

<p>Institution: Leeds Trinity University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: History</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Leeds Trinity is a new, small University with approximately 135 academic staff and a student population just over 3,000 FTEs (full time equivalents). The student population is predominantly undergraduate and there are currently 136 taught postgraduate and 7 postgraduate research students. This small size enables us to work across discipline boundaries, which is particularly seen in our flagship interdisciplinary research centre, the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies. The institution is committed to the 'creation of a strong research culture', while being 'student-centred at all levels' (Strategic Plan, 2013/14). It has a record of sustained engagement with Research Assessment Exercises from 1992 onwards.</p> <p>The period 2008-2013 has been one of dynamic and rapid institutional change. At the point of the RAE 2008 the institution was still a College of Higher Education, and its undergraduate and postgraduate degrees were awarded under the aegis of the University of Leeds. The institution received Taught Degree Awarding Powers in 2009 and gained University status in December 2012. During this period, the institution has remained committed to sustaining research excellence and to its primary aim of developing the breadth of research activity (Research and Scholarship Strategy, 2006). As a result, there are 2 new Units of Assessment being submitted for REF 2014 (which did not submit in 2008), an increased number of individuals being submitted, and more than twice as many registered doctoral students (7 as compared to 3). During this period the University's research culture has been enhanced, enriched, and expanded within the wider context of a community characterised by inclusiveness and commitment to students. Research is the institution's 'intellectual capital': that capital is for the 'benefit [of] our students in the wider community' in an institution that aims to contribute to local and international community partnerships (Strategic Plan, 2013/14). Its academic provision, which has always been characterised by a particularly high level of vocational focus underpinned by professional practice, is 'research-led and research-informed' (Strategic Plan, 2013/14; Research Strategy 2013/16).</p> <p>The History UOA is made up of the History team which exists within the Humanities Department at Leeds Trinity University. This team is small, (ranging between 3-5 FTE since 2008) with an established and dynamic research culture, all members being research active, and all submitting to the Research Excellence Framework 2014. Over the past twenty years, the History group have taken the lead in establishing Leeds Trinity as an internationally-recognised centre for interdisciplinary Victorian Studies. History provides the Director of the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies (LCVS), launched in 1994 and now established as the most active centre of its kind in Britain, and History's research environment continues to be enriched through their involvement in the LCVS. History staff are recognised contributors to external subject associations, such as the British Agricultural History Society, and History UK, have personal experience of research activity in other universities (e.g. PhD external examiners; validation panels; international collaborative research projects), publish widely in peer-reviewed journals, lead the University in doctoral registrations and completions, and are invited regularly to participate in international research events.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>As a result of institutional change, Leeds Trinity has undergone a high level of restructuring since 2008, which has impacted on some of the roles described in the research plan stated in RAE 2008. During this process, research became more grounded within the staple business of the institution. For example, Heads of Department gained responsibility for aspects of research leadership that had previously resided solely at senior management level, in the Director of Research, while the Faculty Research Champions - created by the Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund - became</p>

Environment template (REF5)

Research Leads within Departments. Since gaining University status, the institution has appointed a Vice-Chancellor (from Jan 2013) and a Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) (from Sept 2013). These appointments have led to a revised Strategic Plan (2013/14) and a bold and ambitious ten-year research strategy (to 2022). A stated objective of the Strategic Plan (2013/14) is that the institution's research capacity will be increased. This is supported by the Research Strategy's overarching aim to create a vibrant and sustainable research culture that underpins our teaching, enables research excellence and enhances our academic reputation and credibility. Projected plans in the Research Strategy are to stimulate research partnerships and networks regionally, nationally and internationally, create research leadership and co-ordination roles and, subject to clear procedures and protocols, establish new research groups and centres. A key objective of this strategy is to lay the foundation for the application for Research Degree Awarding Powers by 2022, plans and targets for which are outlined in 3-4 year periods (the current period being 2013-16). Details of how the institution will work towards this over the next four years include: revision of academic staff appointment procedures to ensure only research-active staff are appointed to academic roles; providing funding (levels of which will be agreed on an annual basis) to recruit and support the progression of postgraduate research students; seeking at least one externally-funded PhD research studentship for each internally funded studentship; and creating the post of Research Officer to provide institutional support for grant administration.

