

<p>Institution: University of Northampton</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: 30 History</p> <hr/> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>History at the University of Northampton has a long tradition of internationally excellent research; its overall rating of 2.30 in RAE2008, included 40% of outputs at 3* or 4*. Since then, there has been considerable turnover of staff, five of the eight individuals assessed in 2008 having retired or left for jobs elsewhere in the HE sector. With continued support from the University, we have successfully rebuilt and reshaped our research profile. We made the strategic decision to build on and refine our existing strength and international standing in social and cultural history, and to reshape our previous specialism in the histories of war to focus more on ideological radicalism and security in a UK and (post-) colonial context – an area of growing historical interest to which we can make important contributions.</p> <p>We now have a vibrant, dynamic and sustainable research environment, with a good balance of senior, early career researchers and PhD students. All staff are research active and belong to one of two clearly-defined and coherent research groupings: [1] British social and cultural history, mainly in the long 18th century, within which there a strong focus on gender, material culture and consumption (Gray, McCormack, Reinke-Williams, Rothery, Stobart). This group has prospered through a successful policy of seeking major research grants and AHRC-funded studentships under the Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) scheme. [2] Ideology, intelligence and security, with a focus on Europe and North Africa in the 20th century (Beach, Berridge, Jackson). This cluster incorporates a formal inter-disciplinary research group, Radicalism and New Media (RNM) which is concentrates on public-facing, applied research, especially into Far-Right organisations.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Our aim is to produce a focused and sustainable team of high quality researchers working collaboratively within a lively and sustainable research culture to deliver world-class research.</p> <p>i. Building on RAE2008</p> <p>Our strategy in RAE2008 aimed to develop individual research profiles within two areas (military/international and social/cultural history), to be achieved through the promotion of the Centre for the Historical Experience of War (CHEW) and securing major research grants. In addition, we sought to develop further our work in the area of public history.</p> <p>Over the period 2008-2013, we have modified these aims and built on our strong research culture in the context of an evolving University research strategy and staff turnover (see above). CHEW ceased to operate in 2010 and we made the strategic decision, with backing from the School and University, to refine and re-orientate the focus of our research onto the social and cultural history of Britain in the long 18th century and the histories of ideology, intelligence and security in the 20th century. This has been underpinned by:</p> <p>[1] the development of a formal research plan incorporating strategic direction as well as specific targets for income generation and the production of high quality outputs;</p> <p>[2] investment of c.£310,000 from the University and School, including six competitively awarded PhD studentships and a substantial sum to establish a new inter-disciplinary research group: Radicalism and New Media (RNM) under the leadership of Jackson;</p> <p>[3] the successful targeting of external research grant applications and PhD studentships around key themes in British social and cultural history, most notably gender, material culture and consumption (see sections d.i and c.ii) – totalling c.£403,000;</p> <p>[4] the targeted recruitment of high quality research staff to build strength in ideology, intelligence and security (Beach and Berridge);</p> <p>[5] the reinvestment of research income into substantive posts for early-career academics (Rothery, Jackson, Reinke-Williams) and teaching relief for selected staff (see section c.i).</p> <p>These strategic initiatives demonstrate our resilience and responsiveness as a research unit, and our policy of promoting high quality research with contemporary resonance and impact within and</p>

beyond academia. The result is a research team of international excellence whose work is driving forward the discipline. For example: Beach has significantly revised our understanding of British intelligence during World War I and its role in shaping operations; McCormack has played an important part in developing cultural histories of the military, in particular focusing on masculinity; Rothery (with French, University of Exeter) has produced ground-breaking research on gentry masculinity, and Stobart has challenged the traditional historiography by developing theoretically-informed and integrated analyses of retailing and consumption.

ii. Future strategy and its implementation

Our research strategy for 2014-19 is aligned with University and School research plans which aim to: produce high quality research with real impact; encourage multidisciplinary collaboration, and build capacity through increasing and diversifying research income. Within this, we aim to enhance further the quantity and quality of our research, cementing an international reputation for research excellence especially in the histories of gender, material culture and consumption, and ideology, intelligence and security. To achieve this overall aim, we seek to:

[1] Cluster activities around our clearly defined research strengths to ensure sustainability and enhance our international reputation. This is essential in maintaining a critical research mass. All new initiatives (appointments, grants, PhDs) will be focused around our key research areas. In particular, we seek to recruit more PhD students in these areas, to enhance research capacity and enrich our research environment – a policy which is already proving successful (see section c.ii).

