

<b>Institution: Sheffield Hallam University</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 30 History</b>
<p><b>a. Context</b>          Research within the submitting unit of 15 staff has had an impact on heritage organisations and museums; secondary school pupils and their teachers; community groups; producers and participants in TV and radio programmes and theatrical productions; the broad public with an interest in history; and a campaigning organisation. Our impact activities have enhanced community groups' involvement in civil society, enriched cultural life, fostered more informed public understanding of the past, improved teaching and student engagement in the study of history, and influenced national policy-making in the heritage sector and national debate on electoral reform. These impacts are underpinned by research in Late Modern and Contemporary History undertaken by members of our four overlapping research groupings: Imperial and Global History, Economic and Business History, Women's and Gender History, and Popular Politics and Culture in Britain.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact: (references are to individuals' underpinning research outputs)</b>  <b>Public engagement as a route to impact:</b> Staff have acted as expert consultants and 'talking heads' for 13 TV and radio programmes (Japanese National TV, BBC2, BBC4, Channel 4, UKTV History, Radio 4, Radio 3, Radio Free Europe), delivered nine public lectures and 11 talks to local historical and cultural societies and community groups, published in popular history journals, participated in networks and events designed to enable academic research to inform public policy, acted as expert consultants for community groups, curated a museum exhibition, advised on a major theatrical production, and given talks on their research to school students and their teachers. The impact of these activities has been measured through viewing and attendance figures, feedback questionnaires, reviews and testimonies from beneficiaries. Examples include: <b>1.</b> Midgley appeared as an expert 'talking head' in a programme on Queen Victoria forming part of a flagship series on British history for Japanese National TV (HNK) which attracted 10 million viewers when shown on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011; her contribution provided new insights to the Japanese public into women's lives, feminism and empire in the Victorian era, derived from her book <i>Feminism and Empire</i> (Routledge, 2007). <b>2.</b> Singleton shared with bankers and state officials his expertise in central banking and international financial history (Singleton 1-4) through participation in a conference on 'Central Banks and States' organised by the Historical Mission of the Bank of France in Paris in 2012.</p> <p><b>Developing sustainable partnerships with external organisations:</b> Midgley has entered into an academic advisory relationship with English Heritage; Verdon is on the board of the Museum of Rural Life; Thorald makes her research insights into the history of French local government in the early C19th (Thorald, 4) available to contemporary policy makers through her involvement since 2008 in the research network MOSARE (Mobilisation pour les Savoirs sur la Reforme Administrative) funded by the French CNRS to enable archivists at the National Archives to recreate a nineteenth-century local government administrative library.</p> <p><b>An agile approach to opportunities:</b> Staff have utilised research visits and conference participation to open up opportunities for impact. Roberts, for example, when researching for an article on the Third Reform Act (Roberts, 1) at the Electoral Reform Society in London, cultivated contacts with campaigners, resulting in an invitation to lead a 2010 workshop for electoral reformers. This aimed at increasing understanding of political representation issues and was published as 'Electoral Reform Dilemmas: are single member constituencies out of date?' in <i>History and Policy</i> (2011) reprinted at <a href="http://opendemocracy.net">http://opendemocracy.net</a>. More recently, at a Chartism Conference he organised at SHU in July 2013, he gave an interview related to his research (Roberts 4) for a documentary DVD on Chartism commissioned by Harrogate Agenda to promote its 2014 conference on reforming Britain's democratic system. Similarly, Stibbe used the opportunity of his participation in a research network conference at Jena in January 2013 to arrange for his invited talk on Germany historiography to be recorded by a German radio station, which then made it available online as a podcast (<a href="http://www.dradiowissen.de/20-jahrhundert-geschichte-ist-ideologie.88.de.html?dram:article_id=250904">http://www.dradiowissen.de/20-jahrhundert-geschichte-ist-ideologie.88.de.html?dram:article_id=250904</a></p>

**Unit support to staff in achieving impact:** Members of staff are supported through mentoring and the allocation of selective teaching relief and funding to develop impact, informed by annual audits of public engagement activities. For example, McDermott was funded to visit the Czech Republic to enable him not only to complete research (McDermott 2, 3), but also to cultivate contacts in the Czech media. This led to interviews about his monograph *The Comintern* (1996, Czech translation 2009) in the Czech popular history magazine *Dějiny a současnost* [History and the Present] (Jan. 2010), and on Czech Radio 5 (24 Oct. 2011). Interest generated led to publication of translations of his articles on Czech history (McDermott 1, 2, 3) in the main Czech cultural journal, *Literární noviny* [Literary Gazette] (Aug. 2012, Feb. and June 2013, circulation 10,000), and in the Hungarian mass circulation journal *Beszélő* [The Speaker] (Oct. 2011).

**Use of institutional resources:** Under the auspices of the Humanities Research Centre, two half-day workshops were run at which information on the impact agenda and feedback on draft case studies was provided by a visiting academic who had been involved in developing the impact agenda for the REF and in evaluating the pilot scheme. Staff were encouraged to post information on their areas of research expertise on SHU's 'Find an Expert' website, resulting in Singleton's participation in four programmes on BBC Radio Sheffield, offering historical perspectives on the economic crisis. Twells was given teaching relief and training in website design in Spring 2013 to develop a 'South Yorkshire Through Time' community history website (public launch date: April 2014) to disseminate her research into the global dimensions of Sheffield's history (Twells 4). SHU's Events team organised professorial lectures on their current research by Midgley and Stibbe and a series of three Leverhulme Public Lectures on migration history; its excellent publicity resulted in audiences of 80-120 at each event.

