

**Institution: University of Bristol**

**Unit of Assessment: 31 Classics and Ancient History**

**a. Context**

Staff in Classics and Ancient History at Bristol have an impressive and longstanding record of communicating the results of their work to a broader community. They have also been closely involved in national organisations such as the Joint Association of Classical Teachers, the Classical Association, the Hellenic and Roman Societies, and Classics for All, whose remits lie wholly or partly outside higher education. These activities relate to colleagues' research both generally, as expressions of broad areas of expertise, but also specifically to individual research projects in all areas identified in REF 5. Collectively, the strong focus on reception in the department sits particularly well with a commitment to public engagement, since it springs from a belief in the continuing relevance of antiquity to understanding the modern world. All of this contributes to the fostering of a civil society through a deeper understanding of cultural values, to the enhancement of the nation's cultural life, and to education. The beneficiaries include the general public, schools and universities, and heritage groups.

**b. Approach to impact**

Individuals are encouraged in many ways to take opportunities to bring their research to a wider audience for a variety of benefits. Colleagues' annual report of research activity includes a section on impact, and contributions of this kind are among the criteria for promotion. The University's longstanding commitment to Widening Participation, passionately shared by colleagues, involves participating in summer schools, taster sessions, day visits to the University etc.; many members of the department contribute regularly to these events. The University maintains an online Directory of Experts allowing members of the media and public to contact staff members who can help them. The Faculty of Arts in 2011 founded a festival to showcase our work to the City of Bristol, a biennial celebration called Inside Arts involving all departments.

Our first approach to impact is then to support colleagues' natural inclination to disseminate their work. The Case Studies give instances of our use of university services such as the Centre for Public Engagement, Research and Enterprise Development, the Widening Participation Office, the Education Support Unit and the Public Relations Office, which provide advice, networking, funds and training. Each School has an Impact Director who coordinates and facilitates activity. School and department also have funds to meet expenses. The workload model allows for time to be allocated to impact as part of a colleague's overall load. Where an opportunity for more targeted and extensive impact is spotted, resources are deployed. An example is the grant given to Hales for the Crystal Palace project (one of our Case Studies), in which University matched funds from JISC, and a subsequent grant from the Enterprise and Impact Development Fund.

Examples of individual engagement are many:

**School talks.** Particularly active in this regard are Buxton, Hales, Knippschild, Lampe, Liveley and O'Gorman. Sandwell and Hales ran a drama competition for state schools (years 10 and 11) with a grant from the Hellenic Society.

**Media engagement.** Buxton (In Our Time), Momigliano (UKTV Myth Hunters, TRT Turkey), Morley (BBC *Ancient World* series, *Poor Us*), O'Gorman (In Our Time three times, Today twice, local radio), Willis (Radio Four documentary on fan fiction, Futures TV, Bristol Evening Post).

**Community Groups.** Bristol Magpies (friends of Bristol Museums), Weston Super-Mare Archaeological and Natural History Society, Bristol Anglo-Hellenic Cultural Society, Bristol Anglo-Italian Society, Three Counties Ancient History Society, Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, local Classical Association branch: Fowler, Hales, Momigliano, O’Gorman.

**Civic and Cultural Bodies.** Knippschild has worked with the government of La Rioja, COAR (an official consortium of architects of La Rioja), and an exhibition at The Bristol Gallery, in relation to her *Imagines* project. Fowler is a founding trustee (2004) of the Friends of Herculaneum ([www.herculaneum.ox.ac.uk](http://www.herculaneum.ox.ac.uk)), which promotes education and research on Herculaneum. Willis has spoken the London Literary Festival and Redemption 2009 (a multimedia fan convention, Coventry) as well as literary workshops in Bristol. Zajko has acted as consultant for productions at the Royal Opera House, Theatre Lab Company and Riverside Studios, Hammersmith. The two case studies ‘Crystal Palace’ and ‘Çaltılar Archaeological Project’ give examples of in-depth engagement with local communities and museums.

