

Institution: : De Montfort University
Unit of Assessment: UOA 22 Social Work and Social Policy
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>De Montfort's submission to the REF in UoA 22 incorporates a dynamic and diverse range of active researchers, cutting across two faculties and many divisional, departmental and research group units of activity. This ensures that our research efforts benefit from interdisciplinary insight and are both vigorous and responsive to opportunities in the policy and funding environments. Researchers who feature in this submission belong to various formal research centres and groups, as well as a variety of more informally structured research clusters, with individuals often belonging to more than one of these groupings. The core of the UoA 22 submission comprises members of staff attached to the School of Applied Social Sciences, which lies within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. In addition, the submission includes members of the School of Allied Health Sciences from the same faculty. From the Faculty of Business and Law, the submission includes researchers from the Health Policy Research Unit and the Centre for Comparative Housing Research. Current research groups with roots in the School of Applied Social Sciences include the Social Work Research Group, the Reproduction Research Group, the Criminal Justice Policy and Practice Research Group, the Unit for the Social Study of Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell, the Participation and Social Justice Research Group, the Psychology Research Group and the Mary Seacole Research Centre. A Youth Research Group also hosts regular seminars linked to the Philosophy of Education Society and the British Education Research Association. Accordingly, this submission is able to include particular strengths in the study of health care as a social practice, health policy, social care, participation and social justice, the justice system and youth work, as well as housing. Many of these areas of strength address matters of diversity and equality, and all of the areas address questions of how human beings collectively organise themselves socially and spatially, identify and formulate their collective and individual needs and adjudicate between competing interests and priorities.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>In UoA 22 there have been many positive developments since our last submission to UoA 40 in the 2008 RAE exercise. As planned in our submission in 2008, over the census period there has been significant enhancement and consolidation of thematic strengths in Criminal Justice Policy and Practice, social work, participatory research and work with young people. Youth work continues to be an important area of focus, following its 'outstanding' rating in the 2008 RAE. The submission in 2008 highlighted a planned move to incorporate a focus on the interface between health and social care. This has been continued and expanded, with additional scholars (both from within the University and new appointments) to the unit, who bring new strengths in health policy and health research (Baggott), and emphases on diversity issues and reproductive health (Hudson), infection control, and health communication (Brown), carers (Larkin) and the social study of blood disorders (Dyson). In addition we have new foci in learning disabilities and social identity (Raghavan and Jaspal respectively, both appointed in the last 12 months).</p> <p>The research environment in UoA 22 has been given context and has been advantaged by the overarching University's strategic plan which (over the census period) has sought to facilitate research excellence and researcher development and leadership, and to place research excellence and innovation at the heart of the mission and identity of the University. Within UoA 22 this strategy has been manifested through the development of achievable research plans with measureable outcomes at the level of individuals, research groups and the unit. These are designed to maximise the dissemination of research in influential outlets to both academic and practitioner audiences, and contribute to worldwide debates in areas such as social policy, social care, health, and participatory practice. This is set in the context of the unit's ambitious growth targets, and its desire to diversify income sources, ensure quality of research activity, and to enable multi-disciplinarity wherever possible, whilst being mindful of the external environment and emerging opportunities within the social work and social policy fields. An important strand in the strategic plan within UoA 22 is to create an excellent research experience for postgraduate students and early career researchers at the University, in line with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.</p> <p>So far, the strategies outlined above have enabled a greater number of academic staff to devote time to developing and submitting high quality research proposals and outputs. Actions to facilitate this have included: (a) the implementation of schemes such as intensive research periods and</p>

internal University grants for staff to develop proposals or outputs, (b) provision of support for colleagues unfamiliar with the process (e.g. through mentoring, bid writing workshops etc.). In addition, opportunities are made available for early career staff and those whose remit is predominantly teaching to become involved in collaborations and participate in funding applications. This experience is valuable in conferring research experience and building a sustainable research ecosystem. Within UoA 22, the research topics studied range from the fine detail of encounters between clients and human service professionals through to broader questions concerning the formulation of policy at national and international level where health, justice or patterns of service delivery are concerned. The work is driven both by intellectual curiosity and practical applicability and contributes to both policy and practice in addition to providing significant theoretical development within the social sciences. Scholars within the unit have deployed new conceptual, analytical and methodological approaches to areas of pressing policy concern, such as justice, social exclusion and social change, and have extended our links to the sociology of health, deviance and criminology, and policy studies through a process of stakeholder and public engagement and theoretical development.

