

Institution:	University of Northumbria at Newcastle
Unit of Assessment:	30 – History
a. Context	
<p>History research at Northumbria is strongly committed to making an impact beyond the academy and has strategies and procedures in place to ensure this happens. It is building new constituencies of support for historical research in the wider community and is developing key partnerships with organisations outside higher education, generating significant beneficial changes in local, national and international arenas in cultural life, civil society, education and public discourse. The History UoA has researchers who use a range of pathways to impact especially in collaboration with public history professionals, school educators, historical associations/societies, university services and policy makers. As a result, History research at Northumbria has impacted on the interpretation of cultural heritage at home and abroad, the education of tens of thousands of secondary school students in the United States, the provision of women's university centres in the United States and policy-makers in Scotland concerned with diasporas. Impact is ensured in part by making it a central element of external applications to support research; and this has been a feature of awards from, among others, the AHRC, the British Academy and the Nuffield Foundation</p>	
b. Approach to impact	
<p>Impact is a key element of History's research strategy at Northumbria. The Unit has a Research Champion and an Impact Champion who ensure that all new research projects include appropriate impact elements in their design. Impact is also an important element in staff Personal Research and Innovation Plans (PRIPs), which are online documents produced annually by all academic staff to record achievements and set out plans for research outputs, funding applications, postgraduate research supervision and other research activities. Impact activities and events are recognised in workload planning. The Unit has produced research which beneficially affects, among others, the Church of England, the American Country Music Hall of Fame, the National Museum of Scotland, Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives (TWAM), Women's Centres at Harvard University and the Universities of Rhode Island and North Carolina, the Delaware State school system and the Lowcountry Digital Library.</p> <p>Once potential for impact has been identified as part of an approved research plan and acknowledged in the workload, the Impact Champion helps researchers to develop their impact projects further. In this role, Mahlberg provides support and training for History researchers on strategies for developing pathways to impact, as well as guidance on compliance with REF guidelines. Mahlberg is a member of the Medieval and Early Modern research group and had a career in journalism before becoming an academic. She maintains a strong public profile through social media. Examples of work in this role include helping Hardwick devise an impact plan for his AHRC Fellowship to provide results from his historical research in overseas archives to the Church of England. She also helped Buelmann and Gleeson develop Twitter as a tool for engaging the general public with research.</p> <p>Financial support for impact case studies (ICSs) is provided in the first instance by the Unit, with the Impact Champion ensuring that the value and quality of the 'impacts' suitably reflect their cost. Higher Education Innovation Funds (HEIF) has been used to support user led research activities and promote research impact, one element of which is designed specifically to help researchers build partnerships outside of academia. Regular impact training sessions are scheduled both within the Unit and the University as a whole. The Unit coordinates closely with the University Press Office in generating public interest in research projects to create impact opportunities. The Department in which History is based also looks favourably on applications for research sabbaticals which focus on developing research impact.</p> <p>After training and initial guidance, the case study leader determines the level of activity and the support needed. Individual researchers are supported in identifying potential partners or target</p>	

Impact template (REF3a)

audiences with a view to extending the potential reach of their impact.

The Unit builds its impact activities both on long-standing relationships with regional groups such as the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society, and on new ones with national and international partnerships involving for instance the National Museum of Scotland and the Lowcountry Digital Library in the USA. Public engagement is central to the Unit's approach to generating impact through key strategic relationships with established regional, national and international organisations. The research undertaken has sought to make an impact on public discourse and the public consumption of social and cultural knowledge through exhibitions, educational materials, and engagements with sites of cultural importance such as the Tyneside Irish Centre and campus women's studies centres in the United States. The primary impacts are on practitioners and organisations that have changed their own outreach programmes as a result of the Unit's research.

The University continues to support impact activities by providing training and dedicated funds for researchers to enhance their research impact. A training programme also targets postgraduates, and in particular PhD students, to provide them with the necessary skills to deliver impact outcomes in the future. These transferable skills are explicitly linked to the requirements of the modern academic working environment. A number of former and current PhD students have already benefited from working with external collaborators, while learning how to link their research outputs to impact activity where possible. Staff training has reflected an increased commitment to impact. History had its first impact workshop in 2011 to help staff transform knowledge-transfer activities into measurable impact. Impact Champion **Mahlberg** and ICS leader **Buelmann** also led a day-long training session in 2012 on generating impact for staff, which included participants from local archives and museums as well as an international speaker from New Zealand supported in part by University HEIF money. Over 40 people attended, including 25 from history, ranging from postgraduate students and early career researchers to mid- and late-career staff.

