

Institution: SOAS University of London
Unit of Assessment: Development Studies
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>1.1 Overview</p> <p>The UoA offers a distinctive and original contribution to the field of development studies, informed in particular by the lens of political economy. It does so with a strong interdisciplinary perspective, bringing together scholars from across social sciences—anthropology, economics, politics and sociology—and across a wide range of topics that are relevant to the most vibrant debates in the field.</p> <p>The UoA has developed and consolidated distinctive research competencies in five key areas of excellence. These are the result of many years of research development, critical intellectual engagement and involvement in development policy practice. These areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agriculture and natural resources and political ecology, including cross-disciplinary work on three distinct workstreams: (a) food and nutrition (Shankar, Johnston, Stevano); (b) environment, energy and development (Mollinga, Tanner, Semieniuk); and (c) the political economy of agrarian change (Lerche, Oya); 2. Labour and social movements, with distinctive comparative research on working conditions of formal and informal labour (Oya, Mezzadri, Miyamura), including migrant labour (Lerche, Hanieh) and rural labour markets (Cramer, Oya), as well as on collective action institutions (Pringle, Sinha, Rizzo); 3. Governance, economic transformation and policy, including in the political economy of institutions, institutional change and corruption (Khan, Andreoni); 4. Violence, conflict, displacement and development, in particular, work in war to peace transitions, borders, and conflict-related migration and diasporas (Goodhand, Hammond, Cramer, Lindley, Rivas); 5. The political economy of money and finance, including work on financialisation, macroeconomics and sustainable finance, and implications for development across countries (Dafermos, Lapavitsas, Toporowski, Van Waeyenberge, Volz). <p>These five areas encompass the most significant research contributions of the 2014-20 period and connect specialisms reported in REF2014 as separate clusters.</p> <p>The commitment to interdisciplinary studies and regional specialisation within the above research areas is reflected in a plurality of cross-cutting activities, collaborations and institutionalised networks within SOAS and with our partners. The ethos that connects the different areas of excellence is one of generating an intellectual space for empirically grounded alternatives and methodological pluralism to address the challenges that the field of development studies is grappling with.</p> <p>This is reflected in a particular strength in the field of gender and development running across most areas. SOAS gender scholars offer a wide range of critical perspectives on women's empowerment (Cornwall, Rivas), social reproduction and work (Mezzadri, Stevano), gender, state-building and decolonisation (Okech), women, violence and displacement (Rivas), religion, caste and gender (Purewal), masculinities (Cornwall, Harris), nutrition and gendered time use (Johnston, Stevano), all central to the work developed on labour and social movements, foods and nutrition, governance, and war to peace transitions.</p> <p>SOAS development studies research has three important cross-cutting characteristics relating to the interdisciplinary nature of its research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, the UoA reflects a deep commitment to theoretical pluralism across the development studies field, while maintaining a critical mass of scholars and our reputation in heterodox political economy of development, which was flagged as a strength in the REF2014 cycle. This combines with a commitment to methodological pluralism, and in particular mixed methods research;

- Second, much of the research conducted in this UoA is fieldwork-intensive, and staff have contributed **innovations in fieldwork** in complex and adverse situations. This includes work on conflict areas and criminal activities, sector-specific research on corruption and anti-corruption evidence, on food and health and the food-water-energy nexus, and on labour standards and working conditions across different sectors in developing countries;
- Third, an increasing share of the research is **policy-oriented**, as witnessed by the growing volume of commissioned work and research projects and centres funded by Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), Department for International Development (DFID, now Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, FCDO) and other funders. UoA researchers engage with key policy debates especially in the five areas mentioned above and are frequently drawn into advisory and/or commissioned work with international organisations and governments, trade unions and other global social movements. We strive to maximise this policy focus in order to enhance the impact of our research work.

Since the REF2014, we have strengthened the UoA's research profile and developed an enabling environment for staff and research students.

Developing the above-mentioned five overarching research themes has helped us to reflect on our intellectual approach to the field of development studies; develop internal and external collaborations; and inform and strengthen our approach to funding, publication and impact (§1.6). The UoA has become more strategic about attracting research income in these key areas. It has strongly benefitted from significant improvements in the research infrastructure across the School, which has allowed colleagues to develop successful grant applications. This is reflected in a very positive development in the attraction of external research funding, which saw an **increase in research income** (money directly spent by SOAS) from a total of £1.7 million during the RAE period (RA4 2008) and £4.5 million in the 2008-13 REF period (REF2014), to over £12 million in the 2014-20 period (REF2021), amounting to nearly £30 million if we include partner costs as part of the full volume of awards (§3.1).

While the UoA has been very successful in securing large research grants, it has also supported strategic applications for smaller grants in emerging key areas and attracted a significant number of post-doctoral researchers over the 2014-20 period. The UoA has also worked on strengthening its PhD programmes and developed support mechanisms for PhD students and staff to foster a culture of research excellence.

1.2 Structure

This unit of assessment combines the strengths of two departments, Economics (17 staff) and Development Studies (28 staff), with an overall FTE staff count of 45.7 on 31 July 2020, down from 50.5 at the census date of REF2014. The two departments host two interdisciplinary research centres, the Centre for Development, Environment and Policy (CeDEP) and the Centre for Sustainable Finance. The research directors/REF Co-ordinators of both departments co-ordinate closely.

Each department has a Research Committee which develops and co-ordinates research policies and oversees the allocation of departmental research funds. The Department Research Committees use departmental research funds to support the activities of different research teams, such as workshops and bid preparation. Staff, research associates and PhD students are encouraged to join the groups, and some are members of more than one group, whilst the groupings have a mix of staff from different departments in order to enhance strategic collaboration especially in the preparation of research bids.

UoA staff and research students contribute to the work of other **SOAS-wide interdisciplinary centres** such as the Food Studies Centre, the Centre for Gender Studies, the Centre for Water and Development, SOAS Political Ecology of Environment and Development (SEED), as well as the regional studies centres, notably the Centre for African Studies, the SOAS South Asia Institute, the Centre of South East Asian Studies, the SOAS China Institute, and the London

Middle East Institute. This enables collaborative interdisciplinary research and draws on the unique concentration of regional expertise at SOAS.

UoA staff have been instrumental in establishing and continue to actively contribute to the research of the **Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health** (LCIRAH), an inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary platform for integrating research in agriculture, nutrition and health, with a focus on international development goals. The LCIRAH is an intercollegiate collaboration between SOAS, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) under the London International Development Centre.

