

<b>Institution:</b> Birkbeck
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> Sociology
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>The research comprising Birkbeck's Sociology submission has been carried out under the auspices of the <b>Birkbeck Institute for Social Research</b> by staff from three Departments in the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy (Psychosocial Studies; Geography, Environment and Development Studies; Politics) and from the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies in the School of Arts. At the core of our interdisciplinary social research is work in sociology and social theory, which takes place in all four departments. Our distinctively critical and socially-engaged research is organised around five themes, each of which has a global/comparative dimension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social, psychosocial and feminist theory and methods</li> <li>• social movements, citizenship, policy and participation</li> <li>• subjectivity, intimacy, life-course and home</li> <li>• place, nation, and environment</li> <li>• media, culture, communication and learning</li> </ul> <p>The relatively small size of departments at Birkbeck and their interdisciplinary character mean that there are many shared research interests across departmental boundaries. The Birkbeck Institute for Social Research (BISR) provides leadership of, and the focus for, social research. Recently established at the time of RAE 2008, the BISR has, under the Directorship of Roseneil, evolved its role and greatly expanded its activities. The BISR sits within the Birkbeck Institute, which is an umbrella for the three cross-College research institutes: BISR, the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities (BIH), and the newly-established Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image. The Birkbeck Institute is funded by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy (SSHP), the School of Arts, and the School of Law. Research strategy for social research is developed and overseen by a cross-Departmental group of social researchers, chaired by the Director of BISR.</p> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>At the heart of our research strategy is a commitment to the development of sociologically-informed and interdisciplinary social research with a distinctively critical hue. Seeking to support theoretically grounded, theory-building empirical research, and socially-relevant/ politically-engaged theoretical work of global significance, our research strategy has been directed both at expanding and improving the research carried out within Departments, and at developing cross-Departmental social research activities and synergies via the BISR.</p> <p>Social research at Birkbeck has undergone a process of radical restructuring and renewal since RAE 2008, which was our first substantial Sociology RAE submission. The re-organisation in 2009 of the College into five new Schools, and the establishment of three of the Departments that are represented in this submission enabled us to consolidate attention and resources on social research across a number of social science disciplines and interdisciplinary areas. The leadership and focus provided by BISR, together with this reorganisation, have resulted in a step-change in the strength and quality of social research at Birkbeck.</p> <p>Our <b>core strategic aims</b> have been and remain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: to invest in the development of a creative, collaborative, inclusive research culture across all our research themes (see immediately below)</li> <li>2: to renew social research at Birkbeck through the appointment of a new generation of excellent researchers (see c. below)</li> <li>3: to extend the European and global engagement of Birkbeck social researchers (see d. below)</li> <li>4: to put in place robust structures to support staff in conducting their research (see c. below)</li> <li>5: to expand the size, and enhance the learning experience and development, of our research student community (see c. below)</li> <li>6: to enhance the provision of research training for researchers at all career stages, from PhD students to professors (see c. below)</li> <li>7: to increase the number of researchers holding research grants, and to increase grant income, particularly from research councils and the EU (see d. below)</li> <li>8: to be at the forefront of the development of the new interdisciplinary field of psychosocial studies (see d. below)</li> </ol>

We have achieved great success in meeting each of these aims, as we show below for the first overarching strategic aim and then in subsequent sections for the other strategic aims.

**Strategic Aim1: The development of a creative, collaborative, inclusive research culture**

Since 2008, in addition to regular monthly departmental seminars in each of the contributing departments, the BISR has hosted a programme of 30-40 seminars, lectures, colloquia and conferences each year, many proposed by colleagues within this submission. There are a number of distinct streams of activity within BISR:

**BISR Working Groups:** these are self-organised initiatives of Birkbeck social researchers, receiving up to £2k per year in funding from BISR. Working Groups meet regularly as reading groups, to discuss colleagues' work-in-progress and papers by visiting speakers. With regard to **strategic aims 3 & 7**, BISR Working Groups are expected to develop collaborative publications and funding bids, international partnerships and engagement with non-academic partners.

