

<p>Institution: University of Reading</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 30 History</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The History Department at the University of Reading, part of the School of Humanities (with Classics and Philosophy), boasts a dynamic profile of research activity with local, national and international partners. Our research is clustered into three thematic fields. 'Political cultures' encompasses the social and cultural dimensions of political ideas in the UK, Europe and the US from the early modern to the modern era. Our cluster devoted to 'economic and social history' investigates economies and society from medieval England to nineteenth-century America. 'Religion, magic and the state' groups our historians examining Christianity and other belief systems and their material remains across Europe in the medieval and early modern eras. Each of these clusters works collaboratively with the many historians located in other departments in the University (e.g. politics, modern languages, Henley Business School) and its centres for interdisciplinary research such as the Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies, the Centre for Early Modern Studies, and the Centre for Economic History.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The department allows individual historians the space to develop intellectually whilst also actively supporting their research and their collaborations with scholars within and beyond the discipline (see section e). Indeed, the distinctive strengths of the department reflect a research strategy intended to (1) generate high quality research and outputs; (2) promote synergies and collaborative activities inside and outside the university; (3) encourage the exploitation and development of institutional and wider networks and activities which promote and showcase research activity; and (4) develop, review and support funding applications for internal and external research funding at a departmental and institutional level. As this suggests, our research activity is based on the principles of mentorship, collaboration and interdisciplinarity, all of which enhance our research culture. The census period saw the publication of over 30 monographs and edited/co-edited collections, plus numerous peer-review articles and single-authored chapters. Our work appeared in prestigious peer-reviewed journals including <i>Contemporary British History</i>, <i>Economic History Review</i>, <i>English Historical Review</i>, <i>German History</i>, <i>Historical Journal</i>, <i>History of Political Thought</i>, <i>Journal of American Studies</i> and <i>Passato e presente</i>.</p> <p>Looking to 2020, we will give priority to the 'gold standard' in our discipline, the completion of historical monographs based on new primary research, while also supporting colleagues in developing impact and public engagement related to their research. Our three research themes will be supported by extending and deepening our collaborative links locally, nationally and internationally; by exploiting existing and new network initiatives and major research projects; and by planning workshops and the prestigious annual Stenton lecture around the research interests of colleagues. Our recent expansion, in particular Schmidt, will allow us to add and develop a fourth theme, Health, Medicine and Gender, feeding into the new research directions of Bell, Lawrence, Stack and West. Here we illustrate our strategy thematically, demonstrating how our intellectual activity is productive across the range of our priorities:</p> <p>Political cultures:</p> <p>Stack's continuing work on Darwinism, biology and modern British culture examines forms of scientific power and exemplifies our priorities in primary research, interdisciplinary collaboration and public engagement. An ESRC Mid-Career Fellowship (2010-12) for his 'Botany and Birth Control: Elements of social science' yielded an award of £218,732. A major monograph on John Stuart Mill and natural science will appear in the next census period. With Stack, Reading's School of Biological Sciences and Department of English participate in an AHRC 'Science in Culture' Exploratory Award (2012; £24K), 'The value of literary and historical study of biology to biologists', probing scientists' appreciation of and views about scientific humanities. The outcomes will be circulated widely (Royal Society, Natural History Museum, Society of Biologists, teacher-trainers).</p>

A major project bid with Exeter, Southampton and Durham Universities is anticipated from this pilot.

Duggan's work on Mussolini and Italian fascism continues to generate major primary research, collaboration with non-academic audiences, and future funding opportunities. His AHRC project (2007-11) on the cult of Mussolini involved specialists in film, art, architecture, literature and history. Workshops and a major international conference explored comparatively personality cults of dictators in many countries. He will bid for follow-on funding to promote the research results in schools with the Historical Association. In 2008 the President of Italy awarded him the title of *Commendatore, Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana* and his book *Fascist Voices* won the Wolfson History Prize and the Political Book of the Year Award (both 2013). This work continues to generate impact, with two BBC Radio 4 series on Italy's history in preparation. He will shortly begin a new project examining the legacies and memory of fascism in an international comparative framework.

