

**Institution: King's College London**

**Unit of Assessment: 30**

**a. Context**

1. King's historians speak to a diverse range of audiences, from schoolteachers and pupils (Burns' contributions to the National Curriculum), to enthusiasts (over 20 lectures to local history societies), to the public at large (Carpenter's ITN television commentary on the 2011 royal wedding). Our public reach extends across the full chronological range of our research activity, with our medievalists and early modernists demonstrating extensive and significant impact. Our research has benefited non-academic users locally (within London), nationally and internationally, in a highly diverse range of domains and forms. We make a particularly extensive contribution, from all sections of the Department, to national public debates and cultural enrichment. Our considerable impact on policy making comes particularly, but not only, from our modern historians, and we have also made notable contributions to debates on education and on economic prosperity.

2. Our strong contribution to **cultural life** and **public discourse** via the media demonstrates our chronological breadth. Since 2008 staff have featured in nine episodes of BBC Radio 4's *In our Time* (Baxter on the Battle of Stamford Bridge; Carpenter on Magna Carta and on King Stephen; Drayton on the Scramble for Africa; McBride on Swift's *Modest Proposal*; Sutcliffe on Moses Mendelssohn; Wooding on the Siege of Münster; Welch on Vasari's *Lives* and on the Borgias), which claims 2 million listeners each week. Gowing and Burns were featured experts on *Who Do You Think You Are?* (BBC1; 6 million viewers). Sutcliffe wrote and broadcast a radio talk on Spinoza for BBC Radio 3's *The Essay* (2010). Carpenter, a regular guest on radio and TV, provided a medievalist's perspective on the Leveson Inquiry for *The Long View* (Radio 4, 30 July 2012). Delap has appeared widely in the media to discuss her work on domestic service, including on *Servants: the True Story of Life Below Stairs* (BBC2, 2012, for which she also served as series consultant) and *Secrets from the Workhouse* (ITV, 2013). Other examples of our media appearances include Readman on Octavia Hill; Ferente on the Black Death; Gowing on Restoration women; Burns on Holst; O'Flaherty on Malthus; Baxter on Edward the Confessor.

3. A leading contributor to **policy making** is Edgerton, who has addressed a variety of audiences on science policy (e.g. Sci-Tech08; Economic Advisory Council; Welsh Assembly; Royal Society). He also gave oral evidence to the Innovation, Universities and Skills Select Committee (2009): his contention that the Haldane Principle was invented in the 1960s was accepted in the committee's report and extensively discussed in the press and blogosphere. His work on the military funding of science has influenced policy debate, and was, for example, cited in a major speech on science policy by David Willetts (January 2013). Following *Africa Works* (1999) and *Africa: The Politics of Suffering and Smiling* (2009), Chabal spoke twice to the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands. He has participated in the training of the Africa officers of SNV (a major Dutch NGO); spoken to SIDA (the Swedish aid organisation); advised South African officials; and joined the Advisory Board of a major DfID-funded research programme on questions of politics and governance in Africa. Our unique *History & Policy* unit (see below, b4), within the UoA since August 2010, routinely engages with a wide range of policy makers. Partners of *History & Policy* include: No. 10 Downing Street; the Cabinet Office; the Department for Education; the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; the Treasury; the House of Commons; the All Party Parliamentary London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Group; the H&P Trade Union Forum; the Sutton Trust. Another unit linked to the UoA, the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, has a long-standing research interest in Anglo-Australian diplomatic relations, and close connections with the Australian High Commission. Collaboration with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade resulted in two 2010 publications, *Australia and the United Kingdom, 1960-1975* and *The High Commissioners: Australia's Representatives in the United Kingdom, 1910-2010*, both of which were distributed to every Australian mission in the world, and also presented to the British Foreign Secretary and other officials.

