knowledge to inform public policy, for example, Shortall's contribution to work on rural policy priorities for Northern Ireland and McElrath's contribution to policy around heroin use. iii) We have augmented our distinctive contribution to international sociology. We have worked with two other UK universities on an ESRC supported programme about Conflict in Cities and the Contested State and won Leverhulme Trust funding for a £1.26 million comparative project on compromise amongst victims following intra- state conflict. We contribute to international debates in our fields of research and have multiple collaborative working relationships with colleagues around the globe. iv) and v) We continue to have a thriving postgraduate culture which has allowed us to attract a greater number of PhD students than during the RAE 2008 census period.</p> <p>Our work on identities has advanced significantly following Miller's successful bid to lead a Framework 7 programme on EuroIdentities in 2008. The Belfast team included Miller (PI), Schubotz, and Svasek (Anthropology) and involved academic partners from Wales, Germany, Poland, Estonia, Bulgaria and Italy. The high impact of this research is evidenced by the European Commission's decision to commission Miller to convene a conference and Policy Review of 6th and 7th Framework-funded research on European identity.</p> <p>We continue to develop methodological and theoretical insights to research on poverty, social inclusion, welfare, well-being, and the family. Whelan is recognised as an international leader in the field of poverty research. He was a partner in the Framework 7 funded 'GINI' Project which focused on the analysis of income inequality and poverty. It drew on economics, sociology, political science and health studies, and developed improved methodologies, uniform measurement, wide country coverage, a clear policy dimension and broad dissemination. The Project operated in a framework of policy-oriented debate and international comparisons across</p>

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most EU countries, the USA, Japan, Canada and Australia. **Calvert**, appointed in this census period, was previously a postdoctoral researcher on the GINI project and continues her research in this area. **Kelly** and **Tomlinson's** research on poverty and social exclusion in the UK is funded by the ESRC large grant scheme (2010-2014).

Our research on public health has also been strengthened and advanced. **Prior** is PI and a member of the management executive within the multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Public Health in Northern Ireland. The CoE is one of 5 UK centres, funded to improve public health, both nationally and internationally. It was initially funded (£4.9 million) in 2008 for 5 years by a consortium including ESRC, MRC and Wellcome, and has recently received MRC funding for a further 4 years. **Prior's** work has led to multidisciplinary innovations in data analysis as evidenced in his publications in *Social Science & Medicine* and *Journal of Social Policy*, whilst **Kouvonen's** multi-disciplinary research on health and illness, with a particular focus on the relationship between social capital and health, has led to a series of influential publications including in the *Lancet* and *BMJ* during this REF period.

We have continued to embed our scholarly contribution to policy research and theoretical reflections on this topic, including **Brewer's** reflections on the public value of social science more generally. **Whelan's** research has had a significant influence on the manner in which agencies such as EUROSTAT, Ireland's Department of Social Protection, the UK Department for Work & Pensions, the New Zealand Ministry for Social Development and the European Foundation for Living and Working conditions conceptualise and measure deprivation and quality of life. **Shortall's** research on agriculture led to subsequent research for the European Parliament, the European Commission and the OECD on the EU Rural Development Programme. **McAlister** is involved in a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship about negative media representations of children and young people and **Byrne** in one on the implementation of children's rights.

We have augmented our contribution to international sociology through linking local to global issues. Of particular interest here is **Brewer's** strategic appointment to the new Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice. **Brewer** is known world-wide for pioneering the application of the sociological imagination to the study of intra-state conflicts and peace processes, a new direction in the field of Peace Studies. With **Brewer's** leadership and a number of strategic junior appointments (**Lawther**, **Butler**, **Hayward** and **McAlister**) we are strengthening our contribution to questions of international social justice, conflict transformation and peace. We have also made important methodological contributions, including **Penn's** ESRC funded research on statistical modelling which significantly advances statistical analysis in the social sciences. We have strategically developed our criminology research by six new appointments **Butler**, **Degenhardt**, **Hamilton**, **Lawther**, **McAlister**, and **Percy**. This has strengthened our research on prisons (**Hamilton** and **Butler**), conflict and crime (**Lawther** and **McAlister**) and leading methodological and theoretical insights into drug use and misuse (**McElrath** and **Percy**). Our criminological research has a solid international dimension evident in **Hamilton's** links with the Vera Institute of Justice in New York and **McElrath's** core American text book on drugs, now in its sixth edition.

