

Institution: Glasgow Caledonian University

Unit of Assessment: 22

a. Context

This unit is a thematically coherent interdisciplinary group working in the broad field of social justice, focussed, on the development of knowledge that contributes towards a) the understanding and amelioration of gendered violence and b) the enhancement of opportunities for citizenship and participation. Our main audiences and beneficiaries include practitioners and policy makers involved in violence reduction work and practitioners, policy makers and grass roots organisations as well as members of the public involved in supporting progressive approaches to human rights and the amelioration of inequalities.

b. Approach to impact

Gender and Violence is one of the two main themes that underpin the unit's approach to impact. In terms of public engagement, the research is designed to contribute explicitly to violence prevention and reduction. The key audience for the work are practitioners and policy makers in the criminal justice system and/or other professionals who work in contexts that can be mobilised to change awareness, attitudes and behaviour in relation to violence. Exemplars and evidence relating to this approach to impact are provided below:

- By way of research that revealed the general acceptance by young people of violence against women in the home as, normal and natural practices of intimacy, **Lombard** has developed an approach to impact that has involved working with teachers, the police, the voluntary sector, and grass-roots women's organisations. The YWCA and Zero Tolerance use Lombard's work for CPD training: <http://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/UnderPressure> and it has been deployed extensively by the Scottish Parliament: See for example, <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advanced&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-04855&ResultsPerPage=10> and <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advanced&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05465&ResultsPerPage=10>.
- As a result of her research into Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), **Gilchrist** has worked extensively with a variety of beneficiaries in the criminal justice system including the judiciary, criminal justice social workers, victim advocates, the Scottish Police, The Scottish Prison Service, Women's Aid and government bodies in the UK and New Zealand. She has developed interventions that are beneficial to both victims and perpetrators. The impact are numerous and significant, examples of which – home and abroad - are evidenced in: <http://www.gcu.ac.uk/triplep/research/currentresearch/parentingsupportforoffenders/> and www.domesticviolence.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/.../agj_domestic_violence
- **Cooke** pursues impact through the delivery of master classes and workshops on violence risk assessment. Examples of beneficiaries are: *Antwerp University Hospital*, the *Royal College of Psychiatry, Belfast*, the *Barbados Prison Service*, *Stavanger Prison and Mental Health Services*, Norway, the *International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services*, the *Correction Service of New Zealand* and the *Canadian Correctional Services*.
- **McMillan** has worked extensively with the police in Scotland and England to develop training strategies to improve the experience and justice outcomes for women who have been raped. Her work influenced *'The Stern Review': An Independent Review into How Rape Complaints Are Handled by Public Authorities in England and Wales*, which was published in 2012. The *Guardian* (24th August 2012) cited McMillan's work as part of a public debate about Rape and sexual violence

The unit's second key thematic priority is *Citizenship and Participation*. Our approach to impact is designed to influence a range of audiences including practitioners, policy makers and campaigners/activists concerned with promoting the cause of people with undervalued or stigmatised identities. The unit embraces the ethos of a publicly focused social science practice, dedicated to supporting claims for citizenship, rights and equality: We work with women, disabled people, elders, and people living in poverty. Examples of our approach to impact include:

- **Hughes** is committed to the emancipatory research methods embraced by the social model of disability and works with disability activists in the (Scottish) Independent Living Movement and with third sector organisations like *Glasgow Disability Alliance*, and the *Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations* (SCVO). He has also worked with practitioner audiences in a variety of European locations, including Scotland, Denmark (www.socialstyrelsen.dk/aktiviteter/handicap/.../BillHughespaper.pdf) and Switzerland; with the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), to help develop the *Scottish National Action Plan for Human Rights* and has supported the road trips of the *British Institute for Human Rights* (BIHR): see for example <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo-events/human-rights-in-scotland-part-of-bihr-human-rights-tour-2013/>
 - **Sinclair** is a very active presence in poverty alleviation work in Scotland, working with third sector organisations, government and media to alter the stigmatising myths that surround perceptions of materially disadvantaged people. His work has been widely reported in the press and has influenced campaigning organisations such the *Poverty Alliance* and the *Child Poverty Action Group* as well as the Scottish Government policy.
 - **Thomson** and **McKay** have developed a critique of occupational segregation, particularly in relation to modern apprenticeships and gendered approach to the national budget process. They have informed the policy making process in Scotland and have supported the establishment of the *Scottish Women's Budget Group* (SWBG), the *Women in Scotland's Economy Research Centre* (WiSE). The *Scottish Government Ministerial Advisory Group – the Equality and Budget Advisory Group* (EBAG) was established in 2000 as a result of the activities of SWBG. For the impact of EBAG on Scottish government equality budget setting see for example, www.scotland.gov.uk/resource/0040/00402326.pdf
- McKay and Thomson** have produced influential reports for the *Equal Opportunities Commission, Scotland* on gender (in)equality and have influenced government policy on occupational segregation through their work on Modern Apprenticeships: see for example <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/18500/GenderPriorities>. **Thomson** was a guest speaker at TUC 2012 on the subject of 'women and welfare' and gave evidence to the *Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee of the Scottish Parliament*. **McKay** has given evidence to the *Standing Committee on the Status of Women of the Canadian Parliament*.

