

Institution: University of Worcester
Unit of Assessment: 30 - History
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>History at the University of Worcester (UW) is part of the Institute of Humanities & Creative Arts (IHCA) - one of six academic Institutes. Seven full-time, permanent academics, seven postgraduate research students (PGRs), and two research associates (Drs Douds and Crompton) currently contribute to research environment. History leads development of the Transnational Studies Research Group (TSRG) and contributes to development of a second research group, the Early Modern Research Group (EMRG).</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>2008-2013</p> <p>History research strategy was developed to take account of RAE 2008 feedback (particularly in regard to research environment), and UW's 2008-13 Strategic Plan and Research Strategy. During the period, the prospect of several new appointments in 2010-11 provided an opportunity to re-evaluate strategy and significantly to expand activity. Scheduled opening of The Hive (see d. below) in 2012, moreover, offered the prospect of ready access to new research collections and of dramatic enhancement of the public profile of the unit's research through sustained community engagement. History's broad research vision at the outset of the period, integral to IHCA's broader strategy for the humanities, was to grow research activity, culture, institutional collaboration and external profile, to develop a strong cohort of high calibre PGRs, and to strengthen existing relationships with local history organisations to establish UW as the chief co-ordinating body for all significant history-related activities in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.</p> <p>UW overall strategy, which aimed to increase research impact, quality and sustainability, has achieved impressive results, with four times as many academics submitting outputs to REF2014 as they did to RAE2008, across 11 UoAs (as opposed to four in 2008); since gaining Research Degree Awarding Powers in 2010, PGR numbers have grown by 18% to 104 students and annual external research income by some 300% over the REF period (£1,295,000 in 2012/13). IHCA strategy sought to build on existing research strength in the humanities by focussing on: (i) making academic appointments to individuals with strong track records of research or strong emerging profiles; (ii) investing in individuals' pursuit of their research and its dissemination; (iii) mentoring and other help to develop successful bids for UW- and externally-sponsored support; (iv) developing/hosting research-related events and conferences; (v) developing external collaborations/partnership; (vi) encouraging participation in subject associations/learned societies/journals; (vii) developing multidisciplinary research groups; (viii) attracting high quality PGRs attached to research groups.</p> <p>(i) Academic staff appointments during the REF period</p> <p>There was significant investment in the unit post 2008, with UW making five full-time appointments, including one at professorial level. As a result, History staffing increased from 4.8 FTEs in 2008 to 6.5 in 2013. All appointees brought a track record of international quality research eligible for submission to REF2014. This approach to recruitment had a transformative effect on the unit's research profile (see c.i below).</p> <p>(ii) Investment in individuals' research and its dissemination</p> <p>All UW academics are allocated 20 days' annual research leave per annum and institution-wide research schemes provided additional support throughout the REF period. (See (iii) below). IHCA also supported completion of projects through a competitive, annual 'small research grants' scheme - which provided for teaching remission and research-related costs (travel, indexing/permissions costs, etc) - and it met the costs of conference attendance, nationally and internationally. Oldridge and McNally received 'small research grants' towards completing work for publication, and some £9,000 supported historians' conference presentation and archival research in the period. Schwarz's Leverhulme-funded research was additionally supported by IHCA, enabling her to extend the term of her Fellowship from 10 to 12 months (see section d. below).</p> <p>(iii) Accessing UW- and externally-sponsored support</p>

UW operates three programmes of research support - Research & Project Leave; Research Studentships; Vacation Research Assistantships. Four historians - Fleming; McNally; Oldridge; Shakesheff - benefited from Research & Project Leave in the period (see **c.i**); historians also secured four full-time, UW-funded doctoral studentships (see **c.ii**) and three Vacation Research Assistantships. The latter, introduced in 2011, are designed to: nurture a research culture among students; develop appropriate skills through providing opportunities to work in collaboration with staff researchers; cascade the fruits of research into teaching; and support, in the longer term, expansion of PGR numbers. In 2011, a student transcribed a collection of oral testimonies of veterans of the Arab-Israeli conflict, working with former Worcester academic Dr Nir Arielli, and subsequently embarked on doctoral research at the University of Bristol; in 2013, two students undertook archival research, drawing on collections housed at The Hive, to support projects being conducted by Andrews (on WW2 evacuation, women, motherhood and femininity) and Schwarz (on networks of shareholders in the Sierra Leone Company). During the period, IHCA's Head and UW's Director, Research Development mentored colleagues in their development of applications for research funding. Moreover, on her appointment in 2010/11, Schwarz introduced tailored mentoring and support of History academics who have latterly accessed external sources of research funding with increasing success. Yet greater support in this regard is in development and key to realising future research strategy (see sections **b.**, **d.** and **i.**).

