

Institution: University of Chichester
Unit of Assessment: History
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The location of the unit is in the Department of History, comprising 8.5 FTE members of staff of which 7.5 FTE are submitted here as active researchers. The research produced is in cultural and political history, including gender history. Staff recruitment, appointments and development have intentionally emphasized thematic compatibilities within these approaches, rather than a chronological or geographical specialism. Research activities are supported through internal networking between colleagues and by encouraging partnerships and collaborative research with externally-based institutions, of which two are formal partners: Chichester Cathedral and the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, West Sussex.</p> <p>In the cycle of review, the Chichester historians have published their work in peer-reviewed journals, including, for example, <i>The Agricultural History Review</i>, <i>Gender and History</i>, <i>Journal of British Studies</i> and <i>Yale French Studies</i>. In addition, they have written eight research monographs and edited numerous collections for, among others, Africa World Press, Brill, Palgrave and Routledge.</p> <p>The organization and management structure of the unit is straightforward. Research leadership is directed by the Head of Department (Frey) through annual appraisals and quarterly progress meetings. Frey reports to the Deputy Dean and Dean at bi-annual reviews of the unit's research progress. The experience of postgraduate students is co-ordinated by Morgan (2008-2011) and Adi (2011-present). Colleagues serve as elected members to the University Research Committee. In addition, the Head of Department liaises with the Research Office (henceforth herein, REEO) that manages postgraduate students, research bidding (internal and external) and partnership agreements.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Strategy (2008-13)</p> <p>Through the period of this review the unit's research strategy was as follows:</p> <p>i) Setting the strategic goal of publishing research of international significance for fellow scholars and encouraging its use for non-academic beneficiaries.</p> <p>ii) Re-shaping the unit's organization to create a research environment that played to its strengths and allowed it to 'punch above its weight'.</p> <p>Thus, cognizant of its size, the unit has functioned as a single entity rather than sub-dividing into smaller specialist groups. Internal connections in research interests help build a subtle network of mutual support for colleagues and postgraduate students. For example, the research of Adi, Morgan and Tankard pulls into view sometimes marginalized groups or overlooked research questions: histories of the African diaspora, forgotten debates on sexuality and gender, or the life of the rural poor. Similarly, the work of Adi, Frey, Wilson, and Wyss overlaps in interests in contemporary political history, while the theme of commemoration and heritage runs through several colleague's research endeavours (Adi, Chandler, Frey, Richardson, Tankard, and Wilson). Modern religious and gender history clearly gains from dialogues between Chandler and Morgan. Such overlaps are dynamic, project focussed, and open to external partnerships. In addition, they have not only been about informal co-operation, but also intentionally support the mentoring of new staff, postgraduate supervision teams, and publishing projects.</p> <p>iii) All colleagues were encouraged to collaborate externally on research with relevant scholars at British and international universities. Three Erasmus agreements were signed based on preceding research contacts so as to provide a formal core of international collaboration and to facilitate staff mobility, expanding the 'research conversation' from Chichester to KU Leuven (Belgium), University of Eastern Finland and University of Würzburg (Germany).</p> <p>iv) The strategy to promote research networking was also opened to include collaboration with</p>

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significant regional historical institutions and to ground these conversations in formal partnerships and staff appointments that strengthened the unit's external profile: continuing from his appointment to the unit in 2007, Chandler's relationship with Chichester Cathedral and his role in the development of the new George Bell House as an academic centre, adds to unit's strength in church history. From 2009, the fractional appointment of Tankard to the unit, who is also employed at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum (Singleton, West Sussex), strengthens its focus on social and cultural history (Tankard publishes on death, rural poverty, and the role of open air museums in the presentation of the past; she was formerly employed on a University of Reading AHRC funded KTP project at the Museum). These partnerships were pursued based upon qualitative analysis of their alignment to our strengths and the REEO helps guide and manage all external collaborations in the first instance.

v) Staff appointments in the period (Adi, Wilson and Wyss) were informed in part by evaluation of potential for external networking/or the researcher's willingness to engage with impact/non-academic users.

