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Institution: Swansea
Unit of Assessment: 30 - History
a. Overview

History at Swansea is an outward-looking unit, distinctive for its breadth of scholarly activity from the ancient civilizations to the contemporary world, and for its engagement with the heritage and public history agendas in Wales, Europe and beyond. Within our broad community of historians, there are four main research groupings: **MEMO** (the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Research) established in 2006; the **Research Group for Health, History and Culture** established in 2010; the **Richard Burton Centre** for the Study of Wales (2009); and the **Conflict and Commemoration Group** (2010). All involve researchers from other parts of the University and all have historians in leadership positions. Cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional work has become a hallmark of the UoA’s research since RAE 2008.

An analysis of research performance led to the creation in 2009 of a large department of History and Classics (now with 36 full-time staff) within the College of Arts and Humanities. Historians spearheaded the creation of a **Research Institute for Arts and Humanities (RIAH)** to co-ordinate a more ambitious and collaborative research environment within the College. RAE 2008 had revealed that the strength of our outputs was not matched by our research environment. Since this was common across Wales, Swansea’s historians initiated **History Research Wales**, a network of Welsh-based academic historians committed to the development of collaborative research projects, public engagement, and the support of doctoral students and early career researchers.

The result is an enhanced research infrastructure and environment: since RAE 2008 University investment in this UoA has increased, external research income has more than tripled, PhD completions have more than doubled, and new interdisciplinary research opportunities have been opened up and exploited. History at Swansea has a clear vision of its current and future research, of the interdisciplinary leadership it can provide, and of the public impact of its work.

b. Research Strategy

History’s collective research strategy, framed by analysis of the results of RAE 2008 and in discussion with senior researchers (Bowen, Humphries, Johnes, Miskell, Power, Spurr, Thompson and Williams), has three key elements:

1. To facilitate **individual scholarly creativity and initiative**.
2. To foster **collaborative research** on our agreed priorities of Health, History and Culture; Conflict and Commemoration; Medieval and Early Modern history; and Wales.
3. To work closely with **partners in heritage** to ensure the public utility and impact of our scholarly research.

We identified these priorities as offering us the best long-term opportunities for research that is sustainable, ambitious and well resourced.

The research infrastructure that will help us to deliver this three-pronged strategy is now in place. The organisational changes at Swansea – the pooling of historical expertise in a larger department and of resources in **RIAH**, and the incentives for cross-institutional research – are complete. **History Research Wales**, convened by Bowen, embraces over 120 academic historians and 150 research students in the Universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, South Wales, and Swansea. In 2012 it received £65k from HEFCW and the St David’s Day Group of Welsh Universities to develop collaborative research. Such initiatives are crucial to the vitality and sustainability of research, research training, and research facilities in Swansea and Wales over the next decade.

This broadly conceived research strategy has paid dividends in this census period. Members of the department have produced a number of high-quality outputs and won significant individual research grants and other recognition. Our research groups are thriving:

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- The research group in **Health, History and Culture**, a joint initiative with the College of Human and Health Sciences, built on the earlier success of Swansea historians (Healey, Withey, Turner) in winning funding from the Wellcome Trust and elsewhere, has secured £1.3 million since 2010 for long-term individual and collaborative projects. At the heart of this success is our research reputation in disability history. Turner and Borsay lead a £973k Wellcome-funded comparative study of disability in British coalfields before 1948 with partners at Aberystwyth, Northumbria, Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonia Universities. Turner's eminence in the field is attested by national awards and by his crucial role in a Radio 4 series; he works closely with Blackie, a post-doctoral research fellow, and the project's PhD students. Other scholars have been attracted to the UoA as a centre of research excellence in medical and pre-modern history: Skinner (medieval facial disfigurement) and Metzler (medieval cognitive impairment) both hold Wellcome Trust research fellowships in the department.
- The history of war, a long-standing research theme at Swansea, has been strengthened by the location of ancient, medieval and modern historians in one department. This brought together staff and PGRs concerned with the histories of violence, war and memory and led to the creation of the **Conflict and Commemoration Group**. Ancient and modern historians have combined to research the archaeological damage wrought by modern warfare in Europe and the Middle East. One of the group's successes has been the award of a €998,874 HERA grant in 2013 with European partners to study *Militarized Cultural Encounters between Western European armies and the peoples of Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East (1792-1920)*; a fifth of the funding will come to Swansea. *The Journal of War and Culture Studies* is also edited within the College.
- **MEMO** unites researchers in the history, literature, gender and languages of the pre-modern period. Led by Power, it runs a video-linked research seminar with Bangor, Aberystwyth, and Cardiff and an annual *Symposium by the Sea*, now in its seventh year, which has considered *Recusants and Radicals: Reformation and Counter-Reformation in England and Wales (2010)*, *Gender, Time and Memory in the Middle Ages (2011)*, *Care and Cure: Diseases, Disabilities and Therapies (2012)* – all subjects related to individuals' or research centres' publications or research funding bids.
- The **Richard Burton Centre's** seminars, policy briefings for Welsh Assembly members and annual conference provide an interdisciplinary, collaborative environment for staff, PGRs, and external partners. Initially led by C. Williams, this centre coordinates Welsh studies across the College and liaises with the University's Richard Burton Archives. It has fostered major works of scholarship, such as Johnes' study of Wales since 1939 and Williams' edition of the actor Richard Burton's diaries, and responded to the priorities of Welsh Government in terms of the national built heritage, English-language literary heritage, and the commemoration of major national events.