The Unit's research environment is monitored and enhanced through research committees which operate at University-wide, faculty and school levels, where research initiatives are planned and discussed, new opportunities identified and strategy is developed and implemented. Overall, we can present a more mature research culture than in the 2008 RAE submission. This shift is exemplified in the far greater proportion of refereed journal outputs in the present submission rather than reliance on book chapters as a key means of dissemination. This reflects a move from expository or descriptive work towards a growing capacity to influence thinking in the broader field and contribute not only new data and methodological innovation but theoretical progression too. This enables us to compete effectively with other leaders in our fields.

Looking forward over the next five years, our strategy (informed by the wider strategic plans of the Faculties and the University) identifies a number of planned actions which are currently being developed, including:

1. Undertaking measures to increase our engagement with EU-funded research including: (a) Unit representation at key seminars on relevant calls/initiatives, (b) engaging with the University's Research Business and Innovation Office (RBI) initiatives on the development of concepts and networks; exploring, and effectively utilising mechanisms for supporting staff and research groups in the development of collaborative research links within the EU. This is being done with the support of a dedicated EU officer who works within the HLS faculty.
2. Developing closer research links with the NHS. Ongoing developments include interaction at a high level with Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland - Comprehensive Local Research Network (LNR-CLRN), Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) and University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) trust and the CLARHC (NHS Institute for Health Research Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Research in Health & Care). In addition, DMU hosts four staff from the East Midlands Research Design Service, and links have been developed with Nottingham University Hospitals Trust.
3. Long term strategically aligned planning of research programmes allowing for the generation of larger more focused pre-emptive proposals, informed by the international, interdisciplinary "grand challenge" framework.
4. Effective collaboration within and across research groups is considered to be particularly important and valuable, and underpins the whole UoA strategy. Researchers are increasingly encouraged to contribute to group strategy/planning sessions and to engage in internal and external networks to identify new research opportunities. Further collaboration between scholars in different disciplines is also facilitated by the recently formed Transdisciplinary Common Room, a grouping which brings together researchers from across the whole University. Scholars in the submission (Hudson, Johnson) are engaged with the CLARHC (Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care) on projects in stroke care, asthma and diabetes. We are looking forward to further collaboration in the forthcoming CLARHC 2 project which is expected to be considerably larger. The Health Policy Research Unit (HPRU) is a joint venture between De Montfort's Leicester Business School and Faculty of Health and Life Sciences whose members have been successful in generating external funding, as well as securing research and consultancy income from a wide range of international bodies, UK research councils, government departments, the NHS, local government, charities and the voluntary sector. In the five years following the

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current census period, members of this UoA are committed to sustaining their agility in responding to new opportunities and emerging areas of strength in order to further develop the unit's profile, underpinned by excellent research and to providing an environment in which earlier-career researchers are empowered to succeed. There are a number of currently successful areas which we expect to pursue and expand. Examples include:

- 1) The development of work in social aspects of reproduction has demonstrable ability to attract funding, yield publication opportunities in influential outlets and career development opportunities for early career staff. This has shown itself to be attractive to UK research councils and it is anticipated that further funding will be achieved in this way. The University has signalled its commitment here through the permanent appointment of a research assistant, Caroline Laws, to help sustain this area of enquiry.
- 2) Research in social aspects of health and social policy has been a persistent area of multi-disciplinary strength for over a decade. Policy and societal aspects are facilitated by their own dedicated unit (HPRU) as well as special interest groupings. This has so far attracted support from research councils, charitable bodies, healthcare organisations and central government as well as leading to international collaborations. This has included work on the experience of particular conditions, such as learning disability (Raghavan) reproductive health (Hudson), blood disorders (Dyson) and the experience of carers (Larkin).
- 3) Work with young people shows promise of development. Building on The Centre for Social Action's (CSA) distinctive approach to participatory research. Scholars focussing on youth continue to innovate in participatory approaches, an area particularly worthy of note being the creation of age-exempt research posts for young people to shape and work on projects concerned with youth. The university's recognition of the quality of research and publications in this area is shown by the conferment of a readership in the field (Fleming) and Ward was appointed Visiting Professor at the University of Montreal. Expertise in this area contributed to the recently published 'Involving Children and Young People in Health and Social Care Research' (Fleming and Boeck, authors and editors).
- 4) Criminal Justice Policy and Practice research has shown a sustained ability to attract support from central government agencies. De Montfort is a preferred provider of research services to the National Offender Management Service and has expertise in European justice systems, non-custodial approaches to rehabilitation and risk analysis. It is anticipated that further projects will be undertaken in collaboration with NOMS and these will be greater in scope and ambition. De Montfort co-hosts two journals, the British Journal of Community Justice and EuroVista, which are rapidly establishing themselves as key scholarly dissemination platforms for these initiatives.
- 5) Research and funding opportunities in the health humanities will be pursued in the light of this area's existing success with the Leverhulme Trust for a study of 'Madness and Literature' and the AHRC for international research networks. De Montfort is now a partner in a major £1.5M AHRC programme to explore the arts and humanities as means to recovery in mental health. Established developments which will bear fruit across the next census period may include topics such as policing in an ethnically diverse global environment and significant new research initiatives, for example in infection control research (which will contribute to UoA 3) and research on reasoning processes (which has recently yielded the conferment of a readership [Elqayam] and gained a Leverhulme project grant which will contribute to our emerging research cluster in psychology, which we expect will become a significant area of strength over the next five years. This selection of examples (taken from a much wider body of international initiatives and research plans) shows how the planning process within the unit specifically has been effective in developing an international presence and in exploiting opportunities from national and international sources. De Montfort University academics in this submission are consolidating their position as world leaders in their fields and exploring new ways of embedding their expertise in international initiatives.

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

The unit has sought to maintain an effective balance in our staffing structure, between established research leaders with strong international or national research profiles on the one hand, and a growing body of early and developing career researchers on the other. In addition, the emerging generation of mid-career researchers is supported through a 'Future Research Leaders' scheme. The School of Applied Social Sciences (which yields the bulk of the staff in this submission)

benefits from a close alignment between research and teaching. Thus appointments tend to support both teaching and research, with the result that research findings and outputs are readily incorporated into our teaching and learning activities. This is a particularly important feature of vocational education for the many professions who aspire to 'evidence-led' practice, such as the police and probation. Over most of the census period, the unit has benefitted from the expertise of Prof Roger Smith who has now moved on but who will be replaced via external advertisement. In addition, the unit is engaged in a process of recruiting additional professorial staff, with appointments having been made recently in mental health and the prospect of a professorial appointment in psychology. This will ensure continuity of research leadership and will provide enhanced morale in key subject areas. The DMU appointments procedure is rigorous; new appointments have been, in the main, younger staff, so ensuring sustainability and critical mass in core areas. The process for internal promotion to readerships and personal chairs is thorough, with a wide range of referees being consulted on the significance and potential of a candidate's work. This has yielded an energetic and creative staff complement and working environment. New staff are identified and recruited to augment and extend existing strengths and preference is given to candidates with a strong track record of publications in strategically important areas.

Staff development is seen as a priority and this is supported through provision of in-house research skills training, encouragement and effective supervision for staff undertaking personal research programmes, a policy of providing sufficient time and resources to enable staff to develop their research potential, funding and supervisory support for staff undertaking PhDs (some 'by publication'), programmes of in-house support and seminars to encourage writing and dissemination, and practical support for tasks such as writing for publication, drafting bids and conference papers. The School of Applied Social Sciences has recently benefitted from the conferment of three places from the Vice Chancellor's Future Research Leaders Scheme, representing a quarter of the total number of these awards made in the University as a whole. Research assistants and fellows are enabled to undertake their own research, where appropriate, and there is an active policy of including such staff in teams of authors writing for publication and teams bidding for external funding where possible so as to enhance their personal profiles and those of their research units and groups. Equally, early career staff with doctorates are enabled to gain experience of PhD supervision and examination so as to enhance the intellectual capital of the unit of assessment and the institution.

