

Institution: University of Sussex

Unit of Assessment: UoA 30 History

1. OVERVIEW

History at Sussex is an innovative unit with research strengths in the history of the world since 1750. Our research is particularly distinctive in recovering the actions and attitudes of people living and labouring outside of the realms of power: from British citizenry, to Islamic women, to New World slaves. Established in 2003, the Department has, since 2009, been a part of the multidisciplinary School of History, Art History and Philosophy. The Department consists of 24 FTEs (7 professors, 3 readers, 4 senior lecturers and 10 lecturers). Staff are organised into research clusters and affiliated interdisciplinary centres that promote a coherent intellectual identity and a supportive research culture for individual and collaborative activities. Our clusters are Modern British History, Modern European History, American History, Middle Eastern and Asian History, and Intellectual History and the History of Science.

The research strategy pursued by the Department has resulted in numerous successes. Research expenditure has amounted to more than £2m, publications have included several award-winning monographs, postgraduate recruitment and completion are strong, and the Department and research centres regularly host lectures, conferences and other events that foster dissemination and public engagement. Recruitment and restructuring have globalised the range of Departmental research, with new and emerging areas of strength in American, Middle Eastern and Asian History complementing established expertise in British, European and Intellectual History. Sussex has developed a particularly distinctive identity through the creation of, and provision of public access to, digital scholarly resources, an enterprise that unites colleagues across research clusters and addresses the funding priorities of national research councils.

2. RESEARCH STRATEGY

Consistent with the strategy outlined in RAE 2008, the Department has the following aims: first, to produce internationally excellent research that shapes fields of study; second, to produce collaborative and interdisciplinary research; and, third, to sustain our discipline through the recruitment of high-quality research students and the fostering of their further career development. Our strategy for achieving these aims includes research leave to complete major projects, the securing of external funding to facilitate research, and the organisation of lectures, conferences and workshops.

Sussex has a three-tiered system to ensure delivery of its strategic aims. A Departmental Research Committee makes recommendations to the Head of School for the allocation of research leave, provides support in preparing grant applications and assesses research-student applications. Department policy is to vary workloads in order to facilitate the completion of proposals and projects. An annual system of appraisal conducted by the Head of School helps to monitor progress and set agreed future research objectives. The Head of School works with the Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange to co-ordinate this broader strategy. Within the Department, colleagues are also organised into clusters that provide peer advice on individual projects and promote collaborative research and assist proposals for external funding applications. What follows is a description of each cluster that identifies changes to the research profile of the Department and its principal successes in meeting the Department's strategic aims.

Staffing changes during the REF period have resulted in some modifications to the research profile of the Department. Betts, Campbell, Dubow, Livesey, Tadmor, A. Thomson, Verdon, Whatmore and Wiese have left Sussex and Haakonssen, Howkins and J. Thomson have retired. Stability and growth have been sustained by the integration of colleagues from another department and by numerous appointments at all levels. The appointments of Cragoe and Schneider, and of Reuveni, Siebrecht and Wolf, enhance existing strength respectively in Modern British History and Modern

European History. New research clusters have also developed through the transfer of historians from American Studies and substantial investment in historians of the Middle East and Asia. Although the clusters work in different areas, a coherent intellectual identity has emerged out of the provision of digital scholarly resources – an enterprise that confers a common intellectual identity uniting the clusters across time and space, and aligns Department strategy with the funding priorities of UK research councils.

The Modern British History cluster (Barron, Cragoe, Gazeley, Langhamer, Robinson, and Schneider) is central to our research strategy. The cluster has met our aim to produce internationally excellent research through the publication of monographs, including Barron's *The 1926 Miners' Lockout* and Langhamer's *The English in Love*, and numerous articles in high-impact-factor journals. External funding includes the £1.1m Economic and Social Research Council award for Gazeley's collaborative Living Standards of Working Households in Britain, 1904–1960, a £481,000 AHRC award for Cragoe's Changing Landscapes, Changing Environments: Enclosures and Culture in Northamptonshire, 1700–1900, and a £100,000 JISC award for Robinson's Observing the 80s. The cluster has organised many research events that promote collaboration and interdisciplinarity, such as Langhamer's Women in the 1950s workshop series funded by the ESRC and Robinson's organisation of MusicDoc11, an event that brought together historians, filmmakers and musicians. Modern British History has a strong record of postgraduate recruitment, and currently supervises 20 research students.

