

Institution: Newcastle University

Unit of Assessment: 30 History

a. Context

Historical research at Newcastle is oriented around early modern and modern social, sexual, cultural and medical history, political ideologies, conflict impact and post-conflict social renewal, and ethnic, class and racial inclusion and exclusion consisting in three overlapping research trajectories: *Death, Disease and Demographics*; *Political, Cultural and Medical Histories*; and *Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*. The unit's impact is located within the University's 'Vision 2021' initiative that seeks to put academic knowledge, creativity and expertise to work to help make a difference to real-world challenges via three societal challenge themes: ageing, sustainability, and social renewal. The research of the unit's historians is largely positioned within the social renewal strand, and can be identified in the following three main areas of national and international *culture, society* and the *knowledge economy* beyond academia.

1. *Cultural Institutions*: museums, learned societies, heritage organisations, public libraries, specialist libraries and archives.

Main user groups: National Archives; Great North Museum; Newcastle City Libraries; North East Labour History Society; Northumberland County Archives; North East Regional Archives Council; Society of Antiquaries; Newcastle upon Tyne Buildings Preservation Trust; Windrush Foundation; Literary and Philosophical Society (Newcastle); Museum of London; Royal British Legion; National Library of Medicine, Washington, D.C., Western Front Association; National Army Museum; general public.

Mechanisms for Achieving Impact: exhibitions; conferences; workshops; specialist lectures; archival lectures/professional reports.

2. *Society*: historians at Newcastle *facilitate* public research into genealogy/family history(ies); *enhance* public understanding of the development of global societies and nations since c.1500, and specifically contemporary British, Irish and American politics; and *inform* the public response to the social, medical, economic and cultural impact of conflict in the UK and abroad. The expertise of several members of the unit (Farr, Grant, Kirk, Redgate and Quiroga) is advertised via the University's press office.

Main user groups: BBC; National Archives; Newcastle City Council; Cambridge Festival of Ideas; Brinkburn Music Festival; general public.

Mechanisms for Achieving Impact: media broadcasts; talks at literary festivals; blogs; outreach seminars; community workshops; newspaper/magazine articles.

3. *Knowledge Economy*: Newcastle historians are employed as consultants/facilitators for several continuing professional development programmes in the UK and the US; they serve both as editors and as editorial consultants to publishers in the UK and the US, particularly with regard to facilitating public access to archival materials via on-line contributions such as secondary-level educational modules and social history databases.

Main user groups: publishers; general public; secondary school pupils; teachers; Sovereign Education; mental-health educators; Scottish Association of Teachers of History; National Library of Medicine, Washington, DC; Jarrow and Sunderland Workers' Educational Association; St. Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth.

Mechanisms for Achieving Impact: textbooks/general monographs; specialist teaching packs; on-line education lectures; podcasts; curriculum development; specialist lectures; on-line teaching tools; interactive teaching modules.

b. Approach to impact

1. *Facilitating Research Impact*: The UoA's approach to creating impact from its research has been strongly and positively influenced by the research culture that pertains within the unit. This ensures financial support for staff by facilitating attendance at media training events (such as the BBC's 2013: http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/news/view/female_experts_day_attend), and for ECRs in establishing external user connections as well as more established staff who

are involved as advisors or committee members for museums, heritage/memorial organisations such as the Royal British Legion, and for charities and public bodies in the UK, such as the Windrush Foundation, and abroad, such as the National Library of Medicine in the United States. Through mechanisms such as Research Committee and the annual Performance Development Review (PDR) historians are encouraged to develop activities that generate impact as an integral aspect of their research work. In addition the School Research Committee works closely with the University's Public Lectures Committee in order to promote the unit's research to a wider regional and national audience and specifically advises on impact-related aspects of all research projects in development to assist staff in creating effective plans and funds seminars and colloquia aimed at audiences beyond academia.

2. *Sustaining Research Relationships with Key Users*: History at Newcastle's key users range from regional to national and international schoolchildren and community groups, individuals, and educators at all levels, museums, public libraries, theatre companies, audiences at literary festivals as well as far wider public audiences. In the period 2008-2012, Newcastle historians devoted c.100 days of academic staff time to school visits and to public lectures on their research, reaching c.2000 members of the UK public directly, not counting on-line users. The main areas of impact are:

Cultural Institutions: members of the unit strive to disseminate their research and expert knowledge through local as well as regional and national cultural events, e.g., the unit's research into Latin American history informed part of the 2011 and 2012 Vamos! festival exhibition at Newcastle City Library; Grant's research into the medical history of the nineteenth century produced the educational module that forms part of the travelling exhibition curated by the National Library of Medicine in Washington, D.C.; Boulton's work on St. Martin's in the Fields has formed part of a Museum of London exhibition and remains a much-used resource by historians and the public alike; and Diana Paton's research into the ending of slavery in the British Empire was instrumental in the Windrush Foundation's successful application for National Lottery Funding.