1.3 Research strategy: 2014-20 and looking ahead

The strategic goals stated in our REF2014 environment statement included: (1) increase external income; (2) diversify funding sources, especially improving success in research council bids; (3) increase participation in larger collaborative bids; (4) encourage commissioned work; (5) develop inter-disciplinary links within SOAS; (6) use research leave more effectively; and (7) promote research-led training. The confidential feedback from the REF2014 suggested potential improvements in relation to overall output quality, research income, evidence of research impact, but also praised thematic strengths in key areas such as labour studies and heterodox political economy. Based on the concrete goals above and the REF2014 feedback, our research strategy for 2014-20 aimed at achieving three inter-related objectives:

1. Consolidate the strength of existing areas of excellence, while nurturing interdependencies across them towards an integrated research approach;
2. Expand into new and closely complementary areas of excellence, in response to emerging challenges in the development field;
3. Maximise the distinctive impact and international profile of our work and explore new and effective pathways for policy engagement.

Working towards these objectives, we managed to:

- Increase the number of high-quality research outputs including monographs and articles in leading peer reviewed journals;
- Secure and diversify funding for larger grants from research councils and other sources and use them to help establish national and international research networks and consortia;
- Pursue strategic applications for smaller grants in emerging key areas that will lay the basis for larger grants in the future;
- Develop new networks of collaborative research to lead on new avenues of research;
- Connect separate streams of research excellence and disciplinary strengths to create collaborative structures that enable us to address broader, interdisciplinary questions;
- Strategically broaden our external collaborations to include wider networks of collaborators.

1.3.1 Implementing our strategy in the current REF cycle

Following the confidential feedback from the REF2014 panel, particularly the need to increase the proportion of four-star publications and improve evidence of research impact, we embarked on an ambitious programme of developing and/or strengthening the key areas of research that we want to be known for, while continuing to recognise and support a broader palette of pluralist research with policy impact. We recognised the importance of a clear set of overarching research themes to clarify our intellectual approach to the field of development studies, develop internal and external collaborations, inform and strengthen our approach to funding, publication and impact. This led to us bringing together clusters into larger, more coherent and ambitious research themes. To strengthen the UoA's research profile, we developed a joint research strategy and put in place mechanisms for collaboration and coordination across the two academic departments. In all our five areas of excellence, there are contributors from the two departments, often working together in joint projects and grant applications.

During the assessment period, we made major changes in implementing our strategy by developing new ways of supporting, organising and promoting our research. New processes and structures included: appointment of departmental Research Co-ordinators; joint research planning exercises; the introduction of a more rigorous research mentoring process; elaboration of personal research plans with annual follow-up; production of a journal guidance list; new methods of internal and external peer reviewing of staff publications; closer collaboration with the School's Research and Enterprise Directorate and the Impact Team; greater support for staff in research income bids, including new software (Worktribe) and enhanced internal review mechanisms to improve our success rate in bids.

Within each of our five areas of research expertise we have operationalised the above strategy as follows:

(1) Agriculture, natural resources and political ecology

Within this stream, UoA staff have strengthened their work on **food and nutrition** with several funded projects, including 'Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia' (DfID Consortium); 'Palm Oil: Sustainability, Health and Economics' (Wellcome Trust-funded), 'Sustainable and Healthy Food Systems' (Wellcome Trust-funded) and 'Market Interventions for Nutritional Improvement' (Gates Foundation-funded). Recently, this work has expanded to include environmental considerations under the 'Sustainable and Nutritious Diets' umbrella. Our international partners in this work range from large academic institutions such as Stanford University, UCL and Chiang Mai University to small but highly influential NGOs such as Digital Green (India) and Collective for Social Science Research (Pakistan). Interdisciplinary collaborations within this area are strengthened by the SOAS Food Studies Centre, which is dedicated to the study of the political, economic, and cultural dimensions of food, historically and in the contemporary moment, from production, to exchange, to preparation, to consumption. Moreover, the LCIRAH brings together colleagues from Development Studies and Economics as well as various groups in LSHTM and RVC, and has developed into a world-leading research group working at the interface of agriculture, food, nutrition and health from an interdisciplinary perspective (§4.1).

Distinctive work on **feminist political economy of food and nutrition** has also consolidated with a focus on African markets, and new developments at the interface between food, work and social reproduction have been explored (Johnston, Stevano). This was made possible by the development of a dedicated research cluster and several research grants (British Academy and Danish Council for Strategic Research). We have also built on previous research on the employment effects of Fairtrade (FTEPR, Cramer, Johnston, Oya) and expanded our research on **agricultural certification** with particular emphasis on vulnerable workers in global value chains through an externally funded systematic review which has had substantial impact (Oya). We have had a long-running involvement in the DFID-funded Future Agricultures Consortium (Poulton, Dorward). This work on **agricultural policy and political economy** has been leveraged into new funding in the form of the DFID-funded Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) consortium (Poulton).

We have also been investing in expanding into related fields where SOAS could undertake world-leading research, such as **political ecology, and environment and climate studies**. New staff members were appointed with a track record of excellence in the field (Duffy, Mollinga, Tanner, Siciliano). UoA researchers combine their strengths in this area in several research centres, namely CeDEP, the Centre for Water and Development, and SEED.

We have established a strong reputation in research linking energy, climate change and development, especially in **climate change mitigation and adaptation**, low carbon development and energy policy. We have won significant grant funding in this area, including hydropower in China (ESRC-funded), low carbon innovation in China (ESRC-funded), green transformation in the global south (Volkswagen Foundation-funded), inclusive national adaptation planning (GCRF-funded). In the water arena, a large project jointly funded by the UK's DEFRA and China's Ministry of Agriculture examined sustainable nutrient management

and water resources protection in a comparative analysis of UK and Chinese agro-ecosystems. External collaboration in our energy and water research has encompassed a diverse set of partners, including the University of Ghana, Cambodia Development Resource Institute, the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

UoA-based colleagues edit or have recently edited the *Journal of Agrarian Change* (Lerche, Oya, Johnston) and *Food Policy* (Shankar), two leading journals in this area of development studies (§4.2).

(2) Labour and social movements

Researchers working in this area investigate changing employment relations, class relations, labour migration and identities under globalisation, as well as social and political action undertaken by labour and for labour. Having been flagged as one of the key areas of strength in REF2014, the group has maintained a strong track record regarding publications and especially externally funded research projects, including two collaborative ESRC-funded research projects involving various members of the group (Lerche, Oya, Mezzadri, Pringle, Lo). These two projects promise to further advance the work that this UoA has created in the study of labour relations with a particular focus on the **working poor in Africa and Asia and in construction and manufacturing sectors**.

