

<p>Institution: University of South Wales</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: D30</p> <hr/> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>History at the University of South Wales (USW) constitutes a self-contained research group within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences / Faculty of Business and Society. Group members deliver a single-honours BA in History and contribute to a variety of other undergraduate programmes; they also contribute to Masters Programmes in History, heritage, and local studies. The Unit of Assessment encompasses colleagues from the pre-merger HEIs, the University of Glamorgan and the University of Wales, Newport. A total of 7.8 FTE have been submitted.</p> <p>Research within the Unit of Assessment is integrated within the overarching strategy of the University. Strategic leadership is the role of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Student Experience) who liaises with the Central Research Office in order to provide core support, from grant applications to training seminars, such as the supervision of PhD students. At Faculty level, responsibility for the implementation of strategy is undertaken by the Head of Research and this is communicated to Unit of Assessment leaders at regular meetings of the Faculty Research and Scholarship Committee. Research strategy beyond REF 2014 has been augmented by the foundation of four Research Institutes. History belongs to the Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSOC), which has already begun its work.</p> <p>The University's commitment to realising research strategy has been given material support by means of the 'University Research Investment Scheme' (RIS), through which the DVC (Research and Student Experience) has allocated £850,000 over the past five years. Strategically important projects have been supported, including facilitating the projects of ECRs. Similar schemes have operated at Faculty level in order to ensure the timely completion of projects and to sustain research beyond REF 2014.</p> <p>The University's commitment to research has also gained external recognition. USW has been awarded the HR Excellence in Research Award by the European Commission for our work to implement the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. This award demonstrates the University's commitment to meeting the needs of researchers and improving opportunities for them in terms of development and future careers.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Since RAE 2008 History at USW has acted to consolidate and further develop existing areas of strength while investing in newer areas of research expertise; the latter now feature prominently in the Unit's activities. Important initiatives in the fields of border studies and gender history, begun in the years preceding RAE 2008, have been brought to fruition. Gemie and Reid's project on displaced peoples in mid twentieth-century Europe, supported by a £96,000 grant from the Leverhulme Trust, resulted in the well-received monograph, <i>Outcast Europe: Refugees and Relief Works in an Era of Total War, 1936-1948</i>. Likewise, the work of Masson (d. 2008) in the field of women's history has flowed into the cross-disciplinary Centre for Gender Studies in Wales (http://genderstudies.research.southwales.ac.uk/).</p> <p>History staff and postgraduates have played a leading role in the Centre for Gender Studies, whose evolution has tracked the most significant recent shifts in women's/gender history. Public events organised by the Centre, ranging from a centenary celebration of International Women's Day in 2008 (in collaboration with the Women's History Network) to the more recent (2012) conference on 'New Histories of Love and Romance' convened by Jones (a co-director of the Centre for Gender Studies and the editor of a volume stemming from this conference), demonstrate USW scholars' continued engagement with the field and the vitality of their contributions. At another USW-hosted conference, 'Women on the Move' (2010), the themes of displacement, upheaval and women's experience were successfully combined and cross-fertilized.</p>
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A volume of essays arising from that event was published under **Reid's** editorship in 2012.

If work on gender matters was pursued under the auspices of a formally constituted research centre, scholarship on war and violence has continued under the direction of a less formal but very active research cluster within History, which was set up in the immediate aftermath of RAE 2008. A themed research seminar series (2008-11), which was designed to integrate postgraduate students into the wider research environment, was the prelude to a sequence of conferences that explored the non-military experience of war and violence:

- 'Writing Refugees into History' (2009), convened by **Gemie** in collaboration with the 'Exilio Network: Research into Refugees and other Migrations' (<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/exilio/>), which gave rise to the volume *Coming Home* under the editorship of **Gemie**;
- 'Unarmed on the Battlefield: Non-Combatants and War' (2010), convened by **Finucane** in collaboration with the Centre for War Studies at Trinity College Dublin;
- 'Cold War Wales: Politics, Peace and Culture' (2010), held in collaboration with Llafur: Welsh People's History Society, which led to a themed issue of *Llafur* in 2011 under the editorship of **LaPorte, Reid** and Williams.