vi) The strategic developments were supported by the decision to directly reinvest RAE funding into the History budget to assist in financing research time for Early Career Researchers, and to provide rotational teaching relief for all other staff, thereby responding to the substantive critique of the panel's feedback on research environment from RAE 2008. To that end the unit has received: £150k over a period of 5 years.

vii) Implicitly underlying all these strategic interventions was the fundamental drive to grow the size of the unit. The above activities sought to raise its profile and hence funds and/or student market share; to actively connect staff and postgraduate students to significant clusters of expertise, and to generate a vibrant and active environment that met the ambitions of each researcher. The strategy was also framed to acknowledge our current scale and capacity vis-à-vis larger units with different aims and ambitions, as well as greater underlying resources. All members of the unit teach undergraduate courses informed by their research and have therefore also contributed to the department's outstanding results in the National Student Survey and other league table measurements relating to 'value added' quality for students.

Evidence of the achievement of strategic aims

i) The number of researchers returned in RAE 2008 was 5.0FTE and in REF 2014 is 7.5FTE. The ambition to grow was met while maintaining a good underlying financial base.

ii) Postgraduate research students inform that their experiences are excellent (see section C); external fund raising has increased (section D); and there is a significant contribution from members of the unit to their respective sub-fields (section E).

iii) The Impact material (documented fully elsewhere) has been enriched by making collaboration with external partners a clear priority. This same priority has supported increased infrastructure, as well as attracted a research secondment to the unit (see sections C and D below). Time spent connecting internationally has afforded positive outcomes: Frey and Richardson have taught postgraduate students and discussed research with colleagues in Belgium, Finland and Germany (1 month in total/4x week long visits). Scholars of note from the Erasmus partnerships have in return worked in Chichester presenting papers to our staff and postgraduates: Ortwin de Graef (KU Leuven); Pasi Tuunainen (Eastern Finland); and Tina Kinnunen (Eastern Finland). It is also through these dialogues that with Jan Baetens (KU Leuven), Frey has completed the *The Cambridge Introduction to the Graphic Novel* (2014), although as Section E evidences the unit's networking model is far from limited to these productive European collaborations.

Moreover, the appointments of Adi, Wilson and Wyss each strongly fulfilled our aspiration to develop external collaboration/impact. Adi's work is well known; while Wilson's contribution to the '1807 Commemorated' project whilst at University of York (2007-09) demonstrated his potential to contribute to the Chichester unit's outward facing strategy of work with museums. Wyss too has worked extensively with media groups (e.g. Deutsche Welle) and brings experience of policy/politics debates.

iv) Capacity for research has developed through the period of review. Greater time for research has been facilitated by the growth of staff numbers, investment and institutional recognition. Consequently, in support of Early Career Researchers: colleagues appointed in the period (Adi; Wilson; and Wyss) have taught lightened contributions in their first year of employment. Each of the colleagues returned as part of the unit has had undergraduate teaching removed for the duration of 1 semester equivalent. It is also worth underlining that the unit's achievements were not cross-subsidized by 'contributions to centre' from other units. On the contrary, expansion has been in parallel to annual (2010/11-2013/14) 'very healthy' contributions to central funds (that is an important position that further evidences the unit's sustainability).

v) The expansion of the unit has also provided opportunities for appropriately qualified Associate Lecturing staff: generating teaching experience to promising early career scholars from the unit itself and from Portsmouth, Sussex, QM London, as well as a new career for the prominent public historian, Alwyn W. Turner, the author of several best-selling popular histories of post-1970s Britain and works for the Tate and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Future strategy (2014-2019)

The strategic aims are:

i) To continue to grow the staff base to 12FTE by maintaining the approach to expansion and recruitment shown to be so successful in the preceding years. In planning for autumn 2014, the unit intends to make an appointment in art history (see rationale below) and in response to growing student numbers on the new degree, BA (Hons) Politics and Contemporary History, to advertise for an inter-disciplinary specialist in either history of ideas or political thought.

