

<p>Institution: University of the Highlands and Islands</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 30</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The UHI Centre for History (http://www.history.uhi.ac.uk) pursues historical research in, of and for the Highlands and Islands. As the newest university History department in the UK, the Centre is committed to research of international reach and significance about the region and its global context. Founded under the initial Directorship of Professor James Hunter, the Centre's academic staff now comprises the Head of Centre (Worthington), four Lecturers (MacInnes, MacPherson, Ritchie and Zickermann), a part-time Researcher (Reid) and a part-time Lecturer (MacPhail). These staff are based at UHI's campus in Dornoch, from where they teach a full range of networked, distance-learning degrees to a geographically dispersed and socially diverse student body. In addition, the Centre is the main co-ordinating hub in UHI for history-related research, connecting the Centre's research with colleagues at other UHI bodies, such as Highland Theological College. The Centre echoes UHI's Strategic Plan in pursuing research that has a transformative impact on the development of the region and its communities, while placing this in a global context (http://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/about-uhi/strategy-and-planning/strategic-plan). This combined regional and international outlook has been reflected in the considerable UK and European public-sector funding that the Centre has secured to support its research, amounting to almost £1,000,000 during the period 2008-13.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Since its foundation in 2005 as a research institute specialising in the history of the Highlands and Islands, the UHI Centre for History has grown into a department offering a full range of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes that are underpinned by a vibrant and sustainable research culture.</p> <p>Professor James Hunter outlined his vision for the Centre in his inaugural lecture (given on 19 May 2006 and published as 'History: its Key Place in the Future of the Highlands and Islands', <i>Northern Scotland</i>, 27 (2007), pp. 1-14). This lecture has framed the Centre's research and teaching strategy during the REF2014 assessment period. While stressing the centrality of the history of the region to research and teaching at the Centre, Professor Hunter emphasised the importance of rooting 'our area's history in the history of the wider world'.</p> <p>Since 2008, the Centre's research strategy has been transformed, from an almost exclusive focus on regional and local history projects, to a far broader engagement with the history of the wider world, which stresses the international significance of our research. While developing the scope of the Centre's research, this strategy has also retained our commitment to the region and to public engagement and knowledge transfer involving community groups and cultural bodies. This shift in approach is embodied by the award in 2012 of a prestigious Carnegie Centenary Professorship to the Centre for History, to be held by the internationally distinguished Highland and diaspora historian, Professor Eric Richards of Flinders University, Australia, in 2014.</p> <p>During this REF period, the Centre has secured considerable funds (see section d) to support a wide range of projects. Professor James Hunter was commissioned by the Carnegie UK Trust and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to write a report on the experience of community ownership of land in the Highlands and Islands. The report, which was completed in the autumn of 2011, details the development and expansion of community ownership since the 1980s and reflects on the policy implications of the community ownership experience – by making connections, for example, between this development and the present UK government's commitment to what the Prime Minister, David Cameron, calls the 'Big Society'. This research has had considerable impact on both land reform public policy and the community land buyout movement in Scotland (see REF3b). A Wellcome Trust funded project involving the Centre working with historians from the universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Glasgow Caledonian, examined the history of health and healthcare provision through the career of Dr Lachlan Grant, a prominent GP in Ballachulish, whose career spanned decades of turbulent change in the western Highlands. 'Looking Back to Move Forward: Slavery and the Highlands' was a project funded by the Edinburgh Beltane Beacon for Public Engagement and involved working directly with a local community to demonstrate, through the creation of a public exhibition at the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness, the process of doing</p>

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history. Further research projects focused on the region have included the Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council commissioning the Centre to develop a plan for a historical exhibition in the town; a comprehensive social history of forestry in twentieth-century Scotland; and a programme of historical research and publication on the development of the aluminium industry and hydro-electric power in the region.

While retaining its commitment to the region's history, in creating an integrated teaching and research strategy and through its new appointments (see section c), the Centre for History has developed research excellence in the following areas since 2011:

Regional History in the Highlands and Islands
Warfare and Ethnic Conflict
Irish, Scottish and British Diasporas
Maritime History in the North Sea and the Baltic
Women, Gender and the Family
Religiosity and Ecclesiastical History
Sport History

These research areas underpin the Centre's 2014-20 research strategy and form the focus for future research projects, applications for external funding (especially to RCUK), enhancing the Centre's already extensive public engagement, developing further collaborations within UHI and with academics across both the UK and internationally, and recruiting postgraduate students.

