

Institution: University of Leeds

Unit of Assessment: UOA30 (History)

a. Context

The School of History has embedded impact into its strategy for research excellence. Supported by major institutional investment in infrastructure, and underpinned by the University's over-arching objective to use 'the results of our outstanding research, across the full range of academic disciplines, to benefit society', the School is working to increase the breadth and depth of its partnerships with organisations outside of Higher Education. The key beneficiaries of impact in History are agencies of government, political and civic organizations, schools and health authorities. In developing impact activities our researchers are building on a strong foundation of knowledge transfer and exchange activity, evident in audiences ranging from listeners to *Woman's Hour* to neurologists at Addenbrooke's Hospital, institutions ranging from the Houses of Parliament to local primary schools, and geographical constituencies from Pontefract to Uttar Pradesh.

Our REF3b case studies grew from four of the five research clusters. We have a clear strategic aim to develop the rich impact potential of the fifth (*Enterprise & cultures of consumption*), Each study builds on long-standing connections with partner institutions and international research collaborations, plus a strong tradition of translating research into user benefit. Our types of impact are predominantly those that have benefited civil society, cultural life, policy making and public discourse. Our research has led to improved cultural understanding, enriched the cultural life of individuals and groups, and enhanced public understanding of major societal and political issues.

b. Approach to impact

We are pragmatic, flexible and resourceful as we attempt to maximise the impact of our research with external communities. In recent years we have worked to develop more systematic processes in order to share and build on existing good practice. We have created an impact leadership role and developed an infrastructure to support impact activity, through both our own resources and Faculty and University investment and initiatives. The Director of Research and Innovation (**Chase**), supported since 2011 by a Director of Impact (**Gould; Alford**), is responsible for coordinating impact activity and for oversight of interaction between the School and Faculty structures and initiatives. He works closely with the leaders of each of the five research clusters in identifying the potential for impact and innovation in their research areas. The School directly supports colleagues in building external relationships through pump-priming grants, informal workshops and through the research time allocation in its workload model.

We have made extensive use of our University's heavy investment in impact infrastructure:

- *Faculty Impact and Innovation Officers* were appointed in 2006 to coordinate knowledge transfer and support the development and delivery of impact projects.
- The *Leeds Humanities Research Institute* (LHRI) holds regular KT/Impact workshops in which our staff regularly participate.
- *Arts Engaged*: a strategic investment of £850k by the University has created a dynamic enabling environment for impact and innovation. It supports and advises staff more widely about how to generate impact, access internal and external funding and identify potential beneficiaries. **Blaszczyk** is Academic Champion for History within the project and one of the five Arts Engaged Fellows (**King**) is co-located in the School where she is an active contributor to the *Medicine and Public Health* research cluster.
- To broker partnerships with organizations from the cultural, creative and commercial sectors, we also draw on the resources of Creative and Cultural Industries Exchange (CCI), through its Business Development Manager. The latter has also supported development of Collaborative Doctoral Award applications. CCI awards HEIF seed-corn funding to promote collaboration: the UOA has received several awards since 2010, for example for Gould's project (Case Study 211) and such funding continues to enhance our innovation in impact.
- The University and School have also invested very heavily in recruitment. An informed understanding of impact was a central criterion in all recent appointments. For example **Anim-Addo**, appointed to her first permanent post, was successively Caird Fellow and Caird Senior Fellow at the National Maritime Museum. **Maw**, a mid-career appointment, has significant experience working with external partners such as English Heritage. **Blaszczyk** (appointed in February 2013 to a leadership chair in Business History) has already drawn

down nearly €1 million from HERA for an international collaborative project on the global fashion industry since 1945. As its editor-in-chief, **Cathcart** (another mid-career appointment) is further developing *Sino-NK.com*, a web journal on Chinese-North Korean relations, whose partners include the *Guardian* and the California-based Nautilus Institute.

c. Strategy and plans

Our aspiration is to become a sector-leader in impact by 2020, working within the framework of the Faculty of Arts Impact and Innovation Strategy (to which we made a significant contribution) to develop 'excellent research that is outstanding in terms of the quality, significance and reach of its impact'. We are building capability around three strategic objectives to normalise impact as an aspect of research activity and increase opportunities for building new forms of impactful research:

1. Professionalisation: all researchers are expected to pursue impact activities, with reciprocal recognition through our workload model and promotion criteria and the allocation of pump-priming resources. Monitoring and mentoring impact activities is integral to staff development and an informed understanding of impact is a key requirement in all new appointments.
2. Specialisation: peer-mentoring and sharing good practice provide a foundation from which all research clusters participate in strategic impact planning.
3. Intensification and internationalisation: high-quality impact is not happenstance. In mapping out current activities and partnerships, the School will support deepening existing collaboration and foster new relationships in currently under-developed areas. Where appropriate, this will include broadening the international reach of our research.

As part of our delivery plan each cluster is identifying two or three key pathways through which maximum impact can be achieved. In *Enterprise and cultures of consumption* **Blaszczyk** is collaborating with the Victoria & Albert (V&A) Museum scoping the potential for an exhibition, *The Future: A History*. **Maw** is analysing English cotton-spinning mills (1770-1840), building a partnership with the Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission (England). Study sets tailored to particular localities will be prepared for teachers and research data also disseminated through an interactive online resource. This cluster is the principal vector through which we will grow our strategic partnership with Marks & Spencer (M&S). The company already funds two research studentships, one of whom intercalated her PhD registration with a six-month paid placement at the Consumers' Association (a model for PGR-impact we shall develop further). Across 2013-2016 the *Enterprise of Culture* project will work closely with non-academic institutions, including M&S, the V&A, the Stockholm Centre for Business History and sponsors of fashion-textile trade fairs.

