

<p><b>Institution: University of Exeter</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: History</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>a. Context.</b> Exeter's History department exists on two campuses: Exeter and Penryn (Cornwall). The breadth of research carried out in the department is demonstrated by our seven research groups: medieval; early modern; maritime; medicine and science; war, state and society; modern politics and policy; and imperial and global. These groups contain a mixture of political, religious, cultural, social, and economic historians and all groups are engaged in impact activities. It is our view that History embodies society's culture and collective memory, and thus influences how we think about ourselves individually and as groups; it is a vehicle and subject of education at all levels, a body of knowledge that influences policy and plans for the future, and a form of entertainment. Historians at Exeter are concerned to bring cutting edge research into the public sphere where it can influence culture and heritage, education, policy, and public opinion and understanding. The impact of our research is local, national and international.</p> <p>(1) Historians within the department use their research to <b>advise and work with heritage organisations</b>. For instance, Melling, an expert on the history of mental health, works with Devon and Gloucester Record Offices to preserve and catalogue the records of mental hospitals that were threatened with destruction. Mark's research concerns museums' portrayal of the communist past in Eastern Europe: he was consulted by the Hungarian Minister of Culture over the presentation of communism in Hungarian museums and invited by the EU Commission to advise curators from museums addressing communism across Europe. Barry, an expert on early modern Bristol and the south-west, provides historical consultancy to Devon County Council and advised on Bristol's new historical exhibition at MShed. The power of history to enrich lives and bring together communities is demonstrated by Green's work in a Heritage Lottery Fund project with Truro City Council and the Council Community Development Partnership, conducting oral history in five post-war Truro Council housing estates. The 40 life-history recordings were edited to create an exhibition, website and book which enhanced community identity and cohesion and preserved intangible cultural heritage.</p> <p>(2) Crucial to history's influence on wider culture has always been its <b>role in education</b>. Pennell, a historian of the first world war, has run workshops with undergraduates each year since 2010 in three Cornish Secondary Schools which presents her recent research to year 9 and 10 pupils. In 2013 she organised a national symposium for school teachers on the history and literature of WW1 and is now advising the exam board Edexcel on its WW1 curriculum. Black, Overy, and Rowe, all experts in military history, have lectured at defence academies and staff colleges in the UK, the USA and Japan covering issues ranging from counter-insurgency to naval warfare. Haggett, whose research focuses on gender, mental illness and psychiatry in Britain since 1945, has developed an online continuing professional development module for the Royal College of Psychiatrists on the social history of mental illness, raising awareness of how attitudes both within and outside psychiatry are influenced by broader social factors. Since 2012 Mark has been an academic advisor to Euroclio, a pan-European schools history organisation, devoted to translating academic innovation rapidly into the classroom. In 2013, he collaborated with them in designing materials to examine the impact of the Cold War on 'speaking across borders'.</p> <p>(3) Historians use their research to <b>engage directly with policy makers</b>. The interdisciplinary 'Legacies of Colonial Violence' project, with Thomas as a co-investigator using his expertise on French colonialism, examined the role of colonial massacres and injustice in fostering Muslim radicalisation in Western Europe. In 2008-10 Thomas disseminated the research to officials of the FCO and spoke on the project at the Al-Manaar Mosque in Westbourne Park, London. Separately, Jones' research on Islam in South Asia led to his participation in the 'Prevent Strategy: One London' conference, part of a government initiative aimed at combating religious extremism in the UK, in February 2009. Toye's co-authored 2004 monograph on the intellectual history of the United Nations currently informs UN thinking on economic development. Alex Izurieta of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs writes that the book has 're-ignited our admiration for the UN intellectual heritage .... I am suggesting it as a compulsory reading to new entrants in my team in NY.' Terry's research expertise on the Holocaust in Eastern Europe enabled him to provide detailed advice on legal cases to the State Attorney's Offices in Ludwigsburg and Stuttgart in 2012/13,</p>
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and to produce an expert report for the Metropolitan Police War Crimes Unit in 2011, regarding conscripted prison guards at Birkenau and Trawniki in World War Two. Black's research underlies his book *Defence: Policy Issues for a New Government* (2009) and has led to his work for the Shrivvenham strategic projections for the world in 2018 and 2033.

(4) **Public engagement** is the first step in influencing public opinion, and is achieved via a range of media. Since 2008 at least 17 members of the department appeared on national radio or television discussing their research in UK, Germany, Russia, Ireland and USA. For instance, Toulalan, an expert on the body, sex and gender in early modern England, has appeared on Lucy Worsley's TV series *Housewives, Harlots and Heroines* discussing medical books and erotica, and in two episodes of *Fit to Rule: How Royal Illness Changed History* talking about pregnancy, miscarriage and childbirth experienced by Tudor and Stuart royalty, as well as being consulted the BBCs *Who Do You Think You Are*. Haggett's research on men and depression led to an interview on ITV's *Tonight* programme watched by 3.1 million viewers. Rider, an expert on medieval magic, religious culture and sexuality, was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme (average 6 million listeners per week), on medieval New Year superstitions and appeared on Radio 4's *Making History* discussing medieval parish life. Black, as a historian of the eighteenth century and expert on military history, is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's 'In Our Time' and presented a BBC 2 programme on the origins of the Industrial Revolution. Overy's expertise on 20<sup>th</sup> century Germany and the second world war led him to undertake international TV consultancies on Hitler and World War Two, including since 2008 3 German TV series, National Geographic channel and 2 others. Overy has also edited the fifth to eighth editions of *The Times History of the World*, which have sold over one million copies worldwide and been translated into nine languages. Black alone gave 29 public lectures in UK, France, USA and Japan, 2010-2012.