This is to speak of research networks that originated in collaboration between members of History at USW. There are, of course, numerous projects that USW historians direct in conjunction with external partners, nationally and beyond. **Evans** extended his work as a historian of international industrialisation by leading 'A World of Copper: Globalizing the Industrial Revolution, c.1830-1870', a project awarded £122,000 by the Leverhulme Trust (2012-2013). It brought together historians from USW and the universities of Exeter, Santiago de Chile, Swansea, Toulouse, and Western Australia. **Evans** is also the co-director of 'Places for Making, Places for Taking: Metals in the Global Eighteenth Century', which received c. £390,000 in funding from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond in Sweden (2013-2016). This last award represents a further stage in long-standing collaboration with partners at Uppsala University. **LaPorte**, meanwhile, has positioned himself at the centre of scholarship on communism. A member since 2003 of the international advisory board of the *Jahrbuch für Historische Kommunismusforschung* (founded by Hermann Weber, the doyen of communist history), **LaPorte** became one of the founding editors of *Twentieth Century Communism: A Journal of International History* in 2009. This extended an already fruitful collaboration with professors Kevin Morgan (Manchester) and Matthew Worley (Reading).

A measure of History's achievement since 2008, however crude, is the extent of overall publication. USW's historians have been responsible for 8 monographs; 8 edited books; 34 articles in refereed journals; 30 chapters in edited volumes; 3 special issues of journals; and 2 refereed entries in encyclopaedias.

The Unit's strategy for the coming years includes continued active collaboration within and the further development of History Research Wales (HRW) as a nascent Welsh Institute of Historical Research, a body that can focus and concentrate energies within the profession in Welsh HE. It was established following RAE 2008 as an umbrella group to represent staff at the St David's Day Group of universities (Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Swansea, and USW) in order to gain greater purchase on the UK-national and international scene. (In this respect, it is important to note that HRW represents the profession as whole: historians working in Welsh institutions, not historians of Wales.). At the centre of its strategic vision are a number of key objectives: (i) to allow historians in Welsh HE to speak with a clearer, louder voice; (ii) to facilitate collaborative research projects and funding bids; (iii) act in concert with the Institute of Historical Research and other UK-national bodies; (iv) act as an enabler for postgraduate training; (v) foster greater interaction between professional historians, HEFCW and the Welsh Government; and (vi) raise the profile of the profession within Welsh and UK-national media. Progress has been made in all these areas and historians from USW have been centrally involved. Not coincidentally, there has been an unmistakable improvement in the quality, quantity and visibility of research by USW historians.

A recent collaborative bid to the British Academy by **Evans**, with partners at Aberystwyth and Swansea, and associates in France was built upon seed-corn funding from HRW. This project (on

the collection of technological knowledge in nineteenth-century Europe) is intended as a harbinger of further developments over 2014-2019. More immediately, however, we are working towards the closer integration of researchers at the two constituent parts of USW: the University of Glamorgan and the University of Wales, Newport. A joint research seminar series in 2012-13 heralded a fresh phase of development in areas of work that have acquired critical mass through the merger. Chief amongst these is digital history/heritage, where USW can now boast accomplished practitioners with established links to the heritage sector and commercial partners. Colleagues at the former Glamorgan have formal links with the National Museum of Wales at St Fagan, where they have been instrumental in developing hand-held technologies to guide visitors around an extensive open-air site, while colleagues at Caerleon have wide experience in the digital interpretation of the internationally front-rank Roman remains that surround their campus. For Caerleon-based historians this has meant cooperation with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales and with Cadw (the local equivalent to English Heritage), with the National Museums of Wales, with local authorities, and with third sector groups. Practitioners at both campuses joined in 'Linking the Chain: The Network for Digital Heritage in Wales', an AHRC-funded project led by the University of Glamorgan in 2010-2011. This collective experience is the foundation for an emergent research cluster with four KESS-funded PhD students working on digital heritage topics.