(iv) Research seminar programmes/conferences/other research-based/informed events

Research environment in History at UW was justifiably identified as a weakness by RAE 2008. A professorial appointment to Schwarz (see above) was made specifically to lead enhancement of research culture, increase public engagement and impact, and to spearhead development of research collaborations. Significant progress resulted, with History organising very successful research seminar/events programmes that grew internal and external networks, offered staff members, PGRs and undergraduates valuable participation and networking opportunities, increased public engagement and fostered collaboration. Research seminars (normally three per semester) have brought historians of international standing to Worcester (e.g. Prof Robin Law, University of Stirling; Dr Stephen Behrendt, University of Victoria, New Zealand) and contributions by colleagues from universities across the UK (e.g. Bristol, Liverpool, Reading, Oxford Brookes, DeMontfort, Cardiff). Consistently well attended, they have had the effect of promoting regular, sustained staff/PGR interaction and raised PGR awareness of wider research environments for their own work. History also organised and/or hosted a number of research conferences, workshops and symposia at which both staff and PGRs presented and which enabled PGRs to gain experience of conference organisation. Under the aegis of TSRG, academics from Oxford, Leeds, Birmingham, Cardiff and Sheffield Hallam Universities took part in day conferences on *National and Transnational Mobilisation for War in the Twentieth Century* (convened Arielli, 2011) and *Music and Nationalism* (convened Fleming, 2012), and a day conference on *Women, Sexuality and Romance: historical approaches* (convened, Andrews, 2013). The unit continued to host Midlands Women's History Network conferences, with significant development of the latter since 2011 (and growing attendance and participation from academics nationally): each annual Worcester conference now addresses a specific theme (e.g. *Military Women*, 2013) and Andrews also led development of a second annual conference staged in collaboration with, and hosted by, the National Memorial Arboretum. 2011 and '12 conferences, *10 Years On: the diversity of women's history* and *Women and Science* attracted speakers from the Wellcome Library, the Universities of Wolverhampton, London (Royal Holloway, King's College, University College), Sussex, Leicester and Birmingham, and Wilfred Laurier University, Canada. The unit will host the National Women's History Network conference (*Home Fronts: Gender, War and Conflict*) in 2014. Through EMRG, Schwarz organised a highly successful one-day conference on *The Battle of Worcester in Perspective* in 2011, staged at Worcester's historic Guildhall. Promoted with the assistance of the Battle of Worcester Society, it attracted a packed audience of over 100 students, academics and members of the public, with Prof. Ronald Hutton (Bristol) providing the keynote presentation. A follow-up conference, *The English Military Experience in the Seventeenth Century* (keynote lecture: Prof Richard Cust, University of Birmingham) took place at the Hive in 2013, with demand for places significantly outstripping capacity (demonstrating how the unit's engagement with regional stakeholders had developed and broadened over the period). EMRG also hosted the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies *Postgraduate and Early Career Conference*

(convened by English PGR, Young, 2010) and the *Second Biennial Conference of the Defoe Society* (convened by Dr Andreas Mueller, 2011). History PGR, Peters is leading organisation of a two-day *Early Modern Memory* conference for 2014, to which History staff members and PGRs will contribute papers.

(v) Collaborations/partnership working

A key achievement of unit strategy in the period was transformation of the extent and range of collaborative activity. Historians were engaged in a wide range of collaborations with international and national partners, both within the academy and beyond. The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples (York University, Toronto), Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, Hull (WISE), the British Library, the Church of Ireland, the NMA, BBC, and the British Legion are just some examples of collaborating partners (see section e.).

(vi) Active participation in learned societies/academic journals

Historians' engagements with learned societies and publishers grew dramatically. Fleming was elected to the committees of the British Fulbright Scholars Association (2011) and the British International History Group (2012). Schwarz is: an Honorary Research Fellow of WISE (2010-); Committee Member (and Secretary, from 2011) of *Fontes Historiae Africae* (British Academy); Member of the Council of the Hakluyt Society (2009-); Member of the International Advisory Board of the Centre for the Study of International Slavery, University of Liverpool (2007-); Committee Member of Worcestershire Historical Society (2011-); and Editorial Board member, *Midland History* (2012-). Andrews is a member of the national steering committee for the Women's History Network (2012-) and guest edited a special issue of the *Journal of War and Cultural Studies* (4. 3, 2011). All staff regularly reviewed books for peer-reviewed journals including, for example, *English Historical Review*, *American Historical Review*, *German History*, *Contemporary British History* (see section e.)

