

<b>Institution:</b> Goldsmiths, University of London
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> Panel C, UoA23: Sociology
<b>a. Overview</b>

Sociology at Goldsmiths celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2014. It has long been an important point of entry for all manner of productive tendencies in the discipline: ethnomethodology; gender studies; critical race studies; Foucauldian approaches; the study of urban life; digital sociology; visual sociology; live and inventive methods; and much more. Sociologists at Goldsmiths rarely work in disciplinary isolation, and have strategically cultivated myriad internal networks with, inter alia: anthropology; art; computing; design; media and communications; politics; and visual cultures. However, the great bulk of the work submitted here originates from the Department of Sociology - constituted in its present form in the mid-1980s - and the Centre for Cultural Studies (CCS) - an autonomous, interdisciplinary postgraduate and research centre founded in 1998, and dedicated to the study of contemporary global cultures. Together Sociology and CCS employ 53 academic staff, 15 research staff, numerous visiting tutors, and 11 professional support staff, responsible for, in 2012/13: 300 undergraduate students; 150 following master's programmes; and 195 PhDs.

Collectively staff have published over 500 eligible outputs, including 34 monographs, during this REF cycle, many widely reviewed and some prize-winning. Although the great bulk of this work derives from core sociological concerns, the interdisciplinary nature of our activities results in some work merging into domains that could be considered under the auspices of allied UoAs dealing with: anthropology; computing; cultural and media studies; geography; philosophy; and politics.

Whilst staff are engaged in work across the full range of the discipline, our activities can most readily be represented as clustering around four substantive themes: (1) *Culture and Theory*; (2) *Migration, Mobilities and Urban Studies*; (3) *Science and Technology*; and (4) *Politics, Rights and Justice*. Underpinning all of this work is a shared and distinctive focus on, what we have come to term, (5) *Live and Inventive Methods*. All staff engage in research under the auspices of at least one of these five themes, but with the majority working within the context of two or more.

Underpinning this thematic organisation are a number of formally constituted interdisciplinary research centres and units hosted by Sociology or CCS. They stimulate research collaboration and exchange of ideas internally and with colleagues both inside and outside of Goldsmiths:

- the *Centre for the Study of Invention and Social Process* ([CSISP](#)), with 30 members, is concerned with the creative adaption of insights from both science and technology studies (STS) and design for a broad range of sociological topics;
- the *Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy* ([GMD](#)), with 30 members, examining the mutual constitution of democratic practices and media capacities;
- the *Centre for Urban and Community Research* ([CUCR](#)), with 25 members, has a long history of collaboration with communities and activists;
- the *Digital Culture Unit* ([DCU](#)), based in CCS, works closely with CSISP and the Department of Computing, on cultural and sociological approaches to digital technologies;
- the *Methods Lab* ([ML](#)), is a successful on-going initiative, originally funded by the ESRC, committed to developing inventive ways of doing 'live sociology' and is thus the focus for methodological developments at Goldsmiths;
- the *Unit for Global Justice* ([UGJ](#)), with 10 staff, is concerned with justice, ethics and law on a global scale;
- the *Unit of Play* ([UoP](#)), promotes exploratory forms of engagement between scholars and practitioners via events, seminars, workshops and other 'happenings' (see REF 3a); and
- our newest addition, *Value and Values Unit* ([VAVU](#)) brings together 15 colleagues interested in the sociology of cultural and political economy and contemporary value transformations;
- and we co-host (with Media and Communications) the *Centre for Feminist Research* ([CFR](#)), a coordinating hub for the huge amount of work in this area from across Goldsmiths.

<b>b. Research Strategy</b>
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The success of our past research strategy is notably evident in the research income we generated since the 2008 RAE: for the Dept this amounts to circa £11.7 m, the largest per capita research income in our history. This is a notable achievement especially on the occasion of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This increase will enable us to build on our past success and leadership in forging an

innovative and inventive sociology. As recognised in formal feedback from previous RAEs, our research has been central to developments that have shifted the attentions and boundaries of our discipline. We have frequently proposed methodological innovations and theoretical approaches that have enlivened the sociological imagination. Sociology at Goldsmiths has prospered for many reasons, not least because of a unique intellectual culture that combines radical, cosmopolitan, interdisciplinary, creative and inventive approaches to research and teaching across the social sciences, arts, humanities and creative technologies. As an institution Goldsmiths is not only small and compact, it also has a 'flat' structure, with no administrative agglomerations above the level of its 15 academic departments. These attributes, combined with a physical location in an exciting part of South London, produce an intensive culture of intellectual and practice-based work that is unique, vibrant and - we believe - crucial to cultivate and sustain in the current economic and cultural climate.

Our intention in these documents is to demonstrate world-leading research outputs and outstanding impact case studies (ICs). The nature of the REF is such that we are unable to include the work of all colleagues under these two headings. However, an environment 'that is conducive to producing research of world-leading quality', in terms of its 'vitality and sustainability' will, by necessity, be underpinned by a complex division of labour that involves *all* colleagues. We recognise that here.