4. In **education**, Burns has been a council member of the Royal Historical Society since 2008 and was elected vice-president in November 2012; in this capacity he has led the RHS response to a range of Department for Education reform initiatives, with specific reference to history. He was lead author for five RHS submissions to DfE and OfQual consultations (on EBC; the revised History National Curriculum; GCSE; marking at GCE and GCSE; A level subject content). On the History

## Impact template (REF3a)

National Curriculum he spoke at the Westminster Education Forum and was interviewed by the national press; he made the opening presentation to the DfE roundtable consultation led by the Secretary of State, and joined a small core team charged by the DfE with revising the controversial initial draft. He has repeated this role in working on the draft GCSE specifications for History, and serves on the Pearson / Edexcel advisory panel working on their new GCSE curriculum.

5. Roberts' research in financial history has contributed a rare historical perspective to debates on **economic prosperity**, both in government and in City circles, in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Since then he has written five reports providing historical perspectives on current economic and financial issues, published as research papers for institutional clients in the sector by Lombard Street Research, Britain's leading global-macroeconomic consultancy firm. His co-organised two-day course for senior officials at the Bank of England, *Financial Crises in History* (attendance of 54, 14-15 May 2012), was undertaken at the request of Sir Mervyn King and the Bank's Deputy Governors. His *Fiscal Consolidation by Independent Commission: the Geddes Axe, 1922* was presented to Treasury officials (attendance of 50, 18 October 2012).

#### b. Approach to impact

1. It has always been one of our goals as King's historians to communicate to the public our passion for the study of human thought and behaviour in all periods of history, and to demonstrate the ways in which a greater appreciation of the past enriches our intellectual and cultural world. Our collaborative approach to Impact is manifested in our compulsory second-year module on History and Memory, to which twenty members of the unit have contributed. This innovative research-led module has highlighted our collective expertise in **memory, reconciliation and public engagement**, foregrounding to colleagues and students alike the importance we attach to those issues. A projected team textbook arising from the module is currently under discussion with Routledge: this will advance the teaching in undergraduate History curricula on the complicated and rich contribution of the discipline to public life. In June 2013 History at King's became the academic partner of the Chalke Valley History Festival, contributing five sessions and six speakers to the largest festival in the UK dedicated to history, including a panel drawing on our research-led teaching on the legacy of twentieth-century conflicts, which attracted more than 200 people.

2. Many of our impacts arise from the reputation established by individual scholars as both researchers and communicators. In the summer of 2009, for example, Baxter was approached by a BBC researcher requesting ideas for a one-hour documentary on Domesday Book; within a week he had been invited to write and present the programme. High viewing figures (3.5 million in total) led to an invitation to Baxter to write and present *Too Much Too Young: Children of the Middle Ages* (BBC4, 24 August 2011). However, the range and quality of our public exposure also reflects the unit's strategic efforts to encourage our staff to cultivate **media connections**, and to take advantage of the media training and support offered by the College. Our public research profiles, open access publications (via our research portal) and the King's Directory of Experts enable researchers to identify and contact staff with relevant expertise. Staff from the College's Public Engagement and Public Relations teams work with the unit to promote activity in these areas. These resources are also available to research students, and bore fruition when our PhD student, Fern Riddell, became one of the BBC's 'New Generation Thinkers' for 2013, having already appeared on *Coast* (BBC2), *Secrets of The Workhouse* (ITV) and *Nightwaves* (Radio 3).

3. One of our main aims is to contribute fully to the extraordinary social and cultural resources of **London**. All King's historians are encouraged to identify particular institutions, communities and audiences with connections to their research and to develop close relationships with them. Several such connections are fostered through our teaching, particularly at MA level, where we collaborate closely with the British Museum Enlightenment Gallery team on our interdisciplinary Eighteenth-Century Studies MA, and we are embedding cultural sector internships into other MAs. Our expansion programme has been driven partly by a commitment to exploit better the advantages of our location: several of our new appointments since 2008 (Delap, to lead *History & Policy*, and our five new historians of science, technology and medicine) bring specialisms with obvious relevance to political and cultural life and to the dense policy networks of the capital. The fortnightly seminars of our Institute of Contemporary British History, and particularly their periodic 'witness seminars', take advantage of our proximity to Whitehall to bring together academics with civil servants in mutually beneficial discussion and exchange. Several members of staff have been advisers or board members of London museums (Jordanova has been a trustee at the National Portrait Gallery and at the Science Museum; Welch a trustee at the V&A). Burns is a member of the User