We are committed to **working with heritage partners**. Our partnerships allow access to the collections and curatorial expertise of institutions, provide new audiences for our research and create career development opportunities for PGRs. Successes include AHRC collaborative doctoral awards with National Museums and Galleries Wales, the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, and Hereford Cathedral. Such partnerships feed into our various training activities: in 2011 we hosted an AHRC-funded postgraduate *History and the Public* conference for PGRs to meet professionals from academia, the media and heritage sector. We place a high value on the public dissemination of our research and on working with community-based researchers: our external partners, such as the National Waterfront Museum, assist us with exhibition space, events, and outreach, and in turn this process creates further community partnerships. We are engaged in long-term collaboration with local authorities and government agencies on a regeneration project for Swansea's copper heritage sites, and two AHRC grants have enabled us to work with community groups in the Swansea valley on developing collaborative research projects. In support of the project the University has funded two PhDs, co-supervised in History and Computer Science, on 3D animated representations of historic sites.

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Future research strategy: the UoA is planning for the years up to 2020 (when the University will celebrate its centenary) and beyond. Our current staffing and staffing strategy ensure the continuity of research leadership over the next decade; the University's organisational changes are secure; and the department, College and University are committed to our three-pronged approach.

1. Individual Scholarly Research

Our strategic commitment to individual scholarship will see a number of individual projects come to fruition in the next five years: monographs are scheduled in ancient (Humphries), medieval (Power), early modern (Spurr) and modern history (Lewis), in the histories of science (Rihll; Mosley; Laucht), international trade (Bowen), law (Poertner), economic thought (Thompson), violence (Millington) and disability (Metzler; Skinner, 2016). Our comparative project on disability in the British coalfields will produce articles, an essay volume, a monograph by Turner and Blackie (2016), and exhibitions and workshops; James will publish the results of the project on *Militarized Cultural Encounters*. New projects involving historians across the College will exploit two of Swansea University's research collections: the Richard Burton Archives on the Spanish Civil War; and the Milne collection on the American Civil War.

2. Collaborative Research

Our four principal collaborative research groups will gain further staff, space and finance as a result of anticipated retirements, the opening of the University's new Science and Innovation campus in 2015, and a policy of targeted investment. They will be supported to develop new and emerging themes, such as the protection of archaeological sites in war zones (Pollard, **Conflict and Commemoration**), archival discoveries at the English College at Rome (Whitehead, **MEMO**), the letters of Richard Burton, and the steel industry (**Richard Burton Centre**), and will be required to prioritise national and international collaboration, public engagement, and research impact. Planned workshops and conferences will pave the way for external funding bids. Current projects will progress to the next stage; thus, in 2016, Turner (**History, Health and Culture**) will apply as PI for funding for an *international* collaboration on disability history.