Strategic aims and goals 2014-2019: **First**, we will continue the focus on societies emerging out of conflict. We will contribute theoretically and empirically to sociological understandings of ethnographically divided societies, processes of building peace, and how substantive issues (identity, religion, health), institutions (prisons) and populations (children and young people) are shaped by the dynamics of division and the pursuit of conflict transformation. **Secondly**, we will continue our leadership in sociological methods. In this period we will particularly focus on the development of quantitative methodology and methods. We will develop this expertise through the recently established Queen's Q-Step Centre, one of 15 successful centres funded under the ESRC/Nuffield/HEFCE Q-Step programme. The Centre is led by **Tomlinson** and **Calvert** and involves significant inter-school collaboration and the appointment of four lectureships in quantitative methods. **Third**, we will continue to develop our research on the sociology of health focusing in this period on disability and older people. **Fourth**, we will develop our research on how societies construct crime and punish offenders. Relating to our first research objective, we will make theoretical and empirical contributions to the understanding to the role of prisons in conflict transformation. **Fifth**, we will continue the interrogation of the theory and practice of

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applied research and the policy process. More broadly we aim to promote sociological research as part of a public social science that is both civically engaged and policy focused. We also aim to continue our successful engagement with users of our research to ensure its impact with regards to informing policy decisions and public understandings of social issues.

c. People, including: staffing strategy and staff development: Our strategy is to build capacity within the social sciences by the appointment of excellent early career researchers alongside senior staff with international reputations. Strong appointments at lecturer grade enable us to protect established strengths in sociology and develop new areas of expertise, including a growing body of criminology research. We maintain a positive relationship with our ex-staff and use these moves as a means of strengthening our international collaborations. For example, **Shildrick's** move to a professorship in Sweden has led to a PhD research fellowship there. We have an active School alumnus with regular invitations to ex-staff to contribute to our seminar series. We have made strategic appointments that cover core areas of research relating to four upcoming retirements. **Hayward's** appointment ensures continued strength in teaching and research in political sociology, and builds upon our renowned expertise in the area of conflict and peace building. **Lawther**, winner of the Brian Williams Prize for her scholarly contributions in 2011, further embeds our expertise on peace building. Along with **McAlister**, **Lawther** also strengthens our research on the relationship between a conflict society and crime. **Altglas** strengthens our research on identities and divided cities. **Butler**, **Hamilton** and **Percy** further develop our criminology research, and **Percy** develops our methodological innovation. **Byrne** adds expertise on disability and **Schubotz** on young people and biographical methods. **Calvert** adds to our expertise on education, work and inequality as well as enriching our existing strengths in quantitative methods. **Kouvonen** further strengthens our expertise in health and illness.