The Modern European History cluster (Reuveni, Siebrecht, Warne and Wolf) broadens the range of research beyond the Modern German and Jewish History cluster included in RAE 2008. The cluster has produced an array of published research outputs that includes the monographs *The Aesthetics of Loss* by Siebrecht and Wolf, and numerous refereed journal articles. Reuveni serves as Director of the Centre for German Jewish Studies and Siebrecht co-directs the Centre for War and Society. The cluster currently supervises six research students.

The cluster Intellectual History and the History of Science (Endersby, Iliffe and MacDaniel) has built substantially on its long-established record for research excellence. Publications by its members include the monographs *Imperial Nature* by Endersby and *Adam Ferguson in the Scottish Enlightenment* by MacDaniel. The digitisation of scholarly resources is central to the research activities of the cluster, especially Iliffe's directorship of the internationally renowned Newton Project. The cluster hosts a very full schedule of lectures and conferences through the Centre for Intellectual History. There are, at present, 14 postgraduates supervised within the cluster, many of whom are international students.

Two new clusters have given a global dimension to departmental research. The American History cluster (Angelo, Burman, Cook, Davies, Follett, Roll and Webb) has been prolific in terms of publications. These include Cook's *Civil War Senator*, Roll's prize-winning *Spirit of Rebellion* and *The Gospel of the Working Class*, and Webb's *Rabble Rousers* and *Forgotten Dead*. The most significant research-grant capture within the cluster is the funding by the AHRC and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada of *Documenting Louisiana Sugar, 1845–1917*, a major digital resource constructed by Follett that has also resulted in numerous related publications. Research conducted within the cluster is characterised by international collaboration, especially the activities of the Cunliffe Centre for the Study of the American South, the only institution of its kind outside the United States. This includes an annual public lecture series published by Johns Hopkins University Press, the first volume of which, *Slavery's Ghost*, includes contributions from Follett with Harvard's Walter Johnson and Columbia's Eric Foner. Members of the cluster have supervised 16 research students during the REF period, seven of whom have completed. Significantly, this includes the recruitment of students from the United States attracted to Sussex by its reputation in American history.

Our new cluster in Middle Eastern and Asian History (Damodaran, Evans, Kalmbach, Marinelli and Norris) focuses on the connected themes of colonialism and its consequences. Notable publications include the monographs *Algeria* by Evans and *Land of Progress* by Norris. The cluster has actively promoted public engagement through a series of events, including discussion panels

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and film screenings. Damodaran's energetic directorship of the Centre for World Environmental History has led to frequent conferences and workshops and collaborative research projects, including The East India Company and the Natural World, funded by the British Academy.

The Department aims to consolidate and strengthen the more-international research profile that has emerged in recent years through investment in new faculty, the publication of agenda-setting research and the further recruitment of outstanding research students. Close adherence to the research themes promoted by the University, the funding priorities of national research councils and the further cultivation of private funding will be essential to future development.

3. PEOPLE**Staffing strategy and staff development**

The staffing strategy of the Department is determined by its ambition to sustain and enhance research through the appointment of both senior faculty to provide intellectual leadership in established clusters and early career researchers as an investment, particularly in new areas of growth. Staff development at Sussex is aligned with national initiatives such as the Condordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, a link to which is included on the Careers and Employability Centre page on the University website.

Sussex takes particular care to nurture colleagues at the start of their research careers and to secure their integration into the research culture of the Department. New appointees are entitled to a reduced teaching load and are given no substantial administrative responsibilities during their first three years. They are also mentored by a senior member of faculty who provides advice on career development, including publication of their research and the preparation of grant applications. Annual appraisals conducted by senior colleagues ensure the monitoring of their progress, including their probationary status. New faculty are also required to complete a programme administered by the University that leads to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education, externally accredited by the Higher Education Academy and Staff and Educational Development Association.