3. External Partnerships

Working with external partners to extend our outstanding activities in heritage remains a priority. Our calendar of events – centenaries of World War 1 and Dylan Thomas in 2014, and conferences in 2015 and 2017 on the scientific and creative legacies of South Wales – will require closer relations with our existing and new partners. The Hafod Copperworks project envisages a 'Living History Laboratory' that will use historical research to inform digital technologies for site interpretation. Our burgeoning associations with local creative industries are already providing new insights into how historical research might be presented to different publics. Meanwhile we are pursuing research collaboration opportunities overseas: Spurr and Thompson have initiated discussions with institutions in Texas (Rice, Texas A&M and University of Texas at Austin), Bowen with China (Wuhan) and Sarson in Oklahoma.

c. People, including:

I. Staffing strategy and staff development

Our staffing strategy has focussed on **supporting excellence and strengthening our key research groups**. Clifford (2009), Millington (2012) and Laucht (2013) were appointed from post-doctoral backgrounds to bolster the Conflict and Commemoration Group. Stevens (2010) was recruited to strengthen both Welsh History and MEMO. Visiting scholars and honorary research fellows are carefully recruited to reinforce our research groupings: Metzler and Skinner were such before Wellcome Trust funding enabled them to become full members of staff.

Strategy can only be delivered through the sustained high performance of staff. The University's award-winning **Performance Enabling Programme** (recognised by a *Times Higher* Leadership and Management Award and a UHR Excellence award) provides clarity for staff about their role, the standard of performance required and available training. The programme identifies Key Performance Indicators, including publications, grant applications, and research student supervision, which then inform target-based discussions conducted by trained senior staff. Within

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History, the system has helped colleagues plan sabbatical applications and long-term personal research strategies. Its success in supporting the development of Swansea historians is evidenced by the eleven 'research route' promotions achieved since 2008. Six of the eleven were women; there have been five promotions to Reader and six to Senior Lecturer.

Monitored and supported by the Director of Research and the Head of Department, colleagues are expected to publish at least one article or book chapter per year and a more substantial work every fourth year. A robust framework of support is in place at departmental, institutional and national level to help assist colleagues at every career stage in meeting these objectives. At departmental level, **individual research mentoring meetings** are held annually by the Head of Department and Director of Research, to discuss publication plans, impact activities and strategies for grant capture with each member of staff. At university level, historians also contribute to, and draw on the support of, the Swansea University Research Forum (SURF), which operates a **research coaching scheme**, a lunchtime seminar series and an annual 'Research as Art' competition to foster collaborations and raise the profile of research initiatives across campus. At national level, meanwhile, the Women in Universities Mentoring Scheme arranges **mentoring partnerships** between female academics in Welsh HEIs to improve their career trajectories in the sector.

Swansea's historians benefit from the University's **Strategic Equality Plan**, which promotes a fair working environment for all employees. All academic vacancies are advertised as suitable for job share or flexible working, enabling those with caring responsibilities the opportunity to balance work and home requirements. One member of staff has now been made fulltime after being on a fractional contract to enable childcare. Promotions data for academic staff is monitored annually and any resulting trends are highlighted for action, where appropriate.

Our mentoring and coaching activities underpin our **commitment to supporting new staff and early-career researchers** and the department is particularly proud of its record here. All new appointees are allocated an academic mentor and early career appointments are given a reduced teaching load and an exemption from major administrative portfolios. Research officers and postdoctoral appointees are an important part of our research community. The department supported James' Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (2008-11) and Metzler's (2012-14) and Skinner's (2012-15) Wellcome Trust Research Fellowships. We have hosted research officers for our externally funded projects on the histories of copper, disability and football. Senior history staff work with colleagues on fixed-term contracts to assist their career development and advise on research strategies. This has helped five former fixed-term lecturers in history at Swansea to win permanent lectureships at other institutions since 2008.

RIAH runs a competitive **sabbatical leave scheme** twice a year which is open to all research active staff who need time for research, writing, impact activities or preparing a grant application. Staff working on projects of particular significance can now also be awarded leave of more than one semester, as was for the case for Williams' work on Richard Burton and Bowen's on the British Empire and Welsh copper. In total, 28 semesters of paid leave have been awarded to history staff since the creation of RIAH in 2009, enabling the completion of a series of key monographs and outputs. There is also a commitment to enhancing leave secured with external funds and Turner's AHRC fellowship was secured on the basis of matched leave from RIAH.

Helping staff to produce high-quality research means managing the other demands on their time. We have **promoted a student-facing research-led culture**. The research interests of staff infuse their teaching activities and shape the curriculum of the history degree so that our students receive an outstanding educational experience and our teaching and research cultures are inter-twined.

c. II. Research students

Our aim is to create a research environment that nurtures talent for the wider benefit of our discipline and fosters future leaders of the historical profession. Since 2009 all history PGRs have been members of a new **Arts and Humanities Graduate Centre** located within RIAH. This has improved the funding and organisational support given to postgraduate research and led to a

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significant increase in the number of students and an enhancement of the associated postgraduate environment. The Graduate Centre offers a supportive environment for students pursuing postgraduate research. All PGRs have a personal budget for conference attendance and access to office space. It has its own training programme and hosts an annual interdisciplinary postgraduate conference, the transactions of which are published.