Worley's work on youth culture and politics has provided the impetus for the establishment of an international research network and will yield a major project. In 2011, at a conference with 120 papers from 20 countries, Worley founded the Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Subculture, Popular Music and Social Change, uniting investigators in history, politics, sociology and cultural studies to explore youth culture as sites of political resistance. The network has yielded two edited collections [due in 2014] and a special edition of *Contemporary British History* (2012). In 2013 Worley won AHRC Network support for the group in order to hold a series of symposia and prepare for a further international conference in 2016; a Leverhulme grant is currently supporting a related research project over 2013-15.

Murphy's interests also advance our plans for collaboration and interdisciplinarity. With 14 scholars from four Reading departments (Politics, Law, History and Modern Languages), he won a Leverhulme Programme Award for 'The Liberal Way of War: strategy, ideology, representation' (LWoW). Project collaborators Major and Risso held a LWoW conference at Reading on Cold War radio broadcasting in 2010. Since secondment as director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in September 2009, Murphy has coordinated many international research projects, including an AHRC-funded oral history of the Commonwealth. The recent appointment of Schmidt, whose work on colonial Africa links to Murphy's expertise, provides opportunities for continued collaboration in this field. Major, meanwhile, has enabled us to extend our prioritisation of primary research, public engagement and international links. He is now writing a history of Cold War Berlin 'from below', as well as several articles on Cold War cinema. Google's Cultural Institute selected him to curate an online exhibition about Cold War Berlin and he has been elected to the founding council of the museum at Berlin's Checkpoint Charlie.

Primary research, collaboration and public engagement are promoted by our younger colleagues. Foxley, having just completed the first book-length interpretation in several decades of the political thinking of the Levellers, will embark on an ambitious study of gender, democracy and the republican tradition that incorporates the fruits of collaborative activity with colleagues in Reading's Classics and Politics Departments. Mijers, a scholar of the Scottish-Dutch intellectual tradition, is pursuing funding for projects on the political biography of William Carstares and on the European dimensions of the 'British' Atlantic empire. As well as coordinating a public engagement event based on the University's cross-disciplinary research theme 'Language, Text and Power', Mijers also directed the University's Researchers' Night (2011), an event funded by a €89K Marie Curie award and designed to enable Reading to showcase areas of research to the general public and explain its impact on people's lives. In addition, she contributed to the BBC Scotland radio series *The Scottish Intellect*.

Finally, in pursuing international network-building and interdisciplinarity, our Americanists are embarking on new research that relate to medical topics. Bell's AHRC-funded work on US liberalism resulted in a conference (Boston University, 2009), an edited collection (Bell & Stanley, 2012) and a significant monograph, *California Crucible* (2012). His attention has now turned towards examining the relationship between private healthcare, the state and minority rights in the US, with the intention of submitting a large collaborative grant bid in 2014. Using the AIDS crisis as moment when the US government enlarged its role in the healthcare system, this study will yield a monograph and articles. For West, see below.

Economic and social historians:

The Department's economic and social historians have pursued local, national and international links that will continue to promote our goals of further primary research and innovative collaboration across disciplines. The University's cross-faculty Centre for Economic History (CEH, directed by History's Yates) was launched in April 2012 and pursues network building and new research that will advance Reading as an international leader in new economic histories. In 2013, the CEH hosted colloquia with EU and US participants on European plague and on accounting and rationality.

Research leadership, international cooperation, grant capture and public engagement will continue to characterise the activities springing from Felix's interest in fiscal history in the early modern period. His 2013 ESRC Professorial fellowship (£250K), tied to CEH, builds on a Leverhulme-funded survey of widely dispersed primary sources on French early modern finance, producing a dozen outputs in the current census period. The ESRC fellowship will enable completion of an important monograph on the fiscal origins of the French Revolution. CEH will host related impact activities including public lectures and conferences on fiscal crises. The project takes forward a record of international collaboration with the CNRS-ANR funded project 'Les grandes réformes de la comptabilité publique, vers 1500-vers 1850'; and the Contractor State Group (CSG) based at the University of Pamplona, Spain.