ii) As highlighted in the Impact documentation, the unit will continue a conversation with Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, towards enhancing the provision of art history in the city. Such an appointment at senior lecturer level would support the expansion of our partnership model to include a further significant regional collaborator – the gallery; as well as complement Adi's, Chandler's and Frey's existing interests in visual culture. After all, Chichester cathedral is also a virtual gallery of modern art, including works from Chagall, Feibusch and Sutherland.

iii) Following the expansion of staff being returned in the REF 2014 round, a proportionate increase in external research income generation is a priority target. The greater economy of scale offered by the recent appointments of Adi, Tankard, Wilson and Wyss, and the continuation of the teaching load remission strategy, make it possible for the unit to manage a more systematic approach to repeat external bidding. Wilson and Wyss will be supported in making early career research bids to the AHRC; Adi, Chandler, Frey, Morgan, Richardson and Tankard will make bids to support their forthcoming projects from AHRC, British Academy, and Leverhulme. It is also the case that all colleagues will continue to look to alternative funding opportunities that have proved successful through 2008-2013, not least when working with regional partnerships on Heritage Lottery Applications or targeting smaller funds from quite thematically specific research bodies.

iv) Pending the outcomes of REF 2014, a fourth mid-term strategy is the advertisement of a post-doctoral researcher in cultural history (3 years in the first instance, open to all specialisms that speak to our strengths). The unit will provide a new PhD with a positive environment to complete their first monograph and we can seek to gain from the dynamism of working with a new researcher whose role is entirely research focussed.

v) It is also clear that encouragement of the department's substantial international editorial work is helpful (see also Section E). To that end the unit will advertise for a 0.5FTE administrative support officer to assist colleagues and to gain from an economy of scale.

vi) The growth of postgraduate taught research students will support part of the above investment scheme. Successful recruitment to the newly validated MA in Cultural History in 2013 (11 FTEs equivalent in the first cohort) is a central new component of the on-going commitment to enhance the department's overall postgraduate student numbers, as well as diversify its income-base.

c. People, including:**Staffing strategy and staff development**

i) The unit's staff recruitment policy has been to identify complementarity of approach, alongside outstanding scholarly activity and/or promise. Three excellent 'first appointments' were made: Tankard (PhD, Birkbeck), Wilson (PhD, York) and Wyss (PhD, Nottingham), whereas in Adi the unit gained one of Britain's pre-eminent historians of the African diaspora. Following appointment, a member of staff is supported through a probationer scheme wherein a senior colleague acts as their mentor for the first six months of their employment. All appointments follow national equality guidelines and the University is particularly pro-active in this area as evidenced by its role as a Stonewall Diversity Champion.

ii) The staff team are all appraised annually; discussions include clarification of research plans and needs, alongside teaching loads. They are encouraged to supervise PGR students and supervisory training for colleagues, whether new or experienced, is provided by REEO on an annual basis. Furthermore, the University has been awarded the European Commission HR Excellence in Research Award recognizing its commitment to the career development of researchers. Specifically, the unit has adopted the Researcher Development Framework which is used by Frey to guide and inform appraisals.

iii) All historians also have opportunities to present work to university-wide 'work in progress' seminars and a one day research conference. Chandler, Frey, Morgan, Richardson and Tankard have each participated by giving papers. REEO provides further staff support and training around research and external engagement activities, including seminars and courses on grant bidding, impact agenda briefing, and the public communication and dissemination of research findings.

iv) As noted, teaching relief for newly appointed staff and research active staff has been successfully implemented. In the case of Chandler his research has been further supported by lifting of departmental administrative duties (in light of his other extensive public engagements). Similarly, the ECR's do not take on roles such as Admissions/Examinations until after 24 months in contract.

v) Recognizing the need to make continued research investment, the University has assisted the unit through the direct transference of RAE monies to the unit's budget, and through establishing a competitive annual Research Facilitation Fund (RFF). Successful RFF bids by the unit have meant it has gained £25,429 (08/09-12/13) extra funding for specific research costs, including travel for conferences and archive work, further teaching-relief support, and funding for work with partner organizations. In addition, each member of the unit has received directly £750 per annum research expenses to support presenting papers at national and international conferences or costs associated with archival work.

