

<p>Institution: Bath Spa University</p>
<p>Unit of assessment: UoA30: History</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Historians at Bath Spa University are engaged public intellectuals, using their research to inform public discourse, contribute to the development of civil society and inform debates on History and Heritage at local, national and international levels. History's commitment to 'excellent research made accessible' is reflected in an outward-facing Unit of assessment, which actively encourages multi-layered public engagement and the use of the media to disseminate research, shape public discourse and expand cultural knowledge. All members of the Unit have media experience and media training is available for new members of staff.</p> <p>Research in History has been conducted at Bath Spa University for nearly half a century, with a strong record of research and publication evidenced in RAE 2008. Historians in this Unit are all members of the Department's Research Centre for History and Culture, established in 2007. The Centre provides academic staff and PGR students with a mechanism for developing research projects, creating synergies, fostering interdisciplinarity and public engagement, and pursuing pathways to impact. The Centre's initial research clusters in British, Irish and International History have become more specialised since RAE 2008, as a result of new opportunities for collaboration and the expansion of areas of research excellence through the hiring of three new staff members. It now seeks to consolidate activity around the themes of gender and urban history; navy and nation; race, religion and migration; and conflict and resolution.</p> <p>This submission presents the work of seven historians working within the multi-disciplinary School of Humanities and Cultural Industries. This small, but highly active group is fully integrated into the school's vibrant research community. The School's commitment to research excellence is reflected in its support for outstanding individual, collaborative and international research; the appointment of leading academics to build capacity in areas of research strength; the development of Research Centres; and the recruitment of growing numbers of PGR students.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The research strategy for History incorporates the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to support research through the development of individual and collaborative research projects of outstanding merit, and to support researchers to develop their ideas and secure external grant funding; • to build on areas of research strength and expertise by supporting Research Centre activities (projects, conferences, symposia, workshops, publications) that encourage the creation of strong local, national and international networks; • to support research-active staff by timetabling at least one ring-fenced research day per week (or fractions of days, as appropriate, for staff on fractional contracts); • to provide relief from teaching and other responsibilities through an open bidding

process which prioritises contracted publications and involvement in external funding applications;

- to create a focussed, collegiate environment for communicating, discussing and encouraging research;
- to expand PGR recruitment in areas of research strength and expertise by developing collaborative projects suitable for AHRC-funding;
- to provide PhD students with a supportive and stimulating academic research environment, and the opportunity to participate in national and international academic networks.

Historians at Bath Spa produce high-quality monographs and journal articles, and disseminate their research through seminars, lectures and conferences; radio and television appearances; engagement in popular and/or official political and policy fora; and through the development of local, national and international networks.

Historians have presented their work at over 150 events in 16 different countries during this census period. The range of their activities has been extensive: podcasting for the Historic Royal Palaces (Chalus, 2013); debating at the Oxford Union (Newsinger 2009); lecturing at the National Portrait Gallery (Marshall, 2013); advising EU officials and diplomats, and training election monitors (Malik 2009–13). It has also included the creation of high-quality web content such as Malik's 'Civil Society in Pakistan' (2009), Briefing No. 50, for the Pakistan Security Research Unit: and Marshall's web essays on 'Stuart Government, 1660–1714', and 'The Secretaries Office and Public Records', for Gale's State Papers Online, 1509–1714: <http://gale.cengage.co.uk/state-papers-online-15091714.aspx>). Malik alone has made over 300 media appearances since 2008 (50 alone Jan.–Sept. 2012); Chalus has consulted on and featured in three episodes of *Time Team* (2008–9), and BBC2's *Fit-to-Rule* (2013); and Marshall appeared in *Bloody Tales* (National Geographic Channel, 2013). Three new full-time members of academic staff have been appointed since 2010.

The Centre for History & Culture, comprising 13 staff, including colleagues in English, Media and Music; all PGR and MA students in History and Heritage; c.50 international affiliates, serves as the focal point for the development of research groups/networks, projects and funding bids for the Unit. Funding from the School and Graduate School facilitates the sponsorship of lecture series, conferences and projects. These include:

History & Culture Annual Lecture Series: Free and open to the public, this longstanding lecture series is held off campus, in Bath city centre, and aims to make cutting-edge research accessible to a wide local audience. Speakers include postgraduate students, early career researchers, staff members and academic historians of national and international repute, including Lawrence Black and Pat Thane. PGR students have long been involved in hosting and organising the lecture series. In 2012, the lecture series moved to the Holburne Museum, where it is themed to complement current exhibitions, thus reflecting Bath Spa's new formal partnership with the Holburne.