Responding to the institutional research strategy, individuals within the History team over the next five years will work closely with the Humanities Research Leader to further build a vibrant research culture and international profile through the on-going development of interdisciplinary and collaborative projects, initiatives and programmes within LCVS, the Department of Humanities, and the University. In particular, the team seeks to further expand its engagement with external organisations and national heritage providers through its strategy for impact, which incorporates a recognition of the complex and iterative relationships that exist between knowledge exchange, teaching and research; to increase the amount of external funding secured in order to further diversify the funding portfolio that supports research; to continue to expand the number of doctoral students registered and completed through externally- and internally-funded projects; to maintain its national, and further expand its number of international, research networks and collaborations.

Interdisciplinary research has significant support within the institution, facilitated by both its small scale and the structural inclusion of History, English, and Theology and Religious Studies within a unified Humanities Department. For example, all members of History were involved in the *Austerity project*, which ran in a seminar series and colloquium from 2009-2010, and generated reflections on what Humanities research could contribute to addressing the problems raised by economic and environmental crises. The History team have a longstanding commitment to interdisciplinary research, particularly articulated through the work of the LCVS, the University's flagship research centre. This research centre - staffed by both History and English - has excelled in initiating, recognising and developing new areas of research through a wide range of scholarly activities. A successful Associates Scheme has been established, developed during the academic year 2009-10, which seeks to honour prestigious scholars and to develop useful collaborative links for the centre.

c. People, including:**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

The Leeds Trinity HR Staff Development Strategy identifies Research and Scholarship as one of its priority areas. This includes the objective 'To support the Strategy for Research and Scholarship by increasing staff expertise and experience in research and scholarship', elaborated in three actions: '(I) Ensure that academic staff who are involved in research are supported in carrying out

this role effectively, by providing a programme of staff development activities designed to build research competencies. (II) Establish a mentoring system for early-career academic staff. (III) Provide support for staff undertaking research degrees through the provision of partial funding.’ The institution is committed to equal opportunities in the recruitment and support of research staff. The HR Staff Development strategy addresses equality and diversity in Objective 2: to embed the principles of equality and diversity, which underpin the institution’s vision and values, into all actions of the institution’s work.

After RAE 2008, as part of an initiative to maximise staff research engagement, the annual Professional Development Reviews (PDR) was revised to incorporate focused coverage of research and scholarship plans in place of the optional individual Research and Scholarship Plans used before. This process also highlights staff development needs with regards to research. These reviews are reported back to HR via line managers. The UOA has employed a mentoring scheme for several years: early career researchers have been mentored during the period of assessment and been encouraged to co-organise research events with more experienced team members. The policy for research leave is that every member of lecturing staff has an automatic right to 20 research days a year. In addition, Leeds Trinity operates a competitive scheme for research leave (known variously as the Research Leave Scheme (pre-2010); Research Support Scheme (2010-12); Research Fellowship Scheme (since 2012)), and 3 members of the UOA have successfully applied for funding: Prof Karen Sayer, 2011/12, Dr Drummond 2012/13, Dr Mitchell 2009/10, 2012/13.

There are clear procedures for career progression, including clear criteria for applicants seeking a Professorial title or Readership. Under this scheme, four members of staff were recipients of such titles in 2010-11. Dr Karen Sayer, an expert on the Victorian countryside, became Professor of Social And Cultural History; Dr Di Drummond, a specialist on the Victorian railway, became a Reader in Modern History; Dr Rosemary Mitchell became a Reader in Victorian Studies, in recognition of her contribution to scholarship on Victorian historical cultures; and Dr Maureen Meikle became Professor of Early Modern History. Fixed-term and part-time staff have also been supported in their research career progression through the provision of funds to attend research conferences and deliver papers.

ii. Research students

Research degrees undertaken at Leeds Trinity University are currently awarded by the University of Leeds. Leeds Trinity’s monitoring and support mechanisms therefore follow guidelines set out by the University of Leeds. The Research Committee at Leeds Trinity has overall responsibility for the internal quality for Research Degree Programmes and considers reports on enrolments and progression of postgraduate research students. An important initial stage of student progression is the ‘transfer’ process. Research candidatures which are intended to lead to a Doctoral award are subject to a process whereby the student is formally assessed and, if successful in the assessment, is ‘transferred’ to a specific degree category after an initial, provisional stage. The assessment at ‘transfer’ stage is intended to identify whether the individual student and the research project have the potential for research at Doctoral level and also whether completion of a thesis within the standard period of study for the programme concerned is a reasonable expectation. Students are required to submit reports, which include a planned schedule of work and a synopsis of work already carried out or a sample chapter, within 10 months of commencement for full-time study (22 months for part-time students). During the period of assessment one student within the UOA has completed the transfer process successfully. The monitoring of research students is undertaken through the supervisors and Research Committee. Supervisors are required to provide regular written reports on the student’s progress