vi) The support for Chandler and Tankard, who work with, or are part funded by, Chichester Cathedral and the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, evidences the unit's commitment to facilitate exchange with external institutions (Tankard, a 0.5FTE fractional member of the unit and the Museum, has identical research-related rights and opportunities as the full-post holders). The same strategy of collaborating with external partners was advanced further through the 0.2FTE secondment of Alisa Miller from CREST UK to the unit. Miller is a cultural historian of the First World War (DPhil, Oxford, 2008) whose engagement and work with us has been first class. Her secondment (2011-13) has included gaining undergraduate and postgraduate teaching experience and receiving research mentoring and guidance from senior colleagues (Frey and Morgan). In 2013-14 she is co-organizing a research conference with Frey and Wilson and is also speaking at a University public lecture series on art and the First World War, hosted at the University's Otter Gallery.

Research students

i) The unit supervises a small community of research students, with 11 presently registered. Since 2008, 8 doctorates and 3 MPhils have been awarded.

ii) The unit has been supported in competitively recruiting 5 research students through the use of

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scholarships (4 full bursaries and 1 partial bursary), representing an overall University investment for postgraduate students in history of £165k.

iii) The advantage of this focussed postgraduate culture is that the student experience is systematically monitored and enhanced with each PGR entitled to office space, computer facilities and conference travel funding (£250 per annum). Students also receive a comprehensive training programme through REEO which includes research skills training, viva preparation and career guidance (History colleagues lead on these sessions annually). Opportunities to teach are augmented by the Postgraduate Certificate of Teaching in Higher Education, a requirement for all doctoral students interested in pursuing HE teaching as a part of their career. Supervisors and students record progress through tutorial forms and annual review documentation/meeting. Progress is monitored again by the University's Research Degree's Group and Annual Monitoring of postgraduate work.

Uptake of training at University and externally is recorded in the students' Personal Progress Log which is submitted annually to the REEO (Research Office) for review. The University has invested in Epigeum Research Masters Programme to support its research students on and off campus, uptake is monitored by the REEO and reported back to the Research Committee which includes representatives of the Unit. Equality and Diversity is embedded in support for research students, data on gender, disability, age is reported annually as part of the University's Equality Scheme, it is a routine item on the Research Committee (which has 2 PhD student representatives), staff training on E&D is also available to PhD students.

iv) The department has hosted general and more specific research visitors and guest seminar speakers, as well as Erasmus-funded guest scholars. In addition, the unit has supported students to organize their own events and to network widely using new media. This is the support backdrop to the work of PhD bursary student Ian Hague (2009-12) who has developed an annual conference in his field and is the founding director of the website <http://comicsforum.org/> which is a significant meeting place for all scholars in this field (Hague's first monograph is to be published by Routledge ('Research in Cultural and Media Studies Series', 2014). The unit continues to fund these and other, more typical projects, such as archival research, conference attendance and presentations. For example, postgraduate Timothy Brinded has presented or attended conferences in medieval history at Bristol and Leeds (fully funded).

v) While new students and staff have been working together, the University maintained and paid its 'retired staff' (Andrew Foster and Keith Jenkins) to continue their supervisions without disruption, until all their students conclude their studies.

vi) The University participates in PRES, through which PhD students report that they are happy with their overall experience (92% satisfaction rate compared to sector figure of 82% (Q17a)) and their supervisory support (92% against 82% for sector; Q1&2). It is also the case that the recent QAA Institutional Review of the University (2012) identified the support experienced by postgraduates to be an area of good practice.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

i) HESA returns record £45,804 externally granted income has been gained by the unit. This sum was achieved through a British Academy travel grant (Frey), the consultancy work on two Heritage Lottery Fund projects (contracted and managed by Frey with Chichester District Council and with BME Community Services, Worthing), and grants obtained from Chichester cathedral in support of Chandler's work.

