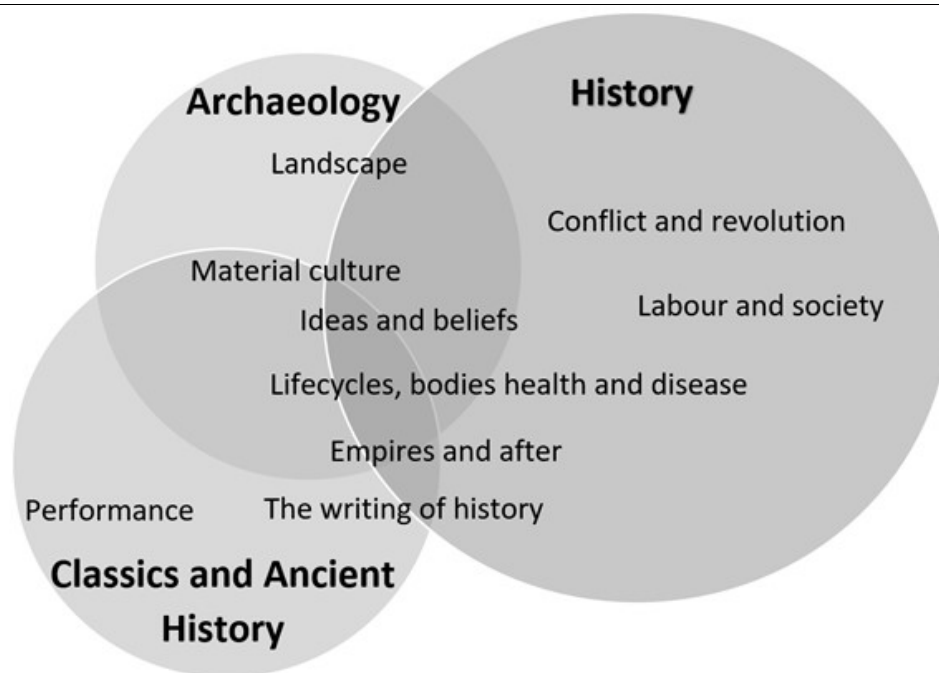


Institution: Newcastle University
Unit of Assessment: UoA 28 History
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p><u>1.a. Unit Context</u></p> <p>Located in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA) within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS), History at Newcastle celebrates and gives agency to the multitudinous voices of the past. Historical justice connects our work thematically, underpinning our research, impact strategy, and wider initiatives to shape the Faculty and University research and engagement agendas in the spirit of Newcastle University's ethos as a civic university which makes a difference to society locally, regionally, nationally and internationally (ILE 2.11). We believe that researching the diverse experiences of past peoples helps contemporary societies understand their past, present and future; we analyze how historic inequalities, global and local, have ongoing repercussions; and demonstrate how History can be used to address contemporary problems and develop solutions. We are committed to fostering a research culture which is inclusive and supportive, and are further embedding EDI policies to cement this goal.</p> <p>The breadth of our research, geographically, thematically and chronologically, acknowledges that our region remains embedded within global history and that a deeper understanding of the past emerges when comparisons can be made across time and space. Our expertise stretches from Anglo-Saxon England and Medieval Iberia to twentieth-century Sudan, China and Mexico, with significant expertise in British, American and European History. Our location within HCA, alongside Classics and Archaeology, provides a rich intellectual environment with a deep chronological perspective and methodological range.</p> <p>Following a period of reflection prompted by the 2014 REF, and supported by institutional investment, the Unit collectively implemented a strategy to revitalize its research and impact from the ground up. Following an external review in 2017-2018, a steering group of seven Unit members ranging from Lecturer to Professorial grades was appointed with members bought out of teaching duties in 2018-2019. The group evaluated the Unit's position within the national landscape, identified distinctive strengths, and devised strategies for their cultivation. Thematic meetings and circulated draft reports enabled all Unit members to feed into the review. Leading historians from other institutions provided external moderation. Our current research vision, and the structures designed to support research and impact within the Unit, result from this process. Through them we foster an inclusive, collegial and co-operative research culture which values individual and collaborative scholarship, research leadership, grant capture, impact and engagement.</p> <p>The appointment of 15 new permanent staff since 2014 (see Section 2) has allowed us to develop nationally significant hubs of expertise in oral history, the history of ideas, and maritime, medical, and environmental humanities, while continuing to nurture a nationally leading, vibrant labour history group. Investment in the Unit, and a collective redesign of our research and impact culture, is now driving an upturn in funding and in the recruitment of postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers.</p> <p>To facilitate cross pollination amongst the school's geographically and chronologically diverse portfolio, we developed nine Research Strands across the whole of HCA in 2015, designed to dismantle barriers between our disciplines, and to provide capacity for deep-time and cross-cultural research perspectives, locally and globally. Historians wholly or partly lead five of these strands:</p>



Issues of historical justice permeate the strands. Our activities explore the role of ideas and beliefs in provoking conflicts and revolutionary situations, and the legacies of these conflicts. Our research examines the impacts and aftermaths of colonial oppression and slavery, as we simultaneously decolonize our curriculum. We explore persecution on the grounds of belief systems and reveal the labour movement's efforts to secure greater rights. We acknowledge that social injustices, nationally and globally, generated profound health inequalities which persist today, and that medicine sometimes served as a tool of oppression. Our strands offer a research community for all School research staff and PGR students. Strand coordinators receive a workload allowance for the role. Informal meetings between them have encouraged colleagues to collectively foster research and impact activities by all Unit members, including ECRs and PGRs. We introduced reporting mechanisms in 2019 to capture, share, and publicize research activity and best practice.

Beyond HCA, we have delivered on our REF 2014 strategic objective to build research collaborations by embedding historians in wider University networks. Members of the Unit are active in Faculty Research Groups with Historians involved in the leadership of seven including: Medieval and Early Modern Studies @ Newcastle; the Anthropocene Research Group; the Asian Studies Research Group; the Materiality, Artefacts, Technologies in Culture and History Group; and the Labour and Society Research Group. Several Unit members have been involved in the development of the Newcastle University Centres of Research Excellence (NUCoREs), which are part of the new University research strategy (ILE 2.2.1). S. Campbell, Siemens and Tindley have been closely involved in the development of the Heritage NUCoRE. Our expertise in public history, memory studies and historical consciousness will help shape this Centre's initiatives. Unit members have also been involved with the Cities NUCoRE and have been engaged in early discussions around the NUCoREs in Landscape (which will be led from the School), Rare Diseases, Cancer, and Climate and Environmental Resilience. Interdisciplinary collaboration within and between Faculties is also reflected in our Medical Humanities Network, the AHRC-funded project 'Wastes and Strays: The Past Present and Future of Urban Commons' and the UKRI GCRF 'Living Deltas Hub'.