The Unit has therefore strategic themes in mind, while also accounting for more individualised projects which locate History within the wider scholarly community. This applies to distinguished work by Croll on leisure and tourism; Reid's work on the medical history of war; Gray's work on devotional practices in late medieval and early modern Wales; and Allen's work on transatlantic Quakerism. We are also investing in up-and-coming collaborative ventures like 'Journeys to the East: the Hippy Trail c.1957-1979' (<http://hippy-trail-project.blogs.southwales.ac.uk/welcome-to-the-hippy-trail-project/>), which builds upon the expertise of Gemie in cultural traffic between East and West and Ireland's research on the 'road genre' in US literary and popular culture.

The long-term health of such ventures depends, of course, upon the capture of external funding, especially from RCUK. To that end, a newly appointed post-doctoral researcher, who will join the Unit in December 2013, is tasked with the preparation of external bids.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The period leading up to the last RAE was (at the former University of Glamorgan) a time of significant staff turnover; the years since have, by contrast, been far more stable. Illness deprived us of Masson, a leading force in women's history, in 2008, and Williams retired as Professor of Modern Welsh History in 2010, yet their contributions to History at USW continue to resonate. The Ursula Masson Memorial Lecture has brought eminent women historians to the campus since 2009, while Williams retains an emeritus position and a public presence as a commentator on Welsh history.

The appointment of ECRs Finucane and **Jones** in 2008 allowed for a strategic growth in early modern European provision and ensured continuity in the field of women's/gender history. The recruitment of these young scholars has contributed to the consolidation of a notably solid and cohesive History team. The new ECRs were allotted reduced teaching loads in their first years and enlisted straight away into the research clusters that were being promoted as a vehicle for research success in the post-2008 period. Finucane played an important organisational and intellectual role in the 'war and violence' cluster from its inception, while **Jones** joined the cross-disciplinary Centre for Gender Studies and took a critical part in re-orientating the centre towards the history of sexuality and, more recently, engaging with the history of emotions. Mentoring was made available to all new staff, whether they were permanent appointments or fixed-term researchers. Senior staff advised on grant applications, read drafts and suggested target journals and publishers. The success enjoyed by several of those who were engaged in this process suggests that it was not without effect. **Jones** secured a Discovery Early Career Award with the Australian Research Council, while Withey, a fixed-term research assistant (and former Glamorgan

undergraduate) went on to publish an award-winning book in early modern medical history and take up a postdoctoral post at a Russell Group institution.

The needs of more established staff members have also been attended to. Sabbaticals have been awarded or (where administrative pressures would not allow for that) significant release from teaching duties granted. Research leave is awarded competitively on the basis of applications with clearly stated outcomes; it is not awarded as of right. Research leave can be applied for by all members of staff, full-time or part-time. Fixed-terms appointees may apply for QR funding and have done so with success. In one case, a fixed-term research assistant has been helped with conducting research in Bolivian archives. Fixed-term appointees are accorded the same mentoring and appraisal opportunities as their permanently contracted colleagues, and they can take advantage of the same training opportunities. The career development of postdoctoral researchers has taken a practical form in the joint-authorship of articles/books with established members of staff. Thus, Humbert, a research assistant funded by the Leverhulme Trust (2007-2010), is a co-author of *Outcast Europe* alongside **Gemie** and **Reid**, while Withey (employed 2010-2011) is the co-author with **Evans** of an article in *Technology and Culture*. Both items are submitted in REF2. Another Leverhulme-funded researcher, Saunders (2012-2013), is writing two articles on the 'World of Copper' project alongside **Evans**.

As junior colleagues made their initial steps in the profession so the accomplishments of their more seasoned colleagues have brought advancement. **Gemie** and Howell were awarded personal chairs in 2009 and 2011, while **Allen** and **Gray** were promoted to Readerships in 2008 in 2009 respectively. As a result, USW can now call upon a considerable body of experience in History.

ii. Research students

The postgraduate community at USW is not large in absolute numbers but it is substantial in relative terms. Moreover, it is conspicuously diverse in its interests and remarkable for its energy. The topics of current doctoral students include medieval landscapes, magic and the supernatural in the eighteenth century, boxing in modern Wales, Quakerism and refugees, British policy towards independent Libya, and heritage policy in devolved Wales.