**b. Approach to impact** Historians at Exeter approach impact in three main ways:

**Responsive:** responding to invitations to present or contribute research-based expertise in discussions, public lectures, media presentations or publications. Responsive contributions are typically small but frequent, cumulatively making a significant contribution to culture and policy. Such an approach generates impact quickly and directly by fitting in with the agendas of non-academic bodies. Many of the examples provided in section (a) fall into this category.

**Integral:** embedded in particular research projects. These impact-related activities are typically substantial and closely focused. The case studies are all examples of integral impact. Other projects are in the pipeline, such as Plumley's research funded by AHRC and Leverhulme on the 14<sup>th</sup> century French poet-composer Guillaume de Machaut which has led to her acting as consultant for a multi-volume series of recordings of his work by leading early music ensemble, the Orlando Consort distributed by *Hyperion*, preparing the scores for the musicians' use, and providing liner notes for the CDs. The first CD was released in July 2013.

**Initiatives:** Maintaining and fostering links with non-academic bodies leads to new research projects as well offering an outlet for existing research expertise. The department has well-developed links with archives, museums and other bodies as outlined in section (c:2) below.

History at Exeter supports impact activities in ways that are individually tailored but also strategic. At annual professional development meetings each academic discusses impact activities and plans alongside research and teaching with their Academic Lead, also a member of the department. Research groups provide a platform to share and develop ideas for public engagement and impact amongst colleagues. Policy on impact is developed and good practice discussed at department research days held at least twice a year. Undertaking impact-related activities is one of the three main forms of justification in applications for University-funded research leave. The University Press Office provides training including simulated media interviews and tailored publicity plans for particular books and research projects. The University's Research and Knowledge Transfer (RKT) division offers hands-on assistance in developing impact pathways for research grants and making links with non-academic contacts.

The department has two notable **centres of excellence in impact activities** which provide models for future practice: the Centre for Medical History, and the department's Penryn campus. **The Centre for Medical History** has been funded by two Wellcome Trust Strategic Awards, as well as by programme, project and public engagement grants. Staff in the Centre have

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collaborated with the Met Office, the Devon Record Office, the US National Institute of Health, the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, and the Devon and Exeter Medical Society. Its expertise is demonstrated by the case studies of Jackson and Fisher as well as Melling and Barry's work with archives and museums and Haggett's media and professional development work all described elsewhere in this document. The Centre has employed an outreach officer since 2000, the post evolving in 2011 to include communications and impact in its remit. The current post-holder, Williams, is now also impact officer for the History department. **History at Penryn:** Exeter's Penryn campus was established in 2004 aided by EU objective 1 funding to foster regional development, and in 2007 Exeter's long-established Institute of Cornish Studies (ICS), funded partly by Cornwall County Council, was amalgamated with the section of the History department there. History at Penryn prioritises public history, taking its lead from the ICS. Tregidga (ICS), an expert on cultural memory and the modern political history of Cornwall, founded the Cornish Audio Visual Archive (CAVA) oral history project in 2000 which he directs, and since 2008 has received significant Heritage Lottery Funding and constructed a network of volunteers across Cornwall making hundreds of recorded interviews. He has provided oral history education programmes for local organisations including the Cornwall Record Office, Penlee Museum, National Maritime Museum, and Cornwall Young Farmers Clubs. He has recently launched the 'Cornish Story', an online digital platform that explores Cornwall and its global diaspora communities through electronic articles, printed publications, a Cornish directory and resource material from the film and oral history collections of CAVA. Booth, a historian of the modern British economy, led a series of knowledge transfer projects, such as an AHRC funded partnership with Geevor Tin Mining Museum which created a new e-learning tool hosted on Geevor's website to attract schools and adult learners to the museum. There is an academic post in public history at Penryn, initially held by Green (2007-2012), and subsequently Onciul, ensuring specialist academic expertise is available on public engagement.

**c. Strategy and plans** The future impact of research by History at Exeter will be enabled in a number of ways. The department is working to strengthen existing modes of achieving impact. It will make use of opportunities for training available externally, such as the BBC workshop already attended by Pennell, and internal training at Exeter such as the media training involving mock TV and radio interviews already utilized by Toye, Whittle and Rider. RKT's public engagement expert, Featherstone, has been commissioned to run public engagement workshops specially tailored to History staff in 2013-14. We already share good practice within the department via research groups and research days. Our plans are to combine this with strategically developing four impact strands that we have collectively agreed are powerful and worthwhile. In working towards these goals a key priority is to share knowledge and expertise within the department. So for instance staff developing resources for schools whose research is on diverse areas such as sexual health, the First World War, and Tudor England will discuss approaches together and share contacts with schools, educationalists, exam boards and resource-publishers. These activities will be coordinated by a department impact officer who will maintain a list of contacts and expertise, and organize training and the sharing of knowledge. Our four future initiatives build on existing good practice and explore new areas.

