

<b>Institution:</b> University of Sheffield
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 22 - Social Work and Social Policy
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>Located within the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Sociological Studies at the University of Sheffield comprises a strong and creative interdisciplinary mix of social policy, sociology and social work. Since 2008, the Department has enhanced its capacity for innovative social science research and its application to policy through a strategy of focused research investment around 4 core research themes – <i>Ageing Across the Life Course</i>; <i>Comparative and International Social Policy</i>; <i>Theory, Culture and Identity</i>; and <i>Science and Society</i>. These bring the Department’s constituent disciplines together into on-going research conversations, with many staff belonging to more than one thematic area and also participating in the 4 interdisciplinary University Research Centres that are directed from within the Department.</p>
<p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p><b>Evaluation of 2008 research strategy.</b></p> <p>In RAE 2008 we proposed a research strategy that combined aiming for academic excellence with making significant, practical contributions to policy and practice through: (1) fostering greater interdisciplinarity and collaborative work; (2) maximising the reach and impact of the Department’s research into policy and practice, regionally, nationally and internationally; (3) securing leading roles within the University’s interdisciplinary research centres and increasing their international reach; (4) increasing the research strengths and capacity of social work; and (5) ensuring the Department’s long term sustainability, via succession planning, to rectify the ageing profile of the Department. All of these aims have been achieved.</p> <p>We have fostered the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of our research by a twin-track approach of, on the one hand, reshaping our research clusters and, on the other, investing strategically in 12 new staff as part of succession planning. This has redressed the age profile of the Department and increased the research capacity of social work. The Department now has 4 cohesive groupings that cut across its core disciplines. With its global reputation for leading-edge research by Walker, Warren, James and Horwath, the future of the <i>Ageing Across the Life Course</i> cluster has been secured through early career appointments (Davies, Churchill, Foster, Sen and Twum-Danso Imoh). New staff at mid (Tomlinson, Kilkey) and early (Kaasch and Benzer) career levels now underpin the global reputation of our <i>Comparative and International Social Policy</i> cluster, following the retirement of Deacon (now Emeritus). The <i>Theory, Culture and Identity</i> grouping has been reshaped and, with the appointments of Dennis and Clark, now has an explicit focus on cultural theory and identity politics in relation to nationalism, ethnicity, disability and gender. The research group <i>Science and Society</i>, nascent in 2008, is becoming a core strength through additional senior and junior appointments (Martin, Weiner) to this area.</p> <p>The success of this reshaping of the Department’s research clusters and of the research support mechanisms introduced since 2008 is evidenced in its robust response to the challenges of the difficult and changing research environment over the assessment period. It has continued to be highly successful in grant capture, attracting awards from a wide range of funders including MRC, EPSRC, EU, ESRC, AHRC, BBSRC, UK Charities, government departments, local authorities and industry. Staff have continued to publish in books with international publishers and in high ranking social science journals. The Department has also enhanced the reach and impact of its research on policy and practice, carrying out research and consultancies with NGOs and charities such as: Oxfam (Farnsworth), Joseph Rowntree and Child Poverty Action (Tomlinson), CHANGE (Boxall), and AGE UK (Warren) African Child Policy Forum and FORWARD (Twum-Danso Imoh); government departments, nationally and internationally, in Asia, Europe, USA, New Zealand, South Africa (Walker, Horwath, Wessels, Tomlinson, James); local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales (James, Horwath, Britton, Kilkey, Sen, Churchill, Wessels, Gregory, Walker) and industry (James, Wessels, Foster, Gibson and Molyneux-Hodgson).</p> <p>Staff have been allocated additional time to enable them to take on roles as Directors and Co-Directors of 4 interdisciplinary University research centres, each of which has strong links with the Department’s own research clusters. The Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth (CSCY), co-directed by James since 2006, feeds directly into our research on ageing across the life course.</p>