Postgraduate activity is overseen by the Faculty Research Programmes Committee (FRPC), which has responsibility for monitoring student progress and ensuring compliance with ethical and professional standards. A team of dedicated staff in the Graduate Research Office coordinates induction and training for PGRS, from initial application to final award. Training for PhD supervisors is arranged externally through the Missenden Centre. The History team also promotes training, not just through its MA programmes but through one-off events like the methods workshop staged in 2011 for PGRS from across Wales, utilising tutors from the Institute for Historical Research. This event was appended to the Royal Historical Society's regional symposium and funded by the Economic History Society.

In the period covered by the REF, the University has invested heavily in provision for post-graduate research students (PGRS). A state-of-the-art Graduate Research Centre, opened in 2011, offers IT and office facilities, a suite of meeting rooms, and generous social space, as well as all-hours access to staff from the Graduate Research Office. To commemorate the foundation in 1913 of the Treforest School of Mines, the ancestral body to which the current USW can be traced, the University endowed twenty 'Centenary' PhD bursaries (one of which is held by a History PGRS working on labour in Swansea's nineteenth-century copper industry). A further USW-funded doctoral student will start work in 2014 as an in-kind contribution by the University to **Evans'** project 'Metals in the Global Eighteenth Century' that is funded by Riskbankens Jubileumsfond. Investment is also made on a regular basis by the History Unit itself, with QR funding made readily available for postgraduates to make archival trips and attend workshops and conferences. Such support has allowed, for example, a doctoral student to carry out field work in Chile and attend the 'World of Copper' workshop at the University of Santiago de Chile.

History post-graduates are expected to attend the History research-seminar programme. It is where many of them give their own research its first public outing. Attention is also given to

promising undergraduates who could progress to Masters Level and beyond. The 'Outcast Europe' project, for example, organised a series of study days to which undergraduates were specifically invited as a taster of more advanced study.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Historians at USW have secured external funding from a variety of agencies, nationally and internationally. The Leverhulme Trust has made major awards to **Gemie** (£96,000, spanning 2007-2010) for 'Outcast Europe', and to **Evans** (£122,000 in 2012-2013) for 'A World of Copper' (as detailed in [b] above), while the British Academy supported **LaPorte's** project 'Ernst Thälmann and German Communism, 1886-1944' with a grant of just under £7,000 (spanning 2007-2008). All of these projects have had a strongly international character and have involved partners from four continents. Indeed, USW historians have demonstrated an ability to tap substantial non-UK sources of research funding. **Jones** was awarded c. £250,000 by the Australian Research Council in 2011 for the project 'Whose Family Values? The Christian Right and Sexual Politics in Post-secular Australia', which has allowed him to take up a secondment to LaTrobe University, Melbourne. **Evans**, meanwhile, has been party to two awards by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond in Sweden, one a pilot grant of c. £15,000, the other a major award of c. £390,000, to support the collaborative project 'Metals in the Global Eighteenth Century'.

In 2010, **Jones** was awarded a British Academy Overseas Conference grant (£400) to attend the 15th Berkshire Conference of Women's Historians at Amherst College, where he organised the panel 'Contesting the Boundaries of Christian Sexuality'. In 2013 **Allen** secured £2,250 from the Welsh Government's Strategic Insight Programme (SIP) funding (with Gwent Archives) for 'Interpreting Monmouthshire Poor Relief Records in their Historical Context' and a further £2,450 of SIP funding (with Cumbria Archives) for 'The Secret Life of an Eighteenth-Century Lawyer'. In partnership with Erin Bell (University of Lincoln), **Allen** also won £900 from the Scottish Society of Antiquaries for a study entitled 'Quakers on the Border: Anglo-Scottish relations 1650-1850'. The History Subject Centre of the Higher Education Academy awarded Finucane £4,341 for the project 'Maps for Early Modernists'

Very often, the hosting of conferences and public events has been made possible by the award of external funding. **Reid** and Masson received £1,700 from the Welsh Assembly for a conference marking the 100th International Women's Day in 2008. **Reid** and Withey received an award from the Wellcome Trust (£1,300) to support the conference 'Medicine at the Margins: ideas, knowledge and practice from the early modern to the modern period' (2011) which was hosted by USW. This was followed by sponsorship from the Royal Historical Society for the symposium 'Visualising the Past: History, Heritage and Technology' (organised by **Evans**).

