

Institution: ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
Unit of Assessment: GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND ARCHAEOLOGY
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Royal Holloway Geography vigorously pursues the public benefits of its research. Our strategy is to: i) embed our work within knowledge partnerships that reach beyond the academy; ii) deliver research-led expertise to guide policy and practice; and iii) prioritise public engagement as a pathway to impact. The beneficiaries of our research are diverse, including non-governmental organisations, government departments in the UK and abroad, cultural institutions, and various publics and service recipients. The impacts range from shaping policy and practice, to enhancing public debate and cultural understanding, and improved management and utilisation of natural resources. They are underpinned by research from across the Department's three groups: the Centre for Quaternary Research (CQR), the Politics, Development and Sustainability research group (PDS) (incl. the Information and Communication Technologies for Development [ICT4D] Centre), and the Social and Cultural Geography research group (SCG). We direct these research foci at audiences in four principal areas of impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage: Our research informs professional heritage practice and wider cultural understanding of the geographical significance of collections and artefacts. Royal Holloway has pioneered knowledge partnerships between academic Geography and <i>the museum and archives sector</i>, working with a range of institutions to enhance curation and exhibition on geographical themes of place, mobility and environment. Research Council funding (c. £1.95m) has supported collaborations with the British Library, British Museum, Museum of London, Museum of Salt (Seille), National Maritime Museum, Natural History Museum, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Royal Geographical Society, Science Museum and V&A. Notable too is our impact on <i>environmental archaeology</i> where, for instance, our leadership of the English Heritage funded National Ice Age Network has enhanced the recognition, recording and removal of Pleistocene remains in England's sand and gravel quarries. • Economic Benefits: Royal Holloway research has <i>identified resources of economic value</i>: e.g. CQR's research on Pleistocene river patterns underpinned the locating of aggregates worth over £50m to the UK quarrying industry in the assessment period. It has also shaped <i>the adoption of alternative, ethical consumption models</i>: e.g. Kleine's teams (EPSRC and ESRC-DFID funded: c. £376K) have promoted the role of mobile phone technology in presenting product origins to consumers and are now pursuing the ethical leveraging of public procurement buying power. • Foreign and Security Policy: Our research in critical geopolitics and area studies informs UK government foreign and security policy: e.g. Simon is one of two academics on the FCO's Africa Advisory Group; and Dodds' team's research on post-1945 British defence and foreign policy towards the South Atlantic and Antarctic has shaped policy on Britain's strategic role and interests (Jane Rumble [FCO] attests that this research is 'required reading for Antarctic policy makers', Steve Aiken [MoD] that it 'is truly world class... helping to influence government policy'). • Public Policy on Development and Sustainability in the Global South: Royal Holloway research influences sustainable development policy and practice. A key focus is the value of <i>information and communication technologies</i> in education, health provision, entrepreneurship and poverty alleviation. Our ICT4D Centre ranks in the world's top ten science and technology 'think tanks' (2012 Global GoTo Think Tank Index), reflecting the impact of more than forty partnerships with practitioners and policy makers across the private, civic and governmental spheres. It authored DFID's 2010 systematic review of best practice in ICT4D partnerships and poverty reduction. Another key concern for our PDS group is <i>global environmental change (GEC) and urban policy</i>: here, e.g., Simon is Chair of the UK National Committee on the Human Dimensions of GEC and Specialist Advisor to UN-HABITAT on cities and climate change. We shape policies of <i>ecosystem management and conservation</i>: exemplary is DEFRA and EU funded research (Mistry's teams: c. £1.75m) that is transforming the recognition of local indigenous community expertise within environmental policy making in the Guiana Shield region of South America.
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Our RAE 2008 submission identified 'public geography (with a new emphasis on knowledge partnerships as opposed to knowledge transfer...)' as a strategic priority. This commitment was developed into our impact strategy for 2008-13. Infrastructurally, impact is now a key consideration in research grant internal review, staff appointments, promotion cases, professorial banding, sabbatical leave and appraisal. The departmental role of Impact Officer was established. An ex-</p>