1.b. Strategic Aims in Research

Newcastle historians are motivated by a sense of historical justice that addresses claims of moral and intellectual recompense for past sufferings, warns of dangers forgotten from yesterday, and seeks to build a more just future. Such understandings of the past revitalize democratic debate and civic society, help guard against prejudice, challenge misapprehension, and provide ways of facing the problems of the global present.

Our review process identified four research priorities for the coming years:

- Improving our grant capture to help colleagues achieve their research ambitions.
- Building a vibrant postdoctoral culture to make History at Newcastle an international destination for ECRs.
- Improving research mentoring to support career development and promotion, facilitating individual ambitions.
- Re-calibrating our impact and engagement efforts by viewing these as collective responsibilities and successes which benefit our partner institutions and the wider public, the researchers who participate in them, and the Unit collectively.

We have made significant progress in these areas. Grant income has more than doubled in the second half of the cycle along with the number of individual RES account holders. We have recruited four postdoctoral fellows in this cycle (via the Leverhulme, British Academy, Marie Skłodowska-Curie and internal NUAcT schemes) and four others attached to specific research projects. As outlined in Section 2, all staff have a mentor, and receive workloading for mentoring. We now have an Impact Forum and initiatives planned for 2021 and beyond are detailed in Section 1.c.

Our fifth priority has been to invest in areas of research strength.

The Oral History Unit and Collective (OHUC), directed by Smith, launched in January 2018 with an investment of £665,313 by Newcastle University. Building on preexisting strengths within the Unit in oral history, OHUC's establishment transformed Newcastle into a centre of excellence in oral history, with national and international scope and ambition and significant infrastructural support. Working across disciplines and in partnership with local history groups and community historians, charities and industrial partners, OHUC explores oral history's role in communicating the past in the present. It furthers our research ambitions and fundamentally connects research, engagement and impact work. OHUC provides a forum for knowledge exchange, developing the skills and careers of ECRs working in oral history and supporting researchers within and outside the University through monthly drop-ins, a regular reading group and seminar series. The [foodbank histories project](#) (see Section 4), exemplifies OHUC's innovative work. Collective members work on local, national, and international projects across the key themes of Work and After, Medical Humanities, and Social and Historical Justice. A further theme, **Public History**, cuts across these areas. This is a rapidly developing field within the Unit, reflected in our publications and impact work, and cemented by the recent appointment of Atkinson-Phillips to a lectureship in public history.

The Maritime Humanities Hub builds on work undertaken in the Labour and Society, Conflict and Revolution, and Empires and After research strands, and has been strengthened by new appointments. Led by Ghervas, it acknowledges Newcastle's historical role as a vibrant port city and tells the story of Newcastle and the sea, while reviving links with distant cities with which Newcastle once had strong connections. Two Hub interns have worked with staff at the local Discovery Museum to develop its digitization plans and work is also ongoing with staff at the Robinson Library. These activities build on other Unit initiatives, including Dale and McCorristine's work, and the [We Made Ships](#) educational public history website, created by Atkinson-Phillips and Bush, which provides insights into the history of shipbuilding in the North East via oral histories, photographs and video resources.

Environmental Humanities research in the Unit stems back to Berry's interdisciplinary work on the Rivers of the Anthropocene project and climate change, which led to her role on the [UKRI GCRF Living Deltas Hub](#), described in Section 3. The appointment of Tindley, Hickman and McCorristine to permanent positions strengthened our environmental history expertise. As we outline in Section 4, all have successfully secured external funding to build cross-institutional collaborative networks.

Work on the **History of Ideas** has evolved from the Ideas and Beliefs research strand. Recent initiatives include Morton's AHRC-funded research network on Anti-Catholicism, and the Civil Religion reading group (established by East in 2016 when she was a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow) which has brought various scholars to Newcastle, not least for an international conference in 2019. Colleagues working in this area have successfully secured external funding from the AHRC (Morton, Hammersley) and British Academy (Hammersley) and attracted postdoctoral researchers via the British Academy and Marie Skłodowska-Curie schemes (Somers, Mithen). Mithen has recently established a new reading group to examine the history of scholarship in the early modern era, and the light this history sheds on the current humanities research environment in relation to issues such as publishing, impact and the relationship between the academy and the wider world.

Two initiatives have emerged out of the Life Cycle, Bodies, Health and Disease strand:

The **Medical Humanities Network** is led by Long, Sauerteig and Sehwat in partnership with collaborators from Archaeology, English, Media, Culture and Heritage, Sociology and the Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences Research Centre. It reframes Newcastle's long-standing expertise in medical history, evidenced in our last REF submission, repurposing it into a cross-Faculty network to support research activity in the interdisciplinary medical humanities. The UoA has considerable strength and depth in the History of Medicine across periods and regions and has won research grants in this area from the Leverhulme Trust (Andrews, Sehwat) and Wellcome Trust (Dale, Long). We have secured Wellcome funding for PGT and PGR students, while a series of thematic workshops are helping us define our distinctive areas of expertise and identify new pathways to interdisciplinary research.

Tindley and Caruana-Galizia (an ECR History teaching associate) founded **The Family Histories Discussion Forum** in 2018, holding an inaugural networking event in May 2019. It connects School researchers from PGRs to Professors and interrogates the centrality, fluidity and appeal of 'family' as a subject and object of research from an interdisciplinary perspective, fostering collaborative research. It has established links with heritage and archive stakeholders, and amateur historians and family history associations, with an eye to developing public engagement and impact activities building on Hionidou's ICS which is increasing public understanding of Greek family history.

Adjusting to Covid-19: The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted heavily on research activity, particularly among colleagues with caring responsibilities and preexisting health conditions. As leader of Newcastle UCU's health and safety working group (March 2020-), Smith emphasized the need to consider disability and mental health issues when devising home working risk assessments and highlighting the challenges experienced by staff with caring responsibilities. These issues will also be addressed by the School's EDI committee, in partnership with the University's EDI team. We have continued research activity wherever possible during the pandemic, retaining our 2020-2021 research leave schedule and maintaining our research culture and support. Many of our research activities moved online after Easter 2020; this made them more accessible to a range of colleagues and helped counter the isolation generated by the shift to home working.