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

USW's historians are engaged in advancing our discipline in numerous ways. Some of this takes the form of public engagement, which is reported separately in REF3a, but much time is also devoted to sustaining the institutional fabric of the profession. Our contribution to the formation of History Research Wales should be singled out in this respect. **Evans** and **LaPorte** sit on the HRW steering committee and organised HRW's first major public event, the 2011 regional symposium of the Royal Historical Society.

A number of colleagues hold editorships and related positions with journals or series. **Allen** is an associate editor of *The British Scholar Society* and sits on the editorial board of *Quaker Studies*; **Croll** is a member of the editorial board of *Llafur*; **Croll**, **Gray** and Howell have all served as volume editors of *The Gwent County History* (5 volumes, 2004-2013); Finucane is a contributing/managing editor of *The History of Universities*; Howell is general editor of the South Wales Record Society, the archaeology editor of *Studia Celtica* and a member of the editorial board of *Monmouthshire Antiquary*; **Jones** is the reviews editor for *H-Histsex*; **LaPorte** is a co-editor of *Twentieth Century Communism* and, as mentioned earlier, a member of the advisory board for the *Jahrbuch für Historische Kommunismusforschung*; and **Reid** sits on the council of the

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Army Records Society.

LaPorte edited or co-edited three special issues, all of which followed events hosted by USW: *Anarchist Studies* on anarchosyndicalism (2009); *Llafur* on Cold War Wales (2011, with **Reid**); and *Twentieth Century Communism* (2013) on 'local communisms'. **Reid** is also co-editor of a special issue of *Women's History Review* for 2014, based upon the Women's History Network 2012 conference on 'Women, State and Nation'.

We have organised twenty-one conferences/symposia. In addition to the three events detailed at (b) above, these were:

- The Annual Chartist Conference for 2008 (in association with the Society for the Study of Labour History: **Allen**)
- The Annual Chartist Conference for 2009 (co-organised by **Allen**, staged at Llanidloes)
- The Annual Chartist Conference for 2010 (co-organised by **Allen**, hosted by Université Paris 4-Sorbonne)
- 'Visualising the Past: History, Heritage and Technology (2011: **Evans**)
- 'Medicine at the Margins: Ideas, Knowledge and Practice from the Early Modern to the Modern Period' (2011: **Reid** and Withey)
- 'Local Communisms 1917-1989' (2011: **LaPorte**)
- The Annual Chartist Conference for 2011 (co-organised by **Allen**, hosted by the University of Leeds)
- '**A World of Copper: Globalising the Industrial Revolution**', workshop 1 (2012: organised by **Evans** and hosted by Swansea University)
- 'Material Religion in Modern Britain and its Worlds' (2012: **Jones**). Papers from this event will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014 as *Material Religion in Modern Britain: The Spirit of Things*, co-edited by Jones.
- 'Women, State and Nation' (National Women's History Network annual conference for 2012: organised by **Reid**, hosted by Cardiff University)
- '**A World of Copper: Globalising the Industrial Revolution**', workshop 2 (2012: organised by **Evans** at Burra, South Australia)
- The Annual Chartist Conference for 2012 (co-organised by **Allen**, hosted by the People's History Museum, Manchester)
- 'New Histories of Love and Romance' (2012: **Jones**). Papers from this event will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014 as *Love and Romance in Britain, 1918-1970*, co-edited by **Jones**.
- 'Wales and the Wider-world: A Conference of the British Scholar Society' (2013: **Allen**)
- '**A World of Copper: Globalising the Industrial Revolution**', workshop 3 (2013: organised by **Evans** and hosted by the University of Santiago de Chile)
- The Annual Chartist Conference for 2013 (co-organised by **Allen**, hosted by Sheffield Hallam University)
- 'Communist Studies Seminar: Berlin, Paris, London and beyond (2013: **LaPorte**)
- 'Touch the Sky: The Hippy Trail and other forms of Alternative Tourism' (2013: **Ireland** and **Gemie**)