Sustainability is assured by the unit having a strong record on the retention of high performing research staff. There is a planned programme of replacement of experienced staff who leave to ensure that there is continuity of leadership and research contribution. The University has signalled its commitment to supporting ambitious and energetic staff within the unit by conferring two personal chairs and a readership to members of staff in the School of Applied Social Sciences in the current census period.

The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences operates a research mentorship scheme, in line with the Concordat to support the career development of researchers. This scheme, pioneered in the unit, pairs early career researchers with experienced researchers so as to facilitate their research productivity and enable them to address more effectively issues such as funding applications and publication. In addition, 10 current staff have recently been enabled to complete PhDs and across the faculty 12 further members of staff are in the process of completing PhDs.

Individual research plans are developed through the appraisal process. These help identify sources of funding for staff research, collaborative opportunities and coalesce publication plans. The faculty keeps a centralised record of staff research outputs and research interests which provides intelligence on potential areas of synergy and helps identify staff and research areas that might benefit from support.

Members of the unit therefore contribute to the process of succession planning and identification and development of possible areas of strength.

Training and development run by the RBI includes courses for researchers covering topics such as the REF, research impact, applying for funding in the UK and EU. Training for early career researchers is provided via first funding application workshops and entry-level research funding seminars. In addition, courses concerned with research methods and analysis, project management, and writing for publication are available, as well as Grand Challenges networking sessions, based upon the international, interdisciplinary Grand Challenges for research. Members of this submission have contributed to these as attendees and presenters.

Other University level training and development relevant for Researchers includes courses offered by our Human Resources department in areas of personal effectiveness and management, as outlined in the Researcher Development Framework. Furthermore, there are courses offered by the Library and Subject Librarians, including training in the use of the De Montfort Online Research Archive (DORA), the success of which can be judged by the fact that members of the submission are among the top contributors to the archive. Intellectual property training is provided by Prospect IP, a contracted service who provide all of DMU's IP support.

The Academic Professional Development Unit (APDU) provides courses, especially those focused on supporting PhD students. University expertise and professional distinction is showcased via the Professorial Lecture series and Distinguished Lecture series to which professors in the UoA are regular contributors.

Research involving human participants benefits from review by ethics committees in the relevant faculties, as well as collective experience on the part of senior staff in making applications to external review bodies such as NRES/IRAS.

ii. Research students

The submission in this unit of assessment includes 47 funded students registered for either PhDs or for MPhils with the intention of transferring to PhD on successful completion of their transfer process. Moreover, a number of further students are undertaking self-funded postgraduate research study. Of the funded students, six are in receipt of research council studentships, ten are from overseas and are funded by overseas agencies, four are funded through De Montfort University bursaries and 21 are members of staff undertaking postgraduate study whose fees are paid by the University itself. PhD students have the use of faculty social space and dedicated work areas which permit 'hot-desking' to facilitate their work as well as dedicated computer facilities.

The focus of doctoral recruitment in UoA 22 has been on students who can complement existing research strengths and hence contribute to a coherent research culture. The majority of staff submitted in this unit are active PhD supervisors and contribute to doctoral training in research methods. Students are guided by at least two supervisors one of whom must have previously successfully supervised a PhD student to completion, and who must also have undertaken the University's Certificate of Research Supervision course, with staff being required also to attend regular refresher courses. Some students are supervised across faculties too, providing multidisciplinary perspectives for the student and supervisors. Student progress is monitored annually across the University through a process of annual review and student-led progress reports have recently been integrated into the University's virtual learning environment.