1.c. Strategic Aims in Research Impact

Our strategy to achieve research impact and further our commitment to historical justice, locally, nationally, and internationally, centres on two areas:

- Increasing public understanding of the past and of its relationship to the present.
- Influencing policy makers and developing tools to underpin action in the future.

Our impact case studies advance these aims and are underpinned by the theme of historic justice, which is key to the UoA's future impact strategy. Brewster's ICS informs local government and regional NGO policy-making in rural Mexico while countering historical injustices in the way local indigenous communities have been viewed. Hionidou's ICS informs library and archive policy and

transforms public perceptions of family history in Greece. Tindley and Berridge's case studies (discussed in Section 4) focus primarily on influencing government policy. These case studies were selected on the grounds of merit from a much larger pool of potential projects. Those selected also reflect the work of researchers at all career stages from Lecturer (Berridge) via Senior Lecturer (Brewster) up to Professor (Hionidou and Tindley). Three are led by women and one by a man. We continue to nurture other impact projects, and, supported by the measures described below, Unit members are developing new relationships with local, national and international organizations, which we outline in Section 4.

Following our Review, we implemented structures to ensure that impact is a collective endeavor. Our Impact Forum encourages colleagues to consider how to integrate co-production with stakeholders and beneficiaries into research design and delivery. It is chaired by the Unit's Impact Champion (originally S. Campbell, now Hickman), who sits on the School Research Committee (SRC) and liaises directly with the Faculty Impact Officers. The Forum nurtures ongoing impact work, enabling colleagues to share good practice, discuss the relationship between engagement and impact and consider evaluation methods. A workshop with impact expert Dr Jamie Gallagher scheduled for March 2021 (postponed from spring 2020 due to Covid-19) will provide Unit members with a fresh, external perspective as we develop our future impact plans.

In line with our commitment to working collaboratively with partners both within and beyond academia, we are committed to managing and sharing our research data in a legal, ethical and open manner. Colleagues from across the Unit are making use of the data.ncl repository (ILES 2.3.3 and see Section 3) and our oral historians are working to address the practical and ethical challenges to preserving and curating oral histories to maximize their re-use potential. Our OHUC has worked with the University Library to establish an oral history archive within the Library's special collections. The Library commits to store, preserve and curate unique and distinctive oral history materials which are deposited with accompanying metadata documentation, (enhancing the material's re-use potential) and signed oral history agreements, to comply with GDPR requirements. The policy encompasses material produced within and outside the University and establishes digital standards for deposits to enhance preservation.

Smith, OHUC's director, is also promoting and supporting data sharing and data reuse in the Living Deltas hub, described in Section 3, drawing directly on oral historians' knowledge and practice in archiving and data reuse. This will ensure that the Hub community can better understand how delta populations can achieve delta sustainability.

2. People

2.a. Staffing Strategy and Staff Development

We have invested heavily during the REF census period in new, preponderantly open-ended, appointments to ensure the Unit's long-term sustainability and to develop our ambitious new research vision, build research leadership, and develop current areas of expertise. We have also demonstrated our commitment to career development for existing staff members, and for Unit ECRs and PGRs, and have sought to create a more level playing field by ensuring that our policies, practices and ethos are inclusive, nurture diversity and promote equity. Wherever possible we ensure that opportunities are open to all staff regardless of their contract type. We have implemented measures to rebalance workloads for colleagues who undertake significant leadership roles and develop impact case studies, embedding these commitments in our Athena Swan Action Plan.

Our submission includes 46 Category A staff members, 27 men and 19 women, with a combined fte of 44.4. 40 of these Category A staff are on open-ended contracts, and six are on fixed-term contracts, of which four are in research-only posts. We have increasingly invested in open-ended contracts, recognizing that job insecurity causes stress, stifles creativity, and makes it difficult to retain talented staff; the unit has helped four colleagues employed on fixed-term contracts move to open-ended contracts over the census period. Unit members have played a leading role in reducing the use of fixed-term contracts across the University through their work in UCU. Perry, as

Vice-Chair of Newcastle UCU's Branch Committee, launched the Branch's anti-casualization campaign in 2017. Clark, the Branch's first Anti-Casualization Officer (2017-2020), worked with People Services to conduct a University-wide scoping review of the EDI dimensions of casualization at Newcastle. He negotiated a new framework with People Services, generating University-wide guidance which limited the use of non-permanent and hourly paid contracts to specific circumstances, identified pay progression and career development rights, and enabled colleagues employed on fixed-term contracts for four or more years to be moved to open-ended contracts. The University's new policy on fixed-term contracts has arisen out of this work.

Annual Performance and Development Reviews (PDRs) and Personal Research Plans (PRPs) encourage all School members to engage in short- to mid-term planning and to identify training needs. Following a review of processes during the preparation of the School's Athena Swan Bronze submission, PDR reviewers now proactively discuss pathways to promotion with their reviewees and encourage staff who meet the criteria to apply. New staff members have a goal-setting meeting after arrival followed by a review later that year. They undergo a two-year probation period and are assigned a mentor with whom they discuss their research and teaching trajectory. Interim and final probation reviews are completed via the PDR process. A baseline workload allowance of 15 hours annually covers the giving and receiving of mentoring and continuing professional development. Additionally, all staff are encouraged to maintain mentoring relationships beyond the probation period or develop new ones. The mentoring staff have received or require in future is discussed at PDR meetings. Our School is piloting the University's 'Engage and Aspire project' which aims to revise and integrate the PDR and PRP processes and to develop new ways of rewarding collective endeavor and working in an inclusive and collegiate way.

The School's workload allocation model provides an annual 650-hour research allowance for all staff on permanent or fixed-term T&R contracts, and these staff have a weekly designated research day, free of teaching and administrative responsibilities. All research-active staff are entitled to one semester of sabbatical leave in seven (up from one in eight in 2014). In the interests of parity of esteem, T&S staff are allocated one semester in seven for scholarship purposes as well as having time for scholarship activities built into their regular workload. Applications for sabbatical leave are evaluated at School and Faculty level, with a standard expectation that colleagues will have submitted at least one external funding application since their previous leave. Staff submit a report of the main outcomes at the end of their sabbatical.

Appointments: Decisions about appointments are made following consultation with all Unit staff. Recruitment priorities are constantly reviewed in order to operationalize our research strategy and meet our teaching needs. Guidelines ensure that appointment panels have a gender balance and require all panel members to undertake unconscious bias training, supporting our commitment to equity and transparency in appointments. The strategic appointments made during this REF cycle cut across geography and chronology, enabling us to develop and deliver our research strategy and ensure the sustainability of the Unit.