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Comprising researchers from across the arts, humanities, social sciences and medicine, CSCY is recognised as a leading international centre for childhood research that has secured £1million of funding over the last five years. It has a rolling annual programme of workshops, conferences and postgraduate training opportunities that attract participants worldwide. Its 2012 conference, for example, brought together 189 delegates from 29 countries and since 2008 it has hosted visiting international scholars and postdoctoral students from Italy, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Chile. Since 2006, Robinson has been a Director of the cross-faculty, interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Research, reflecting the Department's expertise in culture and identity. The Centre's membership straddles a range of disciplines and it hosts seminars, workshops and networking events to facilitate information and skill sharing. It, too, has built up a strong postgraduate research network. Wessels is founding Director of IRiS, a new cross-faculty Centre for Interdisciplinary Research into Socio-digital Worlds. Established in 2009 it reflects the Department's growing work in science and society and has already attracted a range of funding including an EPSRC Advanced Career Fellowship and EU funding for 3 projects (4.4 million euros). Norris is co-director of the long established interdisciplinary Centre for Criminological Research which is recognised globally for its expertise and which has recently attracted considerable European funding (see below).

**Future aims and objectives**

The Department's research strategy since 2008 has been highly successful. Our reshaped interdisciplinary groupings, straddling the diverse research interests of our staff, have ensured that the Department is now positioned at the forefront of social science research and that we will be able to respond quickly and flexibly to the future grand social challenges. These include: the anticipated exponential growth in both the ageing and young population globally; the need for new international policy responses to social, political and economic crises; the rapid development of new technologies for health care, surveillance, risk and digital communication; and the growing global significance of identity politics. Specifically we will:

- 1) continue to develop our competitive advantage in theoretical, empirical and policy related work by focusing future resources and activities on those priority areas in which Sheffield already has an international reputation;
- 2) grow our burgeoning expertise in *Science and Society* by promoting multidisciplinary collaboration with STEM subjects to take advantage of the increase in EU and cross-council research funding likely to become available in this area;
- 3) increase grant capture and the number and quality of submitted grant applications by: (a) further strengthening internal and external research collaborations in all subject areas (sociology, social policy and social work), with particular emphasis on international links and (b) introducing incentives, greater support via training and fundraising master-classes to supplement the current mentoring system;
- 4) link PGRs more tightly to research groups and ensure that our ECRs and PGRs achieve their maximum potential through tailored research support and training; and
- 5) strengthen the impact of our research through further promoting the role of the Impact Officer and peer review of impact pathways in grant applications (See REF3a).

These aims and objectives will be facilitated by the recent and further enhancement of the Department's research groupings (Summer 2013) through Faculty strategic investment amounting to over £150k. This is designed to strengthen multidisciplinary collaboration and increase grant capture and includes support for two initiatives in science and society led by Martin (a new biosociety network) and Wessels (additional support for IRiS), as well as extra investment in the Childhood Centre (James). The aim is to create strong and sustainable cross-Faculty research centres with international reputations. In addition, Reed and Benzer received New Directions awards to assist them in developing new research initiatives in relation to the Biopolitics of Quality-Adjusted Life Years and MRI/visual healthcare work.

Support for enhancing our grant capture will be provided by the Department's Research Support Officer who provides intelligence of funding opportunities, assists with the preparation of applications and facilitates the process of internal review. The new initiatives recently introduced to help mentor staff during the preparation of funding applications, will also assist us in achieving our

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aims and the successful delivery of this strategy will be underpinned by changes made to the Department's Research Committee (RC). This now comprises the Graduate Studies Director, the Impact Officer, the Research Support Manager, the departmental Ethics and REF co-ordinators and a contract researcher representative. This committee is chaired by the Director of Research, who is a member of the Departmental Executive group and who also represents the Department on the Faculty Research Committee. The RC now sets targets for research development and grant capture, with each member of academic staff expected to submit at least one grant application a year. RC also regularly monitors research progress.

**c. People:****i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

**Staffing strategy** is tightly linked to building research strength and ensuring sustainability. Since 2008, staff departures and retirements have enabled us to appoint 7 excellent early career researchers to ensure the continued vitality of our priority research areas and to raise our profile in social work research (Twum-Danso, Davies, Benzer, Clark, Sen, Foster and Churchill). A senior Chair appointment (Martin) and Research Fellow (Weiner) have consolidated the *Science and Society* research strand; and both seniority and new research strengths have been added to the social policy and theory groupings (Kilkey, Tomlinson, and Dennis). Through such strategic appointments we have, in addition, increased our capacity and research expertise in quantitative and mixed methods. This has been a feature of the Department's success in developing large, collaborative, interdisciplinary research programmes (detailed below). The gender balance remains more or less equal in the Department (44% male, 56% female), with 3 out of the 8 professors and readers, and 6 of the 8 Senior Lecturers, being female. The previous age imbalance has been rectified so that the Department now has a relatively young research profile.