This research group has continued its commitment to undertake labour-related research that combines labour with social movements, which had become separate fields of research in social science. This is a distinctive feature of our work that characterises research in different contexts in Africa and Asia, particularly in relation to **labour unions** in a context of informalised labour (Sinha, Pringle, Rizzo, Miyamura). Staff working on comparative work on employment conditions and collective action in different contexts of Asia and Africa have increasingly engaged with international organisations and social movements in the sphere of decent work. Oya has contributed to a joint initiative by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to adapt decent work statistical categories and methods to the agriculture-rural contexts in low- and middle-income countries in order to better account for wage employment particularly in agriculture in rural Africa.

Mezzadri, through her work on **informalised labour in global production networks** of textiles and garments, has generated interest, and direct collaborations with the ILO-Enterprise Improvement Teams (EIT) roundtable on contracting and labour regimes, and advised the Labour Behind the Label initiative, the new Fashion Transparency Index, and the human rights organisation Anti-Slavery International. Similarly, Lerche's recent ESRC-funded collaborative research with LSE scholar Shah has been used by Anti-Slavery International in their recent campaign report on modern slaves in the brick kilns in India, as the sole academic publication they use to explain how modern slavery and caste discrimination are linked.

(3) Governance and economic transformation

This area of excellence has experienced substantial growth and consolidation along two main research streams and a number of promising research activities. First, leveraging distinctive work on political settlement, institutional economics and **corruption** research developed at SOAS since the 1990s (Khan), a five-year research contract of £6 million with DFID (now FCDO) was secured. In 2016, SOAS became the lead institution of a Research Partnership Consortium on Anti-Corruption Evidence (ACE) involving more than 15 partners across three main countries—Bangladesh, Nigeria and Tanzania. As part of the Consortium, SOAS has also allocated £0.5 million of research grants for innovative research on anti-corruption across several other countries. The SOAS-led ACE research partnership consortium is responding to the serious challenges facing people and economies affected by corruption by generating evidence that makes anti-corruption initiatives feasible, and using those findings to help policy-makers, business and civil society adopt new, feasible, high impact strategies to tackle corruption. ACE has also collaborated with DFID/FCDO staff in country offices/British Embassies/High Commissions, the World Bank, the OECD, Global Integrity, and other private

and public sector stakeholders in different sectors and as such the potential for impact of this research is very high.

Second, in 2019 the cluster on **political settlements and inclusive growth** (Khan) attracted a five-year research grant on 'Political Economy Research to Support Inclusive Growth in Nepal' of approximately £2 million with funding from DFID/FCDO. The research partner—Yale University—received the same amount for developing with SOAS new frameworks and metrics in the areas of political economy, governance and institutions. Specifically, and in line with the UoA's overall approach, the project seeks to identify practical, politically smart ways for development partners with relatively small budgets to support a more inclusive political and economic environment, especially in adverse and fast changing contexts. As part of this project, SOAS is also experimenting with new ways to embed DFID/FCDO staff into research work in view to maximise uptake and impact.

Finally, several initiatives have been taken in expanding research on processes of **structural transformation, industrialisation and industrial policy** in Africa, South Asia and Latin America. For example, several SOAS scholars (Cramer, Khan, Di John, Oya) have led or contributed to the production of a prestigious series of Oxford University Press Handbooks in the areas of structural transformation and industrial policy, including the *Oxford Handbook of the Ethiopian Economy* (Cramer) that brought together a community of over 50 scholars on Ethiopia.

Several scholars have also been frequent contributors to high-level training programmes within this area of expertise, directed to policy makers, academics and CSO representatives from developing countries, e.g., the annual *African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics* (Cramer, Khan, Oya, and Di John) (§4.1). The same scholars have also led the Governance for Development in Africa Initiative at SOAS, funded by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (§1.5).

(4) Violence, conflict, displacement and development

Scholars in the UoA working on conflict, development and displacement have raised their profile in different ways. First, research on **borders/borderlands** has been advanced through a series of successful collaborative projects (Goodhand). Building on a project on 'Borderlands, Brokers and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka and Nepal' funded by the ESRC (£392,000), funding was secured for a multi-country research centre grant of just over £7million from the GCRF, focusing on **war and drugs** ('Drugs and (Dis)Order: Building Sustainable Peacetime Economies in the Aftermath of War'). Second, we have consolidated and developed our research on migration, mobility and development by taking a distinctive approach which deliberately aims to move beyond the boundaries of other approaches to the study of migration; specifically, it locates migration at the centre of development studies, and development at the centre of migration studies. Stemming from our research related to **conflict, borders, refugees and forced migration, and peace-building**, several members of staff have been involved in research grants and research-based consultancies that engage with societies in conflict, **models of humanitarian and peace building assistance**, and border studies in new and innovative ways (Rivas, Hammond, Goodhand).

Colleagues working on migration have thus developed a key area of work in **conflict-related displacement and diasporas** with a special focus on the Horn of Africa (Hammond, Lindley). This work has been recognised through a series of recent research grants and collaborations outside academia. For example, Hammond's 'Migrants on the Margins' project has been shortlisted for an award by Teach Secondary for the educational resources for curriculum impact. Hammond was also involved in the Migration Leadership Team's film 'Life on the Move', made with Positive Negatives, which was short-listed for two Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Research in Film Awards, in the Social Media and Inspiration categories, winning the prize for the former. Moreover, in 2020 Hammond and Lindley were awarded an ESRC grant to investigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on migrant remittance flows and wellbeing, in collaboration with QMUL and IOE at UCL.

(5) The political economy of money and finance

Work on the political economy of money and finance has developed along three main research streams—**financialisation, international financial institutions, and sustainable finance**. As part of the first two streams, Toporowski, Van Waeyenberge, McKinley, and Bargawi have conducted extensive research under the EU funded multi-party project ‘Financialisation, Economy, Society, Society and Sustainable Development’ (FESSUD, 2011-16). FESSUD lasted 5 years and included 15 partners, with SOAS leading Work Package 6 on ‘Finance, Development and Global Governance’ for a funding allocation of €1 million. Research was conducted on the changing global financial and monetary system, including the rising influence of major emerging economies such as Brazil, China and India. Further works explored emerging themes in the **political economy of money and finance**, including **financialisation** in developed economies (Lapavitsas), shocks and transmission mechanisms in global financial markets (van Huellen, Volz) and the role of international financial institutions in promoting public-private partnerships in the global south (Van Waeyenberge). The latter research was supported in 2017-18 by a GCRF/ESRC Strategic Network grant for the project ‘Equalities in Public Private Partnerships’, and subsequently by the ESRC with funding for a project on ‘Trajectories of Infrastructure Financing and Macroeconomic Policies in Practice’ (2019-20).

