

Institution: University of Bolton

Unit of Assessment: 22 Social Work and Social Policy

a. Overview

The work submitted to this Unit of Assessment is drawn from research undertaken in the academic curriculum groups Engineering, Sports and Sciences, Art, Design and Language and Education and Psychology. Researchers in these groups have collaborated across departmental boundaries to develop a body of work around a number of broad themes, namely the social history of leisure, social documentary photography, the social history of road traffic accidents, the history of the politics of Northern Ireland and mental health recovery. Although the subject matter of the work varies, it finds a unifying theme in its relationships to social policy and social work. It has been produced through differing methodologies, including social documentary photography. The social history outputs of Luckin, Perry, Snape, Swain and Carson relate in various ways to issues of health and road safety, social justice, social reconciliation and the role of voluntary and municipal associations in the provision of leisure and sport. Beesley's practice-based research in social documentary photography is community-based and engages people through self-representation.

A prominent sub-theme in the research is Bolton's identity as Mass Observation's 'Worktown' which has inspired work in the social history of leisure and sport and in social documentary photography. This research has been supported and co-ordinated through the Centre for Worktown Studies [see Impact Case Study 1]. The submitted work from these areas comprises texts, exhibitions and photographs. The innovative nature of Beesley's practice-based research as a social documentary photographer has been recognised through the prestigious award of Fellow of the Royal Photography Society.

A third sub-theme represents historical research important to the history and development of social policy. The publications of Professor Bill Luckin, an internationally established scholar in the field of the history of public health, focus on road traffic safety and emanate from a three year fellowship, funded by the Wellcome Trust, to undertake research in the history of road traffic accidents in twentieth century Britain [see Impact Case Study 2]. Robert Perry's work focuses on the politics of Northern Ireland and their relationship to areas of social policy such as policing.

The volume of research undertaken in the subject fields that constitute this submission is substantial. Mass Observation's Worktown project has been the nucleus around which research in a diverse range of disciplines and subject fields has grown, in, for example, educational cybernetics, creative writing and mental health. It has also formed the catalyst for five one-day 'Recording Leisure Lives. Conferences on leisure in 20th century Britain which attracted a national audience with an average attendance of 80 delegates and featured internationally acclaimed keynote speakers. These conferences engendered an extensive body of research in the history of leisure and its photographic documentation, and each conference produced a reviewed post-conference volume published by the Leisure Studies Association. While most of the research published in these volumes was conducted in academic institutions, some was undertaken by museum curators, archivists and members of the public. The University's research activities around the Worktown project have thus had local, regional and national impacts on research communities in academia, professional practice and wider society.

b. Research strategy

While the nature and content of outputs display variety and difference, the overarching strategy has been to undertake research which supports the aims of the university and as far as possible to engage the public in research which may enhance their quality of life. In addition to community-orientated research activities described in other areas of the submission, this Unit has led funding bids in co-operation with other organisations in Bolton, notably Bolton Museum and the Octagon Theatre, which have clearly identifiable and measureable social objectives.

A related strategic aim is to embrace multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research and to encourage researchers to work across institutional and organisational boundaries. The Centre for Worktown Studies is an example of how these aims have been fulfilled. The Centre was jointly established by the University with Bolton Museum through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2009. Its strategic purpose

Environment template (REF5)