which are presented to the Research Committee. Leeds Trinity's reporting processes require reports on admission, transfer and examination, in addition to interim 6 monthly reports. The committee considers the reports and where there are matters of concern arising, recommends the appropriate action to the Postgraduate Research Tutor and supervisors. This reporting process has ensured two successful PhD completions in History during the period of assessment. Support mechanisms and pastoral care provided at Leeds Trinity have also ensured that a part-time PhD student who had significant work commitments and experienced complex circumstances that restricted her ability to work, has recently submitted (August 2013).

All students enrolled on a Research Degree Programme at Leeds Trinity have access to the training courses provided by the Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU) at the University of Leeds. A wide range of training is available through the SDDU including personal skills development (such as project management) and research specific skills (such as ethical issues in research, methodology, and writing and publishing). History PhD students have accessed several of these courses.

PhD students supervised by the History team are fully integrated into the research culture of the University. They have been actively encouraged to submit their work to and attend national and international conferences, funded by bursaries from the LCVS. For example, Helen Kingstone presented at the annual British Association of Victorian Studies conference (2012) and at the supernumary NAVSA/AVSA/BAVS conference (Venice, June 2013). Support, in the form of providing free facilities, has also been provided to research students to organise their own interdisciplinary postgraduate conference *The Nineteenth-Century Memory* (March 2012).

Organised by two PhD students from the History and English teams, the conference strengthened local and national links, with keynote speakers Professor Ann Heilmann (University of Hull) and Dr Trev Broughton (University of York). It was awarded £330 of funding from BAVS to support the travel costs for delegates. Research students have also been supported in their careers by being given a range of teaching experience at undergraduate level within History and are mentored in their teaching by lecturers. Research students are valued by the institution and have a voice at the institutional level via a research student representative on the Research Committee.

The Unit is aiming to increase the number of research students significantly in accordance with the University's 2013-16 Research Strategy, which includes the objective to 'Increase the recruitment, progression and completion of postgraduate research students from the UK and overseas'. This is part of a longer-term aim to pursue Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAP) after 2016. The institution plans to fund 10 PhD studentships (at the same level as Research Council funding) across the institution: to be advertised in January 2014. History staff are currently scoping external funding opportunities to provide scholarships and have already identified a project collaborating with Leeds Industrial Museum (Armley Mills, Leeds). The Research Strategy includes developing progression routes for existing students into higher degrees. The History UOA, through the LCVS, is pioneering this by encouraging a climate of achievement amongst its MA Victorian Studies students: the recent interdisciplinary publication *MA in Victorian Studies: Research Papers*, edited by Jane de Gay (Leeds Trinity, 2012), forms part of this, as a way of celebrating students' achievement and encouraging aspiration to higher degrees.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

During the REF assessment period, oversight of research has been vested in the Research Committee, which has been responsible for the development and enhancement of activities relating to research and scholarship. It ensured that there was a supportive and proactive environment for these activities. The Research Committee was one of the primary standing committees of the Academic Board, the main University forum for establishing policy on academic matters, as such it advised the Academic Board on matters of policy relating to research. Among

its membership there was a research student nominated by the research student community. The Research Committee was chaired by the Director for Academic Enhancement (Research) who was responsible for the development, coordination and implementation of institutional strategies for research. Since the appointment of the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) a new deliberative structure has been implemented (October 2013). The purpose of the Research Committee has been revised and now operates under the title of Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC). The Committee retains its status of reporting to the Academic Board on research activity. The activities of the RKEC will be supported at the operational level by the recently appointed Research Officer (October 2013) who will support the implementation and promotion of Leeds Trinity's research strategy. In addition a sub-committee of RKEC, the Research Degrees Committee, will be established to monitor the recruitment and progress of Post Graduate Research Students and develop relevant policies and procedures.

A recently formed Professoriate, comprising of Professors and Readers within the institution, also contributes to the organisational structure supporting research. Having regular meetings since June 2013, the Professoriate aim to contribute to informing future policy and strategy for research, and to generate research ideas and initiatives to enhance the relationships, reputation and impact of the University. The Professoriate meets at least once per semester and report their activities to the Pro-Vice Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.