The Department actively promotes paid leave in support of its research strategy. Leave is awarded according to a clear set of criteria that includes three years of consecutive service in teaching and service and the significance of the proposed project in terms of outputs and impact. Leave is typically granted to 10 per cent of faculty each academic year. Research support for archival visits, conference attendance and the preparation of grant applications is funded by the School, subject to the Head of Department's approval. Annual appraisal and transparent criteria for promotion facilitate the career progression of staff at all stages of their careers. This has resulted, during the reporting period, in three internal promotions to professor, one to reader and one to senior lecturer.

Research support for Teaching Fellows and Research Fellows has been particularly important for their career progression. All such temporary staff, even those on teaching-only contracts, have been associated with research centres, given the opportunity to deliver work to seminar series and integrated into the departmental research culture. Rebecca Searle progressed from a research fellowship on Living Standards of Working Households to a Mellon Foundation postdoctoral award, Cesare Cuttica from a Marie Curie Fellowship to a lectureship at Paris 8, Andrea Hammel from a research fellowship in German-Jewish Studies to a lectureship at Aberystwyth, and Mark Somos, a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, to the research directorship of Harvard's Safra Centre.

Sussex has a rigorous set of equality and diversity policies that are readily accessible to all staff. Equalities training is a requirement for all members of appointing panels, appraisers, school directors and heads of department. The School has underlined its commitment to equal opportunities through the establishment of a working party to audit teaching and administrative loads, procedures for appointment and promotion, and the status of fixed-term and part-time staff.

Research students

Sussex has a longstanding commitment to the maintenance and growth of a thriving research-student community. There are currently 59 MPhil and PhD students in the Department, researching an eclectic range of topics from the early-modern period to contemporary history. Thirteen students have received funding from the AHRC during the reporting period. Twenty-eight students have completed since 2008. Two of these students have attained prestigious postdoctoral awards (Rebecca Searle: Mellon Foundation, and Nikolas Funke: Past and Present Fellowship at the IHR). Three others have secured permanent positions at other HEIs (Jennifer Purcell at St Michael's College in Vermont, Henry Knight at Northumbria and Benjamin Jones at the University of East Anglia). In addition to studentships from the RCUK, the Department has attracted private sources of postgraduate funding, including an Alfred Bader three-year studentship supporting a PhD on Quakers and the Holocaust.

Sussex strives to meet its Equality Duty by ensuring equal opportunity and the encouragement of diversity in its recruitment and support of research students. This includes the Student Life Centre, which provides information to support and promote inclusion, and the Equality and Diversity Forum. The Student Support Unit manages reasonable adjustments for individuals with learning needs. In addition, the School provides a room at ground-floor level for student wheelchair users and voice-recognition software to assist disabled researchers. An elected representative also sits on the School Research Degree Committee. Faculty further promote equality through their active participation in Black and LGBT History Months.

Students pursue their research within a rigorous supervisory structure. They are co-supervised to ensure a broad range of advice and support, with summaries and outcomes of regular monthly meetings logged online. Supervisory workloads are shared across the Department to ensure equal standards of care and support. The Department Research Committee monitors student progress through an annual system of review that includes interviews and the evaluation of research plans and supervisors' reports. The School Director of Doctoral Studies assures that departmental provisions are consistent with University standards. In addition, the University's Doctoral School promotes good practice by offering advice and training to both new and experienced supervisors. The interaction of these mechanisms at Department, School and University levels have facilitated retention and completion rates, with no withdrawals due to academic causes.

The Department and School provide thorough skills training and career development. Postgraduates actively contribute to our research culture, the focus of which is the weekly Work-in-Progress seminar that provides a forum for discussion of new research not only by outside speakers but also by the students themselves.