During the census period the unit has benefitted from four University-funded PhD bursaries. These are allocated annually and may cover fees and subsistence, or fees only. A new professional doctorate programme in criminal justice has been commenced. From 2005 until 2011 the Social Work and Applied Health Studies MRes/PhD pathways benefitted from ESRC 1+3 accreditation. Provision for students undertaking doctorates has been compiled into an applied social sciences doctoral training programme, which has been created to enhance PhD student experiences through research methods training and provision for the development of transferable skills and enhanced employability. We plan to enter this into the next ESRC competition for doctoral training centre status. In addition, students are supported via a University wide programme of training co-ordinated through the Graduate School Office. A focus on skills development through research training is facilitated through a comprehensive training needs analysis so that the University's training programme can address the knowledge and skills needs of the student. In addition to this comprehensive University research training programme, within this UoA learning opportunities for postgraduates and early career researchers are enhanced through subject specific training for example in qualitative and quantitative methodologies, participation in seminar series and symposia, and attendance in postgraduate level research methods modules.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income There has been a strong record of income generation from research staff and units over the assessment period. In total, this amounts to over £3 million in the period 2008-12, and includes a wide range of commissions, both large and small, from the local to national and international collaborations. Of particular note are projects such as the NHS Specialist Library on Ethnicity and Health (Johnson, £167,000), projects on sickle cell disease, which collectively amount to around £200,000 (Dyson). The submission has hosted a study sponsored by the Home Office evaluating its disclosure scheme for Child Sex Offenders (Kemshall, £150,000). The study of reproduction in

transnational contexts has been the subject of a study by Hudson and Culley (£82,000). The study of social aspects of reproduction (Culley, Hudson) has been funded by awards from the ESRC (2) and NIHR (£400,000). The Centre for Social Action has recently been part of a consortium in receipt of one of the largest grants ever made by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, £330,000 for *The Standards We Expect* project. Staff associated with the unit have been at the heart of building infrastructure in the broader academic community through successful research council grants to host seminar series such as the Carers in the 21st Century programme (Larkin, c.£15k) Spaces and Places for Gypsies and Travellers (Richardson, c.£15k) Madness and Literature (Brown, c.£38k) and the International Health Humanities Network (Brown c.38k).

Infrastructure Leadership and infrastructural support is provided through designated faculty, school and divisional heads of research, as well as through research groups, centres and units, and administrative support for research activities is available within some units and centres. In addition the faculties have their own research and commercial offices which provide support with costing of proposals, liaison between researchers and ethics committees and address the University processes involved in approving and 'signing off' proposals.

The groups are involved in planning, running and managing seminar series and serve as foci for collaborative publication and funding applications. The Health Policy Research Unit provides a model of interdisciplinary, cross faculty working. It is currently led by Rob Baggott of the Department of Public Policy (Business School), with Sally Ruane (Faculty of Health and Life Sciences) as deputy director. In the current census period, members of the HPRU have published over 100 academic articles and chapters and seven books as well as acquiring a variety of external funding. The HPRU also enlivens the academic atmosphere with, for example, a public policy seminar series, which in recent years has included speakers on prostitution, public-patient involvement, personal budgets and policy relating to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) issues and a media workshop to enhance dissemination and impact.

In addition to the faculty and research group specific infrastructure, the Research Business and Innovation directorate (RBI) provides a University-wide infrastructure to support and grow research, knowledge transfer and public engagement via two main strands of activity:

- Research funding and support, grants management and finances: RBI co-ordinated the bid for funding from the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement and JISC for the DIEGO project and contributed to project management.
- Knowledge transfer (and exchange) funding and support: for example bids for follow-on funding to aid dissemination in successful projects, and facilitation of plans and partnerships for knowledge transfer in research on the justice system.

University infrastructure has aided a number of projects in reproductive health, including support from the DMU press office for publicity, resources from DMU marketing in designing and producing our 'Trying for a Baby' information leaflets, and the posters and publicity materials for the 'Making Parents' public engagement event. In addition, work in a variety of health related fields was showcased to users and practitioners at the University's health and well-being event in 2011 to an audience drawn from health and allied health professionals, commissioners of services and NGOs. The unit has benefitted from the University having identified funds for research-related travel for staff and students. Within UoA 22, staff have been supported through University-wide schemes such as Revolving Investment Fund (RIF) for pilot projects in promising research areas, the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) to help amplify the impact of research on policy, and a competitive Research Leave Scheme, which enables relief from teaching to pursue individual research or writing projects. For example, Revolving Investment Fund monies have enabled advances to be made in the study of social aspects of reproductive health and have enabled the development of an international network in participatory research for our Centre for Social Action. In addition to bursaries for PhD students, the University has recently introduced a High Flyers scheme of enhanced bursaries for promising students, of which the School of Applied Social Sciences has secured one. Taken together, these represent a commitment at both a strategic and budgetary level to maintain a sustainable research environment, which enables the Unit's researchers to compete at international levels in a diverse range of fields.