[2] Grow research capacity through collaborative and multidisciplinary research. Collaboration within and beyond the department will be encouraged, building on the successful experiences of Stobart, Rothery, McCormack and Jackson. The RNM group will form a key focus for interdisciplinary research, using the recent appointment of Berridge to strengthen links with human geography. We will also engage with research initiatives in the University's new Institute of Health and Wellbeing, e.g. on leisure, consumption and wellbeing.

[3] Develop further our external networks and internationally collaborative research. We will recruit more Visiting Research Fellows (VRFs) aligned to our key research areas. These will augment the research culture and provide partners for research bids, conference organisation and joint publications. Staff will also be encouraged to participate in international research grants (see [4] below), funding for conferences being prioritised within staff development budgets to support this.

[4] Increase the level of research income to produce greater capacity in our key areas of research strength. To increase the number, size and success of applications, key individuals will be supported in bid writing by the School Research Manager, seed-corn funding, and allowance of time within workload allocations. In line with [1] above, grant applications will be aligned with one of our key research areas.

[5] Enhance our engagement with the wider public both as partners in and beneficiaries of research. This is discussed more fully in REF3a, but one key aspect relevant here is to target AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards. These will: (a) augment our research capacity in key areas by drawing in PhD students; and (b) strengthen our external links with local and national organisations with whom other research projects can be undertaken.

Our research plan links these various aims to the expectations placed on individual members of staff through the Personal Development Review (PDR) process (see section d.ii). Each member of staff develops their own research objectives, aligning these to the overall research plan and seeking external funding wherever possible.

Within the *Ideology, Intelligence and Security* grouping, research is broadened and deepened. Berridge will undertake new research on prison riots during decolonisation in Africa and the Middle East. Exploring the colonial prisons as incubators of nationalist and anti-colonial activity links this work to the agenda of the RNM group. Beach will develop his research on WWI British intelligence with a new project that explores counter-intelligence operations. Jackson will undertake a ground-breaking study of Colin Jordan and Britain's neo-Nazi social movement in the post-war period.

In *Social and Cultural History*, material culture and consumption is strengthened: Stobart will extend his work on country houses through international comparative analysis, and is developing research, with Pennell (Roehampton), on the consumption of second-hand goods; McCormack will augment this through innovative research on the material culture of the militia in Georgian England;

together, they will explore the relationship between country houses and the militia. Research on gender is continued by McCormack and by Reinke-Williams, who will start a project exploring masculinity, sex and violence in early-modern England. This brings his research closer to that of Gray and McCormack, with a view to developing further collaborative projects. Gray will continue his reassessment of England's summary justice, focusing on the 'bloodless code', and develop a collaborative project with colleagues at Leicester and Montreal. Rothery will develop a collaborative project with colleagues at Exeter examining networks, power and status amongst elite men, and their development of pressure groups, thus linking him to the *Ideology* group.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The strategic reorientation of research within the department since RAE2008 has impacted upon our staffing strategy and staff development practices. These have been aimed at building coherent research groupings and maintaining a strong research culture, focused on two broad areas of specialism (see above). All recruitment and staff development activities are aligned with the University's Equality and Diversity code of practice.

Staffing strategy.

Our recruitment of new staff has aimed to produce coherent research groupings which build on the expertise of existing members of staff and meet strategic aims within the department and School. Thus, Berridge and Beach replaced departing staff and helped to refocus our research onto a dynamic new area with the potential for real contemporary resonance; Jackson leads the inter-disciplinary RNM group, and Rothery and Reinke-Williams were appointed to strengthen our expertise in gender and consumption within the social and cultural history research group.