Hoyle's leadership in rural history continues to advance our international collaborative priorities and public engagement. He led the first international meeting of rural historians (Rural History 2010) and is founding President of the European Rural History Society (EURHO). He was prominent in the CORN project (University of Ghent, Flemish Academy of Sciences) and co-edited one volume of outputs arising from that project. He was invited to speak to the launch of the English language Swedish Agrarian History in 2011 and at the first meeting of the Portuguese Rural Historians' group (RePort) in 2012. Hoyle also collaborates with Cambridge University colleagues on the development of a project on eighteenth-century Land Tax as part of his wider investigation of land improvement in early modern England. This project will yield a large, open-access database that will provide a powerful resource for genealogists and local historians.

In the first study of its kind, West's Leverhulme-funded *Family or freedom: free people of color in the antebellum South* (2012) investigates the incentives for free African Americans living in the antebellum South to sacrifice their liberty for a life in bondage. West has since begun new primary research into wet-nursing in the enslaved South, towards which funding will be sought to support a project monograph.

Utilising local and national collections and maintaining strong links with our region will remain priorities. Burchardt's studies of modern English rural social history will yield a monograph early in the next census period on landscape and identity in England's countryside based on diaries. He will follow this project with an exploration of childhood and the countryside, with plans to form a research network with local and national partners. Yates's Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Weald and Downland Open Air Museum is one of our Impact case-studies. She has recently co-edited *An Historical Atlas of Berkshire*. Her energetic work for Berkshire archival and history societies links us to the public in our region and to local champions of the historical discipline.

Religion, magic and the state:

This thematic group is productive in undertaking primary research, developing collaborative partnerships and delivering innovative outputs. Lawrence-Mathers' research in medieval magic has led her to publish a monograph on *Merlin the Magician* and investigate attempts in the period to predict and control the weather. Using Reading pump-priming funds (described below) to devise a research bid, she won in 2013 an AHRC Fellowship for 'Medieval Meteorology in Context' – a project designed to demonstrate the quality and extent of meteorological knowledge in monasteries and the emerging University of Oxford in the medieval era. In addition to publishing her timely monograph on early modern clerical celibacy, Parish [Harper] worked with partners in Reading and Oxford on the transcription and editing of the Parker Certificates, a central source for the study of the Elizabethan clergy. A related web-searchable database is also forthcoming, while a co-edited volume on Protestant Authority and an edited volume on religion, magic and superstition will be

published in due course. Rist is co-writing a sourcebook on the Albigensian Crusade with Leglu (Modern Languages, Reading) and Taylor (Nottingham); she also has plans for a study of Mathilda of Tuscany and the 11C reforming papacy. Grant, whose international standing continues to see her speak at conferences across Europe and beyond, will soon publish a biography of Blanche of Castile with Yale University Press.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development:

The confident and ambitious research culture in the Department is supported by active Research Committees at departmental and School level. These maintain clear lines of communication between individual staff and colleagues both inside and outside of the Department and University. Termly Departmental research meetings involve all colleagues in the identification of research priorities, while progress on individual research projects is reviewed each term by a departmental Research Committee that advises on current and projected research projects. We will continue to offer structured research guidance in 2014-19.

New staff (permanent or temporary) are assigned a mentor in the Department working in a cognate field, to encourage integration of the new colleague's research interests and favour collaboration. So, for example, Mijers who joined us on a temporary contract in 2006, was mentored up to becoming a permanent colleague in June 2012. The University has implemented the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and the Reading Researcher Development Programme (RRDP) provides training in professional skills to support researchers at all levels; all new lecturers are enrolled to earn the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice. Mijers, along with subsequent new staff, attended a series of research training sessions provided by the University's Centre for Quality Support of Development (CQSD).

Anticipating the new economic circumstances, the University's financial restructuring has facilitated support for research, supplementing funds from dwindling external pilot grant and travel schemes. Reading's Research Endowment Trust Fund (RETF) supports 'pump priming' to nurture new bids to Research Councils and conference participation. The awards also support priorities emerging from the University's research strategy. During 2008-13, most of our colleagues won an award, releasing them from teaching for research or to develop funding bids, or to enable them to employ research assistance.