**Career development** of individuals is at the forefront of our staffing strategy. In social work, for example, individuals' enhanced capacity for research has been made possible by the appointment of 4 University Teachers to relieve research active staff of heavy teaching loads. Newly appointed junior staff are given reduced loads in their first year to maximise their research potential, while at the same time being encouraged to take on small research-related administrative tasks to increase their experience of research management – for example, running the departmental seminar programme (Sen) and leading a task and finish group on further internationalising the Department's research (Benzer). Junior staff also take the University's Sheffield Leader and Certificate in Learning and Teaching (CiLT) programmes that are specifically designed for early career researchers. They gain experience in PhD supervision through joint supervision with a senior colleague, and have access to a *Supervisors Portal* which contains a wide breadth of training resources such as interactive tasks, readings and video case studies. James was awarded a competitive Advanced Fellowship by the University in 2012 to help develop the research capacity of more junior staff and, through the strategic use of fixed-term appointments since 2008, 6 of our postdoctoral students have gained their first experiences teaching within the Department, with 3 making the transition to permanent academic positions at Sheffield. With the University ranked as one of the top 50 employers in the UK for women, female staff also benefit from the University's mentoring programme for woman academics.

Every research active member of staff, whether part-time or full-time, has a designated research mentor with whom they discuss research proposals and their writing plans. All staff have taken advantage of the generous research study leave (1 semester, every 8 semesters) to concentrate on a major piece of research that aims for research excellence. Through the annual University Staff Review and Development Scheme (SRDS), staff identify their training needs and take up the short courses provided centrally, such as secondary data analysis, media and communications and preparing research bids. The success of this approach to staff development is evidenced by the Department's record of staff promotion: since 2008, 6 to Senior Lecturer, 2 to Reader and 2 to Professor.

In 2012 the University was awarded the *HR Excellence in Research* award from the European Commission and we are committed to applying the 7 principles of the *UK Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers*. Staff on fixed-term contracts and research contract staff undertake the same staff development programme and SRDS as permanent staff, reviewing their activities and setting future research objectives. Contract research staff are also represented on the

departmental Research Committee so that their specific developmental needs can be addressed and line managers of contract research staff are given additional guidance. Our fixed-term research staff can access a comprehensive framework of professional development support - *Think Ahead*. This includes a training and mentoring programme, with specific events designed to facilitate collaboration across disciplines.

Sheffield is now a leader in fostering Research Ethics and Integrity (REI) placing good academic practice (Rigour, Respect and Responsibility) at its core and the Department has contributed extensively to these developments in its pursuit of research excellence. Wessels represented the Faculty on the group that devised the University's approach to building the Research Data Management (RDM) support infrastructure; from 2007-12 Jenkins chaired the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) and led the drafting of the University's *Ethics Policy for Research Involving Human Participants, Personal Data and Human Tissue*; and 3 of our staff were commissioned to write specialist policy notes for research with children and young people, disabled people and on internet research. These are now used as the guidelines for all researchers across the University. The UREC runs an annual programme of research ethics workshops to which staff have contributed - Wessels was guest speaker at 2013 workshop on open access to data - and, in line with UREC procedures, the Department has a robust ethical review procedure. This involves research proposal review and recommendations from 3 reviewers, with special consideration being given to issues arising in relation to carrying out research with vulnerable groups. Joint authorship is an expectation in relation to work published by research teams and the Department follows the BSA guidelines on ethical research.