We have made strong appointments at the professorial level. **Brewer**, former President of the British Sociological Association, was an ESRC Board member in this census period and now sits on the Councils of the Irish Research Council and the Academy of Social Sciences. He is a Fellow of four learned societies, and an internationally recognised expert on post-conflict studies, with major publications that are shaping the sociological approach to peace processes and grants in this census period approaching £1.5 million, including from the ESRC and Leverhulme. His work complements that of several younger staff and links the School with the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice, a £2.5 million funding initiative sponsored by the University to focus research in this specialism. **Brewer's** appointment consolidates and extends the strength of our research on conflict, change, divided societies and peace building. ESRC funded research, led by **O'Dowd**, and including **Leonard**, **Hayward**, and **Smyth**, maximises the increased strength in this area represented in the expertise of **Altglas**, **Butler**, **Wood**, **Komarova** and **McKnight**. The appointment of **McAlister** complements **Leonard's** focus on the impact of the conflict on the lives of children and young people. The significance of this research is evidenced by **Brewer's** appointment to the United Nations Roster of Global Experts for his work on peace building and those academics regularly attracted to Queen's to participate in conferences organised by the research team, e.g. on: racism, anti-Semitism and sectarianism (organised by **Altglas** and **Wood** in 2010), growing up in divided societies (organised by **Leonard**, **McKnight** and Spyrou, University of Cyprus, 2010), urban conflicts (organised by **O'Dowd**, 2011) an international symposium on religion, violence and the city (organised by **O'Dowd** 2012), and a conference on peace building and the trauma society (organised by **Brewer**, 2013). The theoretical study of religion as a theme of research was enhanced by the appointment of **Altglas**, who received ESRC funding to do an international study of globalisation and religious movements, and **Brewer** who held ESRC funding for research on religious peace building and NIAMH-funding on ex-combatants and religion. **Whelan** is an internationally recognised scholar and a member of the Royal Irish Academy. The GINI Project, of which he was a key member, combined comparative analysis and in-depth country studies of income inequality trends, the drivers of those trends, their social and political/cultural impacts, and the policies which affect them. This work is extensively cited and has had a direct impact on the manner in which poverty targets are formulated and monitored. **Whelan's** appointment complements the research expertise of **Calvert** and **Tomlinson**. **Conrad** is a leading scholar on the medicalization of society and the social construction of illness. He has won numerous American awards for his contributions to medical sociology and his recent article in the

Journal of Health and Social Behaviour in 2010 was downloaded over 20,000 times. His appointment complements the research of **Prior, Kouvonen, and Tomlinson. Penn** adds to our methodological and substantive expertise. He is a renowned economic sociologist with recent books which include volumes on statistical modelling.

Our equality of opportunity measures are evident in our policies towards the development of the research careers of all staff. We are currently in the process of applying for a SWAN bronze award. All our new staff attend University-wide induction sessions for academic staff. The University actively supports the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. The concordat is also complemented by providing support for early career researchers. A mentor is appointed to guide them in all aspects of their work during the first three years and a three-person committee of senior staff supports their period of probation. Probationary lecturers are required to meet annually with this ad hoc group which monitors their progress, offers advice on the development of their work and its placement for publication, on research funding and on training opportunities. All probationary lecturers are required to take the University's Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching, to undertake training in postgraduate research supervision and are introduced to the support for enhancing teaching provided by the Centre for Educational Development. To encourage development of research profiles, early career staff have lighter than average teaching loads and no specific administrative responsibilities. All new appointees receive a £4k start-up package over three years to support their research interests and profile in line with School and University strategic objectives. There are further central University resources to support specialist training needs and visiting scholars. The School provides a range of measures to support the research careers of all staff. Staff are eligible for a semester's sabbatical leave after six terms of service, designed to enable staff to develop international collaboration, funding bids and research outputs. It has a dedicated budget for research travel, conference and short course attendance and internationalisation. There are centrally administered schemes to support international activity. Research support funds are available to postgraduate research students as well as staff. The School has rigorous mechanisms in place to ensure the quality and integrity of our research. All staff discuss planned research bids with their Director of Research. Staff receive mentoring and peer review from the Directors of Research prior to submission of any grant proposal. The Unit takes seriously its obligation to ensure that all research carried out under its aegis adheres to the highest ethical standards. In line with the University's strong framework to ensure ethical research, the School Research Ethics Committee ensures that all research carried by students and staff has undergone ethical scrutiny and has gained approval prior to commencement.

Research students: Our objectives for all postgraduate students are to provide rigorous research training, to manage their learning experience such that they produce work of the highest quality, and to provide the widest opportunities for professional development. We also avail of general University support for research students, such as The Postgraduate Researcher Development Programme which exists to support research students with generic research skills training by enhancing employability and through career and personal development. The School's results in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2013 are above average for the University and equivalent universities.

The local Department of Employment and Learning is responsible for the regional distribution of studentships, however our success with large ESRC and Leverhulme grant applications means that we also have students funded through these research projects (for example, projects led by **Brewer, O'Dowd, Tomlinson and Prior**), including a CASE studentship. We have students funded by NHS (R&D), and two PhD students funded under the British Commonwealth International Studentship Scheme. We operate a closely monitored and developmental supervision policy, aimed at high-quality practice and supervision, and the gradual broadening of supervision responsibilities to early career staff.