Students present their research in the constructive environment of several workshops and forums, including an annual Department postgraduate conference. Sussex facilitates student-centred learning such as the organisation of research events by and for postgraduates. These include the Intellectual History postgraduate conference on Religion and Modernity in March 2009, the New Research in Military History conference co-organised with King's College London in November 2010 and attended by around 150 students from across the United Kingdom, and the War and Civilians, 1914–1945 conference held in April 2013. A selection of papers presented at the latter event will feature in the student-edited online *University of Sussex Journal of Contemporary History*, which is now in its tenth year. The School provides financial support for these and other research activities such as archival visits and conference attendance.

Research students receive extensive support from the Department, the School and the University for the development of professional skills and the preparation for future careers. Within the Department, students in need of research training take the ESRC-recognised Historical Skills and Methods module. The Doctoral School runs regular training sessions which provide students with assistance on matters such as grant applications, the honing of research skills, and viva preparation. Sussex is also the host institution for the Vitae South East Hub, which provides further professional information and advice to research students. The Careers and Employability Centre

gives support to students throughout the year as well as hosting annual career conferences. In addition, the University runs courses that qualify postgraduate researchers for membership in the Higher Education Academy. Sussex hosted a careers event by History Lab Plus in 2012 which provided support and advice to early-career researchers.

4. INCOME, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Research expenditure in the Department during the REF period has amounted to £2,055,049, much of which has been secured competitively from national research councils. These funds have helped to produce numerous publications and digitisation projects, led to the appointment of research fellowships and generated a diverse array of activities that contribute to the broader research environment of the Department, including lectures, conferences and workshops. The Department has received research support from the AHRC, the British Academy, the ESRC, the European Union, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the Leverhulme Trust, the Nuffield Foundation and the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

The Department has achieved particular successes in terms of research grant capture. Gazeley is Principal Investigator on a £1.1m ESRC-funded project entitled Living Standards of Working Households in Britain, 1904–1960 (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/britishlivingstandards/index>). The project uses three government surveys of household accounts to determine how ordinary Britons progressed from poverty to prosperity during the twentieth century. A central element of the Department's research strategy to construct and disseminate digital scholarly resources, the project entails the digitisation of the Household Expenditure Survey of 1953–1954. The project also promoted knowledge transfer through a teacher–scholar scheme run in collaboration with the National Archives. Through the scheme, the project team worked with secondary-school teachers from across the United Kingdom to apply their research findings to classroom teaching. The researchers will also disseminate the results of their research and resources through the web, providing a virtual research centre for beneficiaries that includes not only academic researchers, but also schools, policy-makers and poverty agencies.

Iliffe's directorship of the Newton Project (<http://www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk/>) has built on an impressive established record of research support. JISC awarded the project £190,000 in 2009 to transcribe all of Sir Isaac Newton's scientific writings, to make available printed popularisations of Newtonian science, and to film recreated eighteenth-century public lectures in natural philosophy (www.enlighteningscience.sussex.ac.uk). A further award from the JISC of £88,000 in 2011 led to the completion of a project entitled Windows on Genius which placed online transcriptions of Newton's foundational mathematical writings alongside facsimiles of original manuscripts provided by Cambridge University Library (<http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/newton>). The Newton Project has additionally received approximately £60,000 from private donors and, in 2011, the AHRC awarded Iliffe £307,000 to complete the transcription of Newton's writings. This research support has enabled the project to move closer to the fulfilment of its mission, with the transcription of more than 5 million of the 7 million words produced by Newton completed and the imminent launch of an integrated website for all the collections of his work in the exact sciences.

The University has a strong scholarly infrastructure to support research. Sussex is home to the Mass Observation Archive, which is integral to the research of the Modern British History cluster in particular. Langhamer's publications on public attitudes towards the death penalty and the changing dynamics of love and marriage are fundamentally informed by research in the Archive. Langhamer not only benefits from the Archive but also, as a trustee, contributes to its development. The most notable of these developments is the Keep Project, a £19m collaboration between the University, East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council that will facilitate research by housing the archives of all three organisations in one location. Robinson is academic lead on the JISC-funded project Observing the Eighties, which is creating an open-access digital archive of materials from Mass Observations and the University of Sussex Documents Collection (in addition to the British Library Oral History Collection). These all provide insight into the lived experiences of ordinary British people during the 1980s (blogs.sussex.ac.uk/observingthe80s/).