We have sought to appoint early career researchers, looking to invest in the future of the department by building a balanced team of researchers, and to develop the research potential of young scholars. Jackson and Rothery were appointed to lectureships from temporary research posts, and Berridge, Jackson and Reinke-Williams are ECRs in their first substantial teaching and research posts. They bring exciting and innovative new perspectives to their research areas, enriching the research culture of the department.

As well as prioritising research when replacing staff who leave the department, we have been able to use money from research grants to support substantive posts rather than simply provide teaching cover. This policy was developed to increase the research capacity in key areas and has provided young scholars with the opportunity to develop their research interests. It has led to the appointment of internationally excellent researchers in the fields of gender and consumption history (Reinke-Williams; Rothery).

Staff development

We seek to support and facilitate research by all members of staff, and to recognise and reward research success, for example, through promotion onto the University's Associate Professor programme (McCormack) and to Senior Lectureships (Beach, Gray, Jackson, Rothery).

Workload allocation is carefully monitored to ensure an equitable distribution of teaching and administrative roles so that no member of staff is overburdened. New staff are given lighter teaching loads to allow them to develop their research and, wherever possible, teaching is organised to give all staff a lighter term, allowing more focused time for research. Targeted funds have been awarded on a competitive basis to History staff from the University's REF investment fund. These have been used to provide short-term teaching relief linked to specific initiatives aimed at generating research income or outputs, organising conferences, etc. (e.g. Gray was given teaching relief to complete an article on gang violence). The department has its own staff development budget to which staff members can apply for funds to cover conference attendance and research trips to UK archives. All staff have the opportunity to supervise research students, less experienced staff being introduced as second supervisors. They are given an allocation in their workload to facilitate this and receive training for this role (see section c.ii). At present, all staff apart from Reinke-Williams, are supervising PhD students.

A range of training is provided in bid-writing, project-management and career planning by the

University's Research and Strategic Bidding Office (see section d.ii). This is particularly targeted at ECRs, but is also open to all members of staff. Within History, ECRs receive support through a period of probation during which they receive active mentoring by a senior colleague which provides support for research as well as teaching. All staff have regular meetings with the HoD (Smith) and Research Leader (Stobart) as part of the University's appraisal system. These involve setting specific research objectives for the short and medium term, and agreeing a plan for their successful delivery. These practices are designed to meet the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, facilitated at Northampton through the Research Staff Network based in the Graduate School.

The success of our staffing strategy and staff development policies means that all but one member of staff are part of our submission. The exception is Smith who is HoD – a substantive appointment rather than a rotating duty. She is an active researcher and publishes in high impact journals, but heavy administrative duties have prevented her from producing the requisite number of outputs.

ii. Research students

Our PhD students attest the strength of research culture. The number of completions has risen steadily from RAE2008, with eight history students, one jointly supervised with Environmental Science and one with Leather Technology (being submitted with UoAs 17 and 12 respectively). We have been particularly successful in securing internal and external funding for our students: of those who completed 2008-2013, two were funded by the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award scheme, one by a private charity, and three by University studentships. All these funded studentships were nationally advertised and recruited to via open competition. We aim to increase further the number of PhD students over the next five years. There are currently eleven students, seven in the *Social and cultural history* group and four linked to *Ideology, Intelligence and Security*, five of whom are on funded studentships.

Our PhD students have delivered over 40 conference papers in the UK and overseas, including: MacArthur at the *European Social Sciences History Conference* in Portugal, 2008; Watley at the *Association of Caribbean Historians* in Barbados, 2010; Cosson at the *Social Science History Association* in USA, 2010. They have published more than 20 books, chapters or journal articles, including Bailey's essay 'Consumption and Status' which was the Midland History Prize Essay, 2010. Several have gone on to secure teaching or post-doctoral research posts, for example at the University of Leicester, Anglia Ruskin University, the National Gallery, Manchester Metropolitan University, and Northamptonshire Record Office.

PhD students are a key part of our research culture, contributing to conferences and seminars, and co-authoring publications with members of staff. For example, Barnett, Dyndor and MacArthur organised a session on domestic space at the BSECS conference (2010) and Russell co-wrote a chapter, 'Urban elite in 18th-century Northampton', with Stobart (2012). They forge links with external organisations, e.g. Watley with the *Northampton Black History Association*; Waugh with *English Heritage* and Jones with *Searchlight*. They have also had success in securing University-based funds in support of research and conference expenses (e.g. Cosson won a total of over £1500 in 2008 and 2010 to support attendance at conferences in Belgium and USA).