Conferences: The Centre's PGR Bath History Research Group sponsored three international conferences: 'Gender & Loss: Experiencing Widowhood in Britain and Europe, c.1400–1900' (2009) (attendance c.50); 'More than a Spa Resort? The Urban Experience in Bath Since the Reformation' (2010) (attendance c.35); and 'Cosmopolitanism & Culture: The Role of the Spa as an International Institution, Medieval to Modern' (2011) (attendance c.50). Each featured

international postgraduate students as well as national and international scholars. The Centre supported the PGR-sponsored conference, 'Kings & Queens I: Politics, Power, Patronage and Personalities in Medieval and Early-Modern Monarchy' (2012) (attendance c.90). This led to the establishment of the Royal Studies Network (c.150 members worldwide) and 'Kings & Queens II', Winchester, July 2013.

Chalus is a founding member of the Danish-based Gender in the European Town Network (GENETON). The Centre hosted strand and steering group meetings for the Network (IHR, London, 2011) (attendance 15), and a full Network meeting (Bath Spa, 2012) (attendance 25; seven European countries and USA). Chalus also co-ordinated a strand of the GENETON conference, 'Gender in the European Town: Medieval to Modern' (Odense 2013). This Network activity has thus far resulted in two publishing contracts for Chalus and a visiting Professorship at Aarhus University, October–January 2013.

Other recent academic conferences include the 'Experience of Neighbourliness, 1000-1600' (2012) (attendance c.50); the Gender and Medieval Studies Annual Conference: 'Gender and Material Culture' (2013) (attendance c.100); and 'Splendid Encounters', the first conference of the Pre-Modern Diplomats Network, a joint venture between the Centre and Institut Warsaw (Warsaw, October 2013; attendance 80).

Projects. E.g. The Suffragettes' Tree: Centennial Events in Celebration of International Women's Day (7–11 Mar. 2011). The Centre initiated and hosted events commemorating the joint centenary of International Women's Day and the 'lost' Suffragettes' arboretum in Bathaston. Collaborators included Professor Cynthia Hammond (Concordia, Montréal); Bryan Chalker, Heritage Champion for B&NES council; and Dan Brown (businessman) of Bath in Time. Activities featured historians, MPs, poets, musicians, local businesswomen, civic authorities and an international audience (c.500). The purchase and planting of three commemorative 'Suffragettes' Trees' was sponsored by an international funding appeal. The event generated a highly successful photographic exhibition by Bath in Time, BBC radio and television coverage, and a BBC Woman's Hour feature, 'Eagle House and Suffragettes in Bath', in which Chalus featured (21 Nov. 2011).

The University's vision and strategy to 2015 has a clear implementation plan for research, which focuses on research quality and reputation, postgraduate research and teaching, and public engagement and knowledge exchange. The implementation plan and associated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are managed by the Vice-Provost for Research and Graduate Affairs.

The Unit reflects the University's commitment to fostering research excellence, expanding postgraduate provision, and increasing internationalisation and public engagement. It feeds into the Annual Report submitted by the School of Humanities and Cultural Industries to the University's Research Consultancy and Scholarship Committee (RCSC), reviewing their activities against the key research areas of the University's strategic plan for the previous year, and proposing an action plan with associated targets for the year ahead. RCSC provides an institutional lead on research strategy and implementation, chaired by the Vice-Provost for Research and Graduate Affairs, demonstrating the close link between our vibrant taught postgraduate activity and our research across all Schools of study.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staffing strategy and staff development in the Unit are informed by research considerations and guided throughout by the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*. Bath Spa was awarded the HR Excellence in Research award in January 2012, reflecting the University's current and on-going commitments to research. In order to ensure alignment with the European charter and code, the University audited existing practice in relation to the support and career development of research staff across the University and developed an Action Plan, approved and acknowledged by the European Commission, progress on which will be updated annually through the University Research, Consultancy and Scholarship Committee (<http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/research/hr-excellence-in-research>).

Appointments

Three new FTE appointments have been made in the Unit since 2010, one of which was a Leverhulme/match-funded, early-career researcher. The most recent appointments of Drs Sarah Hackett and Olivette Otele complement Professor Malik's strengths and provide added expertise in race, ethnicity, migration and Islam. All new staff, including staff on fixed-term contracts, are assigned mentors. New permanent staff (full and part-time) are given lighter teaching and/or administrative loads whenever possible to facilitate their research.

