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Institution: University of Hertfordshire
Unit of Assessment: Panel D (30): History
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The unit has a long history of engaging with user communities, exemplified by Goose's work with local history societies within the Centre for Research in Regional and Local History (CRRLH) established in 1989. Current beneficiaries of the unit's research include businesses and trade organisations, charitable trusts, civic and community groups, educational organisations, genealogists, heritage institutions, the Irish political community, museums and archive collections, online researchers, textile practitioners and ex-employee associations. The main impacts of the group's research can be classified into four broad categories: i) <i>Co-production of Impact</i>: projects such as the 'de Havilland Community Heritage Project' (Davies) and 'Partners in History' (Garwood) support users to conduct historical research, while many of the collaborative activities undertaken by the Heritage Hub chaired by Lloyd contribute to the creation of a sense of historical place; ii) <i>Democratising Access to History</i>: Hitchcock's work in creating digital resources and Styles' in curating online exhibitions have opened access to historical sources; iii) <i>Dialogue with User Communities</i>: research such as that of Morris on the coffee industry and Styles on textiles is utilised by practitioner groups; iv) <i>Provoking public debate</i>: the work of Meehan on Irish social policy, Evans on medical history, Murphy on financial crises, Navickas on protest and Shaw on propaganda has been used to illustrate and inform public debate.</p> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Since 2008 the unit has created structures to sustain its role in impact generation – developing capacity in public history, establishing a Heritage Hub, investing in oral history, and accessing institutional support – while encouraging members to work with user communities in collaborative research and knowledge exchange projects, and maximise media and dissemination opportunities.</p> <p>Public History: As part of its integrated 5-year strategy, the unit has developed capacity in public history, recognising the opportunities this created for building long-term relationships with regional and national user communities. Garwood was appointed to a 0.5 (now 0.8) fte Lectureship in Public History and Green to a 0.2 (now 0.6) fte Lectureship in History and Policy in 2011.</p> <p>Heritage Hub: The UH Heritage Hub (Chair Lloyd) was established in 2009 to foster partnerships between university staff from all disciplines with heritage expertise, heritage institutions (broadly defined), skills-based and commercial organisations, and volunteer groups. Historians working through the Hub have developed collaborative research projects and provided user groups with specialist support and training in the selection, contextualisation and interpretation of sources to generate valuable research outcomes, often involving student volunteers. In 2012 Garwood (PI), Lloyd and Green were awarded £19,952 for <i>Partners in History</i> under the AHRC Connected Communities scheme to develop academic–community engagement through the co-production of research with and for the public. They worked closely with a variety of organisations including the Luton Museum, Wheathampstead History Society, Knebworth House, Stevenage Museum, Stevenage Borough Council and Milton Keynes Borough Council, developing digital history projects, audience engagement initiatives, and preparing funding bids. Building on this work, Lloyd was awarded £55,000 for <i>Partners in History Phase 2</i> supporting community heritage through digital mapping and storytelling, and Garwood £85,000 for <i>New Town Heritage</i> supporting a planned museum of New Town history. Other history-led Hub activities include 'Remembering the First World War' a programme of events attended by around 50 heritage organisations supporting idea-sharing and collaborative research prior to the centenary commemorations.</p> <p>Oral History: The unit has invested significantly in oral history, appointing Andrew Green, a senior BBC radio journalist specialising in oral history, as Senior Visiting Research Fellow in 2009. Green trains staff, students and research partners in preparation, interviewing, recording and transcribing techniques. He has created an 'Instant Oral History Team' of staff and students to collect a large number of interviews in a day using 15 Edirol digital recorders and 3 mobile touchscreen video recording booths purchased by the School using £35,000 awarded from the university's RCIF allocation. The first project was an oral history of Stevenage Borough Football club in 2011, conducted as part of a 'Boro' Memories Day' staged at the ground involving fans, former players,</p>

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officials, and volunteers. Outputs include a publication, exhibition, and a permanent presence on the Stevenage FC website. Other beneficiaries of oral history activities include the Irish Network Stevenage, which is working on a community history project with **Navickas**.