As part of the last stream of research in sustainable finance, the UoA has moved from an initial cluster to creation of the Centre for Sustainable Finance (CSF), an interdisciplinary research hub bundling expertise in **sustainable and climate-related finance** and its role in transitioning the world to a low-carbon, resilient and equitable future. Research grants in this area include ‘Developing Financial Systems to Support Sustainable Growth in China’ (Volz, 2017-20, ESRC), ‘Financial Risk and the Impact of Climate Change’ (Semieniuk, 2019-20, NERC/UKCRP), ‘Analysing the Options of Aligning European Central Banking with the Goal of Achieving Climate-Neutrality in the EU by 2050’ (Volz, 2020-21, European Climate Foundation), and several smaller research grants from the International Network for Sustainable Financial Policy Insights, Research, and Exchange (INSPIRE). Building on initial research by Volz on ‘Climate Change and the Cost of Capital in Developing Countries’ commissioned by UNEP in 2018 (funded by the Mava Foundation), further research was conducted on the **impacts of climate vulnerability on public and corporate finance in developing countries**, including through an INSPIRE grant for a project on ‘Climate Change and Sovereign Risk’. This body of research has already had substantial impact and led to research-based advisory work for the V20 Group of Climate Vulnerable Countries (Volz), the Brazilian central bank (Dafermos, Volz), the Network of Central Banks and Financial Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (Dafermos, Volz), the Global Commission on Adaptation (Tanner, Volz), and the Global Alliance for Financial Inclusion (Volz). The CSF is now an internationally recognised research hub and member of the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment, and a knowledge partner of the Asia Sustainable Finance Initiative and the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership.

1.3.2 Future strategic plans

There are three priority strategic goals to inform our future strategic plans post REF2021.

First, we want to build on the progress made since 2014 towards **increasing research income and specifically large grants**. Our departments generate substantial teaching income, especially thanks to substantial postgraduate student recruitment, but we aim to reverse the shares of teaching and research income in the long term. This means that we need to keep improving both the number of applications and the success rate, especially in relation to the awarded amounts. Accelerating research income growth will also require strategic building on and expanding the opportunities of leading or joining large collaborative grants from major research councils (ESRC, ERC, Leverhulme, FCDO, and other sources nationally and internationally).

Second, we want to work towards **making our research more visible outside academic circles and strengthen existing and develop new pathways to impact** at different levels (national and global) and with a wider range of users. Although there is already public engagement with much of our research, and increasing media attention, we can further invest in

an effective communications strategy to enhance media engagement and the use of social media for wider dissemination. In order to enhance our impact on society, we will also continue leveraging the actual and potential influence of our research on different policy actors, from national governments, to global organisations and civil society organisations, specifically labour unions and other workers movements, given our critical mass of scholars working on labour and social movements in Asia and Africa. The range of ICS this UoA has submitted already attests to the significance of recent experiences of impact with a diverse range of stakeholders (§1.6). Yet, it is still possible to further expand our impact capabilities and areas of influence.

Third, we plan to **consolidate the five areas of excellence and strengthen connections between workstreams within each of these areas and the big questions in contemporary global development**, namely: (1) the dynamics and prospects of economic transformations in low-income countries, (2) global inequalities, and (3) social and environmental sustainability. Our recognised strengths in the critical political economy of neoliberalism and globalisation cut across the five areas of excellence and can potentially contribute towards a more ambitious research agenda around the 'big questions'.

To help achieve these aims we are implementing enabling measures that include:

- **Enhanced strategic co-ordination between the two units** forming this UoA by two main channels: (1) a regular line of communication between the two Research Directors; (2) promotion of work in research clusters where members of both units actively participate, with particular focus on joint grant applications;
- **Strengthening mentoring systems for all our research staff** and especially our early career researchers (ECR), drawing on School-wide initiatives for research mentoring and support to research staff (including research assistants, postdoctoral fellows, funded research staff (§2);
- **Strengthening support systems for grant applications**, including a large grant-holders forum to share information on successful submission and management of large research projects in collaboration with the SOAS Research and Enterprise Directorate (§3; IES§4.2);
- **A revised and more generous research leave policy** at department level to provide additional incentives for large and strategic grant applications through different measures of workload relief as well as a more effective distribution of research overheads for both collective and individual research purposes at department level, building on the School's revised and enhanced post-REF2014 research leave policy (IES§2);
- **Improving external engagement** through an improved research communications strategy and leveraging existing networks to increase our participation in commissioned research for governments, global organisations and CSOs (§4);
- **Improving the average citation record** through the wider use of established platforms for research output sharing (Academia.edu, ResearchGate), social media, awareness of impact factors in journals, as well as short guides to boost citations, to enhance the academic impact of our research outputs;
- Building on the technical changes and institutional learning in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will promote the **use of virtual platforms for conferences and seminars**, in order to engage a much wider global audience and raise the profile of our seminar series and workshops.

1.4 Open research and research integrity

1.4.1 Open access

UoA researchers are committed to using the institutional repository—SOAS Research Online—to share their research wherever possible. More than 50% of records of items for the UoA in SOAS Research Online for 2014 onwards have full-text attached, a statistic we intend to improve upon. SOAS researchers have published Gold Open Access, making use of the SOAS Publication Fund and UKRI Open Access funding (IES§2). School funding contributed to make key publications such as the *African Economic Development* monograph by Cramer et al. available open access.

In addition, we are planning to add our various working paper series, which are currently hosted on the SOAS website or associated websites, to SOAS Research Online. The benefit of doing this is that they are indexed in Google Scholar, a creative commons license can be applied, and we can track downloads.

1.4.2 Research data management and sharing

We have a number of research projects, including several multi-million-pound projects, which fall under the UKRI Policy for data management and sharing. Where research leads to the compilation of datasets, colleagues are encouraged and some required to make a deposit in the UK Data Archive which is set up for sharing of datasets in Social Sciences (Goodhand, Oya, Urban, Karshenas). For example, Oya deposited a large quantitative survey dataset of over 1,500 African workers in construction and manufacturing with data collected in Ethiopia and Angola in 2017-18. DFID/FCDO also has requirements for sharing research data wherever possible such as the large DFID/FCDO-funded ACE project (Khan), ensuring that research data is made accessible through a data archive where possible.

1.4.3 Engagement, training and awareness of open research

SOAS has provided strong support through a dedicated Scholarly Communications Team who provide support on all aspects of open access and data sharing and management. REF Open Access requirements have been presented at Departmental Meetings, while PhD students received training on Open Access and Research Data Management, covering also copyright and creative commons, publishing agreements, and online profiles.