is defined in this Memorandum as being to promote academic research inspired by the Museum's Humphrey Spender 'Worktown' collection of social documentary photography produced as part of Mass Observation's 'Worktown' project in Bolton in the late nineteen-thirties. This aim is national and international in scope. The Spender Worktown Collection is of international importance and the Centre thus welcomes interest from across the globe. It has been contacted by scholars on an international basis and by television production companies intending to make programmes around Worktown. However, Worktown is also specific to the people of Bolton and a complementary strategic aim of the Centre has been to work with local institutions within Bolton to enable the public of Bolton to benefit from, and where possible contribute to, research on Worktown. The Centre has fulfilled this aim in many ways. It has provided five annual leisure history conferences with themes drawn from the Worktown project, obtained AHRC funding with Bolton Museum for a Collaborative Doctoral Award, awarded four Humphrey Spender Scholarships to postgraduate social documentary photography students, conducted two oral history projects with the public of Bolton and undertaken several other research-based community projects. The Centre has benefitted from engaging in inter-disciplinary work; while cultural history and social documentary photography are distinct subject fields, staff from both areas work co-operatively from their common interest in the Spender 'Worktown' Collection and this has enabled a quantitatively larger and qualitatively richer body of work than would otherwise have been possible. While the bulk of the research outputs of the Centre reflect the interests of staff in leisure history and in social documentary photography, it has also stimulated research and outreach activity in educational cybernetics, materials science and mental health. It has also formed a collaborative partnership with the Mass Observation Archive and through a successful Lottery bid will participate in the delivery of educational initiatives based around Mass Observation. It has been visited by Worktown scholars from the United Kingdom, Australia and North America.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The research submitted to this Unit is inter-disciplinary in nature and has been possible because submitting staff have ensured that institutional boundaries do not hinder collaboration in research. The University supports this participative and co-operative culture through its Research and Innovation Committee. Furthermore, the University holds an annual Research and Innovation conference, provides training in the supervision and management of postgraduate research students and encourages cross-faculty participation in M Phil. / PhD progression panels. The University is actively seeking to enhance its research capacity. It is policy for new appointments to be required to hold a PhD and be willing to pursue further research.

ii. Research students

The Centre for Worktown Studies obtained funding for an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award which commenced in 2011. This is enabling a community arts project based on the Spender Worktown Collection with young people in Bolton.

Snape currently supervises six PhD students in the subject fields of leisure and well-being.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Luckin 'Hidden Victims' [ABA.CB01.K.5010] £5,822.96

Snape, AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award 2011-2014 written and submitted by Snape and awarded to Caroline Edge October 2011 [value £54,250].

The University library provides access to a wide range of resources which includes the Adam Matthew Digitised Mass Observation Worktown Archive. Members of staff are supported in attending conferences and are encouraged to contribute to their respective academic communities.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Collaboration and co-operative working are vital to the research undertaken within this Unit of Submission. Collaboration is both external and internal. An important aspect of external collaboration is the formal agreement through which the University established the Centre for Worktown Studies with

Environment template (REF5)

Bolton Museum in 2009. This enhances researcher access to the Spender Worktown Collection and was crucial to the award in 2011 of an AHRC studentship to work with the Collection. This collaboration also enabled the presentation of five annual 'Recording Leisure Lives' social history conferences in the Museum that were made as equally accessible to the public as to academics and professional curators through subsidised pricing. Collaboration with the Leisure Studies Association enabled the publication of a reviewed post-conference hard copy volume from each conference. The five volumes produced have added significantly to the field of leisure history. Snape's paper on All-in wrestling [2013] contributes to the literature on Mass Observation and Worktown while Swain's publications emanating from empirical research in Bolton have stimulated national public debate in sport history journals. The Centre also enables external collaboration on joint funding bids. Working with a public institution such as the Museum enhances the potential of all research-related activities to have a social impact in terms of public engagement. Indeed, in much of the work outlined in the Impact Case Study on the Centre, the public themselves are major collaborators; an example is the contribution of people who live or were born in Bolton to the geo-location of many photographs in the Worktown Collection that were not labelled or were mistakenly labelled by Spender.

Luckin's work on the history of road traffic accidents is ground-breaking in that this represents a field that had previously been neglected by social and cultural historians. It builds upon his previous work on the history of the 'accidental' and the origins of the risk society for which he gained an international reputation. Luckin has collaborated with the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Manchester and with academic colleagues in several British and American higher education institutions. His thirty year Associateship at this Centre keeps historians aware of Manchester and regional research developments. Luckin's recently ended editorship of *Social History of Medicine* has enhanced links with other scholars in this and cognate fields. His research in the history of social and cultural dimensions of twentieth century science has close linkages with the much larger scientific and technological research base in the University.