Masters in Research Methods (MRes) The MRes has been successful in attracting students, many of whom are in government employment. Core modules from the MRes also provide the backbone of the MA in Sociology. Both programmes were strategically developed to provide better pathways between undergraduate and doctoral work and to improve the flow and throughput of doctoral students. In line with the ESRC research training strategy and guidelines, we have implemented the 1+3 model and believe that this has improved the number

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of PhDs awarded and the overall quality of doctoral research.

We encourage the development of transferable skills among postgraduates by providing methods training, enabling the acquisition of teaching skills as tutorial assistants, supporting attendance and paper presentation at conferences, and through collaboration on jointly authored publications. An annual conference is held for postgraduates with staff and guest speakers from Britain and Ireland. Postgraduates also have their own seminar series, and other regular opportunities to present papers within the School are made available (through the Research Clusters and School Seminar Series). Our students are required to undertake 10 days of training each year, making full use of the University's comprehensive skills training programme. This includes support for student-led initiatives such as the interdisciplinary postgraduate workshop on qualitative research methods, led by a student in our School in cooperation with fellow postgraduates in the Schools of Law, Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering, and Politics, International Studies and Philosophy. Doctoral students in the School have also established a quantitative methods support group. The School has a healthy equipment budget, which is used to improve facilities for students and the provision of specialist software. Postgraduates are provided with telephones, dedicated workstations and full internet and library electronic database access. We have a good mix of international and local postgraduate students, and we have a Memorandum of Agreement with Cornell University which facilitates the interchange of research students and student exchange programmes are also being developed with Vanderbilt University. Postgraduate students are also closely integrated into the informal research culture in the School, and attend coffee mornings where they discuss their research with staff and a dedicated postgraduate pizza evening once a month which staff attend.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities: Staff have pleasant offices in a refurbished Victorian terrace (3,500 sq. m.), connected to a new-build teaching block with four large lecture rooms and eight tutorial rooms. There are a number of common areas where staff and postgraduate students gather each morning for coffee. Three rooms have been converted into postgraduate rooms to give graduates a physical presence in the School. The new McClay Library and the International & Postgraduate Student Centre are situated within a hundred yards of the School.

The School structures research in a way that fosters collaboration and excellence. An over-arching Research Committee, comprising Directors of Research Clusters and the Chair of the Ethics Committee, sets the research strategy for the School and focuses on fostering and enhancing our research culture. In line with University policy, research clusters have been formalised as a focal point for intellectual collaboration and research development and as an integral part of the School management structure. Led by a senior member of staff and resourced with a dedicated budget, clusters meet regularly, organize research seminars and actively search out opportunities for research funding and collaborative research. They link into the management structure of the School in two ways – the directors of the clusters sit on the Research Committee and key staff development and capacity building functions, such as mentoring, conference attendance and staff appraisal, are organised on a cluster basis.

Social Divisions and Conflict: A principal focus of our sociological endeavour continues to be the changing nature of highly divided societies such as Northern Ireland, and their transition through peace building. The social processes around nationalism, religion, ethnicity, class, gender, post-conflict transformations and their complex interrelationships, all of which are at the forefront of contemporary sociological theory and research, provide the guiding focus for this cluster. Under the directorship of **O'Dowd**, this cluster brings together some 12 staff members (**Altglas, Anderson** (geography), **Brewer, Butler, Hayward, Leonard, McAlister, Lawther, Shuttleworth** (geography), **Wilson** (Binghamton University, Visiting Professor) and **Smyth**). The cluster has four research staff (**Dudgeon, Komarova, McKnight** and **Teeney**). The cluster includes 14 PhD students. The cluster provides the leadership (**O'Dowd** as director and **Hayward** as board member) for the Centre for International Borders Research which has attracted a series of visiting academics and postgraduate students to Queen's. It has played a prominent role in the global expansion of the inter-disciplinary area of border studies through EU framework programmes, the organisation of international conferences and partnership in an international borders consortium led by the University of Victoria Canada (2013- 2020). The cluster also works closely with the Institute of Spatial Planning in the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering, Society, with the Space and Culture research group in the