Since RAE 2008 our number of PhD completions has more than doubled from 12 to 28.5. The **exploitation of internal and external funding sources** has been key to this dramatic increase. Four fully funded RIAH PhD studentships and 3 full University PhD studentships have been awarded to students working in the four key research groups. In 2011 RIAH also secured capacity-building funding from the AHRC, creating 2 PhD studentships and 2 MRes studentships in History. A full PhD award in European history was won from the Coleg Cenedlaethol Cymru scheme when the University undertook to fund a subsequent one-year lectureship for the student.

The department works with national and regional organizations to facilitate research students' career development and has held recent AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards with the National Waterfront Museum, the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Hereford Cathedral. These partnerships were key to securing AHRC-funding (£38,000) for innovative heritage-themed skills workshops, master classes and knowledge exchange placements for research students. Supported by 23 heritage organizations, including World Heritage sites in the UK and Egypt, this scheme addresses a specific skills gap and provides opportunities for research students to apply those specialist skills in high-profile national and international cultural institutions and heritage organisations. This enhances the employability of students and builds capacity in the heritage sector, helping to **develop a generation of academic researchers with the skills set and networking experience to engage effectively with the impact and knowledge exchange agendas**.

Postgraduate and postdoctoral training sessions have also been integrated into a number of history conferences organized at Swansea, such as *Care and Cure: Diseases, Disabilities and Therapies* (2012), the first day of which was devoted to these activities. All of our research students have access to a **comprehensive skills development programme** operated by the University's Academic and Professional Enhancement Centre. This follows the *Vitae* Research Development Framework and is freely available to all students enrolled on postgraduate research degrees. Additional training is provided specifically for humanities students to enhance their academic and professional development.

We also **contribute to the development of best practice in postgraduate research training at an international level**. Whitehead was part of the European Universities Association Council for Doctoral Education; Law advises on postgraduate training programme at a consortium of Florentine universities; Spurr advised the Swedish PhD programme in History; Halikowski-Smith is part of a European Commission network that trains European research students. Utilising expertise such as Sarson's on early modern America, the University has also developed collaborative PhDs with University of Central Oklahoma. Such initiatives have helped boost our PhD recruitment and enhance the research experience and mobility opportunities for our doctoral students. These moves build upon existing relationships and the global historical focus at Swansea. Power co-supervises students at the Universities of Angers and Poitiers, Morgan at Padua, and Minas-Nerpel at Trier.

The vibrancy of our postgraduate culture is evident in **the History and Classics Postgraduate Forum**, formed in 2009. Academic staff have supported the development of the forum and assisted in its successful bids for funds from the Higher Education Academy, Royal Historical Society, AHRC's Collaborative Research Training Scheme, and RIAH. The forum runs a seminar series, an annual conference and a programme of training workshops where history staff deliver sessions on the subjects requested by postgraduates. It has also successfully made links with other postgraduate communities and brought external speakers into its seminars and conferences. Two of its founders have already gone on to secure postdoctoral positions at other universities.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

High-quality, sustainable historical research requires both grant income and research resources and facilities to support ambitious new projects. The creation of RIAH and its Graduate School has been central to the growth in historical research at Swansea. It has provided greater resources for research and postgraduate funding and offers a more **comprehensive support infrastructure** than was previously possible in the Department of History. RIAH provides regular training workshops in grant application methods and has a dedicated Research Support Officer to assist with funding bids. The experienced researchers of its 'peer review pool' act as internal readers of applications before submission. RIAH's Research Initiatives Fund makes targeted investments in the early stages of promising research projects: historians have been awarded more than £13,000.

Since 2008, we have won **37 HESA-returned research grants, worth just under £700,000**, more than triple the sum returned at the 2008 RAE. Some of our larger grants extend beyond both the current census period and the History UOA and will sustain our core research themes and collaborations for several years after 2014. Thanks to these grants we have already begun to progress towards our research income target for the next census period.

University initiatives have supported historical research projects and cross-disciplinary work. An ESRC-funded *Bridging the Gaps* scheme links humanities and STEM subjects through a programme of funding, exhibitions and workshops. Bowen is a co-investigator on this £790k grant and historians who have drawn on these resources include Szpakowska, for her research on ancient Egyptian demons, and Miskell, for a survey of the archives of the Welsh Steel Industry, carried out in conjunction with Tata Steel and the University's Richard Burton Archives.