Internal collaboration is undertaken across subject groups and research centres as staff from various disciplinary backgrounds find inspiration in the Worktown archive. The Unit has actively contributed to research in the cultural history of leisure and especially sport. Both Snape and Swain have published extensively in this field since the RAE2008. Snape has used the Worktown archive in publishing on the history of everyday leisure and has also published further papers on leisure in inter-war Britain. He has presented seminars to the Voluntary Action History Society and the Leisure and Sport Group of the British Sociological Association on the meanings of leisure in inter-war Britain and has published a related paper in the journal *Leisure Studies*.

Swain has established a reputation as a sports historian since the completion of his PhD in 2009 and has contributed to both *Sport in History* and the *International Journal of the History of Sport*. Adopting south Lancashire and Bolton specifically as a case study locus he has challenged dominant assumptions about the role of public schools in the 'invention' of football and has also, through close readings, revealed the rich contribution of sport and its related gambling and drinking to everyday culture.

Snape, Luckin and Swain meet regularly to discuss research projects and initiatives. Work is progressing on a major bid for Leverhulme funding for a research project on industrial welfare and leisure provision in the Lancashire cotton industry 1919-1939. This will explore patterns of continuity and adaptability in industrial paternalism as mediated through the leisure practices of male and female mill workers between 1918 and 1939. In particular it will investigate the impact of new national initiatives and the professionalization of industrial welfare in an industry in which an older model of paternalism had prevailed and will relate this to the provision of leisure and sport facilities and activities. As employment in this industrial sector was dominated by women the research will also examine the extent to which women were enabled to participate in sport through factory-based welfare.

Snape has worked collaboratively with other social science colleagues, particularly those in psychology where Snape's interests in leisure harmonise with psychologists' interests in mental health and well-being. In April Snape led the preparation of a bid to the AHRC 'Cultural Value' programme submitted jointly by the University, the Octagon Theatre and Bolton at Home (a third sector organisation responsible for Bolton's social housing). This was based on the efficacy of cultural engagement to enhance subjective well-being. A further cross-university bid to the Leverhulme Trust is currently being developed to fund a series of trans-disciplinary projects inspired by the Worktown project. This includes

Environment template (REF5)

a repeat of Mass Observation's Happiness Survey in Bolton which is being actively supported by Dr. John Haworth, Visiting Professor in Leisure and Well-Being. Haworth has an international reputation in the field of leisure and well-being and has recently contributed to the Office for National Statistics' Measurement of National Well-Being.

Snape has also worked collaboratively in the field of book history in the United Kingdom and Canada through contact with colleagues working on *Beyond the Book: Mass Reading Events and Contemporary Cultures of Reading in the UK, USA and Canada*, a three-year interdisciplinary research project funded primarily by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Snape's research on the National Home Reading Union has yielded four outputs to date, two of which fall within the period of the REF 2014. In addition to the submitted paper, he has published on the international dimension of the Union: 'The National Home Reading Union Abroad' in *Reading Communities From salons to cyberspace*. Ed. D Sedo, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan pp.60-80.

Beesley and Speake have exploited the Spender Worktown Collection to differing effects in social documentary photography. Beesley has undertaken numerous commissions, notably in documenting workplace closures as photographer in residence and as a principal active partner in the 'Born in Bradford' project through collaboration with the National Media Museum <http://www.borninbradford.nhs.uk/> These have produced major public exhibitions. Beesley has worked collaboratively with the poet Ian McMillan on a number of arts projects with health impacts:

1. 'Arts and Health' - a series of art installations for Bradford NHS foundation hospitals and St Georges Hospital Tooting London created for specific waiting areas within the hospitals through consultation with staff and patients. Ian Beesley, photographer and Ian McMillan, the poet and visiting professor University of Bolton explore the concept of geo-medical landscapes and the relationship between walking, thinking and memory.