Supporting staff development

Research funding and policy for the Department are managed by the Dean of School in consultation with the Head of Department. Teaching relief is allocated via an institutionally funded, competitive programme. Staff members submit applications for teaching relief to the Research Coordinator for the School. Staff submit annual research plans and complete an annual, centrally managed, Staff Development Review (SDR) with the Head of Department. The SDR process audits research performance, sets targets and prioritises projects and needs for the upcoming academic year. In addition to submitting applications for teaching relief provided by the school, early-career scholars are encouraged to apply for Bath Spa Promising Researcher Fellowships (150 hrs teaching relief), awarded annually. Established researchers have an equivalent competition and they may also compete for Bath Spa Professorships and Readerships. Chalus, who received a major British Academy Research Development Award in 2010, was awarded a professorship in 2013. All staff receive 35 days for research annually, thus practically embedding research time and facilitating publications. Conference/seminar attendance and public engagement/impact activities are supported wherever possible.

ii. Research students

PGR students in History have tended to be mature, part-time students, clustering in areas of staff research expertise (predominantly 15th–19th century British and European social, political or military history). Six new PGR students have been accepted since 2012, making a total of 11 PhD students in the Department. The aim for 2014–19 is to attract increasing numbers of full-time and international PGR students by developing a Master's pathway in History, as well as strengthening the current and highly successful MA Heritage Management, and by obtaining funding for doctoral studentships via block bids and collaborative research projects.

The Department invests in its PGR students in a variety of ways. Students can apply for financial support to attend specialised research training courses, e.g. IHR, Economic History Society. They are, whenever possible, given the opportunity to lecture and take seminar groups in the Level 4 compulsory History module and they are encouraged to complete the Postgraduate Certificate of Professional Learning in Higher Education. They are also

integrated into the wider academic research culture by presenting papers to public and academic audiences, speaking at the annual History & Culture Lecture Series, and gaining experience in planning and attending conferences. The Centre fosters and facilitates PGR student ventures, such as the three conferences organised by the Bath History Research Group (2009–11) and the establishment of the Royal Studies Network with its subsequent conferences (2012–13).

Current PGR plans include a two-day international PGR conference in June 2014, developed in conjunction with historians at the universities of St Andrews and Heidelberg to celebrate the accession of George I in 1714. The University's recent (2012) move to take in-house the publication of the well-established *Bath History Journal*, and to direct it through the Centre, will provide additional opportunities for PGR networking, public engagement and publishing.

The University is part of the successful South, Wales and West AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership which has been awarded £14.2M (equating to 200 studentships) for five years from 2014/15. The partnership was commended for its consistent and convincing strategy for the provision of a very high quality training environment for postgraduates; its vision and strategy for arts and humanities research training; the proposed training (generic and subject specific); support and monitoring arrangements for postgraduate researchers and supervisors during the lifetime of the BGP2 award; the spread/subject areas to be supported; the range of external partners engaged; and the governance and management of the award within and across the ROs involved.

As required by the QAA, research degrees are awarded in a research environment that provides secure academic standards for doing research and learning about research approaches, methods, procedures and protocols. This environment offers students quality of opportunities and the support they need to achieve successful academic, personal and professional outcomes from their research degrees. There is a one stop shop for PGR support at Corsham Court and additional support for international postgraduates through a dedicated international student office at Newton Park. The Graduate School provides training and development for students and staff through a programme of development workshops, a suite of on-line resources, and termly Graduate Forums. The Graduate School also provides some financial support for PGR students wishing to present at conferences or undertake archive or fieldwork.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Funding:

- HEFCE QR funding: In the five years from 2008/09 to 2012/13, History received HEFCE QR funding totalling £301,915.
- External funding: It has also received £132K in external funding in the same time period (Leverhulme (fellowship, matched by the institution), British Academy, Economic History Society, Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literatures).

Other investments in research infrastructure and facilities:

In addition to using QR and grant income to support research through funding travel expenses, conference and seminar attendance, teaching relief and infrastructure, the School has also invested in research through the editing/publishing of journals such as *Irish Studies Review* and, more recently, *Bath History Journal*. The University partnership with the Holburne

Museum is forward-looking, supporting future projects and publications in History and Cultural Heritage. This is in addition to substantial investment in library resources, especially e-resources, giving researchers access to 31 extensive, primary-source e-collections (e.g. EEBO, ECCO, ODNB, British Online Archives: the Communist Party of Great Britain, Defining Gender, the House of Commons 18–20C Parliamentary Papers). Staff have access to other academic libraries through SCONUL Research Extra and an almost unlimited number of interlibrary loans. The Department also maintains an institutional membership to the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) in London and encourages staff and postgraduate students to take advantage of the additional research resources, seminars and training sessions that it offers.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Multifaceted collaborative research projects feature largely in the plans for 2014–19. These include:

- ‘Microcosms: Households and Meaning in the Early Modern European Town, c.1500–1800’: a multi-national, multidisciplinary follow-on project expanding the Gender in the European Town project to imperial and global histories; Chalus (Bath Spa) Dr Nina Koefoed (Arhus), Dr Deborah Simonton (Syddansk) and Professor Nigel Worden (Johannesburg).
- ‘Georgian Pleasures’: Chalus, Anderson, Strachan and Spring (Bath Spa), with Professor Steve Poole (UWE) and Professor Cynthia Hammond (Concordia, Montreal).
- ‘Marine Lives: High Court of Admiralty documents, 1650–69’: innovative project in history and creative computing: Marshall and Professor Andrew Hugill (Bath Spa), Marine Lives (non-profit organisation) and the National Archives.
- WWI collaborative bid: ‘Exchanging Stories’ (Hackett and Griffin (Bath Spa), with Bath, Cardiff, Exeter, UWE).
- ‘Translating Ethiopian-Anglo Heritage: Locating the Stories of Fairfield House in a Post-Colonial Digital Museum’: collaborative bid Anderson (Bath Spa), with UWE and QMUL.
- Race, Immigration and Ethnicity bid: Hackett, Otele and Malik (Bath Spa).
- Collaborative bid with Downside Abbey Library and Archive to develop and extend formal partnership arrangement signed with the Abbey, 2013: Anderson (Bath Spa).

All of the above projects are envisioned to generate, among other outcomes, conferences, workshops, individual and/or collaborative publications, substantial public engagement and impact. They stress cross-disciplinary and international research, seek to create broader networks and deeper links to the creative industries and, in the case of ‘Marine Lives’, develop an open-access, fully searchable website containing records of the High Court of Admiralty. The Centre is currently digitising all past issues of *Bath History Journal* so that they can be made accessible through the Centre website. The publication itself will be refreshed in order to make it increasingly academic, whilst maintaining public accessibility, thus providing a more attractive forum for international scholars researching topics relevant to the history of Bath (e.g., early modern medicine; gender, society and culture; architecture and art; philanthropy and charity). It will be edited through the Centre and published annually from 2014.

Contributions to the discipline

The members of the Unit are nationally and internationally recognised. Chalus, Marshall and Malik are all Fellows of the Royal Historical Society. Griffin has acted as a rapporteur for the Economic and Social Research Council (2008) and for the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (Mar. 2010), (Jan. 2011), (Mar. 2012); Chalus for the AHRC (2012) and both she and Otele for the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (2011–12). Chalus has also been awarded a Visiting Professorship at Aarhus University, Denmark (Oct.–Dec. 2013). Other contributions include:

Editorial board membership:

- *Parliamentary History Journal, History of Parliament Trust, Women's History Review, Bath History, Critical Muslim.*

Membership of Prize and Grant awarding bodies:

- Reviewing grant applications for the AHRC, SSHRC (Canada); ESRC; and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Judge, History of Parliament Dissertation Prize (2010–present).
- Judge, Theodora Bosanquet Bursary (2005–9).

Peer Review Journals/Publishers:

- Book Publishers: Oxford University Press; Palgrave; Boydell; One-World; C. Hurst; Bloomsbury; Continuum; Routledge; The Nuffield Foundation.
- Journals: *Women's History Review, Parliamentary History, Historical Journal, History, French History, Urban History, Journal of British Studies, Eighteenth-Century Studies, Scottish Historical Review, Journal of Women's History, Irish Historical Studies, Journal of the International Committee for the History of Technology, Journal of Early Modern History, Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science, International Migration Review, Journal of Military History.*

External examiners for MPhil/PhDs:

- Queen's University Belfast, Edinburgh, Bradford, Hull, Leeds, York, Manchester, Oxford, Swansea, Exeter, Sussex, London, Aligarh Muslim University (India), universities in Karachi, Lahore and Bahawalpur (Pakistan), Madrid, Zaragoza.

In summary, as plenary speakers, conference organisers, guest lecturers, editors, editorial board advisors, board members of scholarly societies, in media appearances, in interviews and profiles, in contributions to the local press and national newspapers, in collaboration with researchers in other UK and international HEIs; staff in History continue to develop the subject base and represent Bath Spa University in British cultural life.