Society: the unit's research informs the public through various media outlets: Berry has followed up on her BBC Radio 4's Voices from the Old Bailey programme and Women's Hour (on Georgian England) via her blogs and via regional and national public outreach e.g. talks at the 'Clandestine Lecture Club' in Gateshead; Hammersley regularly lectures at Café Philosophique; Grant has spoken to the public on her research into the war wounded via the British Academy and the Royal British Legion in London and at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, and on her general research into the United States at the Cambridge Festival of Ideas on the American election of 2012, and to the BBC World Service on American involvement in the Middle East; and Matt Perry, Jonathan Andrews, Joan Allen and Tim Kirk regularly give public lectures via the South Tyneside Libraries, the Society of Antiquaries, and local and regional historical societies.

Knowledge Economy: the research conducted by members of the unit has a demonstrable impact on the development of non-HEI educational services. School engagement by historians at Newcastle since 2008 has involved over twenty separate institutions, ranging geographically from local schools (including Our Lady and St. Anne, Kenton School, and Churchill Community College) to Malborough College in Wiltshire, Yarm School in Stockton-on-Tees, Stewarts Melville College in Edinburgh, and numerous schools in the United States. School engagement mainly derives from their use of textbooks authored by Newcastle academics (David Saunders' book on Russian history and S-M Grant's *War for a Nation: The American Civil War*) and academics' contributions to publications (e.g., *Teachers of History Yearbook*) aimed at secondary educators. This has resulted in invitations to deliver lectures at individual schools that use these books. Regular direct engagement with secondary schools has also been achieved via a new initiative developed within the unit in the form of 'The Faculties' podcasts that have been designed for use within secondary education: (<http://www.thehistoryfaculty.org/>). Having trialled three of these in 2012, the unit anticipates the production of additional podcasts in 2013/14. Additional forms of school engagement includes Sixth Form lectures and seminars organised by non-HEI educational companies Sovereign Education, and American Summer Schools aimed at secondary, tertiary and continuing professional development students. The latter includes those organised by St. Cloud

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University, Missouri, and held annually at Alnwick Castle, Northumberland; the 'Wisconsin in Scotland' summer school held in Edinburgh; and Jonathan Andrews' regular lectures to MRPsych students at St. Nicholas Hospital.

c. Strategy and plans

Newcastle University's institutional focus aims to create impact from our world-class research. The Newcastle Institute for Social Renewal (NISR), launched in 2012 as part of its 'Vision 2021' initiative, addresses the question: *how can people, communities and societies thrive in times of rapid, transformational change?* The history unit is animated through several social renewal themes, and works to present history from the bottom up through its focus on: people, place and community; learning for change; the past in the present; social justice and injustice; and the role of art and culture in social renewal. See www.ncl.ac.uk/socialrenewal. Historians at Newcastle work with NISR in the following ways

- as part of the 2012 societal challenge initiative, historians involved in the Medieval and Early Modern Studies research group (<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/mems/>) ran a series of public lectures and a workshop at the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society on the theme of Social Renewal in the early modern period
- the same theme was also pursued via a series of seminars sponsored by the Royal British Legion that utilised Grant's work on the impact of war and the reintegration of veterans into post-war society. This will be further developed via the interdisciplinary Military, War and Security research group at Newcastle and British Academy-sponsored seminars in 2014
- Paton's National Archive Workshop on post-emancipation challenges develops the social justice and injustice strand for UK/Commonwealth society.

Through its Research Committee, the unit has developed strategies designed to maximise future impact from its research, including building on the momentum achieved via, e.g., 'The Faculties' podcasts to develop closer relationships with local and regional secondary schools, much of which will inevitably be constructed around the anniversary of the First World War in 2013-2018, with historical and cultural interpretations of this. At the same time, this will provide an opportunity for the unit to engage a wider audience with several of the University's archival holdings, e.g., the Gertrude Bell Archive (<http://www.gerty.ncl.ac.uk/>) in the context of conflict and conflict resolution, linking this with a programme of lectures and exhibitions (again, drawing on the unit's long-standing relationships with the Literary and Philosophical Society, Northumberland County Archives, the National Army Museum and Newcastle City Libraries). Continued engagement with the Public Lectures Committee is regarded as a crucial route to broader public awareness of the unit's research and public engagement with this, and with history more generally. Finally, the unit anticipates expanding the new 'Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Programme' to develop regional impact in collaboration with its partners in Queen's University Belfast and Durham University via a projected labour history project similar to the 'After Slavery' (<http://www.afterslavery.com/>) web project but with a comparative regional focus between the North East, Northern Ireland and the US South and an analytical focus on post-emancipation and post-industrial social challenges and solutions.

d. Relationship to case studies

The case studies presented by the unit highlights those areas where the research concerned works toward the reclamation and reconsideration of the past by contemporary societies. *Facilitating Family Histories* (Boulton) highlights the public impact of research in early modern history, specifically early modern London, in terms of social and economic change and renewal, social justice and injustice, public health in the urban environment, and the facilitation of public genealogical research. *Informing the Public Perception of Marriage* (Berry) enhances public and private cultural and creative knowledge of the social, sexual and cultural health of the past and extends the range and quality of the evidence used to inform current debate on these issues in the present day. *Beyond the Battlefield* (Grant) has an identifiable impact on the knowledge economy beyond the HEI via its public on-line dissemination and accompanying travelling exhibition, through the Royal British Legion's public seminar series, and via the BBC's *History Magazine*. Its main impact lies in the improvement of the quality and range of evidence deployed in modern responses to conflict and post-conflict resolutions for individuals and societies.