(vii) Development of cross-/interdisciplinary research groups

History staff, PGRs and associate members contributing to two research groups: EMRG and TSRG. Both Groups aim to offer inter- and cross-disciplinary forums for the exchange of ideas and research dissemination and to encourage collaboration and public engagement. EMRG members' interests include witchcraft and the devil, Shakespeare, 18th- century Ireland, and literature in the long 18th century. The Group organises publicly directed events including annual St. Swithun's Lectures, staged in an 18th-century Worcester church. (Oldridge's inaugural 2011 lecture was followed by a lecture by Dr Jerome De Groot, University of Manchester, 2012). Developed initially by historians and convened by Fleming, TSRG aims to encourage scholarship beyond traditional categories of analysis towards greater understanding of transnational and trans-cultural interactions and movements, promoting, in the process, interdisciplinary and collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences.

(viii) High quality PGRs attached to research groups

UW strategic investment in the unit's research vision for its work had a transformative impact on the quality of its PGRs. Supporting the growth of TSRG and EMRG, four three-year, full-time bursaried studentships in History were awarded to post Masters students in the period (two in 2009, attached to EMRG; two in 2012, attached to TSRG). Three of the appointed researchers had gained their first degrees at universities outside the UK (Peters, Canada; Jung, Germany; Delgado, Brazil) (See also above and section c. ii.).

The next 5 years

UW's new strategy will build on existing achievement and speak to its 2013-18 Strategic Plan, which identifies "arts, culture and heritage" as one of four aspired "areas of distinction" within the University. This offers the strongest possible endorsement of a next phase of research development in History. Broad institutional and unit objectives will be: growth in the reach and significance of academic and non-academic impact derived from research (including support to academics to maximise their public engagement to the benefit of UW's immediate region and more widely); greater sustainability through growth of external research income (assisted by partnerships/collaborations, extension of staff mentoring/ institutional support); continuing

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emphasis on appointing research-active staff with the potential to make internationally significant contributions to knowledge; continuing assistance to individuals to advance their research achievement; further growth in the number of excellent PGRs able to benefit from staff research specialisms and with the capability to assume academic careers internationally; development of participation in UK and overseas research collaborations; growth of research fellows and associates; ongoing development of research groups and associated activity. The Hive (see **d.** below) will be central to future strategy in History - as a physical and intellectual focus for discourse that supports the subject's capacity to draw together regional, national and international research networks through conferences, workshops and seminars in collaboration with other universities, archives, museums, and public bodies. From 2014, The Hive and History will be strongly associated with WW1 centenary events, for many of which Andrews is acting in an advisory capacity (see **e.** below) and to which she is contributing.

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

The unit experienced significant staff turnover in the early years of the REF period: two colleagues retired and a third died (representing 2.3 FTEs). UW's investment went beyond making replacement appointments, with five FTE posts secured, all with the expectation that appointees would offer a record of international quality research. One appointment (Schwarz) was made at professorial level; a second appointee (Andrews) was subsequently awarded professorial title. Strategy in this regard had a transformative effect on the unit's research profile.

From 2008, UW inaugurated personal, four-year research planning for all academic staff, with plans and development needs reviewed/updated annually at appraisal. A History research-focused 'away day' each academic year provides for mutual support and encouragement and enables colleagues to report on activity, discuss future plans and share information vis à vis, for example, publication possibilities and forthcoming funding opportunities. UW's Graduate Research School (GRS) offers a staff research training programme delivered through thematic strands (all of which supported the unit's realisation of its research vision in the period): research funding; dissemination, engagement and impact; research governance; research supervision. In line with the *Concordats to Support Research Integrity and for Engaging the Public with Research* the programme also addresses ethics/research integrity, and public engagement. Implementation of the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers* introduced a research staff forum, principal investigator training around its commitments, and the tracking of researchers' careers on leaving UW. IHCA and the unit supplemented GRS training in the period with peer mentoring, occasional workshops on specific topics (e.g. AHRC funding programmes; publication opportunities, with Matthew Frost of MUP) and dissemination of relevant information. While, in History, resources were focussed on colleagues likely to submit outputs to the REF, IHCA and the unit nonetheless maintained an inclusive approach, seeking to assist all academics intent on developing their research. (Adopted as the most appropriate strategy to achieve ongoing development of research environment and culture). ECRs assume lighter teaching loads in the first two years of their appointment, supporting their institutional integration, research progression and, when relevant, completion of UW's PGCert in Learning & Teaching. All new staff members are assigned an academic mentor; comprehensive induction includes introduction to academic resources and the GRS. New colleagues are encouraged to join research groups and contribute to research seminar programmes. The unit's own strategic planning supported historians by accommodating periods of time away to develop research and by providing for support/advice on research development.