The Centre's expertise in Highlands and Islands history will be sustained through significant research by **Ritchie**, **Worthington** and associate staff that emphasises the importance of the region within a broader international perspective. **Ritchie** is currently researching education in the Highlands and Catholic-Protestant relations, which is associated with her major research project on Highland women's experience of emigration (see below). **Ritchie** is acting as historical advisor to the Timespan Museum and Arts Centre in Helmsdale as they develop a host of activities and projects during 2012-13 to commemorate the 200-year anniversary of the start of the Sutherland clearances. There have been a number of talks and workshops already held in Timespan and the main feature of the project is an innovative digital trail iPhone app (see REF3b). She will also organise an international conference to coincide with the visit of Professor Eric Richards, Professor of History at Flinders University in Adelaide, who will hold a Carnegie Trust Centenary Professorship, for a period of three months during 2014. **Worthington** is developing further his interest in Highland and Moray Firth regional history through a project to mark four hundred years of golf in Dornoch, where the Centre for History is based. Beginning in September 2013, this project involves the local community in a number of public events, together with a PhD student, funded by the Royal Dornoch Golf Club and the UHI Development Office. This project forms the focus of the Centre's emerging research strength in sports history, which will be underpinned by the development of a new MLitt programme. Our commitment to the regional history of the Highlands and Islands is further demonstrated by the increasingly international profile of the peer-reviewed journal *Northern Scotland*, re-launched in 2010 (co-edited with colleagues at the University of Aberdeen and published by Edinburgh University Press).

MacPherson, **Ritchie**, **Worthington** and **Zickermann** will continue to develop the Centre's expertise in the history of Irish, Scottish and British Diasporas. **Ritchie** will investigate the experience of women newly arrived in Canada between 1800 and 1850 (for which she received a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant in 2013). **MacPherson** has recently established the Hub for the Study of British Identities, a digital research network (to be launched in 2014) which creates an online, interdisciplinary forum for academics around the world and will continue his diaspora research through a project on Irish migration and cricket in Australia. Our research in diaspora history will be further strengthened by several of **Worthington's** projects on early modern Scottish emigrants: Wills and testaments relating to Scottish emigrants in late medieval and early-modern Poland; a Scottish Emigrant Corpus (along with Professor Waldemar Kowalski of the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce and Professor Joanna Kopaczyk of Adam-Mickiewicz University of Poznań); and a project on James Fraser and the Grand Tour in early

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modern central Europe. Furthermore, the Centre's expertise in diaspora history will be enhanced by the visit of Professor Eric Richards from Flinders University.

The Centre's commitment to research on Warfare and Ethnic Conflict will be driven by a number of projects undertaken by **Zickermann and MacInnes**. **Zickermann** will be involved in collaborative research with colleagues at the University of St Andrews, and will conduct a large research project on the German component of the multi-ethnic Swedish army during the Thirty Years' War.

MacInnes will continue to develop his research on Scottish soldiers and punishment in medieval Scotland. New areas of his research will include projects on occupied Scotland during the medieval period, with particular focus on issues of allegiance, identity and land ownership and on Scottish diplomacy in the fifteenth century, funded by a Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland award of £1,800 for 2013-14.

MacPherson will build on his research on Irish Protestant identities through a project focusing on the women's Orange Order in Ireland. Furthermore, the Centre's commitment to Maritime History in the North Sea and the Baltic will be developed by **Zickermann's** research on Scottish, German and English commercial and mercantile networks and, more locally, by **Worthington's** work on the Moray Firth. Developing from this project will be a major online database on seventeenth century ships, including information on skippers, associated merchants, commodities, and destinations. In addition, **Zickermann** will carry out collaborative research on the Scottish diplomat Robert Anstruther with Professor Steve Murdoch at St Andrews. The Centre's research excellence in the fields of Women, Gender, Religiosity and the Family will be developed through the projects of **Ritchie** and **MacPherson**.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The Centre for History is supported in its research by a number of strategies, at departmental, Faculty and University level. All lecturing staff are allocated time for research and undergo yearly appraisals of research activity, in which staff report on progress and set appropriate goals for each academic year. The Centre also runs a mentoring scheme, in which more senior members of staff provide support and advice to early career lecturers. UHI's Research Office and Graduate School offers a number of professional development opportunities which help to foster research activity in the Centre. The Graduate School has run a number of events in which the Centre's staff have participated, including a Research Supervisor Training Day and a Grant Writing Workshop, hosted by UHI's Scottish Association for Marine Science in Oban. Furthermore, the UHI Horizons scheme provides a professional development programme for researchers, drawing on Vitae and HEA resources.