1.4.4 Research integrity

In line with SOAS policy, all staff completed the Epigeum Research Integrity online course (IES§4.1). All external funding applications are channelled through the institution's Research Office, and internal ethical approval is mandatory, as it is also for PhD upgrade.

Our strategy embodies a strong commitment to openness and integrity in research practice. This includes:

- Involving stakeholder representatives in designing and carrying out research;
- Crediting research partners and research assistants in publications;
- Making research material available to communities of origin and other researchers;
- Making research accessible through the institutional online repository SOAS Research Online as well as other platforms such as Academia.edu or ResearchGate.

1.5 Interdisciplinarity

A large number of colleagues are involved in interdisciplinary projects as highlighted in the projects detailed above (§1.3). School-wide regional centres and institutes provide a distinct institutional structure to facilitate interdisciplinary research. Interdisciplinary research between the Development Studies and Economics Departments includes projects on labour standards in agriculture, construction and manufacturing in Africa, involving Oya, Cramer, and Pringle from Development Studies and Johnston and Lo from Economics. Johnston's work with Stevano combines feminist political economy and anthropology with health and nutrition science. Khan's work on corruption integrates political economy with sector-specific research on business development, public sector delivery and politics.

There are also examples of initiatives in which colleagues from different disciplines within the UoA and from other departments at SOAS collaborate. The Governance for Development in Africa Initiative, funded by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, now running in its 10th year, brings together staff from the fields of economics, political economy, law, politics and international relations to (1) debate and teach on questions of governance and development in Africa for African participants and (2) supervise interdisciplinary PhDs focused on various aspects of the thematic area of governance for development. One of the key contributors to this initiative (Jennings, a historian) has recently been appointed to the AHRC Peer Review College, in recognition of his research, which straddles the humanities and social sciences.

Research training for doctoral students is deliberately targeted at generating capacity for mixed methods research and for interdisciplinary work (cf. §2.2). This is done through weekly PhD research seminar series in Development Studies and Economics as well as through dedicated special events on research and fieldwork in contexts of conflict. The **Doctoral School** has also enhanced the in-house provision of training through bespoke courses for students working across disciplines, especially on qualitative methods and the use of software like Nvivo, as well as more general courses offered as MOOCs, such as 'Understanding Research Methods,' which was nominated for a Guardian University Award in 2015 (<https://www.soas.ac.uk/doctoralschool/researchtraining/>).

The Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) has emerged as a major interdisciplinary collaboration not only within this UoA and SOAS, but also across Bloomsbury colleges of the University of London, such as LSHTM. LCIRAH has grown into a group that has generated over £25 million in grant funding. More than 100 high quality publications have resulted, including in journals such as the *British Medical Journal*, *Climatic Change*, and *World Development*.

1.6 Impact and engagement

1.6.1 Impact strategy

Impact is a core part of our research agenda. We have taken the feedback of the REF2014 panel on impact, namely that we 'lacked a fully-integrated and elaborated strategy', to heart. In response, the UoA, in co-ordination with the School's Impact Officer, has developed new systems and mechanisms to work on impact plans and make sure colleagues develop research bids with careful consideration of impact pathways (IES§2). The School's investment in assisting researchers in their impact plans and developing impact case studies through a dedicated Impact Officer has resulted in a much larger number of potential impact case studies being considered for the present REF cycle, and all bids and ongoing research developing their own impact plans.

Our research is now increasingly policy-oriented. Most of the research conducted by UoA staff is applied and frequently involves advisory and/or commissioned work. Much of our externally-funded research has received support for the development of impact plans (e.g., ESRC-funded projects by Lerche, Oya, Goodhand, Hammond, Khan, and 3ie support to Oya). This support has been important in terms of helping staff understand different forms of impact, learning from experience in other institutions, and also developing clarity about what counts as evidence for impact.

Our key audiences/user groups are governments, international organisations and private sector actors; however, we also influence other stakeholders such as trade unions, NGOs, activist groups and social movements (§1.3, 4.1).

1.6.2 Implementation of impact strategy and 2021 case studies

The impact strategy adopted after REF2014 has helped the design of research activities to take impact into account from the start. This allowed the UoA to choose from a broader pool of promising potential ICSs that materialised over the REF period by building different exhibits of evidence of impact on a range of users, from government and international agencies, to civil society organisations and business. Researchers with a potential ICS were systematically supported by a dedicated Impact Officer advising on principles, required evidence, improving pathways to impact, and the narrative linking research outputs, engagement and impact on users. The four ICSs that were chosen for the REF2021 submission showcase the range of impact that research in the UoA has:

1. ICS1: *Agricultural Certification Schemes in Developing Countries: How Fair and For Whom?* by Cramer and Oya. It openly challenged public perceptions that Fairtrade and other certification schemes improve conditions for the poorest people in producing countries and influenced key certification schemes and their umbrella organisations in

improving impact assessment standards, as well as government policy on the coffee sector in Ethiopia;

2. ICS2: *Shaping the 'UK Approach' to Reducing Violence and Supporting Sustainable Post-war Transitions in Conflict-affected Countries* by Goodhand. This research commissioned by the UK Government's Stabilisation Unit played an instrumental role in re-shaping the UK Government approach to reduce violence and promote sustainable post-war transitions in conflict-affected countries and underpinned the 'UK Government's Approach to Stabilisation';
3. ICS3: *Informing Migration Policy and Programming in the Horn of Africa* by Hammond. This research influenced major policy and funding decisions of a range of actors, including the European Union, the Government of Somalia, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development on conditions for migration and displacement in the Horn of Africa;
4. ICS4: *Climate Risk and the Cost of Capital in Climate-Vulnerable Countries* by Volz and Murinde. This research on the relationship between climate vulnerability and the cost of capital in developing countries prompted the Ministers of Finance of the Vulnerable Twenty Group of climate vulnerable developing countries to develop new financial instruments in collaboration with international partners to address this problem.

2. People

2.1 Staffing strategy and staff development

The total number of FTE staff has slightly declined from 50.5 to 45.7, partly as a result of recent restructuring in 2020. While some important contributors to SOAS research retired or moved onto new jobs in recent times (Fine, Johnston, Shankar), our recruitment policy has been shaped by a twin commitment to excellence and equalities. We focused on **recruiting both high calibre senior and ECR** who can contribute to our five areas of research excellence and maintain and develop our regional expertise. We have had considerable success in this respect and as a result have moved away from being rather narrowly focused on heterodoxy to become a much more pluralistic UoA. A number of colleagues have also been successful over different promotion rounds, with six staff promoted to professors and more to readers during the current REF cycle.