Leavers 2014-2020

Allen	Labour History	Senior Lecturer	Retired
Baldoli	Modern European History	Senior Lecturer	Professorship in Milan
Paton	Caribbean History	Reader	Professorship at Edinburgh
Saunders	Russian History	Professor	Retired

New Staff 2014-2020

Atkinson-Phillips	Public History	Lecturer
Berridge	African History	Lecturer
Campbell	Labour History	Lecturer (Senior Lecturer 2020)
Dale	Russian History	Lecturer
East	History of Ideas	Lecturer
Gervas	Russian History	Professor
Hickman	Medical/Environmental Humanities	Senior Lecturer
Long	Medical Humanities	Senior Lecturer
McCorristine	Environmental Humanities	Lecturer
Mills	History of Ideas	Lecturer
Mobley	Caribbean History	Lecturer
Morton	History of Ideas	Lecturer (Senior Lecturer 2020)
Siemens	European History	Professor
Smith	Oral History	Professor
Tindley	British History	Senior Lecturer (Professor 2020)

Dale, Gervas and Siemens who joined the Unit between 2015 and 2018, have taken on research leadership to establish Newcastle as a significant regional hub for modern European and Russian History. Gervas is also the driving force behind Newcastle's new Maritime Humanities hub. Several of the appointments strategically expand and diversify our geographical expertise. These include Mobley who leads on School-wide proposals to decolonize the curriculum and Berridge who has developed an impact case study, 'Shaping Western responses to Sudan's civilian uprising (2018-2019)'.

Other appointments expand existing strengths and develop priority areas. Smith joined the Unit in 2017; he served as Chair of the Oral History Society between 2004 and 2017 and directs the OHUC. In addition, the University funded three, three-year RA posts as part of its investment in the OHUC (Atkinson-Phillips, Bradley and Clark). Atkinson-Phillips has since progressed to a T&R Lectureship in Public History within the Unit, while Clark secured an ESRC New Investigator Award in December 2020. As well as extending our expertise in early modern intellectual history, Mills brings expertise in Arab language sources, joining up with Archaeology to build on the UNESCO-recognized Gertrude Bell Archive for research, and with our medieval Islamic world specialist, Clarke. S. Campbell has taken a leading role, as Impact Champion, in developing the Unit's impact agenda and is establishing the cross-disciplinary Irish Studies Network. Tindley and Long were appointed in nineteenth- and twentieth-century British history posts respectively. Tindley has undertaken two Scottish Government-commissioned projects on land reform, served as Consortium Director for the AHRC Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership, and in November 2020 was appointed Head of HCA. Long is developing Newcastle's Medical Humanities Network and has secured a Wellcome MA Programme Award. Hickman and McCorristine are strategic new permanent appointments whose expertise lies at the intersection of medical and environmental Humanities. In addition to these appointments, Tisdall joined Newcastle in January 2020 as one of the first wave of NUAcT appointments. This scheme provides funding for five years' research (including a linked PhD student) culminating in a permanent academic position (ILE 3.2.4). Her expertise spans medical humanities and the history of childhood. Gribling, who joined Newcastle in 2019 as a University-funded postdoctoral researcher, examines uses of the past,

heritage and childhood in British culture and society.

Several colleagues have joined the unit on fixed-term T&R, Research or T&S contracts. Reflecting our commitment to nurturing the careers of ECRs, we are committed to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. As such our postdoctoral researchers can apply for internal funding and spend ten days annually away from their assigned responsibilities to undertake CPD and training to further their career goals. These have included PI training, working towards HEA membership and developing digital humanities skills. The Unit's focus and research environment has attracted postdoctoral scholars via the Leverhulme, British Academy and Marie Skłodowska-Curie schemes (East, Hope, Somers and Mithen). Several colleagues have also been recruited to work on externally-funded projects (Collins, Dee, Kennaway and Warrington). Finally, three colleagues joined us on 12-month 1.0 fte T&S posts in 2018 to free up time for seven T&R colleagues to undertake the History review.

Support to establish, maintain and rebuild research momentum: The Unit is committed to supporting the career development of colleagues who join us on fixed-term contracts. Many have received support to organize activities within the School's research strands. Empires and After, for example, supported three workshops organized by temporary ECR lecturers (Mongey 2017 and 2019 and Khan 2019). Others have successfully secured external funding. Clark won a British Academy / Leverhulme Trust Small Grant and a British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award in 2018. Our success in helping these colleagues develop their careers is reflected in outcomes. Lawrence, a former teaching fellow in the Unit, secured a permanent lectureship at Kent in 2015. Some have progressed to permanent appointments within the Unit. S. Campbell, McCorristine and Mills joined the Unit on fixed-term contracts before securing permanent lectureships following intense international competitions in 2015 and 2019. East, originally a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the School between 2015 and 2018, was subsequently appointed as a History teaching fellow in 2018-2019 and then to a permanent lectureship in the Unit in 2019. Hope, an Economic History Society Anniversary Fellow in the School in 2018-2019, was appointed to a lectureship in 2019.

We take pride in ensuring all colleagues have access to assistance at various points in their career to develop their research. In 2018-2019 one colleague received funding from the University's Returner Support Programme (ILES 3.4.2) which she used to buy herself out of some teaching in order to kickstart her research. We also recognize that School leadership roles entail a significant administrative workload that can hinder research. Our workload allocation model provides tariffs for all such roles, while colleagues who serve on School Executive Board receive an additional semester of sabbatical leave following their three-year term of service. Hionidou, who served as Head of History 2015-18, and Deputy Head of School 2016-18, benefited from this arrangement. She used her sabbatical to complete two monographs and develop impact work. Hammersley, who preceded Hionidou as Head of History, also received a year of sabbatical leave when she stepped down in 2015. This opportunity enabled her to develop a successful British Academy mid-career fellowship, described in Section 3, which led to a monograph. Both were promoted to chair in 2020 (though after the census date).