Knowledge Exchange and Collaborative Research Projects: A key path to impact has been to foster externally funded collaborative research and knowledge exchange projects. Projects conducted outside the Hub include:

1. 2009: *St Albans Chapter House Project*, PI **Lloyd**, £22,000, East of England Development Agency (EEDA) KEEP 3. This 6-month project was funded by the EEDA knowledge exchange programme with additional funding from private sponsorship. It employed an RA for 6 months to research both the history of the chapter house and its restoration. Outputs included a public exhibition, and a 42-page book now sold in the cathedral.
2. 2009: *Doughty's Almshouse*, PI **Goose** £22,500, EEDA KEEP 3. A 6-month knowledge exchange partnership with Norwich Consolidated Charities. The principal output was a research monograph commissioned by the trustees of Doughty's hospital, co-authored by Goose with the project researcher (a UH History graduate) and published by UH Press.
3. 2009–12: *De Havilland Community Heritage*, PI **Davies**, £37,100, HLF, plus £4,500 local business sponsorship and £6,000 charitable donations. The project captured former de Havilland aerodrome workers' memories, recording over 90 oral history interviews under Andrew Green's direction. Research outputs include an 82-page history of the aerodrome; the construction of a 4-mile, 10-board heritage trail; and the restoration and re-siting of the last pre-war beacon.

Working with Users: **Morris's** research into the history of coffee in general, and Italian espresso in particular, has been taken up by the international coffee industry. He has spoken at 9 industry events, making the opening presentation on 'Coffee in the Future: Pointers from the Past' to the 2012 UK Coffee Leader Summit, attended by over 150 representatives of leading UK companies. He collaborated with La Cimbali UK to create a linked programme of presentations, displays and demonstrations of the changing taste of espresso during the 2013 London Coffee Festival (attended by 16,000 visitors) that drove custom to the Cimbali stand. He has worked with private sector organisations such as Allegra Strategies UK; Bewleys, Ireland, Nuovo Simonelli, Italy, and the Speciality Coffee Association of Europe, and contributed to the catering and coffee trade press in Australia, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, UK and USA. **Styles** interacts with textile practitioners through presentations such as that to the Cambridgeshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, and articles in *Selvedge* magazine. He continues to collaborate with the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he is an Honorary Research Fellow. **Murphy** collaborates with the British Museum, and the Ashmolean Museum, supporting its summer internship programme. **Hitchcock** is a member of the British Library Advisory Council and around 8 digital history consortia.

Media and Public Dissemination: **Meehan's** research into the history of Irish politics and social policy has led to her making regular appearances in the Irish media including RTÉ Radio 1 and *Newstalk*. The Irish Prime Minister is scheduled to speak at the launch of her book *A Just Society for Ireland? 1964–1987* in November 2013, and extracts will be published in the Irish *Sunday Independent*. She has been invited to address the next Young Fine Gael national conference. She is also the 'From the Archives' editor for HistoryHub.ie, the leading Irish online history website. **Evans** is the founding editor of *earlymodernmedicine.com*, while **Green**, **Hitchcock**, **Meehan** and **Navickas** also run personal blog sites. **Navickas** was shortlisted for the 2011 AHRC/BBC Radio 3 'New Generation Thinkers' prize, and has since featured in four programmes on national BBC Radio. **Davies**, **Hitchcock**, **Morris** and **Murphy** have acted as consultants for historical series broadcast on BBC 1, Channel 4, Radio 4, More4 and Sky Atlantic. **Shaw** has participated in media and literary events discussing film, propaganda and terrorism, including giving a keynote address at a public conference in St Petersburg in 2012 on Tolerance in Modern Society organised by the Wiesenthal Center. Unit members have given over 85 presentations to non-academic audiences in Germany, Ireland, Italy, USA and UK, and made over 65 media appearances in Australia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Russia, USA and UK.