A principal aim of our staff development policy is to encourage and **support colleagues in producing the very best research that they can**. Particularly, we encourage colleagues to focus on quality above quantity, improve dissemination, and actively promote uptake in development policy and programming. The change in the SOAS Research Leave policy in October 2015 has facilitated greater investment in research (§1.6; IES§2, 3.3).

The UoA has implemented the School's Research Mentoring Policy alongside five-year rolling Personal Research Plans in addition to the annual Staff Development Review. Thus, indicative advice, especially to ECRs, is given on issues such as the number and quality of publications, conference attendance, knowledge transfer and 'impact' related activities, as well as research funding.

ECRs are encouraged to apply for small grants such as those offered by the British Academy and special ECR calls to gain experience and build a track record in funded research. They are also encouraged to actively engage in one or more of the five areas of excellence and work as Co-Is on bids with more senior staff. During this REF cycle, six ECRs in the UoA have been successful in grant applications.

Senior staff are encouraged to take on roles as PIs, where appropriate. All staff, but especially ECRs, are encouraged to participate in research training events and grant-writing seminars organised by the Research and Enterprise Directorate (§3.2). We also encourage and fund participation in external research training events.

REF Co-ordinators are provided with a list of outputs for each colleague every two months, ensuring all colleagues are on track and updating the e-repository and the requirements for open access. To assist with the mentoring process, the UoA has compiled a guidance list of highly ranked, widely read and recommended journals to help colleagues make decisions on where to submit papers. The list has been compiled from a variety of sources, including the ABS list, Web of Science, SCR and lists of professional association journals in linked disciplines such as economics, anthropology, geography and politics. In terms of monographs, we encourage colleagues to aim for top ranked publishers, such as reputed university presses. Publications are also assessed through a combined internal and external ('Critical Friends') peer review system.

2.2 Doctoral research

During the current REF period, between 2014 and 2020, 164 PhD theses were completed, which is equivalent to 3.6 students per FTE staff member. Up until 2019-20 there were a total of 671 students enrolled in the PhD programmes of the two departments that submit to this UoA. PhD recruitment has been remarkably consistent over the years, hovering around 95-100 students per year despite the fact that the number of potential supervisors has been reduced since 2017. Our PhD student body is highly diverse in terms of nationality, with around 35% of PhD students from the UK, 40-45% from overseas, and 20-25% from EU countries.

We have a **vibrant research student community** within the UoA. In the REF 2014 panel feedback, it was noted that the large number of research degrees awarded was indicative of vitality. The increase in PhD completions since reflects the strengthened profile of the UoA as a desirable place to pursue PhD research. We envisage a slight further increase as early career supervisors and some newly hired colleagues become more able to take on students.

We have successfully recruited students supported by studentships from a variety of funding bodies, including ESRC (3+1), Commonwealth Scholarships, Tallow Chandlers-M.W. Beer Scholarship, University of Zambia, Mo Ibrahim Scholarship, Hendrik Muller's Vaderlandsch Fonds Scholarship, Vreedefonds Scholarship, and several other international research bodies. In addition, SOAS itself provides a number of scholarships and provides funding for fieldwork expenses and language acquisition courses for many of our PhD students. The leading role we play in LCIRAH has resulted in several PhD scholarships funded by the Centre.

Despite the large number of students on scholarships there is still room for improvement in terms of securing funding for the strongest students who seek to study with us. To that end, we will work with the SOAS Development Office and the Doctoral School to raise scholarship funding. We also seek to secure further funding for PhD students through research projects (notably ESRC and AHRC which allow for studentships as part of larger applications) and from such sources as Leverhulme, and private foundations.

2.3 Equality, diversity and inclusion

The UoA has a strong ethos of EDI. Our focus on marginalised groups in society in much of our research (the working poor in low-income countries; victims of violent conflict; vulnerable migrants) contributes to an environment where there is **strong commitment to the principles of EDI at all levels**.

Our PhD students come from very diverse backgrounds. The proportion of BAME students has increased from 46% in 2013-14 to over 50% in 2018-19 and 2019-20. So has the number of PhD students declaring disabilities, from less than 5 in the years prior to 2017 to 15 in the last two academic years.

The proportion of BAME staff submitting to this UoA is on par with School wide statistics (34%) and is almost identical to the proportion of outputs by BAME staff which have been provisionally selected for inclusion in the Development Studies submission. We observe similar consistent patterns for age, gender, and declared disability, i.e. our UoA is in line with School statistics and the submission reflects them. In fact, for ECR, under the age of 35, and women, there is a slightly higher number of outputs per person included in final submission.

Equality and diversity training is mandatory for all new staff, and unconscious bias training is mandatory for all staff involved in recruitment, probation and promotions processes. These training sessions help to equip staff with the knowledge and skills to embed inclusive practices in their work and spheres of influence. SOAS holds an Athena SWAN Bronze university award. Representatives of the UoA, including the Research Directors, REF Co-ordinators, and Directors of Doctoral Studies have also actively participated in activities designed to raise awareness of EDI principles and issues such as unconscious bias, e.g., through a series of REF-specific EDI workshops (IES§2).

In line with School policy, for ECRs, we provide a 3-year probation period where staff are supported in the development of their career via a reduced teaching load and two terms of internally funded research leave on successfully completing probation.

SOAS has 'family friendly' policies in place to ensure an inclusive working environment for all staff members who have significant caring responsibilities. This includes flexible working solutions such as flexi-time, term-time working, remote working, job sharing, compressed hours, and staggered hours. Staff can indicate choices for days to work from home, with a view of developing a culture of inclusive timing.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1 Research funding

SOAS has substantially strengthened its strategies to support grant applications. These have already met with considerable success, and as a result we have seen a significant increase in research income and the volume of research awards. During the 2014-20 period UoA staff were awarded a total of £30.2 million, including partner costs. In the first three years of the reporting period, the accumulated volume of awards was £4,498,417, which jumped to over £24 million accumulated over the following three years marking an accelerated growth in terms of successful awards and the overall amount awarded. This growth in awards translated into a **substantial increase in research income** (excluding partner costs), from £4.6 million in the REF2014 period to £12.1 million for the REF2021 period, i.e. almost doubling on an annual basis from £912,000 p.a. for REF2014 to £1.7 million p.a. in REF2021. This twofold increase was also manifested on an annual *per capita* basis.