Moreover, in consultation with the Faculty and Research Office, staff at the Centre have been supported in their research through a sabbatical scheme. Since 2008, this has provided leave for **Worthington, MacInnes** and Karen Cullen (Head of Centre, 2009-10). At Faculty level, staff at the Centre have individual research budgets, amounting to £600 per annum, which helps fund visits to conferences and archives. In addition, staff at the Centre also have access to the UHI Conference Fund and have also been supported by UHI's investment in the PURE software system, the inauguration of a University-wide research mentoring scheme, and central Research Office grants and contracts assistance with research funding applications.

Exchanges between the Centre and the public sector have been encouraged through, for example, the consultancy work of **Ritchie** for Timespan museum in Helmsdale (see REF 3b) and all staff are provided with dedicated time and support to engage with cultural and public policy groups, disseminating the Centre's research to ensure that it has impact outside of academia. In addition, Centre for History staff are at the forefront of promoting research-teaching linkages in the University, focusing on the close connection between upper-level undergraduate and postgraduate modules and our research interests. For example, our growing expertise in Sports History is underpinned by the development of a new MLitt programme in the field and will feed into a number of future research projects (**Worthington** on golf; **MacPherson** on cricket). Our commitment to promoting the close connection of teaching and research was recognised by the University when

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we were invited to give a plenary session on our approach at the UHI Research Conference in November 2012.

New appointments made in 2011 (**Zickermann** and **MacPherson**) have supported the Centre's strategy of recruiting researchers of the highest calibre. In line with departmental policy, these new members of staff were given lighter teaching loads to enable them to finish a number of major projects during 2011-13.

The Centre's research culture supports a number of activities. A bi-monthly research seminar attracts academic speakers from across the UK and North America, including, to date, Professor Steve Murdoch (University of St Andrews), Professor Elizabeth Ewen (University of Guelph, Canada) and Dr Richard MacKinnon (Cape Breton University, Canada) and uses Video Conferencing technology to broadcast to the widest possible audience across the world. The Centre also organises regular research workshops, at which members of staff discuss their most recent research and their plans for funding applications and publication.

ii. Research students

The Centre has only been validated for postgraduate research degrees (awarded by the University of Aberdeen) from 2008 and since then, it has developed a growing and vibrant body of research students. At the start of 2008, the Centre's first postgraduate student, Cathel Hutchison, gained his MLitt for a thesis on the contribution of Highland-born entrepreneurs and pioneers to the early development of western Canada. The Centre's first PhD student, Bob Chambers, began work in October 2008 on a thesis which explored and analysed land settlement policy in Skye and the Outer Hebrides in the early part of the twentieth century and became the Centre's first completion in April 2013. In total the Centre has had six PhD students registered since 2008, most of whom are part-time, self-funded, mature students. In addition, there have been three completions in ecclesiastical history through UHI's Highland Theological College (William van Doodewaard, Jonathan Master and Steven Adamson).

More recently, the Centre has attracted a growing number of younger scholars through funded PhD scholarships. Recruitment has risen since 2008, when there were no registered PhD students and 2013-14 has seen the arrival of another PhD student (Wade Cormack, graduate of the University of Guelph, Canada), supported by a substantial studentship from the Royal Dornoch Golf Club (£60,000), together with a Talent Scotland International Students Saltire Scholarship (£2,000). An MLitt in the History of the Highlands and Islands was launched in 2011-12 and offers students a progression route to PhD research at the Centre for History and further proposed PGT programmes will strengthen this pathway. Members of staff also supervise PhD students at the University of Bristol (Clive Abbott, completed June 2013; John Moore, completed December 2012; Margery Masterson, completed March 2013) and London Metropolitan University.

The small size of the Centre allows students to benefit from close personal supervision. Each student is assigned a Director of Studies, together with two subject-specialist supervisors. PhD students at the Centre have also been able to draw upon the expert external supervision of Professor Marjory Harper (Aberdeen), Dr Alistair Durie (Stirling) and Professor Daniel Szechi (Manchester). Research students have access to facilities in the Centre, including a dedicated study space, computers and a departmental library. In addition, the Centre holds an annual PhD day, which brings together the research students, their supervisors, and all members of the Centre for History staff. PhD students have also been given the opportunity to take part in the Centre's extensive programme of public engagement, such as participation in a major four-day conference on 'Land Struggle, Resettlement and Community Land Ownership in the Hebrides', held on the Isle of Lewis in September 2012, which brought together esteemed academics (Professor Ewen Cameron, Edinburgh; Professor Marjory Harper, Aberdeen), research students, policy makers, local communities and members of the public. Students have engaged with the broader academic community, giving papers at conferences organised by the Scottish Church History Society, the Economic and Social History of Scotland Society and the Scottish Catholic Historical Association (which the Centre's PhD students helped organise). Moreover, this engagement has been enhanced through the Centre's hosting of a number of conferences ('Reappraising the seventeenth

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century in the Highlands', 2010; 'Scotland's Global Impact', 2009; 'John A. MacDonald and the Scots Canadian connection', 2010; Women's History Scotland Annual Conference, 2010). Students are also encouraged to disseminate their research in appropriate fora and have had articles published in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Recusant History*.