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officio member of Research Committee, their remit is to work with our Research Directors to promote the impact culture within groups, to advise staff on maximising research impact, and to facilitate connections to wider expertise and support within and beyond the institution. To aid dissemination, Royal Holloway introduced its Open Access policy and created the Royal Holloway Research Online depository. Our strategy directed these support mechanisms at three main areas of activity:

- **Collaborations:** We prioritise collaborations with non-academic organisations and stakeholders, reflecting our understanding of impact as emergent from two-way relationships between research units and beneficiaries. These are deliberately pursued at a range of levels: large research grants (e.g. Leverhulme, NERC and AHRC programmes with Natural History Museum, British Museum and V&A), postdoctoral fellowships and cultural engagement projects, collaborative doctoral projects, and student dissertation research placements. Indicative of our commitment and success, we have gained 26 Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs) from AHRC, EPSRC, ESRC and NERC (Royal Holloway has gained c.30% of AHRC awards made to Geography departments nationally). Our strategy has been to embed partnerships within our research environment and to spread them across groups (e.g. five different staff have led collaborative projects with the Science Museum). Our funded collaborations 2008-13 involve not only the 10 world-leading museums and archives listed earlier but a further 34 commercial organisations, government departments, NGOs and charities (indicatively, the alphabetical list ranges from The Arts Catalyst and The Body Shop via Hanson Quarry Products Europe Ltd. to the Royal United Services Institute and StreetChild Africa). Beyond organisational partnerships, we also pursue participatory and action research with stakeholder communities. These are a central part of our PDS group's graduate research training programmes and research practice. Collaborations are supported by the legal, financial and contractual services of the institution's R&E Department, and by Royal Holloway's participation in sector specific knowledge exchange consortia (e.g. in the cultural sector our work has been funded by The Culture Capital Exchange and AHRC's Knowledge Exchange Hub for the Creative Economy, CreativeWorks London).

- **Expert Advice:** Supported by the institution's revised consultancy policy (2009), staff expertise informs policy makers across the range of our research. As well as recognising the value of such workloads, our impact strategy for 2008-13 targeted two areas for development. First, through review of the impact plans of research grants we sharpened our delivery of rapid, project-related advice: e.g. our 2012-14 ESRC-DFID funded research on domestic violence in Cambodia (PI Brickell) has involved written evidence to the UK Parliamentary Select Committee on Violence Against Women and reviewed Cambodia's draft National Action Plan for UN Women. Second, we highlighted the value of secondments in facilitating knowledge exchange; e.g. Unwin worked both as Centre in ICT4D Director and part-time on World Economic Forum initiatives on the role of technology in global education provision (2007-11).

- **Public Engagement:** We value public engagement as an important research activity that can enhance cultural understanding of geographical challenges and ideas. Royal Holloway currently has our discipline's only National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) Ambassador for Public Engagement. Our 2008-13 impact strategy identified three key foci for developing this activity. First, *research outputs* that reach non-academic audiences. Our funded research produced exhibitions, websites and publications in projects with our collaborators in the cultural sector (British Museum, Institute of International Visual Arts, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Royal Geographical Society, V&A) on topics including exploration, the art of mapping and British Asian style. We delivered creative outputs such as art installations, films and poetry (e.g. Cresswell's collection of poems 'Soil', an output from a wider strategic engagement between Geography and Creative Writing at Royal Holloway and supported by training in Faber's 'Becoming a Poet' course). Second, we sought to establish and sustain *spaces for public engagement*. Of note are SCG's film society 'Passenger Films' (recognised as UK's 'Best Film Education Programme' by the British Federation of Film Societies in 2012 and 2013); Royal Holloway's Annual Science Festival, where we involve thousands of visitors in demonstrations and exhibitions of our research; and a host of project-specific events (ranging from the NERC funded Public Engagement with Science Day on 'Our Explosive Past' at the British Museum, 2013 to Cresswell's role as 'resident thinker' on the 2012 Cultural Olympiad's 'Nowhere Island' artwork). Third, we instigated a *social media strategy*, enhancing broadcast and press engagement via research area blogs and twitter accounts (e.g. geopolitics and security), and training staff and doctoral students in