Our strategic goal of working with external bodies and our research strengths in heritage have delivered and enabled further funding successes for both research and follow on activities. Research on the global history and heritage of the Welsh copper industry attracted £95,384 from the ESRC. This cross-disciplinary urban regeneration project drew in computer scientists working on visual reconstructions of historic buildings. Under Bowen's leadership, the partnerships we developed around this project secured a major £541,000 funding package (outside the HESA return) from Cadw-Welsh Government, EU Regional development fund, Swansea Regeneration Area, and the City and County of Swansea for the regeneration of the site of the former Hafod Morfa Copperworks.

Our leadership in heritage and the partnerships forged through such work led to a £24,586 grant from AHRC Connected Communities scheme for projects on the industrial communities of the Swansea valley. Follow on funding worth £39,442 came from the AHRC in 2013 for further promotion of community-based research projects. Such work also led to the AHRC funding an innovative Swansea postgraduate training programme in heritage activities. A partnership with the Swansea City Supporters' Trust delivered £48,000 of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for research on the history and heritage of football.

The **growth in income and diversification of funding sources** has been supported by RIAH's Research Administrator and Research Support Officer, who provide assistance on all aspects of external funding applications, as well as on project and budget management. Pre-award and post-award support is integral to RIAH's mentoring programme, which also includes a workshop series for academics and a peer review panel for grant applications. At university level, the Department of Research and Innovation provides central advice and support on all aspects of research funding from training for research staff to project financial management.

Underpinning much of our research activity are **the University's rich archival collections.** Thanks to a £1m investment from HEFCW's Science Research Infrastructure fund, the Richard Burton Archives moved to a new home on campus in 2010. Its archives extend to over 1.3km of material relating to the industrial, cultural and social history of Wales. Miskell's work on copper is based on the records of some of the world's main smelting businesses and a University PhD bursary was awarded (2012) for an historical project using the archive's steel industry collection.

The Richard Burton Archives also houses the internationally significant papers of Raymond Williams and Richard Burton. The Raymond Williams papers have led to joint conferences and research projects with colleagues in Japanese universities, while the edited version of the Burton diaries has become an international bestseller. The archive possesses significant collections on the Spanish Civil War and the American Civil War.

The University also hosts the **South Wales Miners' Library** which houses a unique collection of images, banners, oral history recordings and many books and pamphlets rescued from the libraries of Miners' Institutes. It has recently become the home for the Labour Party's unique newspaper cuttings collection, which was transferred to Swansea from Manchester's John Rylands Library in 2013. The University's Rare Books collection contains over 1,700 printed books and pamphlets from 1473 onwards. We work closely with the archivists and librarians based at these sites, involving them in the provision of postgraduate skills training. This is also true of our relationship with the university's Egypt Centre, which has an internationally significant collection of 5,000 ancient artefacts, which provides Swansea researchers with a unique research resource and attracts scholars interested in historical material culture from across the globe.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Swansea historians have always sought to contribute to the wider subject community through core scholarly activities of individual research, publication, conference participation and editorial and reviewing work. While these activities remain central to what we do, since RAE 2008 we have also led a drive to promote **greater levels of collaboration at the national and international levels.**

Since the start of the census period individual research activity by the department's current fulltime staff has led to the publication of 24 books, 34 edited collections, 82 peer-reviewed articles and 169 chapters. 53 conferences or research workshops have been organised by department members and 46 research degrees have been externally examined.

We provide editorial leadership across different periods. The following **journals are all edited or co-edited by Swansea historians:** *Journal of Medieval Military History*; *Sport in History*; *Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science*, and *Ancient Narrative*, as are the monograph series: Boydell's *Worlds of the East India Company*, and Liverpool University Press' *Translated Texts for Historians*. Swansea also supplies the medieval representative on the editorial board of the *RHS Studies in History* monograph series.

During the census period, members of the department have sat on the **editorial boards of major journals** including *British Journal for the History of Science*; *Crime, History and Society*; *French History*; *Interdisciplinary Journal of Portuguese Diaspora Studies*; *International Journal of Maritime History*; *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections*; *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*; *Journal of Sport History*; *Labor History*; *Labour History Review*; *Media History*; *Urban History*; *Renaissance Studies*; *Socialist History*; *Societa e Storia*; *Studia Historyczne*; *Welsh History Review* and *Vulcan*. During the census period, we have provided **refereeing services** for 63 different journals, 17 publishers, and 12 funding providers.