As in 2008 sociological research at Goldsmiths continues to be inherently interdisciplinary and committed to forms of highly engaged collaboration with a wide range of colleagues and organizations, especially other universities and major partners in: design; health and medicine; industry; government; the arts; and the creative sector. Over the next REF cycle we are committed to sustaining and developing a forward-looking, wide-ranging and risk-taking research culture underpinned by a distinctive approach to the discipline. We have, through numerous publications since 2008, attempted to articulate a collective approach to developing a research strategy that possesses these features. It is informed by the crafting of what we term a 'live sociology' committed to the elaboration of a pluralistic range of 'inventive methods', all aimed at the reinvigoration of the contemporary sociological imagination. The clearest expression of our ambition takes the form of a strategic 'manifesto' - shared to a greater or a lesser extent by all colleagues - as presented in *Live Methods* (2013), edited by Back and Puwar and *Inventive Methods* (2012), edited by Lury and Wakeford. Our strategic approach has several features, the most important of which are:

- *The recovery of sociology's history of inventive craft*, and to learn from this in order to make contemporary sociology more 'artful', with a greater emphasis than hitherto on 'curating' sociology - hence our strong emphasis on 'events', 'exhibitions', 'presentations' and so on.
- *The utilisation of all of our competencies, emotions and senses* - affective, ambulatory, auditory, olfactory, visual and so on - in attending to the study of the social.
- *The development of new and inventive sociological 'tools'* - sensory, digital and quantitative - attuned not only to contemporary technological affordances but also to the affective and performative nature of the social.
- *The development of inventive modes of presenting sociological analysis* through more 'lyrical' forms of writing, visual devices (artistic, cartographic, cinematic and photographic) and experimenting with inventive presentational formats.
- *Engagement with digital media*. If any 'coming crisis' for the discipline is to be avoided then the fullest engagement possible with the affordances that digital media present is absolutely essential. This does not just involve the development of a 'digital sociology' - although we have certainly attempted this with the first taught masters in the subject in the world, a number of strategic hires, and a strong programme of substantive research in this area - but also to a more fundamental re-imagining of our discipline and its engagements with various publics.

These ambitious strategic commitments underpin a great deal of our current research, which can be briefly summarised under the headings of the thematic clusters identified above.

**Culture and Theory:** Work on this theme is ubiquitous at Goldsmiths. CCS offers a particularly dense kind of transit-zone between cultural debates in the social sciences and the arts and humanities, and global agendas. This work is centred on the journals *Theory, Culture & Society* (TCS) and *Body & Society* (B&S) - both now based at Goldsmiths - but work in this area extends far wider than this in CFR, CUCR, VAVU and elsewhere.

- The sociology of culture is an important theme in the work of Back, Bell, Benson, Coleman, Farris, Featherstone, Fuller, Kanngieser, Krause, Lash, Loveday, Neyland, Odih, Oswell, Parisi, Puwar, Sassatelli, Seidler, Skeggs, St Louis and Tamari.

- Conceptual work on the sociology of the body is central to the concerns of Coleman, Featherstone, Greco, Imrie, Loveday, Motamedi-Fraser and Tamari.
- Hutnyk, Lash, Mukhopadhyay, Simone, Skeggs, Stiegler, Toscano and Venn have all developed a strongly culturally inflected political economy.
- Consumption, markets, cultural economy and the sociology of branding feature in the work of Coleman, Featherstone, Neyland, Odih, Sassatelli and Tamari.
- Bell, Campbell, Coleman, Day, Farris, Gunaratnum, Loveday, Mirza, Puwar, Rosengarten, Rooke, Seidler and Skeggs all make significant contributions to feminist theory.
- Oswell and Steigler work on the cultural sociology of childhood and youth.
- Cultural analyses of race and racism have been advanced by Alleyne, Back, Gunaratnum, Knowles, Mirza, Puwar, Rosengarten and St Louis.
- Day, Mirza and Skeggs all work on various aspects of the sociology of belief, faith and contemporary developments in religion.

**Migration, Mobilities and Urban Studies:** This work is focused in the CUCR, but extends across Goldsmiths. As part of the development of this theme we have made major recent investments in scholars working at the interface of sociology and human geography.

- Back, Halliday, Kanngieser, Knowles, Rhys-Taylor and Rooke work on urban visual culture, especially the use of film and photography.
- Back, Hutnyk, Knowles, Rhys-Taylor and Rooke work on various urban intersections between class, race, youth, sexualities and migrant border experiences.
- Burrows, Featherstone, Knowles and Tamari are examining the sociology of 'super-rich' neighbourhoods in London in comparison with Hong Kong and Tokyo.
- Burrows, Fuller, Gabrys, Kanngieser and Parisi study various aspects of urban informatics and computational urbanism.
- Burrows and Toscano research the cognitive mapping of capitalism.
- Gabrys, Guggenheim and Imrie work on sociology, design and architecture.
- Sassatelli works on urban cultural policies and shares interests with Halliday, Kanngieser, Knowles, Rooke and Rhys-Taylor in urban art and culture.
- Benson works on issues of lifestyle migration and the politics of place making amongst the urban and rural middle classes.
- Jungnickel works on urban mobilities and cycling in particular.