- *Birkbeck Interdisciplinary Gender and Sexuality Working Group (BiGS) (2008-):* has had an extensive programme of over 50 seminars, lectures, conferences and film screenings, and has an active postgraduate sub-group. Steering group members come from across the social sciences, arts and humanities, and include Cox, Posocco, Roseneil & Segal.
- *BISR Intimate Citizenship Working Group (2008-13):* led by Roseneil, and associated with the FEMCIT project (EU FP6), two ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowships, and an ESF grant.
- *The Birkbeck Food Group (2010-):* involving Barker, Cox & Tomlinson.
- *BISR Psychoanalysis Working Group (2013-):* involving Baraitser, Frosh, Hook, Roseneil, Segal & Spurling. This emerged from the *Freud Reading Group* that met monthly from 2007 to 2013 to read and discuss the complete works of Freud.
- *BISR Guilt Working Group (2013-):* led by Ashenden, with Frosh, Seu, Schlosberg & Wells.

**Visiting Speaker Lectures/ Seminars:** at least once a term we invite leading social researchers, and our visiting fellows, to speak to packed lecture theatres of Birkbeck staff, students and wider interested communities. These talks have been organised around annual themes such as *Diagnosing the Contemporary*, and *Sites of Conflict*, as well as addressing one-off topics.

**BISR Colloquia:** termly one-day research events attended by 40-250 researchers and PhD students. Colleagues submit proposals to organise Colloquia around their areas of research interest and/or connected to externally funded research. Themes and organisers have included:

- Social, psychosocial and feminist theory and methods: *Learning from Experience* (Frosh & Baraitser); *The Work of Jessica Benjamin* (Frosh & Baraitser); *Gatekeepers & Social Research: Hindrance or Facilitation?* (linked to Crowhurst's ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship); *A Feeling for Things: The Work of Jane Bennett* (Baraitser); *Travels around Anarchism, Feminism, Queer* (Roseneil)
- Social movements, citizenship, policy and participation: *Moving Citizens: Exploring Worlds of Emotional Politics* (linked to Roseneil's EU FEMCIT project); *Conflict and Collaboration: Women's Liberation Movements in Historical and Comparative Perspective* (linked to Rees' ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship); *Intimate Citizenship: Cross-National Perspectives on Changing Policies and Practices* (linked to Roseneil's EU FEMCIT project); *Thinking Through Time and History in Feminism* (linked to PhD student project); *Citizenship, Gender and Diversity* (linked to Roseneil's EU FEMCIT project)
- Subjectivity, intimacy, life-course and home: *The Housing Crisis: Experience, Analysis & Response* (linked to Watt's British Academy project); *Spaces of Home* (Cox); *The Political Economy of Social Reproduction across the Life Course: Global Perspectives* (Wells & Vera-Sanso); *Living Apart Together: What Have We Learnt?* (linked to Roseneil's ESRC project)
- Place, nation and environment: *Food & Public Space in a Global City* (Cox & Barker); *Beyond the Pink Curtain: Eastern European Sexualities, Homophobia and Western Eyes* (linked to PhD student project)
- Media, culture, communication and learning: *Human Rights and Visual Culture; Tactical Play: playful enquiry as a tactic for change in socially engaged arts and social sciences* (linked to PhD student projects).

**Conferences:** major international conferences organised include *Social Research after the Cultural Turn*, which launched the BISR in 2008, and led to an edited book of the same title by

Birkbeck social researchers (eds. Roseneil and Frosh, 2011), *Beyond Citizenship? Feminism and the Transformation of Belonging* (in collaboration with FEMCIT, in 2010), which also led to a book (Roseneil, 2013 and a special issue of *Citizenship Studies*, 2013), *Psycho-Political Resistance in Israel Palestine* (2009, organised by Segal), and *M(O)ther Trouble* (2009) (MaMSIE, Mapping Maternal Subjectivities, Identities and Ethics and Baraitser), from which a special issue of *Studies in the Maternal* (2010) was produced.

In addition to being at the heart of the research culture of the BISR, members of the unit are active in a number of other collective forums at Birkbeck. The **BIH** (International Director: Žižek) has had an equally lively programme of events, including critical theory Master Classes by Etienne Balibar, Wendy Brown, Drucilla Cornell, Sander Gilman, Boaventura de Susa Santos, Hayden White and Slavoj Žižek, over 50 conferences and workshops, and the annual week-long **Critical Theory Summer School**. Other focal points are the **Pears Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism** (est. 2010), the **Birkbeck Race Forum** and the **Centre for Media, Culture and Creative Practice**. The **London International Development Centre**, established in 2007 with HEFCE funding, is a joint enterprise across the University of London Bloomsbury Colleges that is vital to our development studies researchers. Furthermore, the Departments each have a stream of internally facing research seminars for staff and PhD students, and public lectures, for instance the **Eila Campbell Annual Lecture in Human Geography** (recently given by Ray Pahl, Danny Dorling and Gillian Rose), the **Ellen Noonan Annual Lecture in Counselling and Psychotherapy** (given by leading practitioner-theorists), and the **Psychosocial Studies Annual Lecture**.