The School was awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze Award in May 2020. Several historians were members of the Self-Assessment Team (Schulz, Kirk, Smith, Hammersley, Berridge, Berry, East). The development of this application opened discussion not just on gender parity, but also around intersectionality and wider EDI issues. The School's EDI Committee (established in 2019) is taking the action plan forward. It identifies action points in five areas:

- 1) School structures and operations, including a commitment to reaching proportionate gender representation on School committees within three years. In 2018 we appointed our first female Head of School (Berry) and in 2019 our first female Director of Research (Hammersley).
- 2) Collegiate working practices, with a redesign of the induction process (introduced in 2019-2020) and new support schemes for childcare costs incurred by staff undertaking university-based duties.
- 3) Staff recruitment, with equitable gender representation on appointment panels and mandatory unconscious bias training for all panel members.
- 4) Promotion and Career Progression, including introducing drop-in sessions for colleagues

interested in applying for promotion, incorporating discussion about promotion into the PDR process, and providing bespoke mentoring for colleagues putting together promotion applications. These policies have already begun to bear fruit.

5) Research culture and environment, placing greater emphasis on supporting female staff in developing large grant applications through one-to-one advice and support and grant-writing workshops.

Our Unit includes staff of various nationalities - American, British, German, Greek, Indian, Irish, Italian, Spanish and Swiss – but there is little ethnic diversity within our unit. Tackling this is a key goal for the next REF census period and we are coordinating our commitments to deliver greater gender equality for researchers through our current Athena Swan plan with central University initiatives such as the Race Equality Charter and Sanctuary Status scheme. Our School's EDI Committee is developing an increasingly intersectional approach to EDI issues; committee members are actively developing LGBT+ histories content for our curricula and exploring how to tackle ableism in academia. Baker and Perry, who served as Newcastle UCU Branch Vice Chair 2015-2017 and Chair 2017-2019 (Baker), and Vice Chair 2017- (Perry) have, in their work as branch negotiators, challenged the gender, disability and BAME pay gap at Newcastle, and highlighted other EDI issues which affect staff health, wellbeing and research capacity.

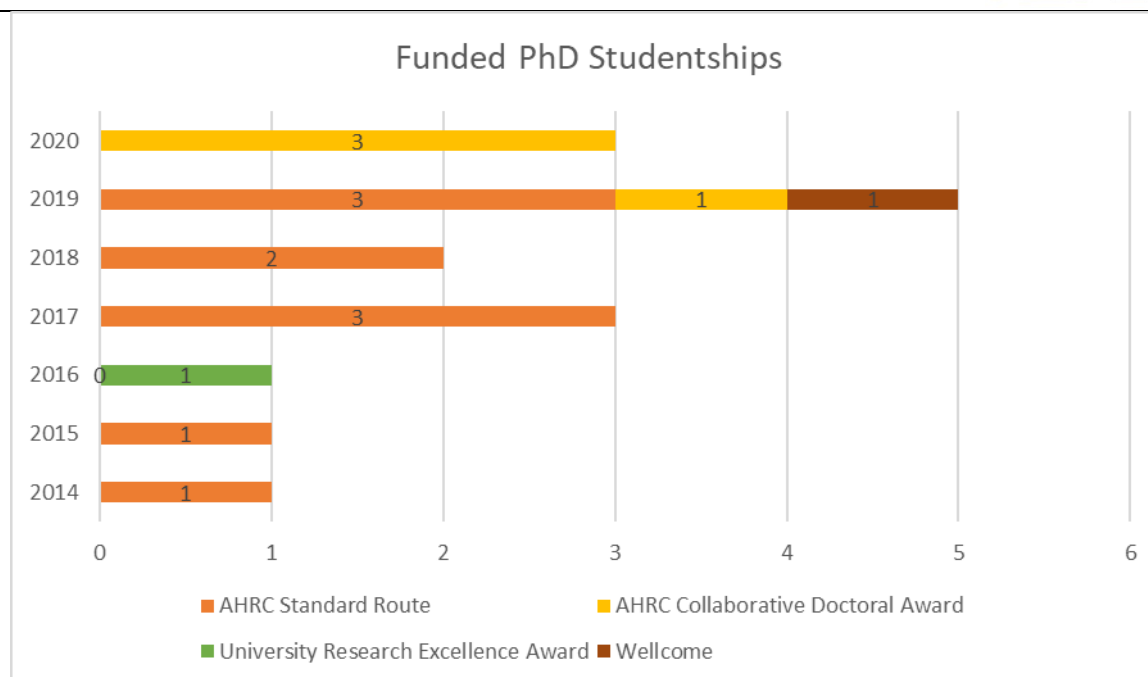
Our ongoing work to decolonize the curriculum recognizes the need to embed BAME history integrally within our teaching and research and is fundamental to our strategy to generate a more inclusive research and teaching environment for all staff and students. The School EDI Committee organized an Autumn Diversity Programme in 2019, including two workshops for staff and PGRs to kickstart the School's process of decolonizing the curriculum. One was hosted by Priyamvada Gopal, and the other chaired by Mobley, with contributions from Kenneth B Morris Jr, Co-Founder and President of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and Dr Keith Magee, Director of the Social Justice Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr Magee will soon be joining us on a part-time basis as Professor of Practice in Social Justice.

Other measures help Unit members to pursue research and impact while maintaining a work-life balance. In 2019 we established a 9.30am-4pm policy for School-level meetings to make it easier for colleagues on part-time contracts and those with caring responsibilities to attend. We timetable our History seminar during normal working hours. Colleagues are encouraged to use email signatures to protect their designated research day, evenings and weekends, and to take their full annual leave entitlement, with restrictions on taking leave during term time recently being relaxed to optimize periods to focus on research. In addition, colleagues such as Allen have benefited from the University's flexible retirement scheme.

2.b. Research Students

Our infrastructure encourages retention and progression from undergraduate studies to postgraduate research, and beyond. Research scholarships enable second year undergraduates to undertake a funded, 6-8 week summer research project, developing experience relevant to postgraduate study. Our PGT degree programmes align with our areas of research expertise, and we have secured a Wellcome MA programme grant, which funds three MA studentships in our History of Medicine MA programme between 2019 and 2021, and is designed to recruit PGT students who have the potential to progress to doctoral study.

PhD Recruitment: Our PhD students' research stretches from modern British, American and European political and social history to projects on the history of health and medicine – and even death and the supernatural – in European and colonial contexts; the religious, social and intellectual history of early modern Britain; and multidisciplinary projects co-supervised by colleagues in Archaeology, Classics and Public Health. Several students who completed PhDs early in the cycle secured funding directly from the AHRC. In 2014, Newcastle, Durham University and Queen's University Belfast secured AHRC funding for the Northern Bridge Consortium, a Doctoral Training Partnership. Sixteen of our PGR students have secured funded studentships, predominantly AHRC Northern Bridge funding, and our success rate has increased over the cycle:



Four of the AHRC studentships were collaborative doctoral awards where the students are jointly trained and supervised by Unit members and staff at a partner organization. Unit members are also supervisory team members on interdisciplinary AHRC-funded studentships, led by colleagues in different subject areas. The second phase of Northern Bridge integrates the expertise and resources of the three original institutions alongside Northumbria, Sunderland, Teesside and Ulster Universities, and will support 335 PGR students studying 28 disciplines. The scheme offers tailored training, including language study, placements with non-academic partners, and an evolving suite of specialized courses. Of our currently registered students, just over half are supported by external funding.