Research training is given the highest priority, the excellence of which has been recognised by QAA in their (2009) report. Generic training is run by the University's Graduate School and comprises around 30 workshops covering a range of research and transferable skills from 'Evaluating qualitative data' to 'Preparing for your viva'. There is an annual Postgraduate Conference and a regional Poster Competition, which give students the opportunity to present their research to a broad audience. History students (e.g. MacArthur and Dyndor) have been prominent in organising as well as participating in these events.

Discipline-based training draws on the research skills and methodology component in History's MA provision, which is open to PhD students. The History research seminar programme is a forum in which all our PhD students present their research at least once. It also brings in external speakers from the UK and overseas, including Finland, Ireland and Austria. We have organised, in conjunction with the *Royal Historical Society Postgraduate Speakers Series*, annual conferences (2009-2012), providing valuable exposure to other PhD research and opportunities for networking. Postgraduates are encouraged to attend and present at conferences and Institute of Historical Research seminars (funding for which is made available), and many have strong links with the

local Historical Association, presenting their research to wider audiences (e.g. Watley and Dyndor). At the project level, progress is monitored through regular meetings with the supervisory team and a formal annual review. The process is overseen by a Research Degree Board, on which there are two representatives from History. Our PhD students are encouraged to plan for future careers through a Personal Development Plan which they discuss with their supervisors. We provide opportunities for all PhD students to undertake undergraduate teaching. In preparation for this, they receive specific training, provided by as part of the University's PGCHE programme.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

i. Income

A total of c.£833,000 (c.£104,000 per member of staff returned in REF2014) of external and direct University funding was secured by History during the current REF cycle.

External income included major research grants from the AHRC supporting projects such as *Consumption & the Country House* (Stobart); *Soldiers & Soldiering in Britain* (McCormack, with Linch, Univ. of Leeds), and *Royal Navy & the German Threat* (Seligmann, now Brunel Univ.). We have also won three AHRC CDAs and a large number of smaller grants from the Economic History Society, Royal Historical Society, British Academy, Pasold Trust, Steel Foundation and Berendel Foundation. Together, these external grants have brought direct benefits in terms of research outputs and impact (see REF3a). They have also facilitated growth in the department's research capacity in our key areas of strength, especially gender and consumption, by supporting substantive appointments of research active staff to provide teaching cover (see section c.ii).

Institutional support for history research, including QR money, has been used to: support the appointment of research-active staff (including cover for colleagues holding external grants); fund research leave (e.g. to write grant applications or meet publication deadlines); underwrite major conferences held at Northampton; fund VRFs, and pay for data entry. Around £218,000 has been competitively awarded as PhD studentships in addition to £129,000 from AHRC CDA studentships during 2008-13. In total, nine recent and current PhD students have been supported in this way.

History has also secured over £75,000 of investment from the School and University specifically to support the development of the RNM research group. This forms an important focus for the research of Jackson and Berridge; encourages inter-disciplinary links across the School; ties History to a range of external bodies (e.g. *Searchlight*) and overseas scholars (e.g. in the Universities of Bergen and Vienna); and currently supports two research students.

ii. Organisational and operational infrastructure

There is a robust infrastructure for developing, monitoring and facilitating research. University and School Research and Enterprise Committees (RECs) establish overall strategies and policies, set targets for income and outputs, and monitor the performance of departments. As research leader for the School of Social Sciences, Stobart plays a key role in developing broader School and University research strategies. Within this framework, the History department is responsible for establishing its own five-year research plan – a process led by Stobart, but discussed and agreed by all members of the department, and reviewed at regular departmental meetings.