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School of Geography, Irish Studies (School of History and Anthropology) and the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice. Work produced by this cluster includes that of **O'Dowd, Hayward** and **Altglas** on nationalisms, borders, religious groups and ethno-religious change and conflict, **Brewer** on the sociology of peace processes and religious peace building, **Butler** on violence and prisons in post-conflict societies, **Lawther** on transitional justice, truth recovery and peace building, **Smyth** on women, motherhood and feminist activism in Ireland, and **Leonard, Byrne** and **McAlister** on children in an unequal society. One measure of success of this cluster was the securing of funding under the Leverhulme Trust's major research programme scheme (2009-14), to the value of £1.26 million, which is led by **Brewer**, and the ESRC's Large Grant scheme for a project on the theme of divided cities in the contested state (2007-2013). The funding of some £3.2 million overall (£1 million for Queen's) was led by **O'Dowd**, and involved **Leonard, Smyth** and **Hayward** as primary research partners. The project was a collaboration with colleagues from Cambridge and Exeter and compared Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided European and Middle Eastern cities. Staff members have a strong record of research funding from the ESRC, EU PEACE funding, Leverhulme Trust, Northern Ireland government, local charitable organisations, the voluntary sector, and small seed grants from Nuffield and the British Academy.

Identities, Lifestyle and Culture: This cluster addresses topics central to sociological theory and methods; the construction of social meaning, specifically focusing on identity, risk, stigma and deviance, culture and religion. Members of this cluster have a particular interest in advancing qualitative methodology. Led by **Miller**, this cluster brings together 8 staff members: **Duffy** (Social Work), **Degenhardt, Hamilton, Karamichas, McElrath, Schubotz,** and **Wood**. It includes 9 PhD students. Among the work produced by this cluster is that of 7th Framework EuroIdentities research, **Miller** and **Schubotz** on identity and advancing autobiographical narrative methods as a means of advancing research on identity, **McElrath's** research on social order, social control, identity and stigma in relation to drug use and misuse, **Hamilton's** work on prisons and social identity, **Karamichas's** work on identity and protest in Southern Europe over environmental issues, and **Wood's** work on spirituality, religion and identity. Other cluster members have a strong record of research funding from the Northern Ireland government, local charitable organisations, the voluntary sector and drugs bodies. **Contemporary Social Issues and Policy:** This cluster has a breadth of research interests and expertise, united by a common critical sociological reflection on the relationship between the academy and research, and policy and government. This cluster has a particular interest in the impact of research. Led by **Shortall**, this cluster brings together 13 members of staff (**Byrne, Calvert, Carr** (Social Work), **Conrad, Davidson** (Social Work), **Devine, Kelly, Kouvonen, Percy, Prior, Sung, Tomlinson,** and **Whelan**). It includes 17 PhD students. Among the work of this cluster is that of **Whelan, Calvert, Kelly** and **Tomlinson** on poverty, social exclusion and inequality, **Calvert's** work on labour markets, **Sung** on gender and policy, **Whelan** and **Shortall** on EU policy, **Whelan** and **Shortall** on comparisons between EU and US public policy, **Prior** on health policy, relating to obesity, diabetes, and physical activity, **Kouvonen** on public health and ageing, **Byrne** on disability, **Percy** on drug use, and **Prior** and **Percy** on methodological innovations within the discipline. The success of this cluster is evident in **Whelan's** 2.7 million Euro Framework 7 funded GINI research on poverty and inequality, **Kelly** and **Tomlinson's** participation in the large ESRC grant (led by Bristol) to further develop theoretical and methodological understandings of poverty and social inclusion, **Prior's** involvement in a number of public health research projects variously funded by MRC, ESRC and the NHS, **Shortall's** ESRC funded Knowledge Transfer Fellowship in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, ESRC funded research on the EU Rural Development Programme, and advisor to the OECD, and **Percy's** large regional funding to study adolescent drug use. Other cluster members have a strong record of research funding from the Northern Ireland government, local charitable organisations, and the voluntary and community sector.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base: Opportunities for collaboration are provided by a number of University-wide fora which are designed to support the development of interdisciplinary research. Sociology staff work closely with staff from other disciplines to strengthen their research. **Brewer, O'Dowd, Hayward, Leonard** and **Tomlinson** have close links with The Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and