## ii. Research students

The success of our research strategy in relation to PGRs is demonstrated by a 25% increase in doctoral students since 2008. We currently have 67 full and part-time PGRs and have received funding from RCUK for 14 studentships and also won 9 University scholarships in open competition. The Department's international reputation for PGR supervision is evidenced by the fact that only just over 50% of our students come from the UK. Others are drawn to Sheffield from Europe, South-east Asia, India, USA, Africa and the Middle East. Staff in the Department also supervise PGRs in Thessalonki, Greece via the University's collaboration with The South East European Research Centre (SEERC) and it always has students based overseas who do their PhDs via the University's remote location scheme. Our commitment to helping develop the next generation of researchers is amply evidenced by the award, in 2010, of the ESRC White Rose Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) (jointly with York and Leeds) and the appointment of a member of staff from the Department (Molyneux-Hodgson) as its Academic Director. The DTC offers a suite of modules available to all PGRs across the 13 Departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences. In 2012, we were also awarded 2 ESRC-funded interdisciplinary PhD Networks (*Social Work and Social Change: Crossing Boundaries*, and *Rethinking the Social Production, Locus and Impact of Bioscience*) and 2 cross-faculty PhD networks (*PIPIN: Promoting Independence through Personalised Interactive Technologies* and *Synthetic Biology for Healthcare Applications*). These awards demonstrate strong external confidence in our research trajectories in social work, social policy and the sociology of science and technology.

The University's *Research Student Proposition*, published in 2012 and against which the Department benchmarks itself, outlines what research students can expect from Sheffield and what Sheffield expects in return. In its December 2012 review, the QAA praised Sheffield's improved provision for research students and, as a member of the group that drafted the Proposition and as Faculty PGR lead, Molyneux-Hodgson contributed significantly to this step change. Quality assurance of research student provision is via an annual review, in which our research students contribute their perspectives, a thematic review and a biennial survey. In 2010, the University introduced the Doctoral Development Programme (DDP) that is designed to equip PGRs with a balanced range of skills useful for advancing original research, presenting research to the public, and graduate entry career paths within and beyond academia. PGRs attend this training based on a prior training needs analysis (TNA) that is supported by their Supervisory Team and individually tailored. This is reviewed and updated each year. REI training, tailored to cognate disciplines, is compulsory for all our PGR students as part of the DDP and covers good practice in RDM, authorship, publication and public engagement as well as an annual programme of research ethics

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workshops. In addition, in 2012 a new online course on Research Integrity was introduced for all PGRs. To further ensure equality of access to training opportunities, a range of additional online courses are made available for PGRs, via the Virtual Graduate School, for those who are unable to attend face-to-face training and our staff have contributed modules to this programme. Faculty PGR Forums help strengthen the PGR voice within the University, providing a mechanism for gathering collective feedback from PGRs on proposed University-wide developments, while also providing PGRs with an opportunity to demonstrate leadership through organising activities for PGRs across the Faculty.

Within the Department, postgraduate research is managed by a committee which is convened by the Director of Graduate Studies who also sits on the Department Research Committee. This ensures that PGRs are a core part of the research culture of the Department. Every research student in the Department has a primary and secondary supervisor, with some also choosing a joint supervision arrangement. To ensure the quality of doctoral supervision, staff have a maximum of six postgraduate students each. All submitted staff therefore make a contribution to the doctoral programme through PGR supervision, in addition to some providing specialist methods teaching in, for example, visual methods, research for the digital age and doing gendered research. Our research students have a dedicated and newly refurbished suite of fully IT enabled workstations and social space within the Department. This helps ensure their cohesiveness as a group and their full involvement in the wider departmental research culture through, for example, attending and presenting at departmental seminars and shared coffee mornings/brownbag research lunches with staff. As part of their career development PGRs are supported in the creation of their individual webpages and have access to financial assistance from the Department Conference Support Fund. Together with the PhD course leader, each year PGRs participate in a series of 8-10 workshops on all aspects of doing a PhD and organise and host their own annual conference for which the Department provides financial support. In 2012, an article about this conference was written by the students and published in *Policy World*. The PGRs also produce their own newsletter, run reading groups, hold reading/research weekends and benefit from their involvement in the 4 University Research Centres led by the Department (detailed above) each of which hosts a range of specialised events for postgraduate students. The Centre for Gender Research, for example, hosts an annual PGR conference and the Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth (CSCY) puts on a biennial postgraduate summer school. CSCY also hosts a fully refereed, Internet-based journal for postgraduates, *Childhoods Today*. This is jointly edited from within the Department by Twum-Danso Imoh and, through its supportive refereeing process, offers postgraduates a first publication outlet. This initiative was highly commended by Child Watch International.