ii) The secondment of Miller to the unit achieved indirect 'funding in kind' of 7k from CREST. External bids and funding accrued has therefore increased in accordance with strategy (by comparison nothing at all was submitted to RAE2008).

iii) In this research cycle our library has spent £54,714 on history titles and periodical subscriptions. It is also the home to a new major theology collection kindly donated by James Dunn (Durham), relevant particularly to the research of Chandler and Morgan. In addition, Chichester's partnerships with the Weald and Downland Museum and Cathedral have raised awareness of their

respective collections to taught and research postgraduates. The latter has 11,000 books and journals covering all aspects of traditional building and related subjects, while the former includes a rich collection 6000 works, including the *Kenilworth Missal*, dating from the 13th century.

iv) The unit's strategy of opening its research knowledge to the local community has also led to two significant donations to the University's archive, the Gladys Peto collection (donated 2011) and the Whaites family archive (donated 2013). Both support the unit's interest in cultural history and provide extensive and important original material on visual culture, women artists, inter-war design, and in the case of Peto, aspects of colonial history. The University's own archive and Bishop Otter Collections represent strong documentation on British education, teacher training, and modern art, including the 'lost' Stanley Spencer drawings. In addition, the George Bell Institute (GBI, founding director, Chandler), its library and other resources are housed on campus. Its library contains 750 titles in modern church history, twentieth century history, politics and theology. The GBI has supported the research environment for the study of church history and has directly assisted the unit's strategy to network regionally and internationally (see further below and in relevant Impact documentation). The research infrastructure supporting the unit has therefore grown in the last six years and enhances resources for researchers, staff and students.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

i) Chichester historians contribute significantly to their wider research communities, including undertaking active roles within professional bodies and subject organizations, prominent editorial contributions to book series and periodicals. Senior colleagues are trusted members of their own research fields, actively supporting their further development and enrichment. Thus, **Adi** is a member of the advisory board of the Black Canadian Studies Association; Member of the Acquisitions Sub-Committee - Black Cultural Archives, London, and was a consultant and contributor to the Understanding Slavery Initiative website, National Maritime Museum, London, (2009-); and is an advisor to the Equiano Centre, UCL. He is also Associate Editor, The African and Diasporic Cultural Studies Series, for University of Ottawa Press. **Chandler** is Series Editor of international advisory board, 'The Archbishops of Canterbury', for the publisher, Ashgate. He was co-editor of *Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte/ Contemporary Church History* (2009-2012); and is founding editor of *Humanitas: The Journal of the George Bell Institute*. **Frey** is a Series Editor for the Leuven University Press/Cornell series of works, 'European Graphic Novels, Comics and Graphic Narratives'. **Morgan** is Deputy Editor of *Women's History Review* (2013-2018). In addition, Morgan was invited to co-edit the 25th anniversary volume of *Gender and History* on 'Gender and Religion' (Oxford: Blackwell, 2013). The volume has been given the additional status by Blackwells of a standalone 350 page book. **Wyss** is Scientific Editor for the *International Bibliography of Military History* (Brill).

ii) Members of the unit also sit on boards of periodicals and regularly referee for these and other publications. **Adi** is editorial board member for *Review of African Political Economy* and has refereed for *Gender and History*. Chandler is editorial board member for *Contemporary Church History Quarterly*; **Frey** is an editorial board member of *European Comic Art* and *Etudes Francophones*; and has refereed articles for *Modern and Contemporary France*; and *Témoigner: Entre histoire et mémoire* (Journal of the Auschwitz Foundation, Brussels), among others. **Morgan** is an editorial Board Member of *Gender and History*, *Rethinking History* and *Women's History Review*; Richardson was Local History Editor for *Hampshire Studies* (2008-2010); **Tankard** is an editorial board member of *Sussex Archaeological Collections*; **Wilson** is an editorial board member of *The International Journal of Heritage Studies* (since 2013) and has also refereed for *Museum Management and Curatorship* (2012 to present) and *Body and Society* (2008 to present). **Wyss** has refereed for *Contemporary British History*, *Contemporary European History*, *European Review of History*, *Itinera*, *Journal of Cold War Studies* and *Journal of Contemporary History*.