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social media's facilitation of impact.

c. Strategy and plans

Our impact strategy for post REF2014 is designed to reinforce our existing foci and areas of strength, to embed existing policies, and to develop new achievements through meeting the following goals:

- **Resourcing:** To improve the financing, time for and access to knowledge exchange we will target recent dedicated funding from ESRC (Knowledge Exchange Opportunities), AHRC (Follow-On Funding for Impact and Engagement) and NERC (Knowledge Exchange Fellowship). In line with successful past practice, this involves the strong promotion and monitoring of applications by Research Committee. In this pursuit, we will be building on our excellent record of targeting RCUK funding for impactful collaborations via research grants, CDAs and sector-specific schemes.
- **Evaluation:** Our commitment to deliver impacts needs to be matched to an increased capacity to measure them, particularly in relation to enhanced cultural understanding and economic benefits. Key actions here involve both research management (e.g. internal grant review is being used to ensure that evaluation is addressed in impact plans) and better theorisation of impacts, evidence and evaluation (e.g., a current response is Hawkins PI, AHRC Cultural Value Project 2013-14, critically examining methods for assessing the impacts on environmental understanding of art-science projects).
- **Reach:** Current research has strong potential to extend existing economic, social and environmental impacts. Strategic foci identified for action include fair trade and ethical consumption, where our ESRC-DFID funded research (PI Kleine) is working with three NGOs to leverage for development the public procurement markets in Brazil (\$55 bn) and Chile (\$8.6 bn). Also key are the impacts from our EU funded 'COBRA' project on engaging local community voices in environmental policy making in the Guiana Shield (PI Mistry), where the post REF 2014 strategy is to scale up participatory research with indigenous communities to the international policy level via the UN's REDD+ climate mitigation programme.
- **Breadth:** Matched to our wider research strategy two new areas of potential impact will be pursued. First, we are extending our existing political geography focus on impacting foreign and defence policy through stronger knowledge exchange (KE) on *Mobilities and Securities*. E.g., in late 2013 we start a €800k project (PIs Adey & Cresswell) on the mobilities of the future funded by SNCF's Mobile Lives Forum, the leading KE organisation in the field; ESRC funded research (2013-14, £238k, CIs Adey & Pinkerton) is informing the MoD on the security and organisational implications of social media usage by military personnel and their families; and Adey's ongoing research on evacuation mobilities (Leverhulme funded) is embedded with KE activity. Second, extending our track record of work with museums and the heritage sector, we are developing KE with the *Creative Arts Sector*. For example, initial CDA, research development and KE funding from AHRC (PI Hawkins, total £46k plus 2 CDAs) will be progressed into a major collaborative project examining the value of art to environmental encounters and ecological citizenship, with potential to impact on both the arts sector and on environmental policy.

d. Relationship to case studies

Our case studies span the research foci of the Department, indicative of the embedding of impact across our activities. Our case study on **Hidden Histories of Exploration** was generated through our collaborative approach, in this case with the museums and archives sector. It illustrates our impacts in the area of cultural heritage (in its embedding of geographical research within the curatorial practice of major metropolitan museums and scientific societies) and our use of public engagement as a means to impact on understanding of geographical issues (here, the history of exploration). Our case study on **Pleistocene River Deposits, Quaternary Science and the Aggregates Industry** emphasises how our research and collaborations can also deliver significant economic impacts. In this case, the economic value of our mapping of English Pleistocene river systems and their deposits is combined with an enhancement of archaeological heritage policy. Our case study on **Sustainability, Biodiversity Conservation and Indigenous Peoples** sits within our body of work shaping public policy on development and sustainability in the Global South. It illustrates how our work shapes policy through scientific evidence (in this case key indicator datasets on biodiversity), theoretical approach (integrating indigenous knowledge within scientific and policy practice), methodological development (in participatory methods) and public engagement (enhancing public understanding of conservation in the Guiana Shield region).