The Department is committed to enhancing the employability skills of our PGRs, whether they want to work inside or outside of academia. There is a departmental PGR workshop series (4-6 per semester) that has included the following: a talk by a career advisor on opportunities available including outside of an academic context; a workshop with an editor of a highly regarded UK journal on publishing skills and the importance of impact for improving their employment opportunities in a range of careers; visits from former PGR students who speak about how the PGR process equips them for working life. We also organise one-off events, such as the 'Meet the Publishers' PGR session held at the Annual SPA Conference in July 2013 to which all our PGRs were invited. This session included editors from three of the top social policy journals, and a key social policy publisher. Through the strategic use of fixed-term appointments as tutors and Graduate Teaching Assistants, postdoctoral students gain their first experiences of teaching within the Department, enabling them to move into permanent academic posts elsewhere - for example, universities in the UK (Manchester, London, Bath) and in Turkey, Korea, Hong Kong and China. Others have taken up senior positions with charities and in the global policy field.

**d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

The volume of research funding has remained high and, in addition to many small grants from a range of sources, it includes many prestigious awards from the EU, ESRC, AHRC, MRC, BBSRC and EPSRC. It is increasingly multidisciplinary. For example, within the **Ageing Across the Life Course cluster**, Walker has confirmed the Department's global reputation for leading-edge research on ageing through development of the concept of active ageing as a policy response to

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ageing populations, worldwide through his Directorship of ERA-AGE (€1.7 million, 2009-12), FUTUREAGE (€1.75 million, 2009-11), INNOVAGE (€3.5 million, 2013-5), MOPACT (€5.8million, 2013-17) and the £22 million *New Dynamics of Ageing Research Programme* (2005-13). Warren's long-standing research interest in age, gender and dementia was furthered by 2 major ESRC research projects: *Representing Self - Representing Ageing* (£359K, 2009-11) and *Social Process of Everyday Decision-Making* (£248K, 2010-12). James' study of children's roles as family participants and Gibson's work on food and health were both part of the Faculty based £1.2 million Leverhulme Programme, *Changing families Changing Food* (2006-8). Davies has recently been awarded a £536K ESRC grant for collaborative research with Manchester University, focusing on children involved in communal living arrangements. For the **Theory Culture and Identity** cluster, Robinson together with Hockey (now Emeritus) was funded by the ESRC (£384K, 2010-3) to explore transitions of identity in everyday life. For our new research group **Science and Society** Martin's work on science and politics led to a £1.7 million Leverhulme Programme award and he is Co-I on a collaborative project on synthetic biology funded by EPSRC; Gibson was sponsored by Glaxosmithkline Biotene (2008-10, £642K) for his work on person centred measures and clinical trials to test the efficacy of Sensodyne toothpastes; and, as Co-I, Molyneux-Hodgson has received EPSRC funding for collaborative research on urban sustainability and sociology of synthetic biology. For a collaborative study that examines the values and contexts of the use of services that employ digital technology in telehealth (2011-2014) Wessels was funded by ESRC& TSB (£1.7 million) and her *Digital by Default: South Yorkshire Alpha project* (2102-3) received £32K from the Cabinet Office. Norris's criminological expertise in relation to surveillance technologies has received international recognition through 3 collaborative projects under EU Seventh Framework Programme totalling €509K: *IRISS: Increasing Resilience in Surveillance Societies*; *RESPECT: Rules, Expectations & Security through Privacy-Enhanced Convenient Technologies*; and *SMART: Scalable Measures for Automated Recognition Technologies*.

Such successes reflect the increased strength and vitality of the Departmental research strategy since 2008 and the efficacy of the critical, practical support provided by the Department Research Committee, the University's Research and Innovation Services, the Faculty's Research and Innovation Opportunities Manager and Research Income Capture Officer. The Department now has its own Research Support Officer who advises and assists staff with the costing and submission of grants, while the Finance Officer supports staff with grant management once awarded. Research proposals are also now subject to review by at least 2 colleagues before submission. These changes have led to a 25% increase in research applications, with an improved success rate of 40%.