### Future Research Strategy

Given our relatively recent consolidation as a field of research at Birkbeck, our research strategy and core strategic aims for the coming five years remain as outlined above. We will continue to realise this strategy as follows:

**Strategic Aim 1:** we will launch a new **Centre for Social Change and Transformation in Higher Education** (Director: Zukas, with Callender, Hout, and early career researchers) to develop our critically orientated research on higher education, adult learning and education policy. The newly established **Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image** (Director: Mulvey) will provide an important focus for our research on media, culture and communication.

**Strategic Aim 2:** see c. below.

**Strategic Aim 3:** we will seek to realise the full potential of new and existing collaborative partnerships with the University of Sao Paulo and the University of Oslo, through joint funding applications and staff and research student exchanges, and exploring the possibility of a partnership with a major metropolitan North American university with a similar mission to Birkbeck.

**Strategic Aim 4:** we will enhance the mentoring provided for all researchers by instituting a training programme for research mentors, and attending, in particular, to the difficult transition for newly appointed lecturers from PhD to independent research, and to the particular needs of mid-career researchers, who are often in danger of becoming overloaded with management tasks.

**Strategic Aim 5:** recognizing the financial problems faced by self-funded PhD students, and to attract more high calibre full-time students, we will increase the number and value of PhD studentships via the new **Birkbeck Anniversary Doctoral Scholarships** scheme, as well as by writing studentships into grant applications, applying for Bloomsbury Colleges Studentships, and intensifying efforts to obtain sponsorship from employers and charities. From 2013-14 we instituted a new cross-College programme of quantitative and qualitative Doctoral Social Science Research Skills Workshops and a series of intensive Statistics Workshops to address skills deficits in this area. We will expand the **BISR Internship Programme**, from 3 to 5 paid PhD internships per year.

**Strategic Aim 6:** we are introducing a new series of *Methods Lunches* - seminars exploring research design and methods as they arise in on-going research projects, and discussing recently published and classic methods texts.

**Strategic Aim 7:** we will consolidate existing ad hoc activities into a rolling programme of grant writing workshops, led by experienced grant holders, to provide guidance in drafting and costing applications, with the aim of spreading success in winning grants across the whole unit.

**Strategic Aim 8:** we will develop and promote the distinctive "Birkbeck School" of Psychosocial Studies through: Departmental collaborative publishing activities via the *Palgrave Studies in the Psychosocial* book series (co-editor: Frosh); monographs by individuals with other publishers; and

continuing to provide active field-building leadership, nationally and internationally.

### c. People

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Underpinning our research strategy is a commitment to developing the capacities, skills and “life-long learning” of our staff and research students, and to supporting them, as individuals and collectively, in the production of excellent research and the pursuit of fulfilling careers.

Since 2008, social research at Birkbeck has been revitalised through the appointment of a new generation of excellent researchers across all our research themes (**Strategic Aim 2**), and particularly in our distinctive field of psychosocial studies (**Strategic Aim 8**), with many having European/ global/ transnational research interests and connections (**Strategic Aim 3**). We have made 14 new appointments (Barker, Callender, Hook, Hoult, Lewis, MacLean, Palacios, Posocco, Rodgers, Schlosberg, Shiode, Soreanu, Tomlinson, Zukas), and almost half the staff submitted in RAE 2008 have retired or left Birkbeck for new positions elsewhere. This means that we have had an influx of energetic and talented researchers at all levels – 10 early career researchers (9 lecturers, 1 research fellow), 2 mid-career senior lecturers/ readers, 2 professors – who are working with existing staff in transforming the research environment. Research achievement and potential, and the ability to contribute to research-led teaching, particularly in specialist postgraduate programmes, are fundamental considerations in all academic appointments at Birkbeck, and beyond this we have focused staff recruitment around our strategy of developing excellence across our five research themes in the four departments. The profile of staff within the unit means that we are well positioned in terms of sustainability and succession planning, with 6 professors (4.25fte), 5 readers, 8 senior lecturers, 9 lecturers, and 1 Marie-Curie fellow, who is one of three members of the unit on a fixed term contract. Four members of staff were promoted to readerships during the REF period (Baraitser, Cox, Hook, Markham), 6 to senior lectureships (Milbourne, Palacios, Seu, Sullivan, Watt, Wells), 5 to lecturer B (Barker, Posocco, Rodgers, Shiode, Tomlinson), and 1 (Vera-Sanso) was appointed from a research position to a lectureship.