## Impact template (REF3a)

Panel for the London Metropolitan Archives and was on the organising committee for Lambeth Palace Library's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition. Gowing's research on LGBT history led to consultancy for English Heritage on under-represented heritage (2012). Ferente recorded a podcast on Paolo Uccello's *La battaglia di San Romano* for the National Gallery (2011). Wooding's *Henry VIII* led to her involvement in a Tower of London exhibition, *Henry VIII: Dressed to Kill* (2009), contributing an essay to the exhibition catalogue and appearing on Radios 3 and 4 and in a round-table discussion at the British Library (May 2009). Maerker has collaborated with no fewer than eight museums and arts organisations since 2008, including the Science Museum, RADA, and her consultancy for the *Model Anatomy* exhibition at the Hunterian Museum (2011), stemming from her expertise in eighteenth-century anatomical models (*Model Experts* (2011)).

4. Deeper institutional relationships are facilitated by **History & Policy**, which trains and assists scholarly researchers to engage with civil servants, civil society practitioners and journalists.

*History and Policy* is a unique resource for the enhancement of the public impact of historians, both nationally and within our Department: it works with a web-based national network of historians, but has a particular remit to promote the public and policy impact of King's research. *H&P*'s academic director is a member of the Department (Delap), and its activities are steered by a dedicated public affairs manager (Holland). The *H&P* website offers more than 140 historical papers with clear policy implications, several of which are by King's historians. Currently *H&P* also runs two seminar series, in the Treasury and the Department for Education, the latter convened by Thane. In 2011-12 *H&P* historians spoke to civil servants in DEFRA, DCLG, DCMS, the Cabinet Office and No. 10 Downing Street. Burns and other King's historians have played a leading role in *H&P*'s project to rejuvenate the history content of the Downing Street website. *H&P* networking and relationships with user groups can lead to major research impacts, for example in the case of Roberts' report, *Did Anyone Learn Anything from the Equitable Life?*, the King's launch of which (7 Sept. 2012) attracted national press coverage. The Financial Services Authority subsequently circulated copies to all insurance staff, and Roberts was invited to discuss his findings with the Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, to submit written evidence to the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards and to meet with the Commission secretariat and membership.

5. The unit's support of *H&P* provides a major **resource** for effective achievement of impact, for historians at King's and nationally. The King's Department of Digital Humanities is also a major resource for the development of innovative pathways to public impact, and our unit's already close working relationship with them was emphasised in our RAE2008 submission. Elsewhere at King's, the School of Arts and Humanities supports impact through a full-time Research and Development Officer in Impact and Policy (O'Neill); the Public Engagement Department offers workshops for academics and post-graduate staff; the King's Cultural Institute fosters bridges between King's and the cultural and creative industries. The Arts & Humanities Research Institute organises an Arts and Humanities Festival at King's every October, presenting King's academics (including historians) alongside visiting artists and intellectuals in a lively programme of daily public events. We make extensive use of our central location to attract diverse audiences, using high-quality spaces such as our own flexible departmental 'open space' on the top floor of the Strand Building.

### c. Strategy and plans

1. At departmental level, we have launched a series of annual workshops on public engagement, and impact is recognised as a research activity for purposes of appraisal and career progression. In the next REF period we aim to work more closely with the Arts and Humanities Research Institute to foster innovative interdisciplinary research that has a public impact dimension. Our Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine will collaborate with our science and health departments on impact projects, and we will work with the King's Cultural Institute to develop new or deeper institutional partnerships and to make better use of public-facing exhibition spaces at King's, particularly the Inigo Rooms in the East Wing of Somerset House.

2. In the next REF cycle *H&P* plans to develop existing **networks** in order to make King's one of the first ports of call for producers of history programming. It will further develop its bespoke, subject-specific professional media training, such as its popular 'History in the Headlines' workshop, aimed at staff and research students, which encompasses perspectives from broadcast journalists, documentary producers, and university and research council communications officers. In 2014 Maerker will use this model for a workshop bringing together early modern historians with representatives of London museums and galleries. Our new interdisciplinary Centre for Enlightenment Studies at King's is also planning a workshop bringing together staff with the many

graduates of our Eighteenth-Century Studies MA who are currently working in museums and archives, in order to explore the potential for future collaborations.