Museum partnerships and the International Medieval Congress (IMC) are integral to the strategic aims for *Medieval studies*. **Murray, Flynn** and Müller will consolidate partnerships that broaden the impact of medieval research, having already been involved in exhibitions at the British Museum, V&A, Royal Armouries (Leeds) and Leeds City Museums, **Jamroziak** is to continue work with the latter, developing the presentation of Kirkstall Abbey. The re-location of IMC to the University campus from 2013 broadens and deepens the cluster's capacity to reach research 'end-users' and create new ones. IMC has a powerful public engagement dimension, including free events designed to present sometimes difficult and opaque topics in an immediate and inspiring way. IMC's thematic strands on Empire and Reform (in 2014 and 2015 respectively) will be used to draw in further 'non-academic' interest groups and publics. (Those involved in 2013 included the British Brick Society, the British Association for Local History, the Richard III Society and local history and archaeological societies.) **Flynn's** continuing research into the sound world of the medieval church has potential to transform liturgical performance: the UOA will support him in bringing this work to potential end-users (Leeds Cathedral choir already uses and has recorded his arrangements).

The *Health, medicine and society* cluster focuses on policy and on public awareness of health and medicine history. Having written a paper 'Supporting active fatherhood' for *History & Policy*, **King** is developing its Forum on parenting, to create a vector via which historical research can impact on policymakers. **Doyle** will deliver public lectures in Dar es Salaam and Kampala in 2014, following policy briefings (summarizing his work on demographic and sexual behavioural change) to the Ministries of Health and Population Planning, and relevant NGOs, in Tanzania and Uganda. **Meyer** leads the Medicine and War strand of a major inter-disciplinary project, 'The Legacies of War'. A Faculty initiative, supported by AHRC Connected Communities funding, this WWI centenary project will work until 2018 with people and organizations locally, nationally and internationally to

increase public awareness of the conflict's cultural and historical legacy, and enhance community cohesion and intergenerational understanding. As the centenary of the conflict approaches, broadcast media increasingly consult Meyer and her research on military hospitals and medical care is shaping air-time and on-line content for the BBC's major *WW1 at Home* initiative.

Citizenship and the politics of history and memory shape the impact agenda of *Identity, power and protest*. Research by **Chase** on the genesis of the Second Reform Act will be targeted towards shifting politicians' and public perceptions around the Act's 150th anniversary in 2017. **Gould's** research underpins a documentary, directed by international film maker Dakxin Bajrange, on India's ex-'Criminal Tribes'. It will be sent (2014) to India's Tribal Affairs Policy Advisory Council. Collaboration with Bajrange has also helped Gould form links with the Tejgarh Tribal Academy. **Doyle** has advised the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (on relations between Uganda's kingdoms and its central government; also the political consequences of oil discoveries in western Uganda) and the US think tank Nomogaia on a human rights impact assessment. Going forward, he is one of a team commissioned to curate an exhibition on the history of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as the final court of appeal for the Empire and Commonwealth, to be located in the main lobby of the Supreme Court in 2014. **Dossett's** new 'Women & the Archive' project will include workshops with the Fawcett Society, the M&S archive and local history societies in Leeds.

War and Peace focusses on both the commemoration of war and current military practice. **Utley** will move to a full-time contract in November 2013, boosting capacity to develop engagement with French defence professionals (through a long-term partnership with leading UK defence and security consultancy SCS). She and **Spiers** plan a network grant bid to bring together defence professionals and academics from the UK and France. Utley is also co-investigator in a research grant bid with the University of Glasgow and King's College London on the historic context of UK-French military cooperation, engaging with UK-French policy practitioners and civil society. **Ball, Meyer, King** and **Spiers** are active in the 'Legacies of War' inter-disciplinary project (see above). **Ball** sits on the international advisory board of the Federal AlliiertenMuseum (an appointment made in consultation with the military attaché at the UK's German embassy), under consideration to become the museum in residence at the pivotal Templehof complex, Berlin: concerning this **Ball** has provided a consultancy paper (July 2013) at the request of the Museum's director. If the Templehof vision is realised major impact activity will be generated.

d. Relationship to case studies

Our case studies have influenced our approach to impact as examples both of how to work with strategic partners and how to approach the intricacies of working with user groups; above all they illustrate the benefits of impact for the future development of the research itself. They also exemplify the over-arching characteristics of the impact of research in the School: public service and the enhancement of public discourse and cultural life. All grew organically out of their authors' research; each benefited from the support of the School and the Faculty (the latter providing budgets to authors to develop their case studies and professional support from the Arts Engaged team and Faculty Impact and Innovation Officer).

- Case study 209 shows how public engagement can act as a pathway to impact, shaping Parliament's perception of the history of the franchise in its commemoration of Chartism. It has informed **public discourse** around understanding the evolution of democracy and civil rights and enhanced **cultural capital** among local and family historians.
- Case study 210 exemplifies the value of sustained working partnerships and demonstrates external consultancies can be secured for historical researchers beyond the traditional heritage and cultural sectors. It has enhanced the professional **education** and development of defence personnel and public servants.
- Case study 211 was supported by pump-priming funding from the LHRI and HEIF, and provides a template for impact development in a non-European context. It has helped improve the range and quality of **public discourse, awareness** and understanding of the Right to Information (RTI) and encouraged over 1,000 RTI requests from economically deprived communities in Uttar Pradesh, India.
- Case study 212, an innovative public health project, exemplifies the benefits of external funder partnership (Wellcome Trust) in transforming public engagement into meaningful impact on the form and content of both primary school **education** and adult informal learning around issues of diet.