In contrast to the previous REF reporting period, UoA staff managed to secure some large grants, with three awards over £1 million and two of them (Khan, Goodhand) worth around £6 million each. These awards are testament of the consolidation of areas of excellence as described in this narrative. This success also encouraged a growth in submissions, which was one of the key goals of our REF strategy. There was also success in terms of the number of grants between £100,000 and £1 million, with a total of 23 awards near or above £100,000. We were also successful in attracting much more funding from **key established bodies that are highly relevant to our UoA**, namely the ESRC and DFID/FCDO. Of the nearly £30 million awarded, 33% were awarded by the ESRC and over £7.5 million came from DFID. This reflects a very substantial improvement in both the number of submissions to these funding bodies and the success rate of these applications in terms of value of grants compared to the previous REF period. The number of awards has consistently hovered around 10 per year with an overall strong success rate of 25%. The consistency in the number of awards over this period has been remarkable and is also the result of an increasing number of staff applying for grants. The success rate of large grant applications has increased, resulting in an increase in the total amount awarded since 2014, as noted above. The increase in the number of applications, amount applied for, and number of awards happened despite a decline in FTE staff members from 50.5 to nearly 46 between 2013-14 and 2019-20. In 2013-14 there were less than 0.5 applications per staff member compared to nearly one application in 2019-20 and £340,000 per FTE researcher were applied for in 2019-20 compared to £207,000 on average in 2016-17.

A significant number of publications have been linked to many of the awards obtained in this period but, because of the time required to complete projects and bring major outputs to publication, we expect a large volume of high-quality new outputs, especially those linked to large grants awarded in the period 2017-19, to be published in the post-REF2021 period.

We have been working to develop our grant success further. Several large collaborative bids have recently been submitted or are being developed, bringing together colleagues from across this UoA. A useful tool to improve the number and quality of applications during the current REF cycle has been the timely deployment of seed funds at both School and department level, with explicit emphasis on support to grant applications for collaborative research. Over the current REF cycle, close to £100,000 of funding was granted internally to UoA staff, which partly contributed to successful large grant applications (e.g., Hammond, Khan).

3.2 Research infrastructure and facilities

Institutional collaborations through interdisciplinary consortia such as the London International Development Centre—see collaborations in §4—have contributed to leveraging additional sources of funding, like the Bloomsbury Colleges PhD Studentships, and a grant from the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) (Oya). LIDC provides a platform for organising cross-college funding bids, and this UoA in SOAS has played a strong role in LIDC co-ordination of recent bids to GCRF, and DFID's Global Evaluation Framework Agreement. This UoA has in turn supported LIDC, including by providing personnel for its steering group (Oya, Shankar).

In addition, we use mentoring systems described in §2.1 to (1) encourage junior colleagues to join research bids led by senior staff (e.g., Khan, Goodhand); and (2) encourage junior colleagues to bid for smaller grants as PIs in order to help develop their research expertise and credentials. One aim of existing mentoring mechanisms is to develop realistic funding bids with enough time for preparation. The quality of bids has been improved by the adoption of a more systematic School-wide peer review system for draft grant applications, including mock interviews where appropriate (e.g., for those shortlisted for ESRC, Leverhulme and EU grants which involve an interview).

UoA staff were always active in consultancy work but during this REF cycle the School has actively encouraged staff to bring consultancy work in-house and developed a new, more rewarding **External Professional Activities policy**, which clarifies the range of benefits colleagues can receive from engaging in in-house research (PhD students and post-docs) and the reputational loss (both to them and the School) by doing work off-the-books (IES§2, 4.1). There are some notable successes, such as Hammond's role as Team Leader for the Research and Evidence Facility (Horn of Africa Window) of the European Union Trust Fund for Africa.

The above strategy has been complemented by the development of a comprehensive system of infrastructure to support colleagues in the grant application process. We now have a well-staffed Research and Enterprise Directorate (RED) with a dedicated staff member who works with UoA staff to develop proposals and helps promote interdisciplinary research at SOAS more generally (IES§4).

An important part of SOAS's research infrastructure is the SOAS Library, which particularly benefits the regional field orientation of much of our research in this UoA (IES§4.2).

4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

4.1 Collaborations, networks and partnerships

Our strategy for the current REF cycle built on strengthening existing and developing new forms of engagement with the discipline and across disciplines, other institutions and non-academic partners.

During the current REF cycle, we concentrated on strengthening and deepening existing collaborations, partnerships and networks (nationally and internationally) and developing new ones. We work with the London International Development Centre (LIDC), pooling the strengths of the five Bloomsbury colleges that are part of the Bloomsbury Consortium (SOAS, Birkbeck, LSHTM, UCL's Institute of Education and RVC) to support research and pedagogical initiatives in international development (§1.5, 3.2), and funding for PhD students through the interdisciplinary Bloomsbury PhD studentships.

We support a broad range of international collaborations. These include the joint research initiative on 'Political Economy Research to Support Inclusive Growth in Nepal' between SOAS and Yale supported by DFID/FCDO (led by Khan) and the collaboration between SOAS and the University of Melbourne on the study of frontiers, states and conflict that led to the recent GCRF grant of over £7 million for the project 'Drugs and (Dis)Order: Building Sustainable Peacetime Economies in the Aftermath of War' (Goodhand). This also links in with our broader research on migration, mobility and development, particularly its intellectually distinctive work on borders and borderlands. In this respect, Hammond's research has built on multiple collaborations with a wide range of institutions working on migration, mobility and peace, resulting in her lead role on the Research and Evidence Facility of the European Union Trust Fund for research on the dynamics of displacement and the implications of EU Trust Fund activities in the Horn of Africa. This project includes collaborations with several institutions such as the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UNHCR, and various organisations in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somaliland.

The Economics Department was part of a consortium of 15 partners in several countries, working on the €7.92 million five-year FESSUD research project which looked at the role of the EU in the international financial system, the impact of financial trends on developing and developed countries and the way in which the financial crisis since 2007 changed the role of finance in the economy and society as a whole. Two other key partnerships exist with the Royal Geographical Society which has selected a collaborative research project by colleagues from the Universities of Sussex and Durham together with SOAS (Hammond) and the LSE on a £3 million project to research inequality and poverty for Dalits and Adivasis in India, 2014-17 (Lerche). Khan heads a SOAS-led consortium including LSHTM and Palladium and multiple partners in the Global South for a £6 million five-year DFID RPC on Anti-Corruption Evidence, which draws on Khan's internationally recognised work on governance and anti-corruption.

Various UoA colleagues (Cramer, Oya, Di John, Khan) have contributed since 2007 to the African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE), now hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry of the Government of South Africa and including some of the leading heterodox economists working on international development and Africa. Researchers at this UoA have been instrumental in launching and developing the International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy (IIPPE) which fosters collaboration with a large number of individuals and institutions across the world and enhances SOAS's reputation as a leading force in heterodox political economy.