3. Through mentoring within the unit and the workshops mentioned above we hope to **integrate our junior staff** into the networks enjoyed by established scholars. We will encourage staff to consider the potential for impact when initiating research projects, and to use *History & Policy* as a consultancy resource for this. We will also sustain the cascading of digital humanities skills and ideas within the unit. Following the example of our medieval case studies, Rio is now exploring the possibilities for public engagement for her AHRC-funded database project, *The Making of Charlemagne's Europe, 768-814*. Readman's major AHRC-funded project (2013-16) on historical pageants in Britain since 1905 builds on Burns' digital expertise: it will draw innovatively on both the records and the enthusiasm of local historical associations around the country to build up a comprehensive, searchable database of the modern history and memory of British pageantry.

4. We will work to bring our impact activities together with our **globalisation** strategy (see REF5) in ways that challenge cultural values in the UK as well as influencing policy debate overseas. Indications of our potential here include Green's work with the Amilcar Cabral Institute for Economic and Political Research, in Guinea-Bissau, of which he is now Director of Institutional Relations, and through which he has been involved in parliamentary contacts between Guinea-Bissau and the UK (2011) and in oversight of the monitoring of elections (April 2012). Drayton's critique of neo-liberalism and the politics of austerity has been informed by his research into imperialism (his 'Economic Lies and Cuts' clip on YouTube has had over 3000 views).

5. Our focus on processes of **commemoration, memorialisation and reconciliation** is likely to shape future case studies. Bridge and Sleight are working on an Australian Research Council project led by Professor Bruce Scates (Monash) on *Anzac Day Abroad* which will attract government, media and public interest in Australia. McBride has brought his research expertise to the exploration of cultural traditions in post-conflict Northern Ireland, and in particular to the current 'Decade of Commemorations'. He was invited to launch a series of meetings for the Belfast NGO Healing through Remembering (2010), and asked by officials at the Irish Embassy to organise a conference, 'The Ulster Covenant 1912-2012' (2012). Other examples include his one-hour documentary on the Irish philosopher Francis Hutcheson (*Forgotten Revolutionary*, BBC NI (2012)) and his work as organiser and speaker at an international conference as part of Derry's year as City of Culture (2013), at the request of the Apprentice Boys. Sutcliffe's *Philosemitism in History* has led to public lectures at the Leo Baeck Institute, London, the Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt and the Jewish Educational Forum, Glasgow. Vakil's co-edited *Thinking Through Islamophobia* (2011) has been widely referenced in public debates across Europe. Vakil is also chair of the research committee of the Muslim Council of Britain, the seminars of which are hosted by King's, and to which Sutcliffe presented a paper on the politics of Holocaust memory (December 2011). All three scholars have entered controversial terrain with care and scholarly authority, in order to promote a more thoughtful and nuanced understanding of difficult pasts. We expect such difficult pasts and their legacies in civil society to feature more prominently in our REF2020 submission.

**d. Relationship to case studies:** Our case studies represent the best developed and documented examples of the unit's wider impact activities described in (a) and (b) above. They indicate the maturing of a departmental culture of public engagement which long predates the current census period. The five studies represent the breadth of our impact: two are medieval projects, while the modern three contrastingly build on social, institutional and scientific history. Our notable strength in digital humanities is central to three of the projects (*Domesday*, *Fine Rolls*, and *Clergy*), which exemplify our ability to use digital resources to engage broad audiences imaginatively. The harnessing in the *Clergy* database and website of the research energies of the public is particularly notable, and this strategy will be developed further in Readman's digital *Pageants* project. Our commitment to engaging with key contemporary social and political issues is exemplified by the *Happy Families* and *Livestock Disease* projects, which are of obvious relevance to central matters of concern, in social policy and agricultural policy respectively. In 2014-19 our impact activities will continue to address core issues of public concern, seeking to make significant contributions to evidence-based policy making in the public benefit.