Close relations are maintained with the University of Leeds: staff benefit from the library resources and research activities of the relevant Schools and institutes, and the Brotherton library Special Collections, which holds designated status for five of its outstanding national and international collections. Quality Related funding from two RAEs has been used to support research via digital resources (e.g. *Times* digital archive, *Illustrated London News* digital archive, Nineteenth Century Newspapers online, microfiche readers), for use by researchers and postgraduate students for research purposes. Access to Leeds Library, a subscription library with primary materials including Civil War tracts, complete runs of periodicals, science and travel literature, is provided through corporate membership. However, the most significant scholarly infrastructure for supporting research within the department since 2008 has been the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies. Established in 1994, the activities of the Centre include the colloquium series, a programme of seminars and day schools, MA and PhD programmes in Victorian Studies, and the sponsorship of the refereed *Journal of Victorian Culture*, which is published by Taylor and Francis. The LCVS is important for collegiality and collaboration with academics at other institutions. It is run by a Management Committee comprised of academics within the UOA (including Dr Rosemary Mitchell, the current Director), and representatives from three other institutions. The Management Committee set and review the LCVS Strategic Plan, track actions, and receive financial reports. LCVS activities have provided the UOA with an income stream of around £20,000 p.a. This comprises royalties from the *Journal of Victorian Culture* of c. £8,500 p.a.; conference and seminar fees; a proportion of tuition fees from MA students; and sales of the *Leeds Working Papers in Victorian Studies*. Currently on Volume 13, these *Working Papers* are produced for discussion at the colloquia and then sold through the University website and at subsequent LCVS events. Members of the UOA have successfully applied for small grants to support LCVS events, totalling £1,880.

The History team have in addition developed a research cluster focusing on gender history, facilitated by the appointment of Professor Maureen Meikle. As part of this focus, History staff have sought to establish regional links between those working in this field both inside and outside the academy by founding the Yorkshire Women's History Network. The inaugural conference for this was held at Leeds Trinity in June 2011, and numerous events have since been arranged at heritage sites. The development of the research focus on gender history has continued alongside

the existing research focus on Victorians and modernity. This is reflected in Meikle's publications on women in the Early Modern period; Mitchell's work on women historians and representations of women in Victorian culture; Sayer's research on technology within the farm house and cottage, and women's work in agriculture; and Drummond's research on women in the railway industry and women passengers.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The History unit have made significant contributions to the discipline through their regional, national and international collaborative research projects, numerous conferences organised, editorial positions and keynote speeches. Mitchell has collaborated with Dr Mark Curthoys (Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, University of Oxford), producing the paper 'Atkinson Grimshaw and the *Dictionary of National Biography*' presented at the Atkinson Grimshaw colloquium. This was an interdisciplinary event organised by Mitchell and Dr Nathan Uglow (Senior Lecturer in English, Leeds Trinity University) and held at Leeds Trinity in conjunction with the Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate, and linked to their exhibition on the artist. Sayer's collaboration with Dr Jeremy Burchardt (University of Reading) and Dr Paul Brassley (University of Exeter), Interwar Rural History Group, resulted in the conference 'Transforming the countryside? The electrification of rural England, 1890-1970' (held March 2013 at Leeds Trinity University), which had speakers and delegates from Canada, Germany and Scandinavia. International collaborations have included Meikle's work with Dr Helen Payne (University of Adelaide, Australia) on Queen Anna of Denmark which resulted in a joint authored paper.

Sayer also collaborates with Professor Graeme Gooday, Professor of the History of Science and Technology, University of Leeds, and is currently working on a co-authored book for Palgrave on the management and meaning of hearing loss in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which uses objects held by the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds, as well as patents, advertising, medical literature and catalogues, to address this with reference to technology and the body. Internationally, Drummond has collaborated with Dr Vijaya Singh (Punjab University, Chandigarh, India) on British views of Indian railway passengers. This resulted in workshops and seminars given by Drummond at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (Shimla, India, 2010) and Singh visiting Leeds Trinity as a Visiting Research Fellow (2011). Drummond has an on-going collaboration, the Britain-India Forum, which has taken the form of a seminar and workshop series (2012), with Dr Andrea Major (School of History, University of Leeds), Dr Grainne Goodwin (School of Cultural Studies and Humanities, Leeds Metropolitan University), and Mike Young (School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield). This interdisciplinary forum brings together researchers exploring the relationship between Britain and India, with a particular historical perspective.