Facilities UoA 22 has benefitted from De Montfort's ambitious programme of upgrading the physical infrastructure of the University. In the current census period, researchers in the UoA 22 submission have been aided by the opening of the new £35m Hugh Aston Building, and from the £8m refurbishment of Edith Murphy House. These new facilities include research rooms, meeting

rooms used by research centres and groups in this submission, as well as social spaces, auditoria and enhanced office space for both academic staff and faculty research offices.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Within the academic and policymaking communities, we have developed and maintained strong collaborative relationships at both national and international levels. The infrastructure described above is supplemented by a number of bridges to external bodies. For example the Research Design Service for the East Midlands and the regional Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in Research organisation. This includes the Leicestershire, Northampton and Rutland Research Engaging with Patients and Public (LNR REPP) forum, an 'outward facing' alliance for PPI in research across LNR consisting of 45 organisations; some funded by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and local Universities, Hospitals and groups representing civil society. The LNR REPP forum raises awareness of the importance, relevance and impact of PPI in research, encourages effective PPI, works with research based PPI initiatives in LNR to enhance sharing of knowledge and experience, as well as examples of good practice in PPI in research with HLS. An East Midlands Research Design Service worker is based in the Centre for Social Action.

A group of scholars with interests in reproductive health have developed international funding bids to submit under the European FP7 scheme with several UK and European partners. This group is currently preparing an internationally focussed proposal on egg donors, which will include several European collaborators. They hosted an international symposium on men, masculinities and infertility in April 2012 and have developed a European research network on this theme.

The Health Policy Research Unit (Ruane) has been invited to contribute to events in the regional and national parliaments in Madrid and has been asked to make presentations in Spain at the invitation of the European Citizens' Foundation. Members of the Unit for the Social Study of Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell have been involved in planning conferences in association with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention USA, and the Global Sickle Cell Disease Network with colleagues from Brazil, North America, Europe, Africa, India and the Middle East. Dyson chairs the Worldwide Initiative on Social Studies of Haemoglobinopathies, involving Brazil, North America, Europe and Africa. Larkin has utilised Erasmus funding to consult for the Finnish Association of Caregiving Relatives and Friends on developing a Finnish National Carers Strategy. Larkin is also a member of the Social Care Institute of Excellence co-production network, an Honorary Research Fellow at the Third Sector Research Centre and is editing a special issue of *Health and Social Care in the Community* on informal carers.

Members of the Participation and Social Justice Research Group collaborate with Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University in Thailand. Thilo Boeck is undertaking collaborative work on resilience in young people in Chile. Due to their international reputation for expertise in youth policy and youth work, members of the Youth, Community and Education Division were visited in 2010 by a Japanese delegation, which included Makoto Yuasa (a key policy advisor to then-Prime Minister Naoto Kan) to discuss Japanese policy. Scott Yates continues to pursue links with Japan on youth transitions and policy. The Social Work Group is part of an initiative linking with University of Western Sydney. Also within the Social Work Group, Julie Fish is co-convenor of an International Network on Social Work and Health Inequalities (SWHI, with Kate Karban from Bradford University) of 350 social work academics and practitioners from 25 countries. This has included symposia at the 7th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health, Los Angeles, contributions to the Social Care Institute for Excellence's (SCIE) web pages and contributions to the College of Social Work's curriculum guide. Fish is also the LGBT health expert involved in consultations to take forward the LGBT Companion document for the Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes Framework. The Centre for Social Action (CSA)'s funding success includes the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Big Lottery. Partners include Beresford's Centre for Citizen Participation at Brunel University and international partners such as: the University of Western Sydney; Centro Sociedad y Politicas Publicas, Universidad de los Lagos, Santiago, Chile; UMASS, USA; University of Montreal Canada. In a project which combines intellectual curiosity with the internationalisation agenda, Brown is working with others on an AHRC funded international network to promote the use of the humanities in health care, which involved a conference in New York (August 2012) and a seminar series. As well as working regularly with the Council of Europe and serving as their keynote speaker, Canton was asked to advise the French Ministry of Justice (2013), acted as an adviser to a Parliamentary Justice Select Committee for probation review, and delivered a keynote address to the European probation organisation CEP.

