

Institution:

ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY

Unit of Assessment:

30 History

a. Context

Anglia Ruskin's impact in history is shaped by three areas of focus:

- Interpreting cultural capital in many forms, principally in connection with museums and heritage centres.
- Informing and influencing public policy debate.
- Extending the range and quality of public discourse.

Audiences/stakeholders for our impact include the media, especially local TV radio and press, NGOs, community organisations and societies, social enterprises, schools, colleges and lifelong learners, and cultural and leisure services.

Our historians are keenly aware that the general public looks to academia to help make better sense of current events, and we respond to such calls regularly. We also participate actively in a constant interplay between our research and its relevance for those in museums and heritage institutions, and history programmes on radio and TV.

b. Approach to impact

Anglia Ruskin has signed up to the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement Manifesto, reflecting our commitment to engaging the public with our research. Impact activity is further built into staff evaluation and training at UOA and faculty level. Since 2009, our annual Faculty Research Survey, which is considered at staff appraisal, has evaluated impact activities as well as more traditional indicators of research success. Impact is also a key criterion for appointment and promotion, accounting for 20% weighting in our reader and professor application processes. Early Career staff are also encouraged to disseminate impact. For instance, Richard Carr's discussion of the announcement of the death of Baroness Thatcher on 8 April 2013 was picked up by over 100 websites including *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*. Our academic workload model offers space for such impact activities, sending a strong signal to staff that impact is part of our core academic duty. Members of staff in the UOA have been recognised by Anglia Ruskin as having an especially high level of impact activity: in July 2013 the unit received a Vice-Chancellor's Award for the promotion of History to a wider audience.

The University's Press Office is both pro-active and re-active in linking the ARU historians to suitable outlets. It provides a detailed briefing for what is required on each occasion, as well as general advice on how to handle the media, including media interviews and press releases. This support has enabled the unit to be the most active subject amongst our arts and humanities departments in making television and radio appearances. We are also strongly encouraged to support community groups and public institutions such as museums. Examples include:

- Séan Lang has a regular weekly slot with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, on the Jeremy Sallis show; he is President of the Local Historical Association and has spoken to many organisations on local history. Lang is also Director of the Better History Forum, a group that has changed the parameters of debate about the place of history in the classroom.
- Rohan McWilliam's TV and Radio contributions include ITV's 'Forensic Casebook' (2008), BBC Radio 4 series 'Random Edition' (2008), and on BBC Radio 3 'Nightwaves' in October 2010 to discuss the importance of the social investigator, Henry Mayhew. He also had an article in the Times Higher on 23 August 2012 talking about impostors historically: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=420911>

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- Clarissa Campbell Orr's position as an historian of monarchy resulted in several invitations from BBC Radio Cambridge and BBC Radio Essex in 2013 to comment on royal related themes, including the visit by Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, to the new biomedical campus of Cambridge University and the commemoration of the Queen's Coronation. She was interviewed by Cambridge Evening News (18 July 2013) about the historical context of royal childbirth and by BBC Look East on the birth of HRH Prince George of Cambridge. In 2012 she responded to international, national and local requests for comment on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, including the New York Times, Cambridge News, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, Agence France Presse, Die Presse, Austria, and Financial Times Deutschland.

In addition to public engagement, our unit is heavily engaged with policy debate. Our **Labour History Research Unit** (LHRU) provides the locus of much of this activity, including:

- Richard Carr's e-book, *One Nation Britain: History, the progressive tradition, and practical lessons for today's politicians*, which was published on Amazon's Kindle store in the first week of July 2013, and was designed to engage with contemporary debate on the ways that the idea of 'One Nation' has been invoked in the last 160 years. Its publication was launched at the House of Commons by the think-tank *Localis* with a debate between Carr, The MP John Denham, Lord John Shipley, Director of *Localis* and the former Business Secretary, David Skelton. The launch was preceded by a You-tube lecture on 1 July 2013:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/One-Nation-Britain-progressive-ebook/dp/B00DNIV456/ref=sr_1_2?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1372326145&sr=1-2&keywords=one+nation+britain
- Jon Davis' article 'Labour's Ethical Past' in the e-journal *Renewal: A Journal for Social Democracy* (JD4). Jon Davis has also spoken to BBC Radio Essex about Cold War spies in Harlow, and appeared on BBC Radio 4's 'Making History' discussing the origins of May Day.