This commitment to impact in History was recognised in October 2013 when the Unit, in partnership with English Literature and Arts at Northumbria, applied for and received an AHRC-funded Block Grant Partnership through the 'BGP2 Heritage Consortium' (led by Hull University) to establish the only 'Doctoral Training Centre for Heritage' in the country.

c. Strategy and plans

The Unit will continue to make impact a central aspect of research activity by requiring every member of staff to consider impact in their research plans. Impact activities will continue to be discussed at least once a semester with research mentors and research management, using the PRIP as a basis for the discussion. This process is complemented by the requirement for convincing impact plans in the Person Specifications of new and, in particular, senior staff recruitment policies. For example, the appointment of **Ward** as a Research Professor, who continues to develop a partnership with the Country Music Hall of Fame in the US, attests to this commitment.

Working relationships with regional and national organisations have been and will remain central to History's impact strategy as we also seek to expand international partnerships. An office for Business and Engagement (B&E) within the Faculty in which History is located provides valuable support to History by supporting several successful relationships, most notably with regional museum agencies and with the National Museum of Scotland. The Unit is involving as many researchers as possible in these relationships to create robust and sustainable working relationships for the future. Impact objectives and applications externally for research funding are being developed hand-in-hand, and as such, these relationships are important to our continued research objectives. A dedicated International Champion in the department will help increase international connections. The Impact Champion will continue to provide a supporting role in the development of clear and sustainable pathways to impact at the inception of research projects.

Current projects are exploring ways to extend impact beyond increasing cultural awareness and

education. Through its relationship with TWAM, for example, the Unit is now providing training sessions for museum and archival staff specifically designed to influence policy and decision making. This work with TWAM has brought in other colleagues' research projects. For example, **Robertson** and **Webster** will be contributing to activities with their work on the Co-operative Society. We will develop this relationship as a model for other university history clusters on how to influence and assist the policies of local public history outlets in these times of funding cuts. In a similar way, historical research undertaken at Northumbria is creating resources for historical societies such as the Lopez Foundation.

The experience gained from the current and recent impact achievements will generate further and sustainable effects. **Cullinane's** use of the web for generating impact outside of the UK is now a model for others both within History and the University as a whole. We will showcase this kind of good practice beyond our Unit and institution. We also seek to expand the scope of our impact activities beyond the areas we already work in to try and influence public policy debates and generate economic benefit. For example, continuing major research projects such as 'Locating the Hidden Diaspora', will be more fully developed from 2014 to explore potential benefits in heritage tourism from North America to England, as well as policy debates around how to define and celebrate 'Englishness'. New planned major applications for research support, such as one around 'American Emancipation in a Global Context' (to be submitted in 2014), will also include provisions to use the research generated to impact on policy, in this case around attempts by governments and NGOs to halt contemporary slavery and human trafficking. The AHRC-funded BGP will enhance the profile of History at Northumbria in the heritage sector. We anticipate developing new relationships with government, museum and heritage groups through our hosting of the Doctoral Training Centre in Heritage and our new cohort of PGR students undertaking research in this sector.

d. Relationship to case studies

The three ICSs submitted here exemplify the most advanced impact efforts based around the activities of our research groups. They demonstrate examples of how the Unit provides support, not least in time and resources, to ensure impact arises from excellent research. The British and Irish Worlds group (B&IW) provides two of the three ICSs ('Challenging Assumptions of the "Irish" and "English" at Home and Abroad' and 'Reconnecting the Scots in New Zealand with Scotland: Diaspora, Associations and Cultural Legacies'). It has adopted a collaborative approach to both research and impact and has also been successful in attracting a major research grant from the AHRC (the 'Locating the Hidden Diaspora' project, worth £286,000).

Buelmann and **Cullinane** have already been allocated time and resources through the processes outlined above to develop impact from their research. The former has been supported from the History research budget to travel to Edinburgh to meet and work with staff at the National Museum of Scotland, and funds were provided to add an impact element to her research trip to New Zealand in January 2012. This gave her the extra time to influence local Scottish festivals. **Cullinane** has also received funds to develop the size and content of his website for teachers and received teaching relief in semester two, 2012/13, to give him time to develop his case study, as well as funds from HEIF to support associated travel.

The ICS leaders have also made use of University provision. For example, following B&E's initiation of a relationship with TWAM, MacRaid and **Gleeson** collaborated with the 'History Keeper' and director at Newcastle Discovery Museum to build an exhibition and initiate training sessions for staff at the archives and museum.

All three case studies have had valuable support from the Impact Champion, including advice on how to generate impact opportunities; how to collect and verify impact claims; and how to formulate their impact narratives. They are now used as models to help all our researchers to generate significant and sustainable impact.