Although much work is focused on European urbanism, particularly London, we also do work with a global reach: Kanngieser, Knowles and Lash have interests in Chinese urbanism; Simone in politics and urban culture in Africa and Asia; Mukhopadhyay in urban vernacular responses to globalization in India; Benson in migration in Panama; Hutnyk in the colonial and political histories of West Bengal; and Knowles has conducted a major mobilities study following the production, consumption and disposal of a pair of 'flip flops' through places as diverse as Kuwait, Korea, China and Somaliland.

**Science & Technology:** This research is focused in CSISP, but again extends across Goldsmiths.

- Burrows, Gunaratnum, Imrie, Motamedi-Fraser, Greco, Michael, Oswell and Rosengarten all examine various aspects of the sociology of medicine, technology and the body.
- A second cluster of work by Gabrys, Guggenheim, Marres and Neyland relates to how objects of controversy in fields such as the environment, design, disasters and markets are enacted by different kinds of experts and in different kinds of organisations.
- A third cluster – especially by Fuller, Guggenheim, Jungnickel, Marres, Ruppert and - reflects a keen interest in methodological innovation, experimentation, and linking debates in science and technology studies (STS) to visual and digital sociology and, on occasion, art practice.
- A central focus of all of these studies is to link sociology and STS to a wide range of social and philosophical theories, such as: actor network theory (ANT) - Guggenheim, Marres, Neyland, Ruppert; the philosophy of Whitehead - Motamedi Fraser, Michael and Rosengarten: aesthetic theories – Parisi; and vitalism - Greco and Motamedi-Fraser.

**Politics, Rights and Justice:** Again extending across Goldsmiths, research under this theme is most strongly represented in the UGJ, GMD, CCS, CFR and VAVU.

- Alleyne, Back, Benson, Farris, Gunaratnam, Hutnyk, Knowles, Mirza, Motamedi-Fraser, Mukhopadhyay, Puwar, Simone, St Louis and Venn work on various aspects of: diasporas; ethnicity; globalisation; hybridity; migration; race; racism; and the postcolonial. Much of this

research intersects with work under the auspices of migration, mobilities and urban studies.

- Campbell works on social-legal analyses of international criminal law and transitional justice in the former Yugoslavia.
- Bell examines ethics, aesthetics and transitional justice in Northern Ireland and Argentina.
- Hirsh and Nash work on human rights, culture and politics in relation to globalization, citizenship and social movements.
- Hirsh works on contemporary articulations of anti-Semitism.
- Rosengarten attends to the use of medical provision as a technology of conflict in Israel/Palestine.
- Kanngieser explores the sociology of creative and communicative forms of contemporary politics.
- Odih works on the visual media and culture of 'Occupy'.
- Krause works on global politics and organizational practice in humanitarian NGOs.
- Skeggs and Loveday examine issues of judgment, affect and person-value, especially in relation to class and gender.
- Farris, Toscano, Mukhopadhyay, Skeggs and Hutnyk engage extensively across interrelated issues in, *inter alia*: Marxism; political subjectivity; the politics and sociology of religion; imperialism and empire; and the politics of art.

**Live and Inventive Methods:** Work under this final heading underpins much of our already enumerated substantive work, but is particularly focused in CCS, CSISP and, especially, the ML.

- Back, Burrows, Gunaratnam, Jungnickel, Kanngieser, Knowles, Marres, Motamedi-Fraser, Puwar, Rhys-Taylor, Rooke, Ruppert, Skeggs and Wakeford are concerned with various aspects of the 'social life of methods' and the development of inventive methods of inquiry better able to take account of contemporary concerns with, *inter alia*: affect; the digital; enactment; expertise; performativity; and the visual.
- Alleyne, Burrows, Fuller, Gabrys, Jungnickel, Kanngieser, Lash, Marres, Murthy, Neyland, Parisi, Ruppert, Skeggs, Stiegler and Wakeford work on various theoretical and political aspects of the sociology of algorithms; code; computing; digital data; informatics; logistics; metrics; software.
- Burrows, Kelly, Murthy, Marres and Ruppert have common interests in the application of novel quantitative and visual methods to 'big data' derived from digital transactions and social media. A new journal – *Big Data & Society: Critical Interdisciplinary Inquiries* – founded and to be edited by Ruppert from 2014, will provide a critical focus for this work.

Overall our strategy is informed by on-going desires to take interdisciplinary approaches seriously; be attentive to the affordances presented by digital technologies; develop live sociological practices; engage with public understandings of social science; and cultivate a sociological imagination underpinned by a commitment to an inventive craft appropriate to social life in the 21st century.

### c. People:

**i. Staffing strategy and staff development:** The submitted staff represent both continuity and change. In RAE2008 Goldsmiths submitted outputs from 32.6 FTE staff to the Sociology UoA; just over half of the same colleagues are submitted again. In addition this submission includes three staff submitted under other Goldsmiths UoAs in 2008. The successful trajectories of these continuing staff are reflected in numerous promotions over that period: three (Kelly, Marres and Toscano) to SL, two (Parisi and Rosengarten) to Reader, and four (Fuller, Nash, Neyland and Oswell) to Chair.