#### **Researcher support, training and development:**

We have put in place robust structures to support staff in conducting their research (**Strategic Aim 4**). Central to this is one-to-one research mentoring, which the College’s Research Strategy mandates as expected practice. Mentoring meetings take place regularly, and are supplemented by email support and the reading of draft grant applications and papers. Early career researchers have reduced teaching loads and a “probation mentor”, and all staff are offered academic progress and development reviews annually. Beyond this, Birkbeck is committed to the principles outlined in the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*. Staff within the unit have undertaken a range of externally-provided courses to support their research (e.g. biographical narrative interpretive method (BNIM); NVivo; SPSS; Survey Data Analysis; documentary film making; Modern Arabic), and longer specialist post-graduate trainings (e.g. Hook, Lewis, Roseneil and Spurling in Lacanian psychoanalysis, psychodynamic psychotherapy, group analysis and interpersonal psychotherapy respectively; and Hook in MA Creative Non-Fiction).

The BISR has taken range of initiatives to develop the knowledge base and skills of social researchers at all career stages, from PhD to professor, drawing on the expertise of colleagues at Birkbeck and bringing in outside speakers (**Strategic Aims 5, 6 & 7**). For instance, in 2012-13 the bi-termly *Developing your Research Career* seminars addressed the following topics: “blogging to develop your career”, “how to write successful grant proposals”, “creating impact, making a difference”, “academic reference managers”, “research council grants are possible!”, and “the networked academic: using social media”. The *Doing Critical Social Research* series, which ran from 2008 to 2013, has offered at least one seminar a term, focused particularly on innovative social research methodologies, and is being refreshed in 2013-14 with a new *Methods Lunch* seminar series. These seminars are invariably very well-attended, and provide a resource for researchers and PhD students from across London, and globally as podcasts available via *Backdoor Broadcasting*.

#### **Research Ethics**

Birkbeck takes the ethical conduct of research very seriously. With the establishment of the new

School structure, School Ethics Committees with multi-disciplinary representation were formed to strengthen and further develop ethical research practice. In addition to the conventional work of developing policy and upholding standards by considering research proposals from academic staff and students, the Chair of the SSHP Ethics Committee (Seu) leads an annual pro-active, developmental exercise with staff to discuss ethical social research practice (**Strategic Aims 4 & 6**). The School Ethics Committees report to the College's Ethics and Research Committees.

#### **Conference Attendance Funds and Research Pump-Priming**

Academics have an annual allocation of £500-£600 for conference attendance/ research pump-priming (**Strategic Aim 4**). The SSHP Research Committee has an annual budget of £75k from which colleagues can apply for up to £2k per year in addition to their fixed allocation; the School of Arts allows bids of up to £1.5k, from a budget of £20k. These funds have enabled staff to give papers at conferences around the world, to undertake pilot and small scale studies, and to engage in research-based continuing professional development (**Strategic Aim 6**). "Research incentive funds" held in Departments are also used to finance conferences, visiting speakers, research "away days", continuing professional development, and to buy research equipment (**Strategic Aims 4 & 6**).

#### **Study leave**

In recognition of the importance of thinking and writing time that is free from teaching and administration, all HEFCE funded academics are able to apply for one term of study leave in every nine terms (**Strategic Aim 4**). Colleagues are required to submit a clear research plan and to report back on the work completed during their study leave. Almost every member of staff who has been in post over three years has benefitted from at least one term's study leave since 2008.

#### **Equality of opportunity in research**

Engagement with issues of equality and diversity is central to the critical social research carried out at Birkbeck, and can be seen across all our research themes. It is also evident in the support given to research in gender and sexuality studies, and on race and ethnicity, through BiGS and the Birkbeck Race Forum, both of which also have "activist/interventionist" agendas that draw on understandings from social research to promote equality and diversity within the College. Institutionally, Birkbeck is committed to the development of positive policies to promote equal opportunities for our research staff. We are members/ adherents of various good practice initiatives, including the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*, *Positive for Disability 'Two Ticks' Scheme*, the *Mindful-Employer* (mental health) initiative, and we are a Bronze award holder for the *Athena SWAN Charter for Women in Science*. Recently, the College Research Committee agreed to develop new mechanisms to support researchers with caring responsibilities, e.g. offering staff with dependents assistance with the additional costs of travel involved in the conduct and dissemination of research. There are 21 women and 8 men in the submission, with women well-distributed across the career ladder.