Our focus on ideology, intelligence and security and on gender, material culture and consumption within social and cultural history was determined by the History team and written into our research plan. Within the framework that this lays down, the PDR process is used to ensure that all members of staff (including those on fixed term contracts) are given the opportunity to develop their research. They are made accountable, and given ownership of, targets for income and outputs through the production of agreed objectives and personal three-year research plans. All staff are also given considerable scope to develop new initiatives. We do not impose specific themes or projects, taking the view that the best and most innovative research comes 'bottom-up'; driven by experts in their field. This approach has enabled the development of several exciting and cutting-edge projects; for example: Gray's work on the role of JPs and summary courts in people's experience of justice, McCormack's research on masculinity and the militia, and Jackson's impactful and historically-informed analysis of lone wolf terrorists.

Applications for external funding are monitored by a rigorous process of peer review within History and by the School REC, which ensures quality and alignment with the research plan. Staff are

encouraged to maintain a close dialogue with the University's Research and Strategic Bidding Office; the School's Research Manager, who provides support to staff in bidding for / managing research grants, and the Research Training Co-ordinator within the Graduate School, who organises a range of workshops for ECRs and others. We operate a system of internal peer review for all research papers, creating an environment of collegial support and driving up the standard of research outputs. As research leader, Stobart provides strategic direction and practical guidance throughout these processes.

iii. Scholarly infrastructure

All History staff have individual offices and access, via Library & Learning Services, to the usual range of electronic and microfilm resources incorporating published and archival material such as EEBO, ECCO, the Burney Collection and the Churchill Papers. The library also houses two significant historical collections unique to Northampton. The *G H Fowler Collection* comprises over 3,000 19th and 20th century national and local record society publications (including state papers), plus a variety of printed works dating back to the seventeenth century. It forms an important resource for our social and cultural historians. The *Searchlight Archive* is a nationally significant collection recently placed in the University's care. It contains a wide range of documents relating to far right movements, racism and anti-fascist campaigning in post-war Britain. The archive is supported by a part-time cataloguer (for whom History secured University funding) who is also undertaking a PhD with Jackson. It forms a hugely important resource for the work of the RNM group and will be available to external users from winter 2013/14.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

i. Collaboration

As a relatively small unit, we have actively sought to enhance our research environment in key areas through collaboration with colleagues within and beyond academia. In particular, we have been successful in forging collaborative links with scholars overseas (notably Stobart and Jackson) – itself a reflection of the international standing of key members of the department. This has enriched our research culture and allowed us to have a much greater research impact.

Formal collaboration has been achieved through British Academy funding as a Visiting Research Fellow for Dr Schekhovstov (Vienna, 2010-13) and University funding for VRF Dr Ilmakunnas (Helsinki, 2011-15). The former works with Jackson on European Far-Right extremism, co-organising conferences and co-authoring papers; thus giving the RNM group greater international reach. The latter works closely with Stobart in comparative analysis of elite consumption in Britain, France and Sweden; they have co-organised conference sessions (e.g. *European Social Science History Conference*, 2012) and co-applied for EU grants.

Collaborative research is pursued by most staff members. For example, Gray has co-authored papers with King (Leicester) on crime and criminal justice (see REF2); McCormack has undertaken joint research and co-authored papers with Linch (Leeds – see REF2) on the cultural history of soldiering in Georgian Britain, and with Kennedy (York) has co-organised a conference, 'Men at Arms' (2008) and co-edited an associated volume, *Soldiering in Britain and Ireland* (Macmillan, 2013); Jackson, has collaborated with Feldman and Copsey (Teesside) in organising conferences (e.g. 'Think Global, Hate Local: England's Far-Right', 2011) and with Schekhovstov (Vienna) in co-authoring reports (e.g. *White Power Music: Scenes of Extreme-Right Cultural Resistance*, 2012). He has also continued links with University of Bergen established by Feldman; Rothery has co-authored a book and journal articles with French (Exeter) on masculinity in the aristocracy (see REF2); and Stobart has co-organised conference sessions and co-edited books with Blondé (Antwerp) and Coquery (Lyons) on retailing (e.g. *European Association of Urban Historians*, 2008; *Fashioning Old and New*, 2009); collaborated extensively with Van Damme (Antwerp), co-organising conference sessions and co-editing a book on second-hand retailing (e.g. *European Social Science History Conference*, 2008; *Modernity and the Second-Hand Trade*, 2010), and co-organising conferences with Ilmakunnas (Helsinki) and Kuiper (Gröningen) on the material culture of the country house (e.g. 'Consuming the Country House', Northampton, 2012).