Our general approach to impact has embraced a critique of human rights praxis, focused on promoting equity and justice, citizenship and participation and on opposing exclusion and discrimination. We are committed to the production of *knowledge for* rather than the production of *knowledge about* our domains of interest and expertise. Therefore we have:

- Allied ourselves to the aims of the social movements that align to our research expertise (**Thomson, McKay, Hughes, Ring**);
- Critically examined issues of citizenship and participation in order to promote inclusion and democracy (**Baglioni, R Campbell, Korkut, Davidson, Webb**) and ;
- Developed insights designed to contribute to the amelioration of poverty or the reduction of violence, risk and harm in our communities, organisations and families (**Sinclair, Lombard, Gilchrist, Forsyth, Cooke**):

The production of knowledge *for* these ends has involved

- Engagement and collaboration with social movement activists;
- Engagement with professional practitioners in a variety of fields and sectors including justice, education, employment, health and welfare;
- Engagement with the policy community and with actors involved in policy development;
- Engagement with debates at a national and European level about the state of democracy and the opportunities for citizens and communities to relate meaningfully to it and;
- Engagement with public perceptions and discourses about marginalised groups, with a view to changing them.

c. Strategy and plans

The *Institute for Society and Social Justice (ISSJR)* at our University, the umbrella under which this

submission rests, was founded in 2008 and the first preposition in its title frames its commitment to the meaningful, transfer of impactful knowledge. The unit is committed to sharing academic insight and innovation in order to transcend traditional epistemological boundaries and make a difference to the communities and beneficiaries that we serve. The unit embraces the broad objective of all staff affiliated to the *ISSJR* which is to develop knowledge that will enhance citizenship, justice and human rights on the one hand and challenge inequality, exclusion and discrimination on the other.

We are in the process of developing our capacity to enhance our praxis through

- a) Collaborations with organisations committed to a human's right approach; by building on our established relationships with the *Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)*, the *Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)* and the *Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)*, the *British Institute for Human Rights (BIHR)* and forging nascent ones, with for example, *Alzheimer's Scotland*;
- b) Developing relationships with end users and service users through our connections to grass roots social movement organisations focused on equality for women, disabled people and people living in poverty;
- c) Working with practitioners, in voluntary organisations, the police, prison and personal social services and the policy community – in key consultancy and advisory roles - particularly in relation to our violence reduction work.

Members of the unit have been and are engaged in a significant number of keynote addresses to practitioner and policy communities and to end user beneficiaries and it is our objective to grow these contributions in order to extend the reach and significance of our work in 'public social science'. We are using our work based Masters in Citizenship and Human Rights to connect our research to the work of public and voluntary organisations in Scotland and beyond and to embed the significance of our research in the practice of professionals and activists who wish to use our evidence in agendas for progressive social change.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two case studies presented in support of our submission were chosen from a short list of five to represent, not only the nature and scope of our human rights praxis approach to impact but also to reflect the two key themes at the core of the unit's work, namely *Gender and Violence* and *Citizenship and Participation*.

Work on the amelioration of violence is a central, generic concern of the unit and the case study on '*Intimate Partner Violence*' offers a clear illustration and capsule account of our priorities in this respect. While it illustrates the impact of the work of an individual from the unit (**Gilchrist**), it is commensurate with the work of colleagues (**Lombard, McMillan**) who have also produced knowledge that focuses praxis on reducing the prevalence of violence against women in both public and private spheres. The case study draws attention to the ways in which the research has been successful in promoting actions that ameliorate the violent exchanges that damage intimacy.

Our second case study; '*Poverty – Challenging Perception and Informing Practice*', illustrates the impact of the units work in tackling social exclusion and influencing anti-poverty strategies. **Sinclair** and colleagues have selected two strands of their poverty amelioration work in order to highlight its reach and significance. Through critical analysis of media representations of poverty, they have been able to reorient the public poverty discourse, particularly in Scotland and especially in journalistic and political circles. Their success in initiating a campaign to de-stigmatise the symbolic meanings of poverty has gone hand in hand with research based initiatives to tackle child poverty aimed primarily at the policy and practitioner communities in Scotland. The practical resources produced by this work are widely available and much in demand, influencing debate and initiatives around conceptions and practices of citizenship in our communities. These two case studies help the unit to map out some of the audiences and beneficiaries of our work and to illustrate, what we believe are, the important consequences of the research that we do.