Support for PhD Students: Each PGR student is assigned a supervisory team at application stage. We consider the expertise fit, include at least one colleague who has supervised another candidate to successful completion, and enable ECR colleagues on open-ended contracts to develop supervisory experience as soon as possible. The supervisory relationship is regulated by the University's Code of Practice for Research Degrees, which enshrines established best practice in the sector. Students meet with their supervisor or supervisory team each month, recording details in the E-Portfolio system. In addition to training via the Northern Bridge programme, our students also benefit from the 700 hours of training and activities for PGR students provided annually by the HaSS Faculty. These activities are supplemented at School level by tailored sessions on themes such as publishing and careers. The School's PG Forum offers a programme of student-led seminars and social events and hosts an annual Conference for PGRs within and beyond Newcastle, publishing selected conference papers in an e-journal. Our Research Strands integrate PGR students into their activities. Ideas and Beliefs supported the Graduate Conference in Intellectual History, organized by PGR strand members in 2015 and featuring papers by PGR students from across the UK and beyond and keynotes by Quentin Skinner and Hammersley. Labour and Society's PhD students have organized its Social Theory Reading Group since 2017, help organize workshops, and publish in edited collections arising from these events. For example, Partridge, a PhD student associated with the strand, co-organized the 2017 workshop, 'Visualising Labour: Workers and Work in Photography and Film' with Perry, and subsequently published an article stemming from this conference in a special 2019 issue of *Labour History Review*. A research allowance of £250 p/a for full-time students and £125 p/a for part-time students helps meet research expenses. The School's PG Student Voice Committee enables PGRs to shape the School agenda in relation to their needs.

Post-PhD: Some of our former PhD students have progressed to postdoctoral positions and lectureships. For example, Lowther secured a Leverhulme early career fellowship at Durham, Knapton was appointed to a three-year lectureship at UEA, and Hepworth held a fixed-term

lectureship at UCLAN before being appointed to a fixed-term lectureship at Newcastle (maternity cover). Nielsen, who secured her PhD from Newcastle in 2014, is now a Senior Lecturer in History and Heritage at Northampton University.

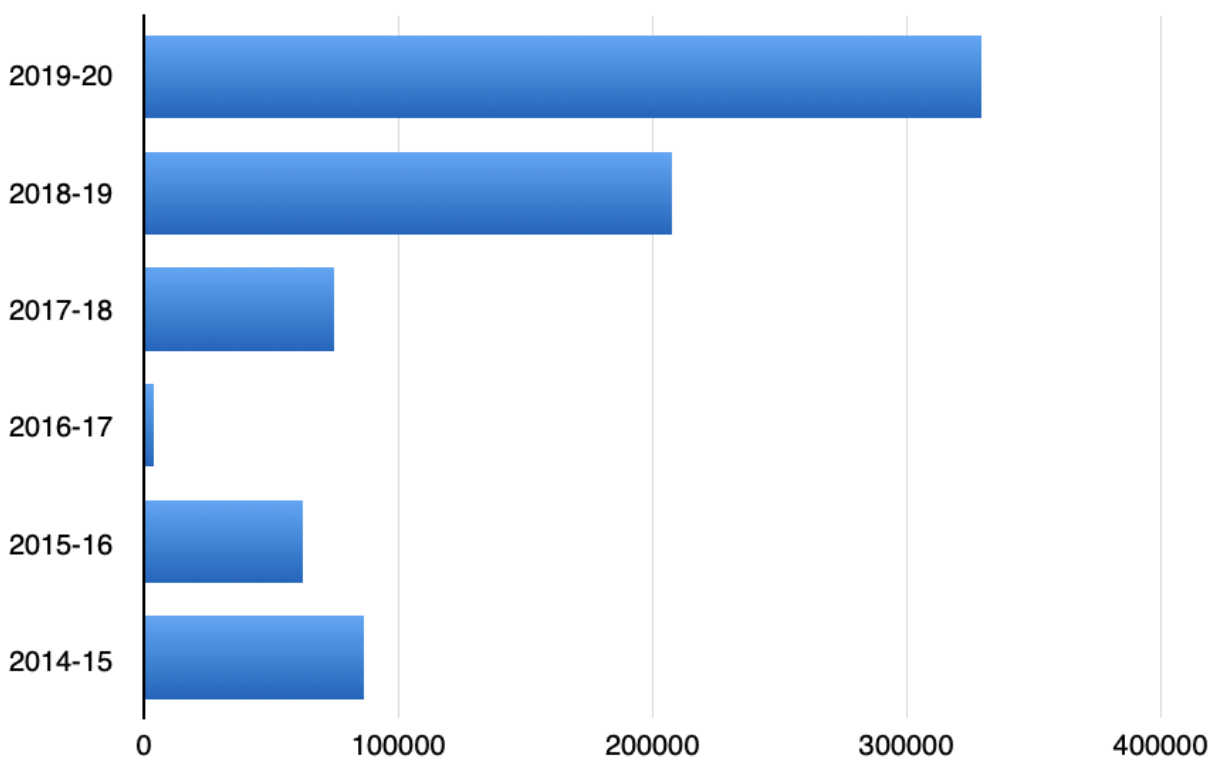
3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Funding

In line with our commitment to historical justice, and our belief in a mixed ecosystem of research, Unit members are encouraged to seek research funding to address real-world problems, to conduct in-depth archival research in repositories across the globe, and to build networks and teams to tackle broad interdisciplinary projects and build future capacity. We encourage and support applications from early career as well as established colleagues.

Our grant income over the REF cycle tangibly demonstrates our Unit's journey. During 2014-17, as we focused on revitalizing our research and impact culture, grant income remained relatively low. However, since 2018 it has risen steadily to £329,242 in 2019-20. This upwards trajectory was underpinned by a diversification of funders and award holders.

Research Grant Income Awarded 2014-2020



As described in Section 2, we have placed particular emphasis on attracting, nurturing and retaining high-calibre early career scholars. We intend to build on this success in the coming years with a second Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow (Gaby Mahlberg) joining the Unit in December 2020 and four History applicants selected in internal competition to be developed for the Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship scheme.