The Centre's research students have received considerable support from UHI's Graduate School and Research Office. All postgraduate research students participate in an intensive programme of induction, organised by the Graduate School. This three-day event brings together doctoral students from across the University to undergo training in research, how to write a PhD, the University's resources for research and the supervisory process. Each year, the Graduate School organises a Postgraduate Conference, which provides students with the opportunity to present their research to a university-wide audience. In addition, the Graduate School also offers a range of workshops and training programmes throughout the year which the Centre's students take advantage of, including sessions on PhD writing skills, training for the viva examination, research skills and career development and students have access to funds to support travel to archives and conferences. Students also benefit from close monitoring of their progression through the Graduate School's Research Degree Sub-Committee. The quality of PhD supervision at the Centre benefits as well from the Graduate School, with staff taking part in their Supervisor Training Programme.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Centre for History has received considerable funding to support its research activities since 2008. In this period, the Centre received almost £1,000,000 from UK and non-EU based charities, local authorities and hospitals and the EU government. Between 2008/09 and 2011/12 the average research income per full-time member of staff was £53,819 per annum. The Centre attracted substantial funds for research from external sources such as the Wellcome Trust, the NHS, Scottish and Southern Energy, Forestry Commission Scotland, Forestry Commission GB, the Scottish Forestry Trust and the Carnegie Trust UK. While there was a drop in income during 2012-13, this has already been addressed in research income secured for 2013-14, including £20,000 for the first year of the Royal Dornoch PhD Studentship and £40,000 for the Carnegie Professorship in July 2014. The Centre's future research strategy includes a strong commitment to increasing research and knowledge transfer income in order to sustain and develop our financial position.

The Centre is based in a suite of five rooms at Burghfield House in Dornoch. This building provides a scholarly environment with the necessary space, quiet and institutional encouragement to undertake research as a primary activity. The Centre also benefits from an excellent geographical location from which to carry out research into the region's history, providing close proximity to local archives and the community and cultural heritage bodies with whom we undertake public engagement and knowledge transfer work. In terms of library and archival sources, staff have access to a number of facilities within the Centre and the wider University. The Centre has a significant archive of local history books (donated to the department), has secured the archives of the Caledonian Society of Kenya (donated by an MLitt student, Robert Lewis-Lettington) and hosts an important archive of Forestry Commission and Scottish Forestry Trust records. UHI's principal library holdings in History are hosted by North Highland College UHI in Dornoch, while the Centre also makes use of important History collections at the libraries and archives of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (UHI's Gaelic college, including key resources in Gaelic language and culture) and at Highland Theological College (including significant holdings in church and ecclesiastical history, such as the William Temple Collection from the John Rylands library at the University of Manchester and the library of Rutherford House in Edinburgh). Staff at the Centre have also continued to benefit from UHI's continuing extensive investment in electronic resources.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**Contribution to the discipline**

The Centre for History is at the forefront of Highlands and Islands history. It is the only dedicated History department in the region, and focuses on Highland history in a global context. Through the work described below, members of staff at the Centre are fully engaged with academic and public communities throughout the Highlands, Scotland, the UK and the world.

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CollaborationWorthington

- Project with Professor Waldemar Kowalski (University of Kielce, Poland) and Dr Kathrin Zickermann (UHI) looking at wills and testaments relating to Scottish emigrants in late medieval and early-modern Poland.
- Facebook and Twitter pages, 'Scottish-Polish historical links / Związki historyczne Polski i Szkocji', administered with Dr Joanna Kopaczyk, University of Poznan, Poland.

Zickermann

- Collaboration with the Thirty Years War project, conducted at the University of St Andrews.
- Project with Professor Waldemar Kowalski (University of Kielce, Poland) and Dr David Worthington (UHI) looking at wills and testaments relating to Scottish emigrants in late medieval and early-modern Poland.