One term in nine of research leave is normally granted to permanent members of staff and the Departmental Research Committee ensures the leave timetable supports research priorities. We are confident that our Departmental mechanisms and the University's support will ensure that we continue to generate strong publications, research project applications and substantial external funding into the post-REF period.

The University and Department promote research leadership through RRDP and CQSD courses, mentoring and reviews by the Departmental and School Research teams. Staff Development Review giving guidance on professional training is provided annually to all permanent staff and temporary staff on contracts over a year. Diversity and equality are encouraged and colleagues are trained in recruitment practice to ensure both.

ii. Research students

Research students: The Department, with the support of the School of Humanities and the University's Graduate School, continues to shape future research leaders for the discipline. Our PG Research students actively contribute to our research culture, attending and presenting in Departmental Research seminars. PG research students present and discuss their research with colleagues in an RHS-supported bi-annual PG colloquium which attracts young researchers from other universities. The Political History Network was founded by PG students and holds a lively seminar series with national reach (www.politicalhistorynetwork.co.uk). The University promotes young researchers by supporting conference attendance and in its publications such as Research Review. Post-doctoral researchers are also regularly recruited to the department, as with Rachel

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Crosland's involvement with Stack's cross-disciplinary AHRC award, Laura Sandy's inclusion in West's Leverhulme research, and David Wilkinson's recent appointment to Worley's Leverhulme project (2013–15).

Undergraduate and postgraduate taught (PGT) students constitute an important source of PGR recruitment. The Department cultivates its best UG historians as future researchers, with the University's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP), a fund for research assistantships working with staff. At MA level we review our programmes continuously, now offering the MA(Res) History which recruits internationally. We are planning further innovative offers in PGT and PGR streams. History, supported by the University, funds MA bursaries for high-achieving candidates with PhD research potential and expects to offer PhD bursaries in the coming period.

During the current period 24.6 doctoral candidates began their research in the Department, including 7 students jointly supervised with the School of Modern Languages. Of the total, 6.5 held AHRC awards; three were funded by University of Reading fellowships; and one held a Leverhulme Award. 26 doctorates were conferred by the Department between 2008 and 2013, ten in 2010-11. The core of PhD training is individual supervision with guidance in historiography; archive and methodology training; palaeographic and other specialist skills acquisition; and academic paper preparation and presentation. The Department and Graduate School carefully monitor annual progress with a formal meeting between each student and supervisor, chaired independently. Employability is supported within and beyond the Department. Those postgraduates aiming for academic careers are offered opportunities to teach in undergraduate modules, while the University's Graduate School offers career- and research-focused training modules (RRDP). After taking a learning-needs assessment, candidates receive the appropriate training and accreditations. Most recently, Dr Matthew Broad received his doctorate at Reading in 2012 and is now working as a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Turku, Finland.

The History Department is working to expand funding for future historians. It is leading a new cross-faculty initiative for PhD funding to exploit the University's Special Collections (the objects and archive of the Museum of English Rural Life [MERL]; Beckett Archive; and Archive of British Publishing and Printing). History is a key element in the University's Block Grant Proposal 2 (BGP2) to the AHRC, providing synergies in political, religious and economic history with its partners in Essex, Southampton, Cardiff and Bristol. The scheme will enable us to expand PG provision by facilitating joint supervisions with colleagues in external departments and allowing us to exploit our full potential. The BGP2 is built around interdisciplinary research clusters where we are already national and international leaders (e.g., 'Science and Culture', 'Medieval Studies'), while research synergies and postgraduate co-operation between History at Reading and its BGP2 partners have been targeted for development (as between Thorpe (Exeter) and Worley for example). We are confident that this internal and external collaboration will sustain PGR recruitment. Finally, colleagues developing new research projects and funding bids are encouraged by the Department's Research Committee to consider including PG funding in their proposed activities.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Department's researchers have won £1 million in external funding since 2008, with 50% coming from UK-based charities, 47% from the Research Councils and the remainder from UK and EU sources. The Department has an encouraging record in developing excellent bids, maintaining substantial external income as competition has intensified.