More senior colleagues within the Unit have also secured fellowship awards from the British Academy (Hammersley) and Leverhulme Trust (Sehrawat) allowing them to engage in archival research and finish significant individual research projects. These projects speak to the theme of historic justice by deploying historical research to transform current attitudes on the nature of democracy (Hammersley) and to demonstrate the impact of the history of colonialism on the persistence of poor medical care for vulnerable populations in the global south today (Sehrawat).

Unit members have also designed and contributed to multidisciplinary collaborative projects

particularly in the growth areas of medical and environmental humanities. This period saw the completion of the Leverhulme-funded project 'Fashionable Diseases: Medicine, Literature and Culture, ca. 1660-1832' on which Andrews worked as CI, alongside collaborators based in English at Northumbria University. The project brought a postdoctoral researcher Kennaway to Newcastle to work with Andrews and resulted in co-authored publications. In 2019, Hammersley commenced work as CI on the interdisciplinary AHRC-funded project, 'Wastes and Strays: The Past, Present and Future of English Urban Commons'. Led by Chris Rogers (Law, Newcastle), and with Alessandro Zambelli (Portsmouth School of Architecture), this interdisciplinary project studies urban commons across England, promoting them as publicly accountable, open, green, spaces vital for culture, health, wellbeing and biodiversity. It brings two postdoctoral researchers, Dee and Collins, into History.

The [GCRF Living Deltas Research Hub](#) award of £15.3 million, led by PI Andy Large (Geography, Newcastle) and running from 2019 to 2024, brought Unit members Berry and Smith in as CIs to a large, interdisciplinary network of more than fifty co-investigators (scientists, social scientists and humanities researchers) located on four continents. The hub addresses questions of social and historical justice, aiming to achieve more equitable livelihoods for delta dwellers; sustainable management of delta landscapes; stronger local to regional monitoring toward sustainable development; and better local and national policies for delta sustainability. Smith, together with a Research Associate (Warrington) and a development oral history consultant, will co-design small area participant studies, focusing on memories of environmental change and continuity across generations and genders. This work will facilitate the inclusion of delta dwellers' voices and memories to policy discussions that will shape our planet's future.

Networking and seed grants won in the second half of the REF cycle will draw new colleagues into the development of ambitious, multidisciplinary, collaborative research agendas, building capacity towards bigger projects, knowledge exchange and impact in the next REF cycle. AHRC Network grants were awarded to Morton (2017-19), Tindley and Hickman, the latter two under the 2019 Landscape Decision highlight notice. Tindley and Hickman's grants, together with Hickman's other projects (including a 2019 Wellcome grant for which she is a PI), Long's Wellcome-funded Seed Project (2018-19) and McCorristine's 2020 Irish Research Council New Foundations award, illustrate the Unit's commitment to work that engages with and seeks to address real-world challenges that face society in the twenty-first century particularly in the environmental and medical humanities.

Infrastructure

The UoA is based in the historic Armstrong Building, part of the original nineteenth-century college out of which Newcastle University developed. This building was refurbished at a cost of £27m between 2013 and 2019. It houses the School Office and a separate Finance Office where our professional services staff are based, offices for academic staff, an open-plan office space for PhD researchers, computer labs equipped with specialist software, student facilities, and rooms suitable for hosting research events such as seminars and conferences. A separate research suite in the adjacent Old Library Building provides open-plan office space, meeting rooms and videoconferencing facilities for postdoctoral scholars and project teams.

The University's archival, rare books and museum collections hold a wealth of historic material. These include the family papers and a photographic archive relating to the Trevelyan family; the Gertrude Bell Archive, which is included on the UNESCO International Memory of the World Register (2017) (one of only two UK university archives recognized in this way); a unique collection of British Civil War pamphlets; and ethnographic collections from around the world. We work closely with staff from the Robinson Library to support the Unit's research. The Library's pioneering approach to securing e-resources has benefitted the Unit, with subscriptions to major resources such as State Papers Online, the Irish Newspaper Archive, and the Perdita Manuscripts collection purchased during this REF cycle. This approach has been crucial in the lockdown periods resulting from Covid-19 and during this time the Library has prioritized the funding of e-resources. The establishment of an oral history archive in the Library's special collections, described in Section 1, reflects significant institutional commitment to developing and supporting research resources for

Unit members. While Ghervas has worked closely with colleagues in the School of Engineering on the marine technology archive that is in the process of being moved to the Robinson Library.

Research Support Structures and Personnel

The School Research Committee (SRC) is chaired by the School Director of Research and its members include the Head of School; each subject's Head, Research (UoA) Coordinator and Impact Champion; as well as the School Postgraduate Research Director and Ethics Officer; and professional services staff from the School's Research Finance team. The academic membership of the SRC is evenly balanced in terms of gender and it works closely with the School's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee to promote EDI in the research environment. The SRC fosters a dynamic research culture through the development and implementation of policies and strategic distribution of internal research funding. It organizes an annual research away day that includes both School-wide plenaries and subject-specific sessions focusing on innovation and medium- to long-term research horizons (e.g. UKRI cross-cutting funding opportunities, OpenAccess publishing, Digital History) and works closely with the History Impact Forum and Research Forum (established in 2019) to foster a collaborative and inclusive research culture and to support the development of new initiatives.

A History-wide, term-time research seminar series features national and international speakers. These are often organized jointly with Research Strands and are scheduled into the teaching timetable and held within working hours so all colleagues can attend. The series has continued virtually during Covid-19 restrictions. Complementary activities include the Modern European History seminar series, established in 2018 and supported by the Conflict and Revolution research strand, and the Early Modern Civil Religion reading group, operated by the Ideas and Beliefs strand. Since October 2019 a weekly lunchtime research slot has been organized at School level to support the integration of ECRs, encourage discussion of interdisciplinary research, and build collegiality and collaboration across the three subject areas. It too has continued to function in virtual form during lockdown.

