

Institution: DURHAM UNIVERSITY
Unit of Assessment: 30 (HISTORY)
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The Department of History engages across the full range of its research activities with a multiplicity of individuals, groups and institutions, reaching from Durham city and the North East to the wider United Kingdom and overseas. The main beneficiaries are:</p> <p><u>(a) heritage, cultural, media and leisure organisations</u>, both commercial and charitable, from Durham's UNESCO World Heritage Site to national collections;</p> <p><u>(b) policy organisations, government departments and international bodies</u>, particularly the charitable sector, NGOs, agencies of the United Nations, and the governments of the United Kingdom, Europe and the USA;</p> <p><u>(c) educational practitioners and communities of learners</u>, in regional schools, UK and overseas universities, and educational companies, organisations and charities.</p> <p>The main forms of impact are: expert advice on the assessment and exhibition of historic collections; stimulating cultural tourism; influencing policy and governance; and shaping pedagogic practice. The Department's external engagements have benefitted from strategic decisions to develop the particular areas of research strength outlined in REF5, and to use its research to stimulate new approaches to learning in schools. Through the University's Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS), the Department works in partnership with English Heritage, Durham Cathedral and other regional cultural organisations. The University's Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR) facilitates engagement with national economic and social policies, while practical and pressing problems in policy and international aid are integral to the academic work of the Department's historians of north-east Africa.</p> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>A leading aim of the Department's research strategy since 2008 has been to support areas of research which combine academic excellence with a demonstrable potential to benefit non-academic users. Policies enabling the Department to meet this objective include: (a) allocation of departmental and institutional funds and research leave to facilitate external engagement; (b) experience of public engagement as a criterion in recent strategic senior appointments (Jordanova as a former trustee of the National Portrait Gallery and current trustee of the Science Museum Group, and founder chair of its collections and research committee; Taylor as co-director of the Clergy of the Church of England Database (CCEd));(c) appointment of a departmental impact officer to organise workshops for sharing good practice on impact, to co-ordinate seedcorn applications and to advise on external partnerships; (d) a staff advisory system that incorporates guidance on public engagement and impact.</p> <p>The Department supports periods of secondment in order to develop public engagement schemes: Willis as Director of the British Institute in East Africa, 2006–9, Leonardi with the Rift Valley Institute and US Institute of Peace (USIP), 2009–10, and Gameson with Durham Cathedral Library from 2013. While seconded to Dresden University, Schiller co-organised an international symposium of FIFA officials, football journalists and historians, using his research on the history of the World Cup to consider the political dimension of the competition for the host nations.</p> <p>The University's Strategy for Research Impact incentivises impact generation through staff development and annual personal research plans, research leave and academic promotion, faculty and departmental plans, and training for research students. A University Impact Forum and a Faculty Advisory Board bring together academics, representatives from professional support services, and non-academic partners from cultural organisations and public sector bodies to advise, encourage and deepen external collaborations. University funds facilitated a workshop organised by postgraduate historians on public engagement for early career researchers in the arts and humanities (June 2013). They have also supported activities undertaken by Fox on the British Documentary Film Movement (CS2), Willis and Leonardi on the Sudanese borderlands (CS1 and CS3), and Dodds and Fox with the Royal Society of Arts and Manufactures (RSA) in bringing academic research into secondary schools. IMEMS funding has assisted the creation of a public medieval garden and collaboration with Blackfriars Restaurant, Newcastle, introducing medieval cuisine to its menu. The Media and Communications Office offers advanced training programmes to develop public engagement through the media. Durham historical research has featured in a wide range of print and broadcast media (including BBC1, 2 and 4, BBC Radio 3 and 4, Channel 4, Talk-Radio Europe, REN-TV (Russia), Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, PBS and HBO (USA),</p>

Impact template (REF3a)

and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Channel 10 Australia, and in *The Financial Times*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Times*, *Independent*, *Guardian*, *Mail on Sunday*, *THES*, *TLS*, *BBC History Magazine*, *The Sky at Night* and *New Statesman*). **Schiller's** work on the 1972 Olympics in *Der Spiegel* led to collaboration with the Nemetschek Foundation in its exhibition in Munich on 'München 72' (2012).

The strategy to make more and better use of Durham's historical resources (REF5, b and d) developed expertise which has stimulated external impact of the Department's research in two main respects:

1. Consultancies and advice to cultural bodies: The Department has used its location on the World Heritage Site to develop partnerships with Durham Cathedral and Durham County Council in order to enhance public understanding of the City's culture, buildings and collections and help to attract international visitors to the city. These partnerships fed into more ambitious projects involving further local partners, and provide experience that facilitates cooperation with other national bodies. Following the University's investment of £10m to develop public use of its Palace Green Library (PGL), **Gameson** advised on its new exhibition spaces; he has also produced volumes on the 'Treasures' of Durham Cathedral and Durham University Library. **Green** advised on the restoration of Bishop Cosin's Library in PGL; he is also secretary of the Durham Heritage Centre's management board and vice-president of the Durham Architecture and Archaeological Society. **McClive** provided a series of public lectures to accompany the PGL exhibition on 'The practical art of medicine' (2012–13), and **Leonardi**, **Vaughan** and **Willis** contributed to the 'Disappearing Heritage of Sudan' at Durham's Oriental Museum (2013). It is testimony to the expertise in the Department that national bodies consult its members on the identification, evaluation and purchase of manuscripts and works of art. **Gameson** served on the advisory board for the Canterbury manuscripts project (2011–12) and the research forum of the Courtauld Institute (2008–2012), and evaluates manuscripts for the British Library, Canterbury Cathedral, Durham Cathedral, insurance companies and auction houses. **Osborne's** advice to the Philip Mould Gallery, the leading commercial art gallery specialising in British art and portraiture, led to the re-identification of an important work by Van Dyck and a subsequent exhibition ('Finding Van Dyck', 2011) as part of London Master Paintings week.