The University, School of Humanities and Department support grant applications through all project stages. The Department's Research Committee advises scholars with potential projects and monitors progress toward a viable bid. Staff attend faculty-organised training sessions toward acting as PIs, before the School's peer review system filters all applications. University Research and Enterprise Services (RES) has a dedicated Humanities officer. Noteworthy is the Knowledge Transfer Team in RES which supported Yates's successful KT project. A University-wide system of Staff Development Accounts gives PIs access to 8% of the awards with FEC for teaching relief. RETF money, used to develop strategic research initiatives within the University, has provided History colleagues with the time and support to develop research bids towards successful

conclusion (as, for example, Lawrence's recent AHRC award).

Colleagues continue to make use of University and regional facilities for historical research. The Department's expertise in Italian history is complimented by significant library resources. The University's Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) holds major collections on rural and agricultural history used by Burchardt, along with important personal papers (Astor). Yates represents the University on the Berkshire Record Office's Standing Conference on Archives, continuing a close relationship between the department and this major regional resource that stretches over three decades. The University's Special Collections, an archive of historical and literary sources, are used profitably by staff and PGR and PGT students, and by undergraduates and UROP scheme award holders. Indeed, History is actively pursuing the opportunities afforded by the University's funding of PGR research located in special collections and the fresh investment directed towards the University library. Finally, History at Reading enjoys proximity to major UK collections. For example, the BBC's Caversham Park archive, an important national resource based in Reading, is regularly used by Major.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Collaboration:

Political cultures:

Stack's projects on biology and culture have built partnerships with the Natural History Museum (NHM) and with Reading's School of Biological Sciences and Department of English (AHRC 'Science in Culture' award, 2012). Working with the Wellcome Trust and NHM, Stack engages the public with scientific issues. With NHM in February 2013, he submitted a bid for an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA), to be held jointly between Reading History and the Museum with NHM's Beccaloni. This application aligns with the Department's strategic contribution to the AHRC BGP2 bid, highlighting humanities/science collaborations.

Duggan directs the University's Centre for Modern Italian History, with members from Reading's School of Modern Languages and the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. He collaborated with partners from Warwick, Royal Holloway, Leicester to mount the AHRC sponsored exhibit 'Against Mussolini' (Estorick Collection, London, 2010), with public lectures and an online documentaries (See <http://www.mussolinicult.com/>).

Worley has contributed essays to catalogues and provided expertise on British youth for museum exhibitions in the USA, Spain, France and Germany and he will collaborate with artists under the Leverhulme bid mentioned above. His Oswald Mosley monograph formed the basis for a play by Alan Pollock that was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 2013 and is being developed for a stage performance at the Birmingham Rep (2014-15). Worley is also the co-founder of the journal *Twentieth Century Communism* and is currently lead-editing the forthcoming issue on communism and the 'cultural turn'.

In 2012, Murphy secured an AHRC collaborative doctoral award with the Commonwealth Secretariat for 'Placing knowledge in a decolonizing world.' Throughout the period under review, he jointly edited *The Journal of Imperial & Commonwealth History*. Mijers co-coordinates the Williamite Universe international network of researchers examining Anglo-Dutch 17C contexts. Risso is a collaborateur scientifique with the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Major collaborates with a film history network including Reading, national and overseas scholars. Bell and West have convened the Institute of Historical Research, London, seminar series in American history since 2006; Bell is also Chair of the Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States. Foxley collaborates with Reading's interdisciplinary Legacy of Greek Political Thought Network, which held its international launch conference in December 2011 and is crafting a project bid.