UW's Research & Project Leave Scheme offers sabbaticals of up to two semesters to support completion of contracted books or journal articles, or development of bids for external research income. Several application points, annually, support forward planning and take-up; four sabbaticals were awarded to the unit in the period. Supplementing UW-wide provision, smaller amounts of teaching remission were available annually within IHCA (see **b.(ii)**, above). Almost all UW academics undertake teaching *and* research, with career progression in line with this model: progression to Senior Lecturer is by means of annual pay scale progression; an annual Academic Promotions Scheme provides for accelerated progression (up to PL level) and rewards exceptional performance (including in research). Submissions for professorial title are also invited annually

(with Andrews successful in 2012). UW's Professoriate meets quarterly, contributing to formation/implementation of research strategy and promoting teaching/research interaction. Professors play an ambassadorial role in raising research profile, encouraging public engagement and promoting collaboration.

ii Research students

Nurturing postgraduate research was an important element of activity in the period, with seven successful completions in History since 2008 (three PhDs; four MPhils). Seven History PGRs are now registered for research degrees (four the recipients of UW bursaried studentships and attached to a research group; three self-funded). PGR progress and experience is monitored and developed by IHCA's Research Student Co-ordinator, working with supervision teams. A Sub-group of its Research & Knowledge Transfer Committee (R&KTC) was established early in the REF period to provide for increased focus on the development of PGRs and their research, resulting in more effective co-ordination/monitoring and developmental discussion within the Institute, and more efficient liaison with the GRS. A PGR rep. was a member of IHCA's R&KTC throughout.

The GRS research student training programme is tailored to individual student need, initially discussed at interview. On registration, PGRs undertake a training needs analysis in conjunction with their Director of Studies (DoS). Needs are reviewed and revised annually by the student, DoS and the GRS's Research Training Co-ordinator. If needs cannot be met through UW programmes, students are financially supported to access external training (eg by the IHR). Students record training by means of a 'Progress File'. In-house provision includes an extensive range of workshops ('Preparing for the Viva', 'Drafting Your Thesis', 'Time Management', 'Writing a Journal Article', etc.). PGRs must initially pass two taught, 20 credit modules: one on subject-specific research methods and one on generic research skills and key processes (eg approval of the research proposal, transfer and examination). PGRs passing a third optional module, *Publication, Dissemination, Engagement & Impact*, gain a PG Cert in Research Methods. The unit actively encourages PGRs to work with staff on research projects and conference organisation and to gain mentored teaching and public presentation experience. PGRs participate in IHCA's cross-disciplinary Research Seminar Series and in dedicated PG research events also attended by staff. On successful completion, they can apply to join IHCA's sessional lecturer 'pool' which brings eligibility to undertake UW's PGCert in Learning & Teaching.

The GRS manages research degree programmes from recruitment to examination; it provides dedicated work space and IT equipment, monitors progression, co-ordinates research student training, supports and trains supervisors, and offers day-to-day student support. It facilitates and promotes an Annual PGR Conference and a PG Work-in-Progress seminar series. UW's membership of CREST offers PGRs access to training, conferences and seminars at 20 member institutions. IHCA and the GRS ensure that supervision teams have the requisite subject expertise and supervisory experience; teams comprise a DoS (normally the expert in the field) and at least one other internal supervisor. External expertise may also be employed. Profs Lovejoy, York University Toronto, and Richardson, former Director of WISE, are acting thus for Delgado's project on the transatlantic slave trade, whilst Prof. Downie, Goldsmiths, London, is supporting Jung's research on Englishness and 'otherness' in the work of Daniel Defoe. All supervisors are on UW's register of approved supervisors, which is reviewed annually.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income generation: History generated just under £51,400 research income in the REF period, as opposed to £4,647 in the period reported on at RAE2008. Schwarz was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship in 2011 (£40,972). With Prof Paul E. Lovejoy (PI), York University, Toronto she gained British Library Endangered Archives Programme Major Funding of £38,877 in 2011 (ongoing). Andrews was Co-I (with PI Prof Karen Hunt, Keele University) for a successful £26,000 AHRC/BBC Our Place in the First World War bid to support development of WW1 Centenary programming. Fleming was awarded a Caird Research Fellowship, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (£3,200). A former colleague, Owain Wright, secured a British Academy Small Grant (£2,750). Further small grants were won from the Economic History Society, Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, the Society for Nautical Research, and the Scouloudi programme of the

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Institute of Historical Research.