The LCIRAH has developed into a **major interdisciplinary collaboration** that is expanding its core remit in food and health to areas such as environmental sustainability and energy, through numerous international collaborations, e.g., with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research's Agriculture for Nutrition and Health research programme (§1.2).

4.2 Contribution to the discipline and research base

Staff in the UoA are engaged in a wide portfolio of scholarly activities. Individuals serve as editors or on editorial boards of peer reviewed journals, including *Food Policy* (Shankar); *PLOS One* (Shankar); *Global Food Security* (Shankar); *Climate and Development* (Tanner); *Review of African Political Economy* (Rizzo); *Journal of Agrarian Change* (Johnston, Oya, Lerche); *Development Policy Review* (Harrigan); *Journal of Eastern African Studies* (Jennings); *Asia Europe Journal* (Volz); *Food Chain* (Poole); *Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging*

Economies (Poole); *European Journal of Development Research* (Oya), *Journal of Southern African Studies* (Cramer).

Several colleagues are also actively involved in the Research Councils, as members of the ESRC Grants Advisory Panel (Hammond, Johnston), Grant Advisory Panel of the Economic Research Forum (Karshenas), ESRC Peer Review College (Duffy, Oya, Jennings, Urban, Smith, Cornwall), AHRC Peer Review College (Jennings), Global Development and International Relations Portfolio Board of the Norwegian Research Council (Cramer), on specific call panels (Mollinga) and for other research funding bodies (Leverhulme, Social Sciences Research Committee for the UK Food Standards Agency, European Research Council Executive Agency, Irish Research Council). UoA staff also served on advisory boards for large research consortia, e.g., iBuild (Fine) and Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Économiques (Karshenas), and as Chair of the International Advisory Board of the LSE-led GCRF hub on Women, Peace and Security (Cornwall). We have taken a lead in professional associations. Hammond was elected to the governing body of the Development Studies Association; Karshenas to the Board of Governors of the Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey; and Volz was appointed a Director of the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment.

Our strategy is to develop a greater level of visibility for our research at key conferences in our sub-disciplines by organising panels that highlight development studies at SOAS. For instance, several panels have been organised at Annual Development Studies Association conferences. This has led to closer links with the Development Studies Association, where Hammond is now Honorary Secretary of Communications, NGOs, REF2020 at the Council of the Development Studies Association.

4.3 Indicators of wider influence, contributions and recognition

The high international profile of colleagues is evidenced by the number of invited keynote speeches at international conferences or special lectures. Examples include: EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum 2017, Jakarta (Shankar); The Arab Revolutions: Five Years On at American University of Beirut (Achcar); Thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII), Doha (Karshenas); 2017 African Economic Conference, Addis Ababa (Khan). In addition, Duffy, via SEED, was involved in organising a joint conference on Political Ecologies of Conflict, Capitalism and Contestation with Wageningen University. Visiting Professorships include: Johnston at Northampton Business School; Shankar at RVC; Volz at Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing and University of Kobe; Oya at Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Universidad Complutense Madrid and China Agricultural University. Volz has also been awarded an Honorary Professorship at University of Leipzig and was Banque de France Chair at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris.

UoA impact is enhanced by the large amount of work carried out for international organisations as well as positions held on international advisory boards. These include: UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (Khan); Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2020 at the University of Oxford (Hammond), and Advisory Committee Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Economicos (Mozambique) (Johnston, Oya, Cramer); Board of Directors of Centre for Tropical Agricultural Research and Education (Poole); Advisory Council of Asian Development Bank Institute (Volz); Advisory Board of International Sustainable Finance Centre (Volz).

4.4 Relationships with key research users, beneficiaries and audiences

Given that much of our research has a strong applied and policy focus, we have developed close links with stakeholders outside of academia. Many UoA colleagues carry out advisory work for both national and international development agencies such as DFID/FCDO, the World Bank, GIZ, International Labour Office, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), European Union, African Development Bank, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Gates Foundation, Overseas Development Institute as well as many

others. Some serve as permanent advisors to such agencies (e.g. Volz—Asian Development Bank).

Within the UK we have sought to strengthen links with DFID/FCDO, while maintaining previous connections with developing country governments and other donors, such as AFD, UNDP or JICA. In 2016, colleagues attended a tailored working group at DFID to discuss the synergies between our research portfolio and the needs of DFID in terms of research and policy advice. The aim was to explore ways in which our research could better meet the needs, not just of DFID, but the international development community more generally, and to look at how we can maximise dissemination to and impact on this community. This has produced several spin-offs, including the DFID-funded SOAS-led Anti-Corruption Evidence Research Partnership Consortium. In 2017, the SOAS ACE core team was invited to give keynotes at the DFID Annual Professional Development Conference in Nepal (Khan, Roy) and Tanzania (Khan). In addition, the ACE team has addressed the entire cadre of DFID specialists in Private Sector Development, Conflict and Governance. In 2019, Tanner was invited to present on enhancing climate resilience through UKAid investments to a workshop of DFID advisers.

In the area of agriculture, food and nutrition, we have developed deep links with the major relevant international agencies and funding bodies. In 2014, Shankar and Johnston participated in a research needs mapping exercise commissioned by DFID, the output from which has underpinned most DFID funding in this area over the last few years. We have also been invited to and have participated in expert panel consultations on future funding in food and nutrition by the Wellcome Trust, the Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Links have also been established with the private sector, NGOs and labour movements (cf. §4.1). For example, Oya has developed links with ISEAL, the leading umbrella organisation for voluntary social sustainability standards (e.g. Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance) in the context of his research on the impact of agricultural certification, and leading to frequent collaborations in joint workshops/webinars and blogs. Morimoto's work on the Carbon Disclosure Project, which runs the global disclosure system that enables companies, cities, states and regions to measure their environmental impacts, has resulted in outreach beyond academia to a wider environment including the private sector. Poulton has served as a senior advisor to the Better Cotton Initiative, a standard-setting stakeholder platform for the cotton industry. Oya has contributed to FAO-ILO's initiative to adapt decent work statistical categories and methods to the agriculture-rural contexts in LMICs, work that also attracted interest by GIZ. More recently, a collaboration agreement has been signed with the ILO to evaluate one of their flagship programmes (ONE ILO programme) to improve labour relations in the emerging garment sector in Ethiopia (Oya). Pringle has directly contributed to the work of one of the most important labour NGOs in China (China Labour Bulletin) by maintaining a close working relationship since 2013, including joint research, evaluation and strategy related input. Mezzadri's work on informalised labour in global production networks of textiles and garments has generated interest and direct collaborations with the ILO-ETI, the Labour Behind the Label initiative, the new Fashion Transparency Index, and more recently Antislavery (§1.3).