Social Justice which provides strategic focus to support and enhance world class inter-disciplinary and comparative research on conflict transformation, social justice and peace. **Leonard** is heavily involved with the University's Forum on the Child, **Prior, Kouvonen** and **Conrad** work closely with medicine and nursing, **O'Dowd, Hayward, Altglas** and **Wood** with geography, planning and architecture, anthropology, politics and Irish Studies, **McElrath, Butler, Percy** and **Degenhardt** with Law, **Shortall** with agriculture, **Byrne** with Education and Law, and **Karamichas** with Politics and the Institute for a Sustainable World. **O'Dowd** and **Hayward** are actively involved in the EU Framework Programme 8 funded Centre for International Borders Research with colleagues in geography, anthropology and politics and **Shortall** works closely with colleagues across the university and the University of Ulster on knowledge exchange with local government. In addition, ARK is a collaborative initiative with the University of Ulster, providing staff with opportunities for interdisciplinary work as well as contributing directly and indirectly (through compilation of teaching data bases for example) to teaching. ARK runs the annual Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey and helps staff to develop funding proposals (mainly to the ESRC) for research modules to be operated through the Survey. Staff are well-embedded in international networks of theorists and researchers. **Brewer** has links with colleagues in Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia and the USA, where he frequently delivers plenary addresses and public lectures. **O'Dowd, Leonard** and **Hayward** have particularly strong links with researchers in the Lebanon, Jerusalem, Nijmegen, Galway, Dublin and Cambridge as evidenced by the number of international scholars brought to Queen's for conferences and seminars. **Whelan** has strong research links with Oxford and Yale. **Shortall** has very strong links with Cornell University. **Penn** has been a Visiting Professor at UCLA, the University of Bologna, and the University of Tbilisi. **Whelan, Miller, O'Dowd** and **Shortall** have a sustained record of high-grade, inter-disciplinary involvement in collaborative work on the European Union and European societies. **Whelan** was Chair of the European Consortium for Sociological Research from 2009-2012 and a member of the Scientific Advisory Boards of the Institute for Research on Evaluating Public Policy (Irvapp) at the University of Trento and the FP7 Data without Boundaries (DWB) involving almost 30 participant institutions. **Shortall** is on the executive committee and the scientific organising committee for the European Rural Sociology Society and regularly organises streams at the Congress. **Altglas** and **Wood** hosted the mid-term conference of the ESA's Research Network on Ethnic Relations, Racism and Anti-Semitism in Queen's. **Altglas's** strong links with colleagues in France, Israel and Britain are evident by their contribution to her edited volume on religion. **Karamichas's** close working relationships with colleagues in Southern Europe is evident in co-authored articles and books on protest mobilisation and environmental sociology. Through her role as founding convenor of the interdisciplinary and transnational European Studies specialist group of the Political Studies Association of Ireland, **Hayward** has co-organised conferences and PhD master classes across the island of Ireland. **Prior** has also developed links with University of Wellington (NZ), Lund (Sweden), and York, and given postgraduate training courses at the Universities of Tromsø and Bodø (Norway). **Kouvonen** has strong working links with colleagues in Finland and Poland, evident in joint publications, and spent a mini sabbatical at University of Helsinki in 2013. **Karamichas** gave a plenary presentation on the global economic crisis in Georgetown University with whom the University has strong institutional links. The Centre for International Borders Research, based in the School, regularly hosts international visiting fellows and its worldwide reputation for expertise in the field means that its website was chosen as the home of the online bibliography of the International Association for Borderlands Studies. It has recently received funding awards on the subject of border security technology ('Tracing Risk and Uncertainty in Security Technology' project, ESRC-AHRC), and an international partnership grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. International collaborations are supported by the School's internationalisation fund and by sabbatical leave. During this census period, **Wood** has spent time in Paris based in *Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités* (GSRL), a research unit within the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS), **Shortall** has spent time at Cornell, the University of Chicago and Monash University, Melbourne, **Leonard** at the University of Nicosia, **Sung** at Northeastern University Boston on a Leverhulme Study Abroad Fellowship, and **Hayward** at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Since RAE2008, UoA23 staff have had an editorial role in the following journals;