Scholarly, organisational and operational infrastructures: The Hive, Worcester's £60M multi award-winning new library, opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 2012, became the focal point for research seminars and conferences in History. The first joint academic/public library in Europe, it houses over 12 miles of archival material, more than 26,000 records of historic buildings and monuments, and 250,000 books. Integration of the Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service provides for researchers' ready access to a nationally significant manuscript collection, to the Stuart Collection (over 1,000 books from 1603-1714) and the Palfrey Collection of rare antiquarian studies. EMRG's collaboration with Worcester Cathedral Library and the Diocese of Worcester enabled privileged staff/PGR access to Cathedral and Hurd Library collections (the latter housing rare 18th century editions including significant parts of the libraries of Alexander Pope and William Warburton, and identified by the British Academy as of "national – indeed international – significance"). UW investment in print and electronic resources increased annual book and journal expenditure by 30% over the REF period (approaching £600,000 in 2012/13). Historians had access to an ever expanding range of subject-specific databases, e-book and e-journal packages, including *Early English Books Online*, *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*, the *Burney Newspaper Collection*, *Nineteenth-Century UK Periodicals Online*, *Academic Search Elite* and *JSTOR* etc. UW also invested in research infrastructure: GRS staffing grew and a new Research Office and Director of Research Development was created to support research income generation, develop/co-ordinate research governance systems, and assure research quality and integrity. Growth of IHCA's own administrative staffing increased support to academics for conference and events organisation.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

The unit directly shaped national and international collaborations and events during the period. TSRG, through Schwarz, organised a conference at Freetown, Sierra Leone (2012) with the University of Sierra Leone and the Harriet Tubman Institute. It attracted over 100 delegates from Africa, Europe, Canada and North and Latin America. Two panels of seven speakers at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of African Studies (Ottawa, 2013) were also organised in collaboration with the Tubman Institute. Work resulting from links with the Tubman Institute and WISE gained British Library Endangered Archives Major Project funding (see above, and Schwarz's Impact Case Study). A UW-funded doctoral studentship and Vacation Research Assistantship were planned and developed with WISE. EMRG partnership with the Diocese of Worcester to develop research on the Hurd Library enabled History PGRs to contribute to a cataloguing and digitisation project led by Hurd and UW research librarians. McNally's forthcoming book, *The Boulter Letters*, was produced in collaboration with Kenneth Milne, Historiographer of the Church of Ireland and Keeper of the Archives at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Andrews's collaboration with the NMA was an engine for academic and public research dissemination, and fostered links with other universities: five, day conferences of The Midlands Women's History Network (2012-13) included speakers from the Universities of Leicester, Glasgow, Wolverhampton, Roehampton, Kingston, Derby, Brighton, Hertfordshire, Nottingham, London, Edinburgh, Sussex and Cardiff, and Nottingham Trent University and provided UW PGRs with networking and presentation opportunities. With Prof. Nigel Hunt (Nottingham) and Charles Bagot-Jewitt (then Chief Executive, NMA), Andrews led organisation of the 2008-13 NMA 'Remembrance' seminar series initially funded by The Royal British Legion (TRBL). These led to an edited collection *Lest We Forget: Remembrance and Commemoration* (History Press, 2011) and a seminar at TRBL London headquarters (2009) at which Andrews presented (<http://www.remembrancereseminars.org.uk/>). Collaboration with Staffordshire Record Office and Museums Service's HLF project, 'Children on the Move: Evacuation to Staffordshire' (2010-12) led to publication of the book, *Children on the Move: Evacuation in Staffordshire* (distributed to libraries, participants and schools), an NMA event for which she was keynote speaker, and a paper with Matthew Blake of Staffordshire Archives Service at the 2013, IHR-sponsored 'Enhancing Impact: Inspiring Excellence Conference', University of Birmingham, organised with the National Archives. Andrews is leading UW involvement in local activity to mark the WW1 centenary, in partnership with local museums, archives, and groups including the Women's History Network, the NMA and The Western Front Association. Her input into the Worcestershire WW1 Centenary Advisory Group supported development of its Worcestershire County Council Archive & Archaeology Service-led