2. Policy advice to NGOs and government agencies: The Department builds on its long-standing partnership with the Rift Valley Institute (RVI), a non-profit organisation working with communities, institutions and individuals to bring local knowledge to bear on political and economic regional development. **Willis** has been a fellow of RVI since 2004, a director since 2009 and one of five trustees since 2010 (CS1). This partnership formed the basis for funded policy work with the Leverhulme Trust and USIP on local justice in the Sudan (**Leonardi**, CS3), and with the British Academy and the Department for International Development, Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on political stability in north-east Africa (**Willis**, CS1). Together with a grant from the African Borderland Research Network, University seedcorn funds enabled **Vaughan** and **Leonardi** to bring together European and African scholars with representatives from the FCO and NGOs on the politics of Sudanese borderlands (2011). **Vaughan** advised an African Union panel of experts in Addis Ababa (2012) on a legal recommendation on disputed areas to be presented to North and South Sudan. **Michie**, an expert on international finance and banking, was commissioned by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills to contribute a briefing document on Britain's financial cluster to its series of Economics Papers (2010); more recently, through collaboration with the IHRR on the Leverhulme Strategic Award on 'Tipping Points', he has provided advice to HM Treasury on Eurodollar and Eurobond markets (2010), and contributed to the design of macroprudential policy at the Central Bank of Ireland (2013).

The Department's national reputation in research-led teaching led to the establishment of a series of partnerships with schools and educational consultancies. Durham historians have undertaken external consultancies for national and international HEIs and teacher-training projects, such as Epigeum (**Fox**, **Mears**); worked in partnership with English Touring Opera on educational programmes (**Mears**); and developed initiatives to introduce into schools new approaches to learning. In 2012 medieval, early modern and modern historians with departmental funding held a free residential conference for 35 teachers from 30 schools across the UK to present new historical research and methods, and consider the effect of government curriculum reforms on schools. **Dodds** in collaboration with Hartlepool Sixth Form College deployed his research on medieval Robin Hood and bandit texts to encourage increased levels of participation in HE. In order to

Impact template (REF3a)

extend the regional and national reach of this initiative, the Department secured a partnership with the RSA (**Fox** and **Dodds**), which resulted in a joint workshop in June 2013, with teachers, council policy-makers and local charities.

c. Strategy and plans

While deepening and extending its existing partnerships, the Department's strategy is to create, identify and support new and emerging initiatives. This will be achieved by: (1) strengthening the Department's systems for identifying and monitoring the benefit of its research for external partners, and for appreciating the value of these partnerships in stimulating new research questions; (2) through its Research Committee, ensuring that from inception research development plans include consideration of the potential for impact, and early identification of potential collaborations and the resources needed for their development; (3) enhancing existing partnerships and expertise in public engagement; (4) embedding an understanding of public engagement in the training of early career researchers.

Specific plans

(a) The University is appointing three impact officers (for the research institutes, for arts and culture, and for policy), and appropriate allowance for external engagement is to be included in workload calculations. A new University Research Management Information System will collate quantitative and qualitative information on external engagement which will support the Department's plans for impact.

(b) The Department's advisory policy (see REF5, c) and personal development plans will identify prospective public engagement activities. Such activities will be supported by increased University impact seedcorn funds (to £250,000) and strategic deployment of departmental resources.

(c) Existing partnerships with policy-makers and NGOs are being enhanced and new collaborations developed. Two ESRC awards, one with the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool, are funding work on elections and political behaviour in sub-Saharan Africa. An agreement is in place with the RSA for a widening participation project in partnership with 10 schools in the North East.

(d) The Department will deepen its engagement with cultural and heritage bodies in collaboration with the newly established Centre for Visual Arts and Cultures (CVAC) and with IMEMS. As co-director of CVAC, **Jordanova** is leading new partnerships with the Bowes museum and the Science Museum Group. **Gasper's** AHRC 'Ordered Universe' network project to enhance public understanding of the medieval origins of modern science is exploring collaborations with the European Meteorological Society and NASA on the history of meteorology. With the educational staff of PGL, **Taylor** will increase awareness of religious cultures in local communities through the outreach work of the CCed. **Wood** will use his experience in 3D virtual-reality reconstructions to provide new interpretations of the Durham World Heritage Site for the general public.

(e) Following the successful bid to the AHRC's BGP2 scheme, the Department's research students will benefit from increased training in public engagement and impact and from funded placement opportunities. The Department's new CDAs with the FCO and the National Media Museum provide a template for future collaborations.

d. Relationship to case studies

The case studies exemplify the Department's strategy of supporting areas of research with clear potential to benefit non-academic users, and its commitment to taking its research to varied communities of learners, from schoolchildren and teachers to practitioners and policy professionals. CS1 (governance, elections and borders in north-east Africa) demonstrates how the partnership with the RVI created opportunities to shape policy. The use of Durham's resources in Sudanese history facilitated a collaboration with an NGO for the work in CS3 that in turn influenced international responses to local justice and traditional authority in South Sudan. CS1 and CS3 benefited from the Department's support for secondments with policy dimensions, its strategic deployment of internal funds, and its ability to engage a wide variety of external sponsors. CS4 on the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition demonstrates the deployment of the Department's expertise in culture and heritage in collaboration with IMEMS, PGL and the World Heritage Site to benefit public understanding and increase regional tourism. CS2 (on the Grierson Trust and the British Documentary Film Movement), assisted by seedcorn funds, exemplifies the effectiveness of institutional support in identifying and supporting areas of potential impact. The case studies informed staff development workshops on impact (2013) which are shaping departmental strategy from 2014.