Reflecting the global standing of sociology at Goldsmiths, several professorial staff have been recruited by other prestigious institutions during this REF cycle: Adkins by Newcastle, Australia; Bhatt by LSE; Keith by Oxford; Lury by Warwick; Michael by Sydney; and Simone by the Hawke Research Institute, Australia. Most have maintained active collaborations with us; Michael and Simone have retained 0.2 posts in order to continue with on-going research, PhD supervision and other commitments. Seidler remains highly research-active and based in the Dept post-retirement.

Our response to the opportunities afforded by these moves has been attuned to 'creatively evolving the discipline' in the new and emerging directions detailed above. We have purposefully replaced senior staff with several strong and exciting 'early career' hires complemented by a few senior appointments able to buttress leadership and management across all our activities. We have, for strategic reasons, been keen to offer flexibility via fractional appointments for staff at all levels, including professorial, with contracted hours high enough to ensure that all have a significant presence on campus at key parts of each academic year. This has optimised the range and internal

complementarity of our expertise. We have sought to appoint from a wide range of other institutions in the UK and internationally, and we now have a staff that is more equally distributed in terms of seniority than in 2008 when we were somewhat ‘top heavy’. This approach has also enriched the diversity of staff backgrounds which contributes greatly to the dynamism of our working environment. The appointments, summarised below, have strengthened our research across many fronts.

- **Lecturers:** Farris, from Princeton; Gunaratnam (subsequently promoted to SL), from UCLAN; Jungnickel, Loveday, and Rhys-Taylor after completing PhDs and ‘post-docs’ at Goldsmiths; Kanngieser from RMIT/Royal Holloway; Krause, from Kent; Sassatelli, from Sussex; and Tamari (0.25), from Nottingham Trent.
- **SLs/Readers:** Benson, from York; Coleman, from Lancaster; Day (0.2), from Kent; Gabrys, from Design at Goldsmiths; Guggenheim, from Zurich; Murthy, from Bowdoin, USA; Neyland, from Lancaster (subsequently promoted to a Chair); and Ruppert from CRESC, The Open University.
- **Professors:** Burrows, from York; Imrie (0.5) from KCL to work on a major ERC grant; Featherstone (0.25), editor-in-chief of *TCS* and *B&S*; Stiegler (0.2), otherwise based at the Georges Pompidou Center, to work on social philosophy; and Mirza (0.2) from the Institute of Education, to develop work on gender, race and faith.

We have additionally been joined by two new Visiting Professors. Venn, recently retired from Nottingham Trent, and long associated with colleagues here, works on both *TCS* and *B&S* and contributes to well-attended PG reading groups. Dorling (Oxford), a quantitative geographer committed to developing public understanding of social science, contributes to our research in quantitative methods, Big Data and urban inequalities and gives public lectures. Rojek from SAGE Publications has been appointed as a Visiting Fellow to contribute to our thinking on the future of academic publishing, in particular Open Access.

Our very strong preference is to hire academic staff on permanent contracts. However, in this REF cycle – coinciding as it has with the global financial crisis and the squeeze on HE budgets – we decided to direct as much resource as possible to support 2-year ‘post-doc’ teaching fellowships. The appointees, supported by academic mentors, were encouraged to convert PhDs to publications and to develop experience in lecturing, course development and administrative roles ahead of applications for permanent academic positions. Most of these posts were funded from external research grant ‘buy outs’. This has been enormously successful, resulting not only in published outputs of excellent quality, successful job applications and fantastic teaching and support for our UGs, but also the generation of a strong sense that we were able to actually ‘do’ something to support the future of the discipline during such hard times. On the rare occasions when we have used other forms of short-term contracts it has been to: hire experienced staff to cover for senior staff absence when the expertise needed could not be covered in any other way; to continue the employment of previously established staff on a PT basis to allow them to complete funded projects and/or research supervision; or to employ senior staff to develop particular short-term strategic projects.

Together these changes have produced a truly dynamic and collegiate staff group who are global, cosmopolitan and diverse in terms of both personal characteristics and sociological sensibilities. Of those submitting outputs almost 60% are female, and our ethnic and linguistic diversity is striking, with the following languages currently being used in research (spoken, written or/and reading): Arabic; Bengali; Catalan; Danish; Dutch; French; German; Hebrew; Hindi, Italian; Japanese, Korean; Mandarin; Portuguese; Punjabi; Spanish; Swedish; Turkish; Urdu; and Wolof.

The whole department is conscious of, and takes great care with, issues of equalities and diversity: they are, of course, at the heart of much of our research but are also deeply grounded in our everyday practices. The ‘super-diversity’ defining our student body, our academic and professional staff and, especially, the local population mean that issues of belief, ethnicity, gender, faith, politics, sexuality and so on are constant features of life at Goldsmiths. In this context collegiate transparency and accountability are essential; we and Goldsmiths as a whole take pride in generating a positive ‘structure of feeling’ amongst its staff. This is no small matter, and our ability to maintain excellent and equitable working relations between colleagues is, for us, paramount at a time when the forces of marketization, competition and metricization of the academy are such that these relations can easily be undermined, and with them the very essence of the real value of academic labour.