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successful £353,000 HLF bid. She is also supporting Staffordshire County Council on development of its commemorative activities. A founder member of the 'Women's Radio in Europe Network', developed under the EU-funded *Democracy and Technology: Europe in Tensions from the Nineteenth to the Twentieth century* initiative, she organised Network panel submissions, most recently for the International Federation for Research in Women's History conference (Sheffield, 2013). She is working with Prof. Karen Hunt (Keele) as regional advisor to the BBC for the AHRC-funded *World War One at Home* project and is Co-I for a submitted AHRC Connected Communities Programme bid (with Prof. Barbara Kelly, Keele), *Co-ordinating Centres for Community Research and Engagement to Commemorate the Centenary of the First World War*.

UW's longstanding institutional partnership with Birmingham University supported research collaboration in the period. Andrews was an invited speaker and participant in Birmingham's AHRC-funded 'The Significance of the Century' seminar series and is a named Co-I (leading on the Home Front) for the Birmingham-led AHRC Connected Communities Programme bid, *Co-ordinating Centres for Community Research and Engagement to Commemorate the Centenary of the First World War* (the success of which was announced in November 2013). Schwarz is an Editorial Board member of *Midland History* and gave a paper at Birmingham's Centre of West African Studies seminar series in 2012. UW partnership with Worcestershire County Council to achieve and run The Hive signalled institutional commitment to collaboration and public engagement which has already provided for the unit's greatly increased interaction with County Archive & Archaeology Service archivists.

Fleming held a St Catherine's College, Oxford, Visiting Fellowship (Trinity 2013), Senior Associate Membership of St Antony's College, Oxford (Hilary 2013) and was Caird Research Fellow, National Maritime Museum (Jan-Mar 2013). He was reviewer for an Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences post-doctoral fellowship application, a book proposal for Palgrave Macmillan and an article for *Media History*. Since 2008, Schwarz has been: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, Huntington Library, California; Committee Member and Member of the Public History Committee of the Historical Association; an ESRC external assessor; Council Member and Member of the Editorial Board of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire; and Member of the Academic Board and Advisory Panel, Centre for Port and Maritime History, Liverpool. She was an invited member of the judging panel for the African Studies Association of America Paul Hair text prize and an external assessor for the Marsden Fund Council/Royal Society of New Zealand. Bowersox was an Arts and Humanities Research Institute Research Fellow, King's College, London (2012-13). Andrews was peer reviewer for an individual research grant scheme application, Israel Science Foundation, and for a book manuscript for Bloomsbury. Oldridge reviewed a book manuscript for Yale University Press and wrote an invited preface for Andrew McCarthy and Verena Theile (eds) *Staging the Superstitions of Early Modern Europe* (Ashgate: 2013). Toon peer reviewed for *Journal of War and Culture Studies*, *Women's History Magazine*, Blackwell, and Longman/Pearson. McNally and Oldridge externally examined PhDs (La Corunna and Hertfordshire Universities, respectively) and Andrews an MPhil (Gloucester). The international repute and standing of Worcester historians was evidenced by their invited contributions to fora and conferences in the period: Schwarz was invited to speak at the Special Court for War Crimes, Sierra Leone, and to contribute to conferences/symposia in Marrakech and at: York University, Toronto; Université Paris Diderot; McGill University, Montreal; and the American Academy of Religion, Montreal. Fleming gave invited presentations at Hall Center for the Humanities, Kansas and for the Phi Alpha Theta lecture series, Arkansas. Other international contributions included: (Fleming) Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies; John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, Dublin; (Bowersox) Erfurt University; (Schwarz) Canadian Association of African Studies, Ottawa; Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, Cape Town; American Historical Association 127th Annual Meeting, New Orleans; The Huntington Library, California. Further keynote/invited lectures included: (Andrews) Kings College, London; (Fleming) Imperial and World History Seminar, IHR; (Schwarz) Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh; Hakluyt Society Annual Lecture, 2013. Contributions in international contexts included: (Andrews) 82nd Anglo-American Conference, London; National Women's History Network Conference; (Fleming) Modern British History Seminar; Centre for Contemporary British History Conference (both at IHR); St Catherine's College, Oxford.