(1) **Increasing influence on public debate and policy.** Important perspectives on pressing issues in the modern world are offered by new projects such as Hynd's on the concept of human rights and child soldiers in twentieth century Africa; a collaboration between Thackeray, Thompson and Toye on British imperial trade and the commonwealth; Jackson's research on stress and medical ideas of balanced lifestyles in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and Cooper's work on environmental history and waste disposal. Researchers are already engaging with policy makers. For instance, in 2013 Toye was asked to submit evidence to the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee's enquiry into the role and powers of the Prime Minister. Cooper writes for the History & Policy website, authors a blog on 'history, environment, future' and has contributed to the Friends of the Earth's policy review. Jones presented his research on Muslim family law to the Alternative Law Forum, an Indian think-tank and advocacy group based in Bangalore, India, in 2012. In extending our impact on public debate and policy we will work closely with the University Press Office and RKT to ensure we reach both the most appropriate users and a wider audience, as well as sharing our own expertise within the department.

(2) **Strengthening collaboration with heritage-based organizations.** We already have well-

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established links with heritage organizations. For instance History at Penryn has, as a result of past projects and student work-placements, links with Cornwall Record Office, Royal Cornwall Museum, National Maritime Museum Cornwall, Penryn Museum, Helston Folk Museum, Penryn Campus Archives, the National Trust, and English Heritage. Likewise, History at Exeter has links with Royal Albert Memorial Museum Exeter, Tucker's Hall, Poltimore House Trust, Topsham Museum, the record offices of Devon, Dorset, Bristol and Gloucestershire. The Centre for Maritime Historical Studies founded in 1991 has well established links with the two National Maritime Museums. Overy and Mark have links to continental European museums. The aim is to maintain and extend these links, translating them into new research projects, exhibitions, events and community participation. For example French's Poltimore House project is acting as a template for a new project with the National Trust in east Dorset and Dorset History Centre. Mark is developing an exhibition on the different ways in which revolutions are commemorated for the 30th anniversary of 1989 in collaboration with the Open Society Foundation in Budapest and the History Meeting House in Warsaw. Overy's research on the bombing of German in WW2 has led to him being an Advisory Board member for the Mahnmal St Nikolai in Hamburg which is preparing a major new museum on the bombing war.

(3) **Actively influencing education.** We will build on our existing activities by sharing knowledge and developing new approaches, to extend our range of influence nationally and beyond the UK. Black has already acted as a key advisor on revisions to the new national curriculum for History. Pennell is extending her work on teaching WW1 history to work with exam boards and in connection with the WW1 centenary. Fisher and Langlands are working towards distributing their 'sex and history' educational package on a national level. The centres for Medical History and War, State and Society have existing expertise in continuing professional development. It will also be important to consider new ways of reaching other adult learners, and schools beyond the UK. Mark is already involved in European curriculum development and Black and Overy with teaching in military academies in the US.

(4) **Exploring and utilizing digital mediums.** The potential of using digital mediums for presenting and disseminating research and engaging users will be more actively developed by History at Exeter. Plumley provides an excellent example of what is possible: she has developed a searchable online archive of hundreds of medieval French lyrics, freely available to students, musicians and music-lovers (<http://iechante.exeter.ac.uk/archive/>). Barry's Wellcome-funded project on 'The Medical World of Early Modern England, Wales and Ireland' is developing a publicly-available biographical database of c.50,000 medical practitioners active c.1500-1715. Fisher has had pump-priming money from the REACT hub (<http://www.react-hub.org.uk/>) which exists to develop links between academic researchers in the humanities and creative companies using new technology. There is much more potential to be explored in digital mediums: we will utilize expertise at Exeter and further afield, seeking out funding opportunities, to further develop this strand in the next six years.

**d. Relationship to case studies.** Two of the case studies originate from one of our centres of excellence for impact, the Centre for Medical History. '**Allergy and asthma**' highlights how historical study can deepen the understanding of the causes of medical conditions. '**Sex and history**' shows how historical knowledge and artifacts can be used to stimulate discussion about current health issues and promote health education. '**Connecting Cornwall**' originates from our other centre of excellence, History at Penryn, and is just one of the community engagement projects undertaken by historians there. '**Poltimore House**' demonstrates how Penryn's expertise has been transferred to the main Exeter campus, and shows how research expertise can have a transformative effect a local heritage charity and its community engagement activities. '**Air power**' showcases Exeter's strength in military history and demonstrates how historical research on past wars shapes both military education and strategic thinking. All five case studies are examples of 'integral' impact arising from research projects, funded by AHRC, Leverhulme Trust and Wellcome Trust.