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Sussex has also invested substantially in electronic resources to facilitate research. The University's electronic library is a rich depository of newspapers, periodicals, rare books and manuscripts. Numerous electronic databases support the research of all faculty and students.

The most significant investment in the development of the organisational infrastructure supporting research is the private donation of £1m to establish the Yossi Harel Chair in Israel Studies. The Chair will provide research leadership of the new research cluster in Middle Eastern and Asian History which is central to the Department's strategy for sustainability and growth.

Sussex has a comprehensive organisational infrastructure to support research, which is carefully co-ordinated at all infrastructural levels of the institution, from Department to School, and from School to University. A Department Research Committee meets each term, chaired by the Head of Department, with a rotating membership drawn from a representative cross-section of colleagues in order to promote equality and inclusion. This committee plans and co-ordinates Department strategy, conducts audits of research activities by colleagues, provides advice on research grant applications, reviews research-leave requests and evaluates postgraduate applications. Its decisions are informed by the need to balance support both for individuals at all career stages and for all research clusters. The committee acts in conjunction with the Head of School and the School Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange. Applications for research support and leave must be approved first by the committee as consistent with Department strategy and, second, by the Head of School, who is responsible for budgetary planning and spending. The Head of School works with the School Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (an appointed position of three to four years), who ensures that current and planned research is consistent with University aims and targets. The University-assigned Research Development Officer, Amelia Wakeford, offers information and advice on funding opportunities and deadlines. Administrative support to staff is provided within the School by the Research and Enterprise Co-ordinator, Fiona Allan. Technical Director Michael Hawkins supervises the digitising of materials for ambitious team enterprises, including the Newton Project and Living Standards of Working Households in Britain. More general technical assistance and resources are available to staff from the University's Information Technology Services.

5. COLLABORATION OR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCIPLINE OR RESEARCH BASE

Faculty are engaged in numerous collaborative arrangements, partnerships, networks and joint research projects with academic colleagues in other institutions, both nationally and internationally. Damodaran participates in the AHRC-funded network Collaborative Research on the Meteorological and Botanical History of the Indian Ocean, 1600–1900. She has co-ordinated a formal agreement between the Centre for World Environment History, the British Library and the Met Office to share historical weather and climate data relating to the project for the purposes of scientific research. Together with Endersby, she is also involved in a collaborative research project with Kew and the Kolkata Botanical Gardens Library to digitise the correspondence between English naturalist Joseph Dalton Hooker and colleagues in India. Gazeley is involved with Andrew Newell of the Economics Department at Sussex on the ESRC-funded Living Standards of Working Households In Britain, 1904–1960. Kalmbach co-ordinates the British Middle Eastern Studies' Faith, Politics and Society network. Langhamer was a member of the interdisciplinary team who ran the seminar series Archiving and Reusing Qualitative Data funded as a Network for Methodological Innovation by the National Centre for Research Methods (2008–2009). She also (with Stephanie Spencer of Winchester and Penny Tinkler of Manchester) co-organised the ESRC-funded interdisciplinary network Women in the 1950s (2009–2011). Reuveni co-organises with Martin Buber University the Max and Hilde Kuchamnn Summer School. With the Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem, he arranged the conferences Jews and Revolution (2011), Moses Hess: Between Socialism and Zionism (2012) and Citizenship, Equality and Civil Society (2013). In collaboration with the Austrian Culture Forum, he also organised the conference Freud and Psychoanalysis (2012). Siebrecht is a member of the International History of Concentration Camps network funded by the Institute for Social Research in Hamburg and the Irish Research Council (2008–). Webb, in collaboration with William Carrigan of Rowan University, completed a National Science Foundation-funded project, Mob Violence against Mexicans in the United States, 1848–

1928.