2. "A sense of place" a series of forty images with text by Ian McMillan concerning work, leisure and place in the Bradford area, to encourage reminisce and stimulate memory. The care of the elderly ward Bradford Royal Infirmary. Installed 2009.

3 "Volunteers" twenty-five portraits of hospital volunteers accompanied with twenty-five poems written by Ian McMillan. Ward 29 Bradford Royal Infirmary installed August 2009.

4 "Tree Songs" twelve triptychs two images with poems by Ian McMillan for the examination/consulting rooms in the cardio vascular unit Bradford Royal Infirmary installed 2010.

5 "Inside looking out" Installation of images in the new Ultrasound dept. <http://www.bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk/galleries/ultrasound>; <http://www.ianbeesley.com/inside-outside/>

6 "Magnetic North" art work photographs Ian Beesley poem Ian McMillan for the corridor that links the Trust two MRI Scanners. <http://www.ianbeesley.com/magnetic-north/> <http://www.bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk/about-us/news-and-media/news-and-press-releases/new-a31-million-mri-scanner-launched/?searchterm=ian%20Beesley>

7. "Upwards and onwards" artwork for the Haematology outpatients waiting area St Luke's Hospital Bradford. Photographs Ian Beesley Poem Ian McMillan <http://www.bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk/about-us/news-and-media/news-and-press-releases/hospital-unveils-new-positive-bradford-art-instillation/?searchterm=ian%20Beesley> <http://www.ianbeesley.com/upwards-onwards/>

8. "The Yorkshire elements" fifteen images plus five poems for the patient waiting areas outpatients. Photographs Ian Beesley Poems Ian McMillan <http://www.ianbeesley.com/news/new-art-work-for-st-lukes-hospital-bradford/> St Luke's Hospital Bradford. Installed July 2012.

9. 'A Place of Work: Photographs of Ian Beesley', a retrospective exhibition at the European Photofestival, Milan, October 2013. <http://www.europhtofestival.it/Busto%20lan%20Beesley.php>

10. 'The Drift' a photographic exhibition collaboratively produced with miners working at a West

Environment template (REF5)

Yorkshire coal mine, displayed at the Peoples History Museum in Manchester, autumn 2013.

Speake has been commissioned by the Office for Disability Issues to develop supportive professional practice in the utilisation of social documentary photography with disabled people. His photographs have been widely used in government publications as examples of positive representations of disability and thus have an impact on social policy and practice. His research has challenged notions of collaboration between the photographer, client, subject and unknown audiences. This work was developed further by engaging volunteer participants to steer the research by sharing ownership of the representational outputs, culminating in 2011 in a photographic exhibition of Speake's work curated by young disabled people from Bolton Lads and Girls Club. The research continues to explore collaborative practices thematically in areas such as hate crime working with Transport for Greater Manchester, the Crown Prosecution Service, Greater Manchester Police, the Anti-Bullying Alliance and other local stakeholders. In particular, Speake has formed a collaborative partnership with PhotoVoice (<http://www.photovoice.org/>) to further develop the photographic representation of disabled people through practice-led research initiatives leading to anticipated exhibition and written outputs.

Perry has published widely on the history and politics of Northern Ireland. His re-examination and revision of Irish history has the potential to have an impact upon social policy.

Carson has co-edited three books on mental health recovery, all in partnership with people with lived experience. He organised a conference on Psychosis in February 2011, which was attended by over 250 service users, professionals and carers. He is the consultant to the Wellcome Recovery Archive project, which is the first ever mental health archive featuring the work of service users and not professionals. Since arriving at Bolton in September 2012, he has now started conducting evaluations of educational approaches to tackle stigma. A seminar was held in October 2013 on the theme, "Recovery from Mental Illness: is it possible?" This featured presentations from two leading service user speakers, Peter Bullimore of the Hearing Voices Network and Matt Ward. Ward and Carson gave a joint presentation to over 700 psychiatrists at a conference on recent developments in bipolar disorder in January 2011 on the theme of recovery.