Institutional Support: The university has provided substantive financial and institutional support for the unit's impact strategy. Between 2012 and 2015, the Hub will receive £152,500 from the

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HEIF funds awarded to the university by HEFCE, with an explicit remit to develop national and international reach as a centre of excellence for building sustainable relationships between academics and external organisations around heritage themes. It also received a total of £13,500 support from the university's internal grants competitions in 2010 and 2011. UH Proof of Concept grants to develop external collaborations were awarded to: **Murphy** £5,000 'Historical Economic and Financial Data Warehouse'; **Navickas** £5,000, 'Sites of protest: an online map and interactive walking tour' with the People's History Museum, Manchester; and **Morris** £4,000, 'Hertfordshire Industrial Education Centre', a collaboration with local businesses and schools. **Davies** received £6,000 from UH Arts to collaborate with Out of Joint Theatre developing an 18th century witch-trial play, while **Davies** and **Lloyd** raised £9,500 to work with Twisted Events Presents staging 3 re-enactments of 18th and 19th century petty sessions trials and coroners' inquests in Hertfordshire and London pubs.

The Business Development Team provides support for developing external collaborations across the commercial, educational and charitable sectors, including assistance with bid-writing, costing and tendering. A dedicated team also supports Knowledge Transfer Partnership activities. The Marketing and Communications divisions help organise publicity and PR for public events, while the UH media team actively seek out opportunities to publicise and disseminate research. A university research blog has been established to which **Hitchcock**, **Morris**, **Murphy** and **Navickas** have contributed. Media training is provided and support extended to doctoral students such as Friedrich Newman and Jack Mockford, who have appeared on BBC television and radio as experts on the *Titanic* and forged 18th century banknotes respectively.

c. Strategy and plans

Advisory Board: An Advisory Board will commence operating in 2014, providing advice and support for all aspects of the unit's public history, heritage, and external collaboration and engagement strategies. Particular emphasis will be placed on the internationalisation of impact. Members will include Rebecca Conard (Middle Tennessee State University, USA); Judy Faraday (John Lewis Partnership); Tammy Gordon (University of North Carolina, Wilmington, USA); Andrew Green; Sarah Longair (British Museum); Tony Morris (HistoryPin); Dave Musgrove (Immediate Media Co); Nick Patrick (Apercu Media); Robert Poole (University of Central Lancashire); Margrit Schulte Beerbühl (Heinrich Heine Universität, Düsseldorf, Germany).

Heritage Hub: HEIF funding will be used for continued capacity building and to bid for further external funding for collaborative projects. The Heritage Hub has been awarded £400k (to be announced in January 2014) to act as an AHRC Co-ordinating Centre for Community Research and Engagement to Commemorate the Centenary of the First World War. Other planned activities include work on heritage foodways' role in urban regeneration, the use of charettes in community heritage development, and workshops on maximising the 'value add' of business heritage.

Oral History: A digital oral history archive, constructed to British Library Sound Archive standards, is being built using £20,000 awarded to **Morris** by the UH Charitable Trust. BBC Radio 4 has commissioned the Instant Oral History team to create an *Archive on Four* programme in 2014.

Professional Doctorate: A Professional Doctorate in Heritage led by the History group will be launched in 2014, and result in a range of collaborative public research and impact activities. Target students will be home and international mid-career professionals who will work on bespoke projects with heritage institutions, while receiving academic training and support from UH.

d. Relationship to case studies

Hitchcock's work on Old Bailey Online and **Styles'** on Foundling Textiles exemplify the long-standing commitment to active engagement with user groups and the democratisation of access to historical research that characterise the unit's approach to impact. **Hitchcock** and **Styles** both successfully sought AHRC follow-on funding from their initial research to undertake impact activities, and both benefited from institutional support, including marketing and communications initiatives around the staging of specific events. In both cases impact has been generated at an international level, with the Foundling Textiles exhibition travelling to Colonial Williamsburg in 2013, and 45% of Old Bailey Online site visitors coming from outside the UK. **Hitchcock** will join the Advisory Board as a Senior Visiting Fellow in 2014, following his transfer to the University of Sussex, and continue to provide advice on the development of digital public history at UH.