In order to remain at the forefront of world-leading research the University of Sheffield is committed to growing its research infrastructure. The Department has been able to take full advantage, therefore, of Faculty facilities such as ICOSS (Interdisciplinary Centre of the Social Sciences), a £5.9m building providing state-of-the-art IT infrastructure, meeting rooms, exhibition spaces and specialized support for social science research. James was the Director of ICOSS (2008-12), a role that helped strengthen the Department's interdisciplinary focus. Staff and research students also have access to excellent library facilities, including the new STARPlus search engine, specialist research libraries, Information Commons and range of IT services provided by Corporate Information and Computing Services. Free transport is also available to The British Library in Boston Spa. All staff have access to a departmental conference fund (£1.7K per annum), with non-professorial staff having additional access to financial assistance from the Department - up to £5K p.a. for transcription services and other research expenses. Staff have also won bids from the Faculty Research Enhancement Fund, gaining pump priming money for individual research projects and for Centres. For example, Reed received money for a pilot study of screening which led directly to a British Academy Grant; the University Research Centre IRiS received its initial start-up funds (£2500) from the Faculty; and, the original Gender Network was given additional funds in 2011 to grow it into a University Research Centre. In addition, all the 4 Research Centres now have access to £2K p.a. from the Faculty to support their activities and in a recent internal competition for the Faculty Transformatory Research Fund, CSCY won £70,000 to employ a Research Development Manager and a PDRA, while the Science in Society group was awarded £100K to further develop its research and networking capabilities.

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

#### Interdisciplinary and Research Collaborations

In addition to our leadership of 4 University interdisciplinary research centres and our cross - institutional postgraduate training networks (detailed above) interdisciplinary research and collaborative research with users is at the forefront of our research strategy. In the **Ageing Across the Life Course** cluster, for example, Walker's wide range of large-scale EU funded projects mentioned earlier have championed the contribution made by the social sciences, arts and humanities to understanding ageing in changing technological, cultural, social and physical environments. He established Europe's first joint research programme in the ageing field under the Framework Programme 7 and now directs the UK's largest multi-disciplinary research programme on ageing, funded by 5 Research councils. This will produce the definitive road map for the future of ageing research in Europe over the next 10-15 years. Warren's ESRC project on age and gender had a project team involving colleagues from health sciences, cultural studies, the arts and anthropology based at different institutions, and an undergraduate funded under the Sheffield University Research Experience (SURE) scheme. Together they worked with over 40 older women to use the creative arts to negotiate and challenge images of ageing. In a European study funded by Daphne (2009-11) Horwath, together with colleagues from SEERC in Thessaloniki and the European University of Cyprus developed good practice guidelines for work with vulnerable young people that are now used by practitioners across Europe to help prevent violence. At the request of Sheffield City Council, James and Britton, together with a colleague from nursing, explored older and younger people's attitudes towards each other, with the results of this study contributing to service planning for older people in the city. Since 2006, James has also had an on-going research collaboration with early childhood education and anthropology colleagues at the Norwegian centre for Child Research, Trondheim, through her appointment as a Professor II that led, for example, to her participation in an international project funded by the Norwegian Research Council (2003-9). She is currently working with colleagues from Nursing and Sheffield Children's Hospital to explore family centred care. In conjunction with Manchester City Council, Kilkey carried out an evaluation of a parenting course for parents of teenagers that identified the urgent need for more joined-up support and early intervention for families and young people and Twum-Danso Imoh was awarded a University of Sheffield collaborative R&D Partnership Scheme grant to work with the UK charity Stepping Stones in Nigeria on children's participation in the Niger Delta of Nigeria.

For the **Comparative and International Social Policy** cluster, Irving collaborated with Farnsworth to explore the impact of the 2008 financial crisis and state responses, policy reform and welfare outcomes in the age of austerity. This culminated in a well-received joint-edited book. Kilkey joined with colleagues from London and Los Angeles to carry out research on gender, migration and domestic work that also resulted in a joint-authored volume. With a colleague from the University of Frankfurt, she explored welfare, gender and migration regimes and collaborated with others from the University of Western Australia and the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium to research transnational families and caregiving. Benzer's inquiry into the operationalization of quality of life (QOL) ideas via regulatory guidance, and cost-effectiveness analyses, was initiated through his involvement in the interdisciplinary Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation at the LSE (2010-11 and, in 2012, Foster was asked to produce a document on women's pensions in the EU for distribution at the European Parliament at an event organised by its United Left Group for International Women's Day. Tomlinson's research with Walker (Oxford University) on poverty indicators has been used by the Frank Field enquiry and he has also acted as an adviser for the think-tank Demos.