Membership of Research Council or similar national and international committees includes Gazeley, who has served as a member of the ESRC Peer Review College since 2012. Sussex historians who have held leading positions in professional subject associations and learned societies include: Cragoe, Director of Communications, Royal Historical Society (2007–2011) and advisory board member, History Lab Plus (2011–2013); Damodaran, council member, British Association for South Asian Studies; Kalmbach, board member, British Society for Middle Eastern Studies and the Syrian Studies Association; and Warne, treasurer, French History Society (2008–).

Members of the Department hold an array of editorial positions. Journal editorships include Follett (*Atlantic Studies*), Iliffe (*History of Science*) and Langhamer (*Twentieth Century British History*). Barron (*Labour History Review*) and Endersby (*Annals of Science*) serve as book-review editors. Sussex historians are also represented on the editorial boards of numerous journals including Cragoe (*Welsh History Review*), Damodaran (*International Journal of Development and Social Research; Oecology*), Follett (*Agricultural History*), Langhamer (*Women's History Review, History of the Family*) and Webb (*Journal of Southern History*).

Colleagues regularly serve as external examiners of doctorates, not only in the United Kingdom but also overseas. Recent examples include Cragoe (Leicester), Damodaran (SOAS and Calcutta), Langhamer (Glasgow; Leeds Metropolitan; Leicester; Oxford; Swansea; Westminster; York University, Toronto), Reuveni (Tel Aviv) and Webb (Kent; Queen Mary).

Sussex historians have also organised numerous conferences, workshops and symposia, many of which have led to further research outputs. These scholarly encounters include one-off events, regular series and the hosting of annual meetings by larger professional bodies. Organisers and events include: Siebrecht (with Evans), *Empire and Internment* (2012), (with Reuveni, Webb and Wolf), *Everyday Racism* (2013) and (with Barron), *Raising the Nation: Parenting and the State in Britain and Europe* (2013); Warne, *Europe's Youth in the 1970s* (2010) and (with Robinson) *MusicDoc11* (2011); and Webb (*The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: A Centennial Appraisal*, 2009). The Cunliffe Centre for the Study of the American South runs an annual lecture series (organised by Cook, Follett and Roll).

Members of the Department are in continued demand as referees of book proposals and manuscripts, journal articles and research-grant proposals. HEI consultancies include the external assessment of promotions and appointments by Cook (Leicester) and Webb (Leicester).

Several members of the Department have received scholarly awards or fellowships. Roll, in particular, received numerous accolades, including the Missouri History Book Award (2011), the Working Class Studies Association's C.L.R. James Award (2011) and the H. Mitchell Award from the Southern Historical Association (2012). Other successes included Cook, a finalist for the 2008 Lincoln Award; Endersby, shortlisted for the History of Science Society's Pfizer and Suzanne J. Levinson Prizes in 2008; and Webb, who won a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award from the American Library Association in 2009. Siebrecht received a Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2010 from the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC.

Faculty have given invited keynotes, lectures or performances around the world. These include, but are not limited to, the following events. Cook delivered a series of public lectures in the United States during 2012 to mark the sesquicentennial of the country's civil war (Mercer University, Georgia State College and Atlanta History Center). Endersby undertook an extensive tour of public lectures on three continents (Australia, Europe, North America) during the same year, relating to his research on Charles Darwin and Joseph Hooker. Other members of the Department who gave public lectures include Barron (Durham Public Library, 2010); Damodaran (Natural History Museum, London, 2011); Iliffe (Richard S. Westfall Distinguished Lecture in the History of Science, Indiana, 2012); Robinson (Short Fuse Fiction *Pride and Prejudice* literary event, Leicester, 2009; National Memorial Arboretum, 2013); and Webb (Tampa Bay History Center, Florida, 2011; V&A Museum, London, 2012 and 2013). Langhamer gave invited presentations at numerous institutions

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and keynote addresses at the conferences Recording Leisure Lives (Bolton, 2011) and The Emotions in History, Memory and Storytelling (Brighton, 2011). She was an invited speaker at the conference New Histories of Love and Romance (Cardiff, 2012) and contributor and commentator at Burdens: Writing British History after 1945 (Berkeley, California, 2012). In addition, she served as chair of the Ben Pimlott Memorial Lecture in 2011 and 2012.