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Additional links and collaborations include:

- Swansea, Leicester and Edinburgh Universities on health and ethnicity (Hudson).
- Bristol and Derby Universities on the national evaluation of Connexions (Fleming).
- Sheffield, Stirling and Manchester Metropolitan Universities and King's College, London, on crime and victimisation.
- Brunel, Massachusetts Montreal and Western Sydney Universities and Universidad de los Lagos, Santiago, Chile Universities on participation and user involvement (Fleming, Boeck, Ward).
- Nottingham University to undertake research on health communication (Brown).
- Bangor University to undertake research on the historical sociology of North Wales.
- The Universities of Kent, York, Surrey, Leeds, Kings College (London), St George's University of London, & Kingston University, Birmingham and Bangor on carers and caring issues (Larkin). Larkin also undertakes consultancy for voluntary organisations: Finnish Association of Caregiving Relatives and Friends, and Carers Federation.
- The School of Applied Social Sciences hosts key members of the editorial teams of *Groupwork*, (Fleming, Ward) and *Diversity and Equality in Health and Care* (Johnson, Culley).

Productive international links have been established with:

- University of Fort Hare, South Africa, supported by the British Council to develop research.
- A consortium of universities in the Netherlands, Hungary and Spain working on 'best practice' in Probation in Europe.
- Alexandra Ioan Cuza University, Romania, on a comparative study of youth justice.
- The Ministry of Social Protection in Moldova on a project to develop effective, sustainable assistance services in that country via Oxford Policy Management.
- City University, Hong Kong in relation to youth work.
- Princeton and a consortium of other universities to study transitions in young people's lives.
- The South African government and youth agencies, supported by British Council funding.
- The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) – a European network of national networks present in 27 states of the European Union – on inclusion strategy.
- The Council of Europe in developing the European Probation Rules.
- A Consortium of universities in Scotland, Netherlands, Romania and Latvia in developing a European approach to probation education.
- Fish has undertaken seminars for professionals to inform of research findings and discuss implications: such as Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans People with cancer and Social Action Groupwork in Canada and US.
- A consortium of universities and government agencies from several countries in supporting the implementation of an EU Framework Decision to transfer people subject to community sanctions.
- A consortium of European universities and agencies working to reduce domestic violence.
- Ministry of Justice and Home Office on assessment and management of high risk offenders.
- The Australian Research Council and Australian Government to contribute to the Australian equivalent of the REF, Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA).
- Hudson has links with Cambridge, Yale, Birmingham City University, Middlesex University, Sheffield, Hong Kong and Nottingham Universities to facilitate work on endometriosis and infertility. She also has close links with researchers in bio-ethics at University of Ghent.
- Health policy researchers work with NHS decision-makers, including PCTs, trusts and public health teams, and linked to the BMA, the RCN, patients' organisations and the voluntary sector (such as the Long Term Medical Conditions Alliance), the Parkinson's Disease Research Advisory Panel, the Institute of Alcohol Studies Scientific Advisory Committee and NHS Employers' Equality & Diversity Forum.
- Members of the Health Policy Research Unit (Baggott and Jones) are members of ENCUPPO, a collaborative framework of European researchers with interests in voluntary health organisations, patients' groups and health consumer organisations. It involves universities and research bodies such as Vienna, Hamburg, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland, the Dutch Centre for Consumer Experience in Healthcare, University College Cork, University Magna Graecia, Italy.
- Members of the Community and Criminal Justice Division are involved in a consortium of universities and government agencies from several countries to support the development and dissemination of effective probation practice across Europe (The STREAM project: Canton, Hine) representing an income for DMU of £270,000.