Journal of Health and Social Behaviour, Sociology of Health and Illness, Health, Social Theory and Health, Qualitative Sociology, Critical Public Health, Social Compass, European Sociological Review, Substance Use and Misuse, Longitudinal and Life Course Studies, Journal of Social Criminology, Peace and Conflict Studies, Open Political Science Journal, Journal of Borderland Studies, Addiction, Social Science and Medicine, Journal of Social Policy, Health Sociology Review, Social Work and Society, Sociologia Ruralis, BMC Public Health, Prison Service Journal, Howard Journal for Penal Reform, Social Policy and Society, International Bibliography of Social Sciences, Memory Studies, Sociologia del Lavoro and Contemporary Social Science. **Staff have guest edited special issues of International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, Sociologia Ruralis, Howard Journal of Criminal Justice, Peace and Conflict Studies, Irish Political Studies, Innovation, Nationalism and Ethnic Politics, Sociological Research Online, History of Human Sciences, Contemporary Social Science and the Journal of Scottish Thought. UoA23 staff also contribute to the discipline in other ways. **Brewer** is, or has been, a member of key bodies managing social science research (BSA, ESRC, Irish Research Council, Academy of Social Science, UN Roster of Global Experts). **Conrad** has a lifetime achievement award from the American Sociology Association for distinguished contributions to medical sociology. **Penn** is a longstanding member of the Academy of Social Sciences and has been Principal Investigator on both phases of the ESRC's Research Methods Initiative. He also acts as an advisor to the Fulbright Commission. **Tomlinson** has chaired the Irish Research Council's Postgraduate Awards Board. **Whelan** acted as Chair of the Standing Committee of the Social Sciences of the European Science Foundation, was an *ex officio* member of the Advisory Board of the US National Science Foundation, Social, Behavioural & Economic Sciences Committee, Coordinator of the EU CHANGEQUAL network, and Chair of the Governing Council of the EQUALSOC EC Network of Excellence. **Miller** was recruited by the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (University of Manchester and Overseas Development Institute), to conduct qualitative research on poverty in Kenya. He was also appointed to the ESRC's Grant Assessment Panel B. **Altglas, Schubotz, Shortall, Smyth, Tomlinson and Wood** are appointed members of the ESRC Peer Review College, **Brewer** of its former Virtual Research College. Our deeply embedded relationship with a range of research users at regional, national and international levels has enriched our research environment. **Brewer** works with civil society groups to deliver peace building workshops in Sri Lanka and with various NGOs dealing with victim issues in Sri Lanka, South Africa and Northern Ireland. **Tomlinson's** research on poverty and social inclusion involves the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), and informs measurement and policy on poverty. **McElrath's** research is enriched by her close engagement with substance misuse groups, regional drug task forces, and her participation in a multidisciplinary group of academics and ex-prisoners that report to OFMDFM. **Butler's** prison research is informed by her links with the NI Prison Service, and the Department of Justice and Equality. **Leonard's** links with the Department for Social Development inform her research on children. **O'Dowd's** research on divided cities has led to collaborations with Belfast City Council. **Prior** has close links with the all-Ireland Institute of Public Health, and served on the data sub-committee that drafted the Northern Ireland Obesity Framework. **Conrad and Prior** organised the 4th US/UK medical sociology conference at QUB during 2012 strengthening links with numerous international scholars. **Shortall's** research is informed by her very close links with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), including Ministerial appointment to the Rural Childcare Strategy Group whose report informed rural childcare policy; public appointment to the Research and Education Advisory Panel which developed DARD's Innovation and Research Strategy document, and a DARD funded PhD to research migrants in rural areas. **Byrne** has close links with the disability sector and had an ESRC Knowledge Transfer Fellowship with the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, and **McAlister** with the local NGO 'Include Youth'.**

We have embedded national and international links with user groups, evidenced by reports, appointments to and consultancies with a range of bodies. These research networks demonstrate our collective commitment to enhancing our contribution to sociology and to the public value of the social sciences.