The LCVS also has a longstanding collaboration with the Centre de recherche sur les identites compares des societes occidentales contemporaines, University of Cergy-Pontoise, France. During the REF assessment period, joint colloquia have been held both at Leeds Trinity (2010, April 2013) and Cergy-Pontoise (2008, 2009). This has resulted in jointly edited book publications including *Parcours urbains* (2010) and *Mutual (In)comprehensions* (2013). The History team also arranged a Visiting Lectureship for Odile Boucher-Rivalain from Cergy-Pontoise, whose work on Harriet Martineau has relevance to Sayer's work on the Victorians, the body and hearing loss, as Martineau was herself deaf.

Members of the Unit have involvement on the institution's research advisory panels. Mitchell is the current Reader appointed to membership of the Research Committee (from 11/12 to 14/15). Meikle was Chairperson of the Research Committee from 2011 – July 2013 in her role as Director of Academic Enhancement (Research). She was also the institutional research lead (2011 – 2013) for the Consortium for Research Excellence, Support and Training (CREST) of which Leeds Trinity is

a member. Sayer facilitated the development of the Professoriate, is the institution subject lead for CREST and led the University's first Research Day (12th July 2013), which celebrated and recognised research undertaken at Leeds Trinity.

All members of the History team have positions in professional subject associations and learned societies. Mitchell has served on the management committee at the British Association of Victorian Studies (BAVS) from 2008 onwards. Sayer was elected onto the management committee of the British Agricultural History Society in April 2012. Drummond is a member of the executive of the Society for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (2011 to date), and a member of History UK (2010 to date). Meikle is the Vice President of the Surtees Society (2009 to date) and sits on the Northern History management committee at the University of Leeds (2011 to date).

Further contributions to the discipline have been made through various editorial positions and involvement in the peer review process. Leeds Trinity owns the *Journal of Victorian Culture*, published by Taylor and Francis, with Mitchell as the associate editor. The journal has been published by Taylor and Francis since January 2010 and has recently moved from three issues per year to four (2012) due to the significantly high number of quality submissions it receives. Meikle has been involved in updating Mary Hays's pioneering six volumes of *Female Biography* (1803), for the Chawton House Library Edition, Pickering & Chatto (2012-13). Specifically, Meikle was the editor of the original entry on Mary, Queen of Scots, which is the longest entry in the series at 286 pages. Members of the team have reviewed book proposals for Brill, Ashgate, Palgrave Macmillan and Oxford University Press, and peer reviewed articles submitted to numerous journals including *Agricultural History Review*, *Journal of Transport History*, *The Journal of British Studies*, and *The Historical Journal*. History staff have also examined several doctorates both nationally and internationally

Linked to their involvement in the LCVS, the History team have had a regular presence at the annual BAVS conference and have organised six significant national and international research events hosted at Leeds Trinity. For example, Mitchell organised a conference entitled *Muck and Brass: money and finance in Victorian Britain*, in collaboration with Dr Donna Loftus (Open University). This conference, which was awarded funding from the Economic History Society, the Social History Society, and the British Association for Victorian Studies, brought together scholars researching the history of finance across a wide range of disciplines. At the international level, Sayer, along with Dr Nathan Uglow (Senior Lecturer in English, Leeds Trinity) and Dr Susan Anderson (English, Leeds Trinity), organised the three-day interdisciplinary conference *Disability and the Victorians: confronting legacies* (2012). This conference focused on the conceptualisation and experience of disability, institutions, acts, and space and place of disability, and included speakers from the US, Canada, and Australia, and delegates from Uganda, as well as from across the UK. International conferences have also been held annually in collaboration with the University of Cergy-Pontoise, as detailed earlier in this document.

History staff have also contributed to the research discipline by being invited to give keynote speeches and lectures. At the international level, Mitchell was invited to provide the keynote lecture for Representing Diversity in the City, the Annual Colloquium of the SFEVE (French Society for the Study of Victorian and Edwardian Cultures), University of Cergy-Pontoise, Paris (2011).

Internationally, Sayer was invited to speak and contribute to the European-funded workshop 'Animals, humans and science: the historical development of livestock production in the twentieth century', Descartes Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities, Utrecht University, the Netherlands, (2011). This workshop, by invitation only, was designed to establish a community of experts who could stimulate the further development of the field.

Nationally, Meikle was invited to give a public lecture to the Royal Stuart Society, London, 2012, on 'Anna of Denmark, Queen Consort of King James VI & I (1574-1619)'.