In part, the above is achieved by formal mechanisms of accountability generated through feedback, collaboration, representation and communication and supportive annual Performance Development Reviews (PDRs). However, much is also achieved by a degree of institutional informality that makes

Goldsmiths a distinctive and often pleasurable place to work. The intensive culture of events on campus and the widespread participation of staff and students in them generate many supportive interdisciplinary networks that have a value it is difficult to overestimate. These informal mechanisms of staff development and support generate high-trust relations that enable more formal mechanisms to be more effective than they might otherwise be. This is the case for all staff, but perhaps especially so for research and early career staff who are quickly thrust into a dynamic, inventive and supportive intellectual milieu where, for example, the implementation of policies such as the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers* is not experienced as a 'bolt-on' but as a set of affordances, expectations and practices that mesh easily with the broader flow of institutional life. This supportive milieu extends to the manner in which staff research outputs, grant applications and research integrity issues are dealt with. We internally peer review colleagues' draft outputs and grant applications (including holding mock interviews when this is part of the application process). The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) oversees these processes, but they usually occur within the research centres and/or thematic clusters. All staff are allocated mentors they can turn to, but they can also call upon research committee members for advice. Research ethics are dealt with by the Departmental Ethics Committee (a sub-committee of the DRC), which offers advice and screening of all ethics proposals before submission to the full Goldsmiths Ethics committee.

Our activities and logistical arrangements seek to stimulate and enable interactions. Room allocation is organised to facilitate research collaborations, with staff being located in or close to research centres and/or colleagues working on similar themes. Sociology, CCS and all of our research centres are located in three spatial clusters – none more than two minutes walk away from each other.

In addition to publishing and applying for grants, all staff generate 'events' (seminars, conferences, lectures, exhibitions, guided walks, performances) in their research areas, supporting and encouraging students at all levels to participate. Such occasions are big features of life at Goldsmiths in general, reflecting its strengths in art, music, theatre and performance, and contribute to its dynamic and innovative culture. Indeed, its commitment to embedding, promoting and facilitating such interactions has recently been consolidated by the appointment of Burrows to a new college-wide senior management position as Pro-Warden for Interdisciplinary Development.

Individual research plans are a central component of annual PDRs conducted by the Head of the Department (HoD), Deputy HoD or the Director of Research. These plans then inform - and are supported by - the DRC's organisation of seminars, away-days, and strategy discussions, and its allocation of c.£16K p.a. to develop grant applications – available on a competitive basis. Conference attendance is supported financially, as is attendance on internally and externally provided training programmes relevant to current research priorities and themes; for example in relation to our attempts to take seriously the 'digital', several staff and PG students have attended 'digital boot camps' to gain skills in Python, Javascript, R, data-mining, web design, and the use of APIs. We have likewise invested in developing the abilities of staff to carry out and disseminate truly innovative research in relation to the Migration, Mobilities and Urban Studies and Science and Technology themes, by funding their participation in advanced courses in specialist skills such as creative and non-fiction writing, photography and documentary film-making, fine art, design and visual culture.

All academic staff are eligible for one term of research leave after every six terms qualifying service; we operate this scheme flexibly, allowing leave to be deferred or to accumulate so that longer periods can be used where appropriate (e.g. to undertake extensive overseas fieldwork). Leave can also be brought forward if this is to strategic advantage. These periods of relief from teaching and administration – enabled by colleagues via recalibrations of complex internal workload models - are contingent on structured applications to the DRC which set out a clear plan for how the time will be used. Since the beginning of 2008 almost 30 terms of research leave have been allocated in this way, and the scheme has contributed to the generation of outputs, grant applications and other research activities. In addition to this internally-resourced research time, the equivalent of another 30 terms of research leave has been funded through the Dept's policy of enabling staff to draw on external research funding to 'buy out' some of their teaching and administrative responsibilities. The complexities of managing these intersecting research leaves schemes are considerable, but have proved so effective in incentivising and then facilitating research productivity that they will remain a core feature of our research environment and staff development strategy for the foreseeable future.

Although these leave schemes are not directly responsible for all our successful research awards, they have certainly provided the context in which it is recognised that intensive investments of time

and effort are required to secure significant grant funding and, especially, prestigious personal research fellowships. We have seen a step-change in our success in this regard during this REF cycle with fellowship funding from the: AHRC, for Bell; the British Academy, for Gunaratnam; Leverhulme, for Knowles; Marie Curie, for Farris and Marres; ESRC Future Research Leaders scheme, for Benson and Krause; and ESRC Professorial Fellowship for Skeggs.

### **c. II. Research students**

The PhD community across Goldsmiths is the lifeblood of the institution – active, autonomous, creative, energetic and profoundly committed to interdisciplinary working – generating all manner of events, initiatives and inventive practices that contributes so much to the intensive culture of intellectual and practice-based work alluded to elsewhere in this document. The postgraduate community is also incredibly diverse, generating all manner of productive tensions and synergies. The largest group comes from the UK, but during this REF cycle students registered in Sociology and CCS came from: Argentina; Canada; Chile; China; Columbia; Denmark; Finland; India; Iran; Italy; Latvia; New Zealand; Norway; Mexico; the Palestinian Territories (via scholarships jointly organised with the British Council); Peru; Poland; Sweden; Syria; Taiwan; Turkey; and the USA.