#### **ii. Research students**

Our commitment to expanding the size and enhancing the experience of our research student community (**Strategic Aim 5**) is fundamentally linked to the project of developing a creative, collaborative, inclusive research culture across all our research themes (**Strategic Aim 1**). We now have a flourishing community of 73 MPhil/ PhD /DPsychotherapy students (October 2013), both the part-time students whom Birkbeck has traditionally attracted, and a growing number of full-time home/ EU and international students. We have nearly doubled our research student numbers during this assessment period compared with the RAE 2008 period, from 133.34 fte to 234.8fte, which, we are confident, will soon lead to a considerable increase in PhD student completions. Our students have been supported by a wide range of funders, including Birkbeck fee waivers and studentships (28), students' employers (11), local and health authorities and government departments (10), research councils (ESRC, AHRC, EPSRC, British Academy 7), overseas governments/ funding bodies (2) and charities (1). Six PhD students have been in salaried employment as 3-year Teaching Assistants in Psychosocial Studies during the REF period, with two in post at any one time.

Our research students are required to attend **Departmental Doctoral Seminars** at which they present their work in progress. Those who are conducting empirical social research also join the fortnightly **BISR Graduate Seminar in Social Research** which aims to develop reflexive social researchers through a collaboratively negotiated programme of specialist seminars on research design, methods and data analysis, as well as an open space for peer support. Theoretically orientated students attend the monthly **Critical Theory Seminar**, and members of the unit also run a **Latin America Reading Group** and a cross-University of London **Gender and Development Seminar** for PhD students. The Birkbeck-led **Dandelion Network**, an AHRC funded postgraduate forum provides a wide range of activities (co-present and virtual) for students working on theoretical/ humanities-orientated projects. All research students are strongly encouraged to take part in the seminars and lectures offered by the BISR and the BIH, and within departments, and to audit modules from the MA Social Research, especially the **Master Classes in Social Research Methods**. Many also take part in the **Birkbeck Race Forum PhD Study Group, BiGS Postgraduate Student Group**, and self-organised reading groups (e.g. Freud; Lacan, “theory”).

All research students are automatically enrolled in the **Birkbeck Graduate Research School**, which exists to enhance the training of research students, providing an extensive range of workshops and courses aimed at developing generic and transferable skills, from the start of the PhD to after completion. Students also have access to the **Bloomsbury Postgraduate Skills Network**. Nine of our PhD students have taken up opportunities to work as paid interns in BISR and for the research network, MaMSIE, thereby developing their academic writing, editing, conference organising, networking and social media skills, and their understanding of research more widely. Others have been able to develop their skills and employability by working as teaching assistants, teaching and scholarship lecturers, and research assistants at Birkbeck.

We consider the supervision of research students to be an important element of every academic's research activities, and the College Research Strategy aims to ensure that every academic supervises at least one doctoral student, with successful supervision an important consideration for promotion. We have made great strides in ensuring that supervision is spread more evenly amongst colleagues within the unit, with all but the most recently appointed acting as supervisors. Colleagues who have not supervised to completion always co-supervise with experienced supervisors, as part of our research development strategy (**Strategic Aim 4**) and because we believe that the collegial dialogue that is at the heart of co-supervision enhances both the learning of the research student (**Strategic Aim 5**) and contributes to the building of a collaborative research culture (**Strategic Aim 1**). At least three supervision meetings a term for full-time students, and two for part-timers, are required by the College's *Code of Practice for Postgraduate Training and Research*. Students write detailed minutes of these meetings, and their progress is monitored at regular Departmental Research Student committees, to which supervisors submit written reports, and through a rigorous upgrade process from provisional to full doctoral status, involving written and oral presentations to a panel that is independent of supervisors. We have been very pleased to see recent doctoral graduates appointed to posts at Bedfordshire, Birkbeck, Bradford, Brunel, Luxembourg, Okan, Open, New York, Southampton and Warsaw Universities, to achieve promotion to senior clinical posts in the NHS, and to publish numerous well received books and articles.