The LHRU website also documents its activities for a wider public. For instance, it hosts a video of Lord Roy Hattersley's talk to the LHRU, and Lord Maurice Glasman's paper about Blue Labour, together with Dr Jon Lawrence's response.

c. Strategy and plans

Reflecting our university's longstanding commitment to impact, Anglia Ruskin University has developed a Research Impact Strategy (Annex A of the Research and Scholarship Strategy 2012 – 2014), and an Impact Working Group of the University Research Committee has been established to further embed impact in the research environment, establish systems to record and track evidence of impact, advise on staff development needs, monitor best practice in the sector, ensuring it is shared across the institution, and implement the *Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research*. In line with these institutional strategies, the unit will work to build on the successes it has achieved during the REF period to:

1. Ensure that impact is a standing item on course committee agendas so that our researchers can share good practice and facilitate each other's impact plans;
2. Ring-fence 20% of conference and research funding for impact activities;
3. Further build on our contacts with our policy-makers, museums and professional bodies to enhance knowledge transfer;
4. Increase the scope and scale of our seminar series, workshops and conferences to achieve the active participation of potential beneficiaries.

These strategies and plans are congruent with a university-wide formalisation of our longstanding investment and involvement in impact, public engagement and outreach.

Anglia Ruskin Historians will continue to be ready to comment on and contribute to occasions celebrating the historical significance of contemporary events, and observe important

Impact template (REF3a)

anniversaries. Many colleagues have research plans that include a major impact component. Planned future impact activities include:

- **2014: The Centenary Anniversary of the outbreak of World War I – The LHRU** is planning a conference in 2014 on the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. This is designed to be part of a wide range of academic and public occasions reflecting on this anniversary, and will fill a significant niche via the particular research focus of this research unit.
- **The LHRU will have a regular blog** and engage more with social media from 2014.
- **Lang’s Better History Group** will be extending its remit to GCSE history and hosting a regular blog from 2014.
- **McWilliam** has contributed to an ITV4 programme on the history of darts to be broadcast in 2014.
- **2014: The Tercentenary of the Hanoverian succession in Britain – Campbell Orr** is already taking part in conferences sponsored by the German Historical Institute in London and the government of Lower Saxony, to commemorate the **300th anniversary in 2014 of the Personal Union of the Hanoverians as ruling family in Hanover and successors to the British throne**. She will take part at a conference jointly sponsored by the Society for Court Studies and the Royal Collection in 2014 accompanying the exhibition *Georgian Revolution* at the Queen’s Gallery, London. She is also Keynote speaker for the first conference of a new HERA sponsored programme, *Marrying Cultures: Queens Consort and European Identities 1500-1800*. The lecture will be open to the public. Continuing her association with the Yale Centre for British Art, Campbell Orr has been consulting with them since 2011 on an exhibition on Hanoverian Royal wives, provisionally entitled *Princesses*. This will have a venue in New Haven and in London and will open in 2017.
- **2015: 60 years since the post-war labour government and the birth of the Welfare state – LHRU.**
- **2017: Centenary of the Russian Revolutions – Davis.**
- **2018: Centenary of women over 30 obtaining the vote – LHRU.**

Such plans will be supported through our workload model and appraisal, ensuring that time is available for impact activities.

d. Relationship to case studies

CASE STUDY 1

This case study demonstrates a commitment to the public dissemination of our expertise on monarchies and their courts. It represents our approach to interpreting cultural capital, particularly in museums and galleries, and extending the range and quality of public discourse.

CASE STUDY 2

This case study demonstrates our influence in public policy debate about the teaching of imperial and global history in schools.