### c. Strategy and plans

**Strategy 2008-13:** The Research Professor and the Research Planning Committee (RPC) have led the group's approach to impact. Our strategy has been to: 1) actively foster impact relating to all the research groups; 2) include impact potential as a 'desirable' attribute in job selection criteria for new staff appointments; 3) build on public engagement activities to develop sustainable impacts; 4) open up new impact opportunities by heightening the public profile of the unit's research; 5) identify promising case studies and develop their depth and reach.

#### Strategy and plans for 2014-19:

1) Build on existing areas of impact strength and draw additional staff into these, in order to broaden and deepen our impact on heritage policy, community engagement with civic society, the enrichment of cultural life, and more informed public understanding of the past.

2) Support individuals to develop impact via mentoring through the RPC, including assistance with developing the impact component of external research grant applications; and through targeted teaching relief, focussed on supporting those developing potential future impact case studies.

3) Encourage external academic collaboration in developing impact. For example: **a)** Roberts will develop his collaboration with Pentland and Nixon of Edinburgh University on a project exploring the material culture of C19th British popular politics (Roberts 4), with plans for a touring exhibition on the bicentenary of the Peterloo Massacre in England and the Radical War in Scotland currently under discussion with National Museums Scotland and the People's History Museum, Manchester. **b)** Stibbe is part of a group bringing together academics and exhibition planners at the Imperial War Museum North to commemorate the centenary of the First World War,

4) Deepen and extend links with external organisations through pro-active approaches to explore exhibition, consultancy and collaborative possibilities, including AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award applications, and through exploiting opportunities for cross-institutional collaborations in the field of cultural heritage which have arisen following SHU's involvement with 5 other universities in successful bid for a new AHRC Heritage Consortium, which between 2015 and 2020 will fund postgraduate studentships in cultural heritage. In particular, we aim to improve the public visibility of the histories of under-represented groups, especially women and Black and Minority Ethnic

## Impact template (REF3a)

groups, through building on existing collaborations with English Heritage and a range of museums, and community, and educational, organisations.

5) Run skill-sharing workshops on effective pathways to translating public engagement into impact at local, national and international levels. Promising areas to be developed include: **a)** enhancing public understanding of globalisation and its economic and social impacts through disseminating insights derived from Singleton's research into the history of banking and financial crises and Petersson's new research on maritime labour and globalisation; **b)** stimulating informed public debate on the legacy of the Soviet Empire relating to McDermott's work on Czechoslovakia post-1945 and Stibbe's research on East and West German historiographies; **c)** drawing on Collins and Thorald's research expertise to create public impact around the bicentenary of the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 2015.

6) Enhance the public profile of our research through improved web presence, new social media, public lectures and prominence within professional associations.

#### d. Relationship to case studies

The three case studies are underpinned by research within three of our four overlapping research groups: Women's and Gender History, Imperial and Global History, and Economic and Business History. They exemplify the reach and significance of our impact in enhancing community involvement in civil society (Midgley), enriching cultural life and fostering public understanding of the past (Verdon), influencing policy-making (Midgley) and deepening the historical engagement and understanding of school pupils and their teachers (Stibbe). The case studies also illustrate the implementation of our strategy and approach to fostering impact over 2008-2013: **Public engagement at a route to impact:** Stibbe has built up his impact activities from small-scale local to large-scale national events; Verdon is developing a reputation as media consultant through work on high-profile TV and theatre productions; **developing sustainable partnerships with external organisations:** Midgley has built on a consultancy opportunity with English Heritage to secure a long-term consultancy role; Verdon has built on her fellowship at the Museum of English Rural Life by curating an exhibition and joining its executive committee; **unit and institutional support to those developing case studies:** members of staff developing case studies were supported through co-mentoring within the RPC, by running impact workshops, and via one hour's weekly teaching relief over 2012-13. Stibbe drew on expertise within the University to design questionnaires measuring the impact of his engagement with teachers and school children, and Stibbe and Midgley made use of the Events team to organise and publicise their public lectures at SHU.

Developing these case studies has, in turn, informed our strategy and plans for 2014-19:

**Strategy 1** (of building on existing areas of impact strength and drawing new staff into these) is informed by the openings identified by Midgley for drawing Twells and Verdon into her consultancy work with English Heritage in developing its website resources on women's history and the history of slavery and abolition; by Stibbe's recognition that his contact with national organisations running school history events offer resources for McDermott and Twells to widen their existing engagement with schools; and by Verdon's formal connection to the Museum of Rural Life, which provides a resource for Roberts in translating his new research on rural protest into impact. **Strategy 4** (of deepening and extending links with external organisations), and in particular the plan to improve the public visibility of the history and heritage of under-represented groups, is informed by the experience of Midgley that public bodies' new statutory duty to address equality and diversity issues has resulted in increasing potential for impact in women's and gender history, an insight which also applies to BME history. **Strategy 6** (of enhancing the public profile of staff research) is informed by the experience that this occurs not only through public engagement activities, but also by the public visibility afforded by leading roles in learned societies: Midgley's as President of the International Federation for Research in Women's History, Verdon's as secretary of the British Agricultural History Society, and Stibbe's as member of the executive committee of the German History Society.