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

##### **Grant income**

In support of **Strategic Aims 4, 6 & 7**, the BISR and the Research Grants Office (RGO) organise several workshops each year addressing various aspects of the process of developing research grant proposals, often with speakers from the charities such as Wellcome and Leverhulme. The RGO and School Research Managers provide individualized support for all applicants, and a rigorous process of peer review of draft proposals, including attention to ethics (see above), has been instituted, contributing to a consistent success rate of around 35% (**Strategic Aim 7**).

We have achieved a very significant increase in the value of our active/ confirmed research grants, from £2m for the period prior to RAE 2008, to £3.8m for this REF period, with a number of major new awards recently announced. Importantly for the sustainability and breadth of our research base, this funding has been secured by nearly two thirds (17) of the staff in this submission,

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including several early career researchers. Researchers employed on externally-funded projects have been supported to apply for grants in their own right (**Strategic Aim 4**). For example, FEMCIT researchers Crowhurst and Santos were subsequently awarded ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowships under Roseneil's mentorship. They have since moved on to established posts at other universities, where Santos has been awarded a 5-year ERC Starting Grant and Crowhurst a COST Action, both developing research begun at Birkbeck.

We have greatly increased our range of RCUK funding, including the following schemes: **ESRC Response Mode** Roseneil (*Living Apart Together: a multi-method analysis*); Cox (*Au-pairing after the Au Pair Scheme*); **ESRC Seminar Series** Barker (*The Socio-Politics of Biosecurity*); Wells (*Violence and Childhood: international perspectives*) **New Dynamics of Ageing programme** Vera-Sanso (*Ageing, Poverty and Neo-Liberalism*); **ESRC Follow-on Funding** Vera-Sanso (*Ageing and Poverty*); **ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowships** Crowhurst; Rees; Santos; **ESRC/ AHRC Connected Communities** Hault (part of the *Imagining different communities and making them happen* consortium, led from Edinburgh); **AHRC Research Networks** Posocco (*Decolonizing Sexualities Network*); **British Academy Small Grants** Posocco; Shiode; Watt; **AHRC Care for the Future Programme** Sullivan (*Future Pasts in an Apocalyptic Moment*).

The Unit started to win significant European funding with Roseneil's role in the directorship of a 4m euro **EU FP6** integrated project, *FEMCIT (Gendered Citizenship in Multicultural Europe: the impact of contemporary women's movements)* (2007-11) (which received the highest end of award rating). FEMCIT researcher Crowhurst secured funding for a **European Science Foundation Exploratory Workshop** on comparative prostitution regimes. Soreanu was awarded an **EU Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship** on *Synchronic Entanglements and New Social Imaginaries: anti-war activism in Brazil and the UK in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Roseneil has also received funding from the **Norwegian Research Council** and the **Stein Rokkan Centre**, Norway.

We have also considerably increased **government and non-governmental funding**, including Callender's funding from BIS, the Office for Fair Access, UK Commission for Employment and Skills, City and Guilds of London Institute, and Universities UK, and Milbourne's from Volunteering England. Staff have also secured research funding from a number of charities, including **Leverhulme** (Seu's collaborative research on mediated humanitarian knowledge, and Sullivan's role in the Leverhulme Centre for the Study of Value, based at Manchester), the **Independent Social Research Foundation** (Hook), **Nuffield Foundation** (Callender), **Higher Education Careers Service Unit** (Callender), **The Bridging Trust** (Frosh), the **Society for Research into Higher Education** (Zukas) and the **Sasakawa Foundation** (Markham).

Cognisant of the need to provide strong institutional support to research grant holders throughout the life of their projects, in order that they can realise their research objectives, the Assistant Dean for Research in SSHP (Roseneil) solicits regular feedback from PIs, and convenes periodic meetings with RGO, Human Resources and School research administrators in order to continually improve the support, information and financial data provided to PIs.

### Infrastructure and facilities

Following the 2009 College re-structuring most of the researchers in this unit are now co-located on Russell Square in Bloomsbury, where there has been considerable investment in upgrading office and shared space, including kitchens, common rooms, and a new café, all of which increase the possibilities of ad hoc collegial interaction. The BISR is also located here, with offices for Visiting Fellows, interns and for externally funded research projects. Our PhD students have a new and well-used **Doctoral Students' Centre** with networked PCs, workspaces for laptops, lockers, a kitchen and social area. Researchers have easy access to world class libraries, including the **Birkbeck Library**, the **University of London Senate House Library**, the many specialist libraries of the University of London **Bloomsbury Colleges** and the **British Library**.