We have 195 PhD students registered, who ordinarily submit their thesis within four years and since the 2008 RAE a total of 90 PhDs have been awarded by Sociology and CCS. All research active staff supervise PhD students. All students have two supervisors, and occasionally additional specialist support, from across Goldsmiths. Students are encouraged to become actively involved with the research activities of centres and units as contributors and organisers of events and we also encourage the majority of our students to do a limited amount of undergraduate teaching (2-4 hours per week in the 2nd and 3rd years only). This is subject to a rigorous selection process and those appointed are provided with a staff mentor (who is not their supervisor).

All students sit research-training courses in a range of methods including quantitative methods, and also - depending on their specialism - in sensory methods. The methods courses were originally recognised by the ESRC as elements of our outstanding doctoral training programmes, which are now integrated within the Goldsmiths/QMUL ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) spanning ten social science departments across the two institutions. The Department of Sociology was awarded one-quarter of all studentships over the first two years of operation. Our staff also make a major contribution to shaping the DTC's inter-disciplinary research training agenda; Back, for example, has been Dean of the Graduate School and the convenor of the DTC Core Qualitative Methods course.

In addition to first year PhD methods training courses, all students may in subsequent years sit advanced methods training courses run from within Sociology/CCS or elsewhere across Goldsmiths. These courses are formally hosted by the ESRC DTC, forming part of its integrated training programme, and address: advanced quantitative methods; overseas fieldwork; digital methods; issue mapping; research with children; and many other topics. Outwith this formal provision, Goldsmiths has an incredibly strong culture of students 'auditing' (attending lectures/classes but not taking assessment) courses that may be of interest. For example, a recent MA course run by Toscano in Sociology - *Mapping Capitalism* – was attended by a large number of PhD students (and quite a few members of academic staff) from across the institution because of the theoretically innovative manner in which it tackled the analysis of the current economic crisis.

We have also attracted substantial AHRC support for doctoral training. CCS was awarded 15 studentships via the AHRC's block grant to Goldsmiths over the past 5 years; and we will benefit even more from the second round of this funding since Goldsmiths is a member of the 7-partner [CHASE](#) Consortium for Humanities and the Arts South-East England which was recently awarded £17m. With additional institutional funding, this will provide about 370 studentships, of which about 65 will be at Goldsmiths.. Together with the existing ESRC DTC the Dept will be a major provider of PG education and the training of the next generation of sociologists.

The Dept PGR Committee ensures that students' excellent training in core research skills is complemented by a range of other activities designed to build their confidence and skills in broader academic activities, and to engage them in contributing actively to our dynamic research culture. To this end all PhD students attend Professional Development Workshops, which focus on broader and practical issues such as setting up a journal; organizing a conference; academic publishing; the art of editing; communicating with non-academics; and career planning after the PhD. They present papers based on their research at the twice-monthly 'Paper Chain' seminar series or in the CCS

'advanced seminar'. Students routinely organize seminars and conferences, inviting visiting speakers. Sociology/CCS students also actively contribute to organising the Graduate School's annual 'festival of ideas', which includes a PG colloquium with over 60 presentations, film screenings, public lectures, art and music performances and installations; this runs across 3 weeks in the Spring. Led by Back, it has now developed an excellent reputation that attracts numerous students (and others) from across London, the UK and the EU. Students in Sociology also organize an annual long-weekend 'retreat' to Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park; this is used to review their research, institutional processes, and the research culture, and to plan new initiatives. CCS PhD students have the opportunity of involvement in a number of initiatives including an AHRC funded five-year annual rotating colloquium between Berlin, Copenhagen and Goldsmiths.

Perhaps one of the simplest, but most productive, innovations has been the scheduling of annual meeting of heads of research Centres with the new intake of PhD students to discuss their work and engage interest. Students edit the CUCR in-house magazine *Streetsigns*, write the regular CSISP and CUCR blogs and organize sessions for the CSISP 'My Best Fiend' seminar series, and the CSISP Salon speaker series. In CCS students produce and edit two journals: *Nyx* and *The New Cross Review of Books*. In the UoP students participate in organising seminars, act as respondents to invited speakers and participate in an international network of 'early scholars' covering five continents. More generally students are encouraged to establish their own research networks and blogs on the basis of clusters of research interest with the support of academic staff. We also run joint seminars with NYU and the LSE (via the NYLon Network). Via an AHRC Beyond Text Network grant, students run on-going colloquia on Borders in: London, Copenhagen, Berlin and Gothenburg. They also regularly have intensive workshops with major international theorists, since 2008 including Bruno Latour; Lauren Berlant; Judith Butler; Donna Haraway; José van Dijck; and Philip Mirowski.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

Comparisons between grant income in this REF cycle and the last can be calculated in any number of ways. Over half of staff in this submission held grants at some point in this cycle, a significant proportionate increase since RAE 2008. Whatever the basis of the calculation it is clear that – on both an aggregate and per capita basis – we have enjoyed a substantial increase in funding. We have been particularly successful with major grants in the last 18 months or so of this cycle, monies not yet fully represented in the 'spend' figure of £3,498,456 supplied as part of the data requirements.