As a member of the **Theory, Culture and Identity** cluster Jenkins' appointment in 2000 as Professor II at Arhus University, Denmark initiated a long-standing research relationship with Danish colleagues that has led to a number of visiting scholars to the Department. As a Visiting Professor at the University of Turin since 2010, Robinson has established research collaborations with colleagues that have led to return visits to the Department and to the Centre for Gender Research. She was also an adviser to the cross-institutional Italian research programme on gender and masculinity. Boxall held an honorary appointment as Associate Professor when she collaborated with a colleague at the Hong Kong Baptist University to explore employment enhancement measures and social quality of people with Down Syndrome. Knepper works with

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colleagues at the University of Malta on archival research concerning the impact of imperial policy. In 2009–10 Dennis undertook research for the Blackfriars Trust investigating the organisation of theft from cars in 'Boldash'. This work was co-sponsored by Salford City Council and the Greater Manchester Police, and was carried out in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Salford and, with a colleague from the University of Leeds, he conducted research for BBC Interactivity (now the College of Journalism).

Members of the **Science and Society** cluster have also had a wide range of research collaborations. Molyneux-Hodgson has worked with engineers to bring a social science perspective to 2 interdisciplinary projects, funded by the BBSRC and EPSRC. She has also worked with colleagues from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Finland on an EU FP6 project, KNOWING. Wessels is working with colleagues from the Humanities Research Institute on an AHRC funded project to improve the design of search interfaces. She is also part of the EU funded project RECODE that is working with existing networks in UK, Greece, Italy, Holland and Sweden to produce policy recommendations for open access to research data. Reed is involved with colleagues from the Medical School on a British Academy funded project exploring the use of magnetic resonance imaging in obstetrics and she is also an international project partner on the project SULIM held at the University of Copenhagen and funded by the Danish Research Council. Martin is collaborating with colleagues in engineering (Sheffield) and computer science (Nottingham) to explore ideas of responsible innovation in synthetic biology.

**Contribution to the discipline**

Our staff have also continued to contribute to the development and vitality of the disciplines of sociology, social policy and social work internationally through: visiting fellowships and professorships at 16 universities in different parts of the world, including Ireland, Hong Kong, Norway, Finland, Austria, Denmark, Malta, Italy, USA; acting as PhD examiners in Australia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Hungary, as well the UK; editing key international journals (*Children and Society*; *Social Policy Review*; *Risk & Regulation*; *Childhoods Today*; *European Journal of Criminology*, *Surveillance and Society*; *Ethnographic Studies*; *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy*) and through their membership of over 15 editorial boards. Staff are also editors/co-editors of book series with international reach, such as: *Child Protection* (John Wiley); *Studies in Childhood and Youth* (Palgrave); *Critical Anthropology* (Museum Tusulanmum Press); *Genders and Sexualities* (Palgrave). They hold key positions within international institutions, such as: Executive Board members of the European Society of Criminology, the Centre for Childhood and Adolescence at the European University of Cyprus and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences; as domain experts for the EU - for example COST action, *Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health*; and as Affiliated Professor at the Institute for Child and Youth Studies, Lethbridge, Canada and the Norwegian Centre for Child Research. Staff have also given in excess of 135 international/national key notes, travelled to present invited papers at approximately 90 conferences internationally and organised 5 international conferences at the University of Sheffield.

Nationally, our staff have also helped prosper social policy, sociology and social work variously through: acting as Trustee, member of Council and executive management board for the *British Sociological Association* and the *Social Policy Association*; their participation in the ESRC peer review college & board of examiners, the JUC-SWEC Implementation Group and the *BBSRC Bioscience for Society Strategy* group.

Finally, the outstanding contributions made by some of our staff have been recognised through a range of prestigious awards: 6 members of staff were elected as Academicians of the Social Sciences (James, Jenkins, Hockey, Horwath Deacon, with Walker being a founding Academician). In addition Walker was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2011 and Horwath received the DCSF award for digital & online resources & BMA medical Book Award. James and Walker were awarded Honorary Doctorates at Karlstaad University, Sweden and Hong Kong Baptist University, respectively and Knepper was made an Elmer Andersen Research Fellow. Finally, the first ever ESRC Impact Champion of the Year (2013) and the first IAGG European Medal for Advances in Gerontology and Geriatrics in the Social and Behavioural Sciences were honours bestowed on Walker in recognition of his exceptional contribution to ageing research.