USW historians have contributed to the health of the wider profession in numerous ways. They have served as examiners of doctoral dissertations at Birmingham (**Allen**), Sheffield (**Evans**), Loughborough (**Gemie**), and King's College London (**Reid**). They have refereed a range of manuscripts for publishers, including Ashgate, Berg, Brill, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Manchester University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Pearson, Verso, and the Welsh Books Council. Above all, they have acted as referees for a wide variety of journals: *Anarchist Studies*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Economic History Review*, *Enterprise and Society*, *Gender and History*, *Historical Research*, *History*, *History Compass*, *History of Universities*, *International Review of Social History*, *Jahrbuch für Historische Kommunismusforschung*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of Global History*, *Journal of Historical Sociology*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Journal of Welsh Religious History*, *Modern and Contemporary France*, *North-West History*, *Quaker Studies*, *Sexuality Research*, *Social Policy*,

Socialist History, Technology and Culture, Twentieth Century Communism, and Women's History Review.

Members of the History Unit have given willingly of their time to a variety of scholarly associations, heritage bodies and voluntary organisations. **Croll** and **Evans**, for example, have both served as members of the academic advisory board for *The Cardiff Story*, the new museum of Cardiff life (<http://www.cardiffmuseum.com/>), which opened in 2011. Indeed, **Croll** served a secondment to *The Cardiff Story* thanks to a SIP award of £2,500. He is also a trustee of the Glamorgan History Trust. **Evans** has been an adviser to *Cu @ Swansea*, an urban regeneration partnership between Swansea University and the City and County of Swansea that has received major funding from the Welsh Government and the European Regional Development Fund. He has also been a participant in *Cu @ Swansea's* AHRC-funded Connected Communities programme. Howell is director of the Torfaen Museum Trust and chairs the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, while **Reid** is regional secretary for the Women's History Network. (Other forms of scholarly service, most notably involving charitable trusts, are outlined in REF3a.)

In turn, the standing of USW historians has been recognised by prizes and fellowships. **Evans** was co-winner of the Lester J. Cappon prize for the best article published in *The William and Mary Quarterly* in 2012 and received the 2013 Jack Temple Kirby Award of the Southern Historical Association for his article 'The Plantation Hoe', while **Jones** won the LGBT Religious History Award 2012-13 for his article 'The Stained Glass Closet'. (Both items are submitted in REF2.) **Evans** has been awarded a sequence of stipendiary fellowships in the United States: the Betty Sams Christian Fellowship at the Virginia Historical Society (2008); a Gilder Lehrman Fellowship at the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (2009); a H.B. du Pont Fellowship at the Hagley Museum & Library's Centre for the History of Business, Technology, and Society (2011); and a visiting fellowship at the Filson Historical Society (2013).

Esteem for USW's historians is also indicated by invitations to address international gatherings or contribute to notable events:

- **Allen's** expertise in early Welsh American history was recognised by an invitation to Haverford College, Pennsylvania (2011).
- **Evans** has spoken on Atlantic slavery at the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Santiago de Chile (2013) and participated in debates and roundtables on Welsh history in international perspective at the Hay Festival for 2011 and 2013. He has also acted as a discussant at 'Technology and Human Capital Formation in the East and West' (LSE, 2008) and at a gathering of 'Sweden's Cosmopolitan Eighteenth Century' research network (Helsinki, 2011).
- **Jones's** rising reputation as a scholar of religion and sexuality has also been reflected in invitations to speak at the universities of Newcastle (NSW), Melbourne and Monash (2012-2013).
- **LaPorte** has spoken by invitation on German and international communism at the Free University of Berlin/Foundation for the Evaluation of the East German Dictatorship (2010), Elgin Community College, Chicago, and the Chicago-based 'Open University of the Left' (both in 2011), and the University of Potsdam (2012).