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

Birkbeck social researchers are outward looking and collaborative in orientation, and have made wide-ranging contributions to the advancement of research in specialist, disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields. Most notably, our research has contributed to the extension and

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reformulation of sociological concerns through our world-leading development of the transdisciplinary field of **psychosocial studies**. The work of Frosh, Roseneil, Lewis, Baraitser, Hook, Palacios, Segal, Seu and Žižek, in particular, has served to challenge the disciplinary boundaries between sociology and psychology, and to develop contemporary critical psychoanalytic and discursive approaches to understanding the social world and psychosocial phenomena. We have also made significant contributions to **social/ human geography** and **environmental studies** (Barker, Cox, Shiode, Sullivan, Tomlinson, Watt), **development studies** (MacLean, Vera-Sanso, Wells), **media and cultural studies** (Markham, Rodgers, Schlosberg, Žižek), **educational studies** (Callender, Zukas), **social policy** (Callender, Lewis, Milbourne, Roseneil, Watt), **anthropology** (Posocco, Sullivan, Vera-Sanso) and, particularly, to **gender and sexuality studies** (Segal, Roseneil, Baraitser, Cox, Hoult, Lewis, MacLean, Posocco). Žižek's prolific publications have an exceptional reach across disciplinary boundaries, influencing research in social and psychoanalytic theory, philosophy, law and film, media and cultural studies.

The energy of Birkbeck social researchers is demonstrated by the range of interdisciplinary research networks/ projects in which we play a leading or central role, including: **MaMSIE** (Baraitser); **ESRC NCRM New Frontiers in Qualitative Longitudinal Methods** (Baraitser); **AHRC Motherhood in Post-1968 European Literature Network** (Baraitser); **Voluntary Sector Studies Network** (Milbourne); **Adoption Studies Network** (Posocco); **Guatemala Scholars Network** (Posocco); **AHRC Decolonising Sexualities Research Network** (Posocco); **International Research Group for Psycho-Societal Analysis** (Roseneil); **International Empathy Network** (Seu); **AHRC Spectacular Environmentalisms: media, celebrity and the environment Research Network** (Sullivan). Roseneil is a member of the **Belonging Today Working Group**, at the Institute for Public Knowledge, NYU, and has been an international partner on Norwegian Research Council projects on "remaking public intimacies" and "queer narratives" with colleagues at the Universities of Oslo and Tampere respectively. Segal and Frosh have also been partners on projects on "gender in the boardroom" and "gender and leadership", and Cox on the **Buying and Selling Gender Equality Network**, all based at NTSU, Trondheim.

### Journal Editorial Work

We are actively involved in the editorial work of 35 journals.

Journal Editors/ Co-editors: **European Journal of Women's Studies** Lewis; **Feminist Theory** Roseneil; **Studies in the Education of Adults** Zukas; **Studies in the Maternal** Baraitser

Journal Review/ Associate Editors: **Children's Geographies** Wells **Studies in Gender and Sexuality** Baraitser, Frosh, Segal

Journal Editorial/ Advisory Boards: **Adult Education Quarterly** Zukas; **American Imago** Frosh; **Amity: Journal of Friendship Studies** Roseneil; **Canadian Journal of Studies in Adult Education** Zukas; **Community, Work and Family** Watt; **Dark Matter** Lewis; **Free Associations** Lewis; **Gandhigram Literary Review** Hoult; **Gender, Place and Culture** Cox; **Global Studies of Childhood** Wells; **Journal of Social Policy** Callender; **Leitura Flutuante** Baraitser; **LittCritt** Hoult; **Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society** Hook; **Psychology in Society** Hook; **NORA: Nordic Journal of Gender and Feminist Research** Roseneil; **Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy** Spurling; **Psychodynamic Practice** Spurling; **Social Policy and Society** Watt; **Social and Personality Psychology Compass** Hook; **Social Movement Studies** Roseneil; **Social Politics** Lewis; **Sociology** Watt; **Subjectivity** Frosh; Hook; **Studies in the Maternal** Lewis; **Studies in Higher Education** Callender; **Theory and Psychology** Hook; **Women's Studies International Forum** Roseneil; **Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning** Callender