**Writing for non-specialist audiences.** Fowler, Hales and Lampe have written for *Omnibus* and/or *Iris* (Liveley edited *Omnibus* from 2010 to 2012); Morley has written for the new online magazine *Aeon*. Buxton’s books on mythology appeal to specialist and non-specialist readers alike. His *The Complete World of Greek Mythology* has sold more than 100,000 copies worldwide and has been translated into 9 languages; *Imaginary Greece* has been translated into 4 languages, with a Chinese one in preparation.

**Film screenings.** Michelakis has arranged public screenings of archival films on Greece and Rome, with attendant panel discussions, in London, Bristol, Berlin, Orange County and Los Angeles in collaboration with the British Film Institute, the Eye Film Instituut (Amsterdam), German Historical Museum (Berlin) and the J. Paul Getty Museum. Knippschild arranged silent film screenings in Bristol and Barcelona as part of the *Imagines* project. Momigliano has arranged a public film screening on Minoan archaeology in Athens.

**Blogs.** During the period Morley maintained the Bristol Classics blog ‘Sphinx’ (12,000 visitors and over 32,000 views since 2011). Willis also had a blog on her work ([nowandrome.wordpress.com](http://nowandrome.wordpress.com)).

**Work for national bodies.** Liveley is chair of the JACT Classical Civilisation Committee, and serves on the Roman Society Council; Fowler and Michelakis (who has served as Hon. Secretary) on the Hellenic Society Council; Michelakis on the Classical Association Council; Momigliano on the Council of the British School at Athens, and as a trustee of the Bradford Trust. Morley is on the Editorial Board of the AHRC’s ‘Ideas that Made the World’ project which plans to convey the relevance of humanities to the wider public by emphasising the history and contested nature of key concepts.

The second aspect of our approach to impact takes the form of a collective endeavour. The Institute of Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition is an in-house mechanism for communicating the work of colleagues to a broader audience, particularly at the annual Donors’ Event (see the Case Study ‘Reception’). Because the Institute is supported by regular donations we are in close touch with our supporters, who engage enthusiastically with our projects and give suggestions which feed back into the research. The Institute now also has a regular outreach element in its remit; it is part of the job description of one of the post-doctoral fellows. In recent years this has taken the form of a series of events (schools, the general public) surrounding the 2500th anniversary of Marathon, and a course of ten-week after-school ‘taster classes’ for year 7-9 students in local schools, assisted in the first year by a start-up grant from Classics for All and subsequently by the Institute and University. We have introduced classics and classical reception into 9 state schools in total between 2010 and 2013, some of which have continued supporting the programme with their own funds. Henbury School is now planning to introduce a GCSE in Classical Civilisation as a result of our initiative.

**c. Strategy and plans**

The above survey shows that the basis of an effective impact strategy is already latent in the existing practices of the department. To develop the potential further we will seek to:

- identify possibilities of impact in individual and group research through regular discussion in staff review, department meetings, away days, networking events
- adopt a more systematic and reflective approach to following up events and interactions
- maximise and measure the reach and value of impact
- extend and make more systematic use of contacts with academic and non-academic partners
- continue to draw on University and Faculty resources (listed above) to support the embedding of impact and knowledge exchange within research grant applications
- work with the School Impact Director to improve local support and advice, including systematic capture of data and information about partners and activity across all constituent subjects in the School
- continue to extend the work of the Institute in local schools and community associations
- build on existing impacts and research projects with new initiatives (for instance, 'Thinking Through Thucydides' is an off-shoot of the Thucydides project currently in development phase; <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/classics/thucydides/ttt/>)

**d. Relationship to case studies**

Two of the three case studies (Çaltılar Archaeological Project, Crystal Palace) arise out of long-standing individual research interests and the relevant colleagues' approaches to their work, which the department supported in various ways as described above. The third (the Reception of Classical Antiquity) arises out of a research focus and culture shared by the whole department; the particular aspects quantified in the Case Study are representative, not exhaustive. The department believes strongly that its research agenda can contribute to the betterment of cultural life and the enrichment of education, and these impact case studies have arisen naturally out of individual and collective commitment. We will seek every opportunity to extend the extra-mural impact of our intellectual activity.