All Unit staff can access a library of successful grant applications via the School's intranet and since 2019 we have held a grant-writing workshop each semester to which all staff can submit draft proposals for peer review, supplemented by more specialist work-in-progress sessions organized by research strands. The School Research Director and the Faculty Research Funding Managers (2FTE) offer targeted advice on the early scoping of research projects (including for EU and International schemes) as well as reading and commenting on draft applications. The School Finance Office supports research projects throughout the application and implementation phases. Research integrity is supported via advice from the School Director of Research and Ethics Officer, together with the Faculty Research Ethics Committee and the University Grants and Contracts office. Grants and Contracts review all proposals to ensure compliance with ethical, legal and professional standards. The University supports FAIR data principles and the Research Data Management team oversee an open repository for datasets (data.ncl.ac.uk) and provide advice on data archiving. The HaSS Impact Officers (2FTE), Business Development Managers (2FTE) and Engagement Support Team (3FTE), as well as staff from the Press Office, work with the School Director of Research and the UoA's Impact Champion to advise on embedding impact activities within research programmes and on building collaborations with external partners. The University also offers a range of professional development activities via its Staff Development Unit. The 'Getting Those Grants' sessions and the 'PI Development Programme' have particularly benefitted staff within the Unit.

Many of the externally-funded projects described above were initially supported by internal schemes at School, Faculty and University level. All research-active staff can access the School's Research Support Fund to support archival research and conference attendance (£900 p/a or £1,400 p/a for colleagues within eight years of their doctorate who are not funded by an external grant). The allowance is increased by a small percentage in proportion with the amount of external income a colleague has applied for. The School proactively nurtures Research Strand activity by providing £2,500 of ring-fenced funding per Strand for activities annually, accessed via an application to the SRC to ensure fair and transparent distribution. All colleagues, including PGRs

and ECRs, are encouraged to apply. Colleagues can also apply to the School's Promoting Events and Networks scheme, managed by the SRC, which provides up to £1,500 to support activities that may lead to a research bid, publication, or the development of an international network. The Head of School's Discretionary Fund is often used to support specific initiatives such as providing seedcorn funding for early-stage project development.

Further money is available at Faculty and University level. The Pioneer Awards introduced by the Newcastle University Humanities Research Institute (NUHRI) and Newcastle Institute for Social Science in 2019 offer seedcorn funding for early-stage projects: S. Campbell and McCorristine benefited in 2019-20. The Faculty Research Fund (two calls annually) assists with the completion of major research projects. It provides up to £4,000 for specific activities, the development of small-scale funding bids, or high-quality research outputs. There have been eleven successful applications to this fund over the cycle from Unit members, including two ECRs (Mongey and S. Campbell). The Bid Preparation Fund offers up to £10,000 for the preparation of grant applications. There have been eight successful applications during the cycle. The Faculty Impact Fund is open to any member of HaSS academic staff who wishes to conduct an impact project based on their research. Five colleagues (Perry, Hionidou, Brewster, Houston and S. Campbell) have secured money from this fund during the cycle. Colleagues within the Unit have also benefited from wider University schemes including the University's Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund, which supported Dale's project on physical disability and psychological trauma among Red Army veterans in 2019 (£4,600); the University Conference Fund, which funded the Ideas and Beliefs strand international conference on Civil Religion in 2019; and the Catherine Cookson Foundation, which provided McCorristine and Atkinson-Phillips with grants respectively to publicize the history of Newcastle Gaol and to create the 'We Made Ships' website. Several colleagues have developed their impact work with internal funding from the Faculty and University, including the ESRC IAA block funding awarded to Newcastle in 2015 and 2019 (ILE 4.1.5).

Members of the Unit have helped to shape NUHRI's research agenda by leading various initiatives supported by the Institute that transcend disciplinary boundaries and involve engagement with external stakeholders. These include the Family Histories Discussion Forum, the Maritime Humanities Hub, the Medical Humanities Network, the Irish Studies Network and the Recovery Voice workshop held in 2018. The AHRC-funded project Wastes and Strays was another NUHRI initiative, which emerged out of the AHRC Commons Event in York in 2016 involving Hammersley, NUHRI fellow Emma Cheatle, and colleagues from York and Brighton.

The recent (post-census date) award of an ESRC New Investigator Grant (£292,188) to Clark to investigate the relationship between historic deindustrialization and wellbeing in later life; a Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowship to Gaby Mahlberg; and an AHRC Project Grant on which Hickman, as Co-I, secured a £440,000 share of £988,538.80 funding to examine how public rights of way in postwar Britain were mapped and experienced (PI O'Hara, Oxford Brookes), indicate that we are on the path to further grant success in the next cycle.

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

Our focus on historical justice and engaging with the past in order to understand the present and inform the future, means that we need to work with a diverse range of regional, national and international stakeholders and beneficiaries, including government bodies, NGOs, museums and archives, libraries, community groups and schools. Moreover, it is not simply a matter of communicating with these partners, where possible we seek opportunities to co-design and co-produce knowledge. Our new Impact Forum enables us to share best practice and nurture new collaborations, supported by our Impact Champion and the Faculty Impact team.

Communicating research to diverse publics

Beyond specific impact and engagement projects, Unit members are committed to sharing their research through schools, education bodies, and public lectures. Tindley, for example, participates in annual adult education weekends in Sutherland, while Houston delivered a session on responses to the assassination of Martin Luther King for 110 Darlington sixth-form students at the

Bowes Museum in 2017. Farr gives public lectures at local libraries and schools, including annual lectures for Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington, while Hammersley has been working for several years with schools in conjunction with the Robinson Library's educational outreach team and the National Civil War Centre. The Inspiring Archives project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2017, kickstarted this work on the Civil War in the North East of England. Ashley established a lecture series with the Literary and Philosophical Society, to which many Unit staff have contributed.

We also share our research through media channels; Farr appears almost weekly on local and national broadcasters commenting on contemporary politics, while Garrett served as a consultant for Samurai Age Productions in 2019 for Netflix. Andrews, Clarke, Grant, Hammersley and East have all appeared within this cycle on Radio 4's flagship programme, 'In Our Time' (audience c.2 million), while Long and Berry have appeared on BBC 1's 'Who Do You Think You Are?' (audience c.6 million).

Research collaboration, networks and partnerships

As outlined in Section 1, Unit members have developed new, interdisciplinary collaborative research networks this cycle, notably via the OHUC and in medical and maritime humanities. The Ideas and Beliefs strand have developed several collaborations. Morton's 2017-2019 AHRC anti-Catholicism networking grant allowing him to develop an international network of over 50 scholars from 14 countries over four workshops, in partnership with cultural venues Ushaw House and Auckland Castle, which is developing a Faith Museum that explores religious intolerance. Hammersley's involvement in the 2019-2021 'Wastes and Strays' project represents a good example of collaboration both within and beyond the institution (Law at Newcastle Architecture at Portsmouth and Sheffield). Long collaborated with three charities during her 2018 Wellcome Seed Award (Antenatal Results and Choices; Down's Syndrome