Since Jan 2008 we have collectively been *awarded* external research funding totalling c. £11.7 m, from major funders including RCUK; the EC; the Leverhulme Trust; The British Academy; and third-stream partners such as Intel and Microsoft. The largest testify to our ability to develop emerging research leaders: thus Campbell, Gabrys, Guggenheim, Imrie and Neyland's successful applications to the ERCs starter and advanced grant schemes accruing a total of over £4.8 m. Research strengths in innovation and new methodology won funding from the ESRC's NCRM and Digital Social Research programmes, and a new relationship was founded with Microsoft who, alongside existing partners Intel, awarded funds for socio-technical research. Internationally, Back and Neyland participated in consortia funded by the EC's FP7 Co-operation programme, and we have also collaborated internationally with the Berlin Capital Cultural Fund (Guggenheim) and the University of Oslo (Marres). Bell combined an AHRC fellowship with a BA UK-Latin America link award to pursue her research on Memory and Justice with colleagues in Argentina. Burrows, Michael and Ruppert all held major ESRC awards funding UK-based multi-institutional research groups to examine: neighbourhoods of the 'super-rich'; sustainability invention and energy demand reduction; and the risks and vulnerabilities of digital data-objects. As already described but worth repeating: Skeggs won a prestigious ESRC Professorial Fellowship to run from Sept 2013; and our aim to advance researchers at earlier career stages was highly successful with ESRC Future Research Leader awards to Benson and Krause and a BA Fellowship to Gunaratnam.

These improvements in income generation have reflected a combination of our research strategy - which strove to improve departmental sustainability and expand intellectual initiatives and spaces through the enhancement and development of structures to support research activity – and staff hiring policy. Our decision to devote a proportion of overhead income to research innovation resulted in an increase in grant awards. This initiative mirrors support available at central institutional level, whereby annual funding rounds invite staff to bid for 'seed corn' funds based on current priorities (career development, impact of research, early-stage application support). Research Centres are the foci for grant applications. Management roles to support research are also embedded into the

organizational structure, a workload allocation system ensuring an appropriate balance between the demands of research management and other academic activities. Significant weighting is applied to the work of Centre Directors, though all elements of research activity are accounted for to enable staff to remain research-active. We have strategically invested (from grant overheads, reserves and reallocation of staff budgets) over the last few years in two permanent part-time posts which support all aspects of research from application to project implementation. Staff and PhD students who are new to external research funding are offered training, either individually or through organised group sessions, and they are supported throughout the process. A strategy has also evolved whereby newly qualified staff who studied with us are included in grant applications; during this REF cycle this has resulted in the appointment of 5 former students to research positions working under funded PIs: Burrows/Glucksberg; Campbell/Garbett; Michael/Wilkie; Marres/Gerlitz; and Knowles/Wissel.

All academic and research staff are housed alongside PhD students in our three locations across campus. All full-time academics and most research staff have their own offices; some research staff and all PhD students have shared office space. All benefit from unparalleled library collections, with good on-site provision complemented by full membership of the UoL's Senate House library and easy access to the British Library.

#### **e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base**

Colleagues at Goldsmiths are committed to defending and furthering the intellectual agenda and institutional context of sociology and related disciplines across the arts, humanities and social sciences. Many of the submitted outputs are concerned with these issues, as are many of the events and conferences we have organised during this REF cycle. However, we are aware of the dangers of cultivating a self-reflexive 'sociology of sociology' and so have attempted to develop a proactive, positive and practical set of interventions and contributions to the discipline and its research base as well. Perhaps the clearest expression of this has been via Back's popular [Academic Diary](#). Motivated by the impact of this we have recently consolidated many of the resources we have drawn upon in our development of a 'live sociology' and 'inventive methods' at [Live Sociology](#), which we intend as a crucial collaborative portal in sustaining a critical sociological imagination in the UK and beyond. We have also disseminated our work and debates about the future of our discipline via various forms of collaborative social media – having some particular success with Twitter (@SociologyGold has about 2400 followers and 'Klout' score of 51) and [CSISP](#) and [CUCR](#) blogs.

We also have strategically sought to contribute to the discipline by engaging in various forms of editorial activity. Goldsmiths is now a major national and international hub in this regard. We are the editorial base for major mainstream journals such as *The Sociological Review* (co-edited by Skeggs) and *Theory, Culture & Society* (edited by Featherstone with others at Goldsmiths). But we also edit more specialised journals such as *Body & Society* (edited by Featherstone with Blackman in Media and Communications), *Computational Culture* (edited by Fuller and colleagues) and *Big Data & Society* (BD&S) (to be edited by Ruppert from 2014). We have appointed Robert Rojek from SAGE publications (who produce *TCS*, *B&S* and *BD&S*) as a visiting fellow in order to contribute to debates about the future of academic publishing and, especially, the implications of 'open access' through a series of events in 2013/14. Colleagues submitted here are also active members of a large number of other journal editorial boards including, *inter alia*: *British Journal of Sociology*; *Convergence*; *Dialectical Anthropology*; *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Dark Matter*; *Feminist Review*; *Historical Materialism*; *Identities*; and *Information, Communication & Society*.