MacPherson

- Hub for the Study of British Identities: An interdisciplinary research network in collaboration with Dr Kristin Lindfield-Ott (UHI), Dr Ros Powell (Liverpool Hope), Christie Margrave (St Andrews) and Professor Norbert Lennartz (Vechta, Germany).

University research advisory panels

Centre for History staff sit on the following UHI panels: The University Court; Research Practitioners' Group; Research Degrees Sub-Committee; Transformation Implementation Group Research Stream; Engagement with Research Councils Sub-Committee; Approval panels for new Postgraduate Programmes.

Subject Association PositionsRitchie

- Board member, Women's History Scotland.

Worthington

- Member of the Council of the Scottish History Society.

Editorial Positions

- Centre for History staff have key editorial positions on the journal *Northern Scotland* (Edinburgh University Press), including co-editor (Worthington) and book reviews editor (MacInnes). The editorial board of *Northern Scotland* includes international academics from Trinity College Dublin, the University of New Mexico, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, Flinders University, Australia, Cape Breton University, Canada, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia, and Jan Kochanowski University, Poland.
- Centre for History staff also have editorial positions on the following: *Między Wisłą a Pilicą* (Polish history journal), *Journal of the Scottish Society for Northern Studies*, *The International Review of Scottish Studies*, *Emblems: A Journal of British Studies*, *Statistical Accounts of Scotland* (Edina), 'Scotland, Scandinavia and Northern Europe, 1560-1707' online database (SSNE; <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/>).

Organisation of conferences

Centre for History staff were involved in the organisation of the following:

- 'Reappraising the seventeenth century in the Highlands' conference (Dornoch, April 2010).
- 'Scotland's Global Impact' conference (Inverness, October 2009).
- 'Irish women and diaspora' international symposium (University College Dublin, June 2010).
- 'Writing the empire: scribblings from below' international conference (Bristol, June 2010).
- 'John A. MacDonald and the Scots Canadian connection' day seminar (Kincaid, 2010).

Refereeing academic publications or research proposals

Staff have refereed articles for *Scottish Historical Review*, *English Historical Review*, *Northern*

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Scotland, The Historical Journal, Australian Historical Studies, Journal of Australian Colonial History, Journal of War and Culture Studies and The International Review of Scottish Studies and have reviewed funding applications for the ESRC and the Leverhulme Trust.

AwardsWorthington

- 2012-17: Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen.
- 2013: Successful partner (along with UHI Development Officer) in securing three-year PhD studentship (£60,000) granted by Royal Dornoch Golf Club / UHI Development Office to the Centre for History.
- 2011: Two-week Royal Society of Edinburgh / Polish Academy of Sciences International Bilateral Exchange Grant to research in Polish archives.
- 2010: Successful lead applicant for Carnegie Trust Visiting Professorship, which will bring Professor Eric Richards to the Centre for History in 2014.

Reid

- 2008: Australian Historical Association's Kay Daniels' Prize for early colonial history, for a monograph: *Gender, crime and empire: convicts, settlers and the state in early colonial Australia* (Manchester, 2007). <http://www.theaha.org.au/awards/daniels/winners.htm>
- 2008: Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (UK).
- 2009-2011: Sackler-Caird Research Fellowship at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London to work on the project – 'Australia bound: convict voyaging, 1787-1868'.
- 2011: AHRC research fellowship – 6 months of research funding to work on the 'Australia bound' project.
- 2011-2013: British Academy research grant to work on a project entitled "'It cuts me even to the hart": letters from convict Australia, 1787-1868'.

MacPherson

- 2011: International Council for Canadian Studies, Understanding Canada Research Grant (CAD\$4,800).

Ritchie

- 2013: British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant Award for project 'Scottish Woman Emigrants to Rural Canada, 1782-1851'.

Zickermann

- 2010-11: Institute of Historical Research Alan Pearsall Research Fellowship in Naval and Maritime History.
- Honorary Research Fellowship at the University of St Andrews, 2010-.

Invited keynotes and lectures

Staff have given international invited lectures at the 'Hanseatic Trade in the North Atlantic' conference at Avaldsnes, Norway (2013) and at the School of History and Archives, University College Dublin, Ireland (2011). Invited lectures were also given by Centre staff at the University of Glasgow, University of Manchester, University of Strathclyde, University of Dundee, University of Edinburgh, *Scotland's Global Impact*, Inverness, University of Aberdeen, Celtic Connections, Glasgow, and the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies.

Visiting scholars

- 2012: Anna Kalinowska (Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of History) in conjunction with a Royal Society of Edinburgh scholarship.