iii) Throughout the cycle of research, colleagues have had considerable experience of refereeing for major publishing houses and research councils. **Frey** has refereed several proposals for Cambridge University Press and Berghahn Books and for the Flemish Scientific Council (2010). **Morgan** has refereed for Oxford University Press, Routledge, Palgrave, Broadview Press, Duke University Press and Manchester University Press and was a member of the AHRC Peer Review College (2008-2011) reviewing funding applications for between £25,000 and £450,000; and **Wyss**

has refereed for the Swiss National Science Foundation (2012-2013).

iv) Members of the unit have supported the wider history postgraduate student community through co-supervision arrangements and external examining. During the current period of review, **Adi** has externally examined PhDs at London and Sheffield, in addition to co-supervising at the University of Middlesex. **Morgan** has examined a PhD at the University of Birmingham. **Richardson** has examined 3 Mphil/PhD upgrades for the University of Winchester and **Wyss** has examined a PhD at the University of Neuchâtel.

v) Several members of the unit have presented keynote lectures or been guest lecturers overseas. **Adi** has spoken as an invited guest or keynote speaker around the world. He has contributed to the Distinguished Lecture Series, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada (2012); the Kwame Nkrumah International Conference, Kwantlen University, St Mary's University, Halifax, Canada (2009); St Anthony's College, Oxford University (2009); as well as offering keynotes at University of Northampton and at Bucks New University. **Chandler** was invited to convene and chair the panel of historians at the international Dietrich Bonhoeffer conference, Columbia University, New York, (2011). **Frey** was an invited seminar participant at KU Leuven (2012) and is invited lecturer for the Prince's Institute (Modern Languages, 2013). **Morgan** has given guest lectures on religion, sexuality and new histories of love at Liverpool Hope University and QM London and **Richardson** has taught Finnish postgraduates on an Erasmus funded visit to the University of Eastern Finland.

vi) All members of the unit have delivered papers at conferences across the United Kingdom and North America, as well as chairing panels, speaking on round-tables, or acting as respondents. On average each colleague contributes in this way once every academic year, often more frequently.

vii) The collaborative dimension of research in development of new ideas and bringing colleagues together has also proved an important aspect of the unit's activities through the organization and hosting of several international conferences in Chichester. Through the GBI, **Chandler** has hosted a number of regular events from 2008 onwards, including, the 'George Bell Fiftieth Anniversary Conference'; the annual GBI International Colloquium and in 2010 a conference on 'Intellectual Freedom'. Speakers at these events have included Gerhard Besier (Dresden); Charmain Brinson (Imperial) and Kim Strübind (Oldenburg). Similar GBI seminars and lectures at Chichester have included contributions from Peter Stone (Newcastle), Anne Duggan (King's College London) and Jutta Vinzent (Birmingham). **Richardson** co-organized with Nottingham University (DAMA Follow Deer and European Society 6000BC to AD1600) the Chichester based conference 'People and Place: Landscape and Identity through Time' and this collaboration continues with forthcoming Sept 2014 'Animals in Antiquity' (working title), to be also located at University of Chichester. The unit will host its own one day conference on 'Multi-directional Memory: 1914/1944' (June 2014) and is scheduled to welcome the annual national conference of the Society for the Study of French History (2016).

viii) Chichester colleagues have also co-hosted conferences at their partner's institutions. Thus, **Morgan** and Lucy Delap co-convened the April 2012 'Men, masculinities and religious change' symposium, at St. Catharine's College, University of Cambridge and in September 2012 co-convened the 'Gender and Religion', Gender and History symposium, at University of York, with Joanna DeGroot. These two events attracted over 90 leading scholars in the history of religion and gender from the US, India, Canada, China, Greece, Spain and funding from the Cambridge University Centre for Gender Studies and the journal *Gender & History*. Speakers included Mary Vincent (Sheffield), Callum Brown (Glasgow), Alana Harris (Lincoln College, Oxford) and Joy Dixon (UBC, Canada).