Economic and social history:

In addition to his international leadership role in rural history, Hoyle joins Mijers, Parish [Harper] and Foxley to collaborate with Reading and external partners in the Faculty's Centre for Early Modern Studies. The Centre runs a major annual international conference; the History

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Department managed it in 2009, 2011 and 2013. Burchardt collaborates with national and international scholars of modern rural history including the Family and Community Historical Research Society and CORN/COST European Rural Historians network. He also chairs the Interwar Rural History Research Group. The University's newly-established Centre for Economic History serves as a platform to attract PhD students, generate grant proposals and bring together historians in the departments of History, Economics, Classics and Archaeology, the ICMA Centre and the Henley Business School to investigate and develop new economic research areas. Yates has established CEH's ties with EU and US partners and Felix's extensive international links (Bibliothèque nationale de France; Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, Paris, etc.) will extend the influence of CEH. Felix has commented on the financial crisis for France-Culture and Nouvel Observateur and BBC Radio 4 In Our Time on the Physiocrats.

Religion, magic and the state:

The Faculty's Graduate Centre of Medieval Studies (GCMS), established in 1965, is our oldest collaborative endeavour with partners in Reading's Archaeology, Classics, Economics, English, Modern Languages, Music and Philosophy departments. GCMS publishes Reading Medieval Studies (ed. Rist). Grant continues to provide research leadership at an international level in the field of Royal and Aristocratic Cultural Patronage. She has served as President of the British Archaeological Association, through which she advised English Heritage on their conservation strategy. She is also a member of advisory board for the English Heritage Dover Castle project. Internationally, she serves on the advisory board for the European Research Council funded 'Rang und Ordnung: Fürstlicher Rang in spätmittelalterlichen Europa', based at Heidelberg, and has collaborated with colleagues from the University of Caen/Centre Culturel Internationale de Cerisy la Salle, the Musée de Normandie, Caen (on the Exhibition 'Chefs d'Oeuvre du Gothique en Normandie'), and on the international Comité Scientifique for the conservation and rehousing of the Bayeux Tapestry. Lawrence-Mathers will work with the Department of Meteorology, MERL and the Royal Meteorological Society on her 'Medieval Meteorology' project; the impact element of the project includes appearances at the Weather, Art & Music Festival in 2014. She also coedited (2010) a volume on women and writing with Hardman of the Department of English. Rist, meanwhile, serves on a number of subject-specific associations, including History UK.

Contribution to the discipline or research base (selected highlights)*Journal Editorships:*

Duggan: *Studi Storici*; Felix: *Histoire & Mesure*; Hoyle: Agricultural History Review; Murphy: Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History; Rist: Reading Medieval Studies; Worley: Twentieth Century Communism (founding co-editor).

Research Council service, Professional Society and Advisory Boards executive roles

Peer Colleges. AHRC: Bell (strategic reviewer), Duggan, Lawrence-Mathers, Worley. ESRC: Stack; Felix: Mission Historique de la Banque de France; Comité des Travaux Historiques et Scientifiques; Bell: Chair, Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States; Duggan: Association for the Study of Modern Italy; Grant: President, British Archaeological Association (2010-13); Angevin Acta Trust; English Heritage, Dover Castle Keep (restoration advisory board); Hoyle: President, European Rural History Society; President, List and Index Society; Rist: History UK Steering Committee; Yates: Economic History Society; British Agricultural Society; VP, Berkshire Local History Association.

External validation, Visiting Fellowships

Felix: FWO (Research Foundation Flanders), Canada Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; Stack: Harvard Fellowship, History of Medicine (2009); West: MA validation, Brunel University (2008); Juries, BAAS Book Award, BRANCH Dissertation Prize (2008).

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Burchardt: 'Allotments historical data collection' (dataset); Hoyle: 'The Rural World' series, Ashgate; Mijers: 'Politics and Culture in Europe, 1650-1750' series, Ashgate; coordinator, 'The Williamite Universe' (<http://www.let.uu.nl/ogc/William/>); Rist: 'The Cathars and the Albigensian Crusade: A Sourcebook' (Longman, forthcoming) (co-editor); West: 'British Association of American Studies' series, Edinburgh University Press and 'Enslaved Women in America' [textbook] (Rowman & Littlefield, forthcoming); Worley: 'Communist Lives', series, I.B. Tauris; Yates: 'An Historical Atlas of Berkshire' 2nd ed. (co-editor).