We also encourage staff to establish links with non-HEIs (see REF3a), supporting their efforts through the School's Enterprise and Innovation Manager who has been instrumental in developing partnerships with organisations such as Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust (where Smith assisted

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on the recently successful HLF award of £3.6 million). The work of the RNM group has forged collaborative links with Searchlight, Portsmouth Council, and Show Racism the Red Card. Beach's research has built links with the *Army Records Society* and Berridge's work on Sudan was generated a close relationship with the *Rift Valley Institute*. Stobart's AHRC project has involved collaborative working with *The National Trust* and *Stoneleigh Abbey Trust*; his broader research on consumption led directly to AHRC CDA awards linking to *Kelmarsh Trust*, *Northamptonshire Black History Society*, and *English Heritage*.

ii. Contribution to the discipline

Three areas in particular can be highlighted:

1. Development of top quality scholars. We have an excellent track record of appointing and developing young scholars. Jackson, for example, was initially appointed in 2009 as an HPL and part-time Research Co-ordinator within the RNM group. Recognising his potential, he was retained first on a fixed-term teaching contract and in 2012 was made SL and Director of the RNM group, leading research initiatives and engaging in important public-facing activities (see REF3b). Other members of staff have been promoted to senior positions elsewhere, having been nurtured as research scholars at Northampton: Seligmann and Feldman, for example, left for Readerships at Brunel and Teesside respectively.

2. Production of high quality research outputs. History researchers at Northampton have made a significant contribution to the wider discipline, driving forward research agendas (see b.i). In addition to the outputs listed in REF2, the eight submitted staff have published a total of 72 books, articles and chapters, and presented over 130 conference and seminar papers during 2008-2013 (see personal pages at www.northampton.ac.uk/research/history).

Over 25 international conferences or sessions have been organised by history staff, several in conjunction with colleagues in other HEIs or overseas. Particular highlights are:

- Berridge, 'Genocide in Darfur and Beyond: Media Contexts' (2013);
- Jackson, 'A special relationship of hate' (2012) – an important international conference exploring fifty years of the Far Right in the UK and USA;
- McCormack, 'Men at Arms: New Histories of Soldiering' (2008) - a ground-breaking conference, organised with Kennedy (York), papers from which have been published by Palgrave;
- Stobart, 'Consuming the Country House' (2012) – an international, interdisciplinary and public-facing conference, co-organised with *English Heritage*, who are publishing the papers in 2014.

History staff have also given over 20 keynote lectures at international conferences, including: Gray, *Jack the Ripper through a wider lens* (Philadelphia, 2011); Jackson, *The British Far Right* (CEU Hungary, 2012); McCormack, *Masculinity and Political Leadership* (IHR, 2010); Reinke-Williams, *Cultural Histories of Humour and Laughter* (Mainz, 2012); Rothery, *Design History Society Conference* (Wolverhampton, 2011); Stobart, *Vauxhall Revisited: Pleasure Gardens and Their Publics, 1660-1880* (London, 2008); Stobart, *Early Modern Workshop* (Uppsala, 2013).

3. Provision of scholarly services. Beach (*Army Records Society*); McCormack (*British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*); Stobart (*Social History Society*, 2005-13; *Economic History Society*, 2005-13) all hold leading position in learned societies. All staff are members of learned societies, including *Royal Historical Society*, *Royal Geographical Society*, *Social History Society*. Beach (*Intelligence and National Security*); Gray (*London Journal*); Jackson (*Religion Compass - Political Religion* section); McCormack (*Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*; *Culture, Society, Masculinities*); Stobart (*Journal of Urban History*; *Local Population Studies* (2006-2013); *Virtus*; founding editor of *History of Retailing and Consumption* – commencing publication in 2015) are on the editorial boards of international journals.

Reviewing for journals, monograph series and grant applications is undertaken by all members of the department. This service has been provided for well over 30 different journals in the UK and overseas, ten academic book publishers, and a range of funding bodies in the UK, Canada, Belgium, USA and elsewhere.