We have also sought to contribute to national debates via various approaches which complement and extend our two edited collections, *Inventive Methods* and *Live Methods*. Thus Burrows, Back, Kanngieser, Marres, Rooke, and Wakeford have disseminated ideas from those collections in the annual ESRC research methods festival; Ruppert has co-edited and Burrows and Marres have contributed to two journal special issues on the 'social life of methods'; whilst Back has co-hosted and coordinated a series of ESRC-funded networks on methodological innovations in real time research. Burrows and Ruppert have also both contributed to on-going debates about the 'coming crisis of empirical sociology' at BSA organised workshops and special e-issue of *Sociology*.

Almost all staff routinely referee journal articles and book proposals. Many referee grant applications and/or sit on the ESRC Peer Review College and/or act as rapporteurs for completed RCUK projects. Some have been involved in strategic resource allocation decisions: Michael sits on ERC panels allocating grants; Burrows and Oswell on the International Review Panel for FST, Portugal and Skeggs on a similar panel in Finland. Burrows was a member of the commissioning panel of the

recent ESRC Google analytics call and is an assessor on the REF Social Work and Social Policy Panel. Oswell has been involved in the UK Universities Research Ethics Committee Working Group.

We are committed to on-going research outreach with a wide range of organisations. Although some of this activity will fall under the auspices of 'impact' much of it is more collaborative and open ended in its intent. Of course, much of this activity involves working with other academic institutions. We have innumerable contacts in this regard. Likewise, a full listing of other research stakeholders we have routine contact with is not possible other to note that, in this REF cycle, it has included, *inter alia*: industrial partners (such as Intel, Microsoft and The Brand Union); international and European organisations and agencies (such as the United Nations, the EU European Initiative for Biotechnology Education and UNESCO); national and local government (such as the Home Office, the Department of Health and numerous London boroughs); other public bodies (such as the BBC, the RSA and the National AIDS Trust); and charities (such as Leverhulme, Wellcome and Amnesty).

We have also tried to make Goldsmiths a hub for academic visitors and speakers and welcomed colleagues from across the UK to come and hear them speak. Within this REF cycle academic colleagues such as Lev Manovich (CUNY), Natalie Jeremijenko (New York University) and Keith Jacobs (UTAS, Australia) and artists/practitioners such as Michael Richardson and Simon Yuill (not a member of our research staff) have held visiting appointments with us. On a more episodic basis we have hosted well attended lectures (often podcasted) by, *inter alia*: Howard Becker; John Scott; Nancy Fraser; Anthony Giddens; Michael Taussig; Michael Burawoy; Luc Boltanski; Étienne Balibar; Jeffrey Alexander; Boaventura De Sousa Santos; Maurizio Lazzarato; Donatella Della Porta; Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak; Bruno Latour; Philip Mirowski; and Judith Butler.

Such high profile speakers are just a small part of a far larger programme of events that we – and our students – organise at Goldsmiths and, on occasion, elsewhere in London. Most are open to all and are part of our strategy to engage various audiences in a number of different ways. We have organised 20 major conferences since 2008; for example:

- *Shock and Awe: A Hundred Years of Bombing from Above* (2011, co-organised with the LSE, funded by the British Academy, 250 delegates) marked the centenary of the aerial bomb.
- *Cities in Conflict* (2011, co-organised with the Institute of Contemporary Arts, 79 delegates) discussing the mapping and documentation of cities in and after conflict.
- *Architecture of Spectacle* (2012, co-organised with the Whitechapel Art Gallery, 50 delegates), considered the staging of a modern Olympic Games.
- The 2013 annual International *Visual Sociology Association Conference* (300 delegates), organised by CUCR, considered the concept of the "public image", and how visual sociology can bring a sociological understanding of social life to a vibrant, active and diverse public.

We are hosting two ESRC seminar series - *Rethinking Centres & Peripheries* (Knowles); *Designing Inclusive Environments* (Imrie) - and have organised many smaller open workshops on topics including Measure & Value (2009); Sensory Methods (2010); Responding to the Riots (2011); Public Art Tactics (2011); and Feminist Genealogies (2012). In total these have attracted over 250 people.

We have also organised a range of other activities reflecting our interdisciplinary research. Sociology and CCS presented eight performance pieces, some in collaboration with Coventry Cathedral (2008 and 2010, 'Unravelling' and 'Post-Colonial War Requiem'), the Southbank Centre (2010, 'Noise of the Past'), Tate Modern (2011, 'Embodying Transformation') and the V&A Museum (2012, 'Moving Forest'). Over 20 films were screened, including one commissioned by the Dept and AHRC-funded.

Current and affiliated students and staff practitioners participated in over 30 exhibitions, either on campus or in London spaces, exemplifying our visual methods research. In 2009, staff began a guided walks series for PG students, exploring urban regeneration around the Olympic site, the changing tastes of industrial London from street markets to afternoon teas, the spatial realisation of social difference in the Thames Gateway area and the geography and social history of Paris. The annual photography Summer School, launched in 2010, continued to accept around 16 students p.a. for an intensive, two-week practical and theoretical training in key aspects of urban visual practice.

In sum, through diverse projects, practices, pedagogy and intellectual commitments, Sociology at Goldsmiths has and continues to forge cosmopolitan, interdisciplinary, process-oriented, creative and inventive approaches to research that shift the boundaries and enliven the sociological imagination of our discipline.