Under Bowen's leadership, History Research Wales is beginning to transform the historical research environment. The then Education Minister, Leighton Andrews AM, noted the significance of the initiative when he said in a 2012 keynote speech that 'Historians in Wales through History Research Wales under the leadership of Professor Huw Bowen have been at the heart of the academic collaboration across Wales that we as a Welsh Government are seeking to encourage'. Using its £65k in external funding, it launched a new Research Project Development Grants scheme in 2013 to provide seed-corn funding for new collaborative projects between history researchers in Wales. It also runs collaborative doctoral training events for new historical researchers based in Wales.

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Our historians provide strong **research leadership in the wider discipline** too. Thompson is the University's representative on the steering group for the Wales ESRC Doctoral Training Centre and has particular responsibility within the University for Arts, Humanities and the Social Sciences. Spurr sat on the final moderating panel for AHRC Block Grant Partnerships 2. As one of two directors of a Wellcome Trust project on disability in British coalfields, 1780-1948, Turner leads collaboration between academics at Aberystwyth, Northumbria, Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonia Universities.

We make a full **contribution to the organisational infrastructure of the discipline**. Since 2008, five Swansea historians have been members of the AHRC Peer Review College and two of its Strategic Reviewers group. We provided members of the executives and councils of a variety of learned societies including the Royal Historical Society, the European Early American Studies Association, the British Society for the History of Science, the British Society for Renaissance Studies, the Classical Association, the Society for the Study of French History, the Catholic Record Society, Council of the Hellenic Society, Llafur: the Welsh People's History Society, and the Learned Society of Wales. We have been sought as judges for the Prince Consort and Thirwall prize at Cambridge University, the North American Society of Sports History book prize, the 2012 BAFTA Cymru television history prize, and the 2009 Bethell Prize in Anglo-Norman History.

We are committed to using our research standing to provide **leadership and guidance to public institutions** operating in our discipline. Lewis sits on the Austrian Commission on the Victims of 1934. Pollard contributed to the production of official 'no-strike' lists of historical sites in Syria that were disseminated to troops via the US Defense Intelligence Agency, RAF, and the Ministry of Defence. Halikowski-Smith was a member of two EU-funded international Erasmus networks that promote understanding among European citizens of the continent's past, present and future, and its role in the wider world. Bowen is a member of the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Group. Johnes sits on the Welsh Government's review group on history in the National Curriculum. Power is an advisor to the local authority on Oystermouth Castle and founder of the Neath Abbey Interpretation group, which brings together national heritage organizations, local government and historians. Miskell is chair of the South Wales Record Society and sits on the West Glamorgan Joint Archives Committee. Matthews' expertise on the First World War led to invitations to join the Welsh Government's official centenary panel and its Education Department's 'Wales Remembers' group, and to sit on the Imperial War Museum's 'Lives of the First World' advisory group.

All Swansea historians are active in networks within their own specialities, but we also play key roles in a number of **formal international research groups** that have won external funding. Bowen is lead participant in two international networks: 'The British Asia-Atlantic network', funded since 2007 by the AHRC, the National Endowment for the Humanities (USA), and the Social Science Research Council of Canada; and 'The resources for war network', funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education. He and Miskell are members of the World of Welsh copper international network funded by the Leverhulme Trust. Poertner is part of the EU-funded Patriotism in East-Central Europe network and in a French government-funded network of historians and economists researching finance, sovereign debt, and government in Europe. Szpakowska is a member of the Ancient Egyptian Demonology project (a collaboration between Swansea and Aegean, Bonn and Leipzig Universities, which led to her Leverhulme project). Minas-Nerpel led a collaborative project with Leuven University and the Supreme Council of Antiquities (Egypt) on the Temple of Shanhur, which was funded by the Gerda Henkel-Foundation (Germany). Our international collaborations have also led to staff holding externally-funded visiting positions at Trier, Vienna, Huntington Library (California), Venerable English College (Rome), Max-Planck-Institute for European Legal History (Frankfurt) and the US Military Academy West Point and US Naval Academy.

As these examples show, our initiatives to promote collaborative research with other historians have already borne fruit. Commitment to these existing scholarly networks, as well as the development of new collaborations, lies at the heart of our plans to shape and sustain our research environment as we look forward to celebrating our centenary as a scholarly community in 2020.