### Publishing Collaborations and Academic Exchange

Birkbeck social researchers are highly engaged with colleagues outside the College. During the REF period we have published with over 132 collaborators in 20 countries. We have given over 180 invited keynote/ plenary lectures at international conferences/ major seminars. Colleagues have held visiting fellowships/ professorships in Australia, Norway, South Africa, the USA, and the UK, all of which have either emanated from, or led to, research/ writing collaborations with colleagues in these institutions: **Callender** New Century Fulbright Scholarship, Harvard University; **Frosh** Visiting Professor, University of Witwatersrand; **Hook** Psychology Department, University of Witwatersrand; **Roseneil** Professor II in Sociology, Centre for Gender Research, University of

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Oslo; IPK Scholar, Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University; **Watt** London East Research Institute, UEL; **Zukas** University of Technology, Sydney; University of Leeds.

Since RAE 2008, we have received over 40 visiting social researchers from 15 countries, including 20 BISR Visiting Fellows who have stayed for between one month and a year. We have also benefitted from engagement with stipendiary Visiting Fellows in the BIH, including Jane Bennett, Morris Kaplan, and Sonya Rose, and Writers-in-Residence in the School of Law, including sociologist Avery Gordon. Particularly notable is our long-standing collaboration with Judith Butler, who has been Visiting Professor in the Department of Psychosocial Studies since 2010, and gives at least two seminars a year to staff and graduate students. In 2012 we appointed as Visiting Professors Erica Burman and Ian Parker, two leading contributors to psychosocial thinking in the UK, who also have well-established connections with Birkbeck.

**Contributions to Learned Societies, Research Councils and Peer Review**

Institutionally, the BISR has collaborated with learned societies, research organisations, and other universities to organise seminars and conferences that promote the development of our distinctive social research agendas, in particular: the **British Sociological Association (BSA) Theory Study Group**, the **BSA Psychoanalysis and the Psychosocial Study Group**, the **Psychosocial Studies Network/ Association for Psychosocial Studies**, **Longview**, the **British Psychoanalytic Society**, the **National Centre for Social Research**, and Universities of Leiden, Loughborough, Oslo, Warwick and the Open University. Furthermore, individual members of the submission have contributed significantly to the work of 13 Learned Societies, with particularly notable involvement in establishing the Psychosocial Studies Network (Birkbeck hosted the 2008 founding conference), which has recently become the **Association for Psychosocial Studies**, (Roseneil: first Chair), and key study group leadership roles in the **British Sociological Association** (Roseneil: Psychoanalysis and the Psychosocial Study Group), the **International Sociological Association** (Watt: RC21: Urban Sociology), the **Development Studies Association** (Vera-Sanso: Ageing and Development Study Group), and the **Royal Geographical Society** (Cox: Women and Geography Study Group; Rodgers: Urban Geography Study Group). In addition, Callender is a member of the Research and Development Committee of the **Society for Research in Higher Education**, Posocco is Committee Member and Website and E-Newsletter Editor for the **Society for Latin American Studies**, and Markham was a member of the local organising committee of the **International Communication Association** conference, 2013. Roseneil judged the annual **Feminist and Women's Studies Book Prize** (2009) and Sullivan the Rappaport Prize for the Association of American Anthropologists (2011). Zukas is on the International **Researching Work and Learning Conference** Steering Committee.

Members of the unit have acted as peer reviewers/ assessors/ rapporteurs for a wide range of research funders in the UK and overseas, including the ESRC, AHRC, NERC, DIFD, Leverhulme Trust, British Academy, Nuffield Foundation, European Science Foundation, Academy of Finland, Agence Nationale de la Recherche (France), Australian Research Council, Danish Council for Independent Research, the National Science Foundation (USA), Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Research Council of Norway, Social Sciences Research Council (Canada), and the American Academy in Berlin. We have been asked to provide advice on promotions, professorial appointments and tenure to 37 universities in the UK, Australia, Canada, Israel, and the USA.

**Collaborative PhD Training and PhD External Examination**

We collaborate with colleagues across the University of London Bloomsbury Colleges in the provision of training for PhD students, and have recently embarked on a project to share doctoral training in Psychosocial Studies with the Institute of Education. The BISR Director and Manager played key roles in the production of high quality audio-visual resources for PhD students (e.g. Angel Production's *The Good Supervision Video* and *The Good Presentation Video*), which are widely used in universities across the UK, and were co-financed by Birkbeck. During the REF period we are proud to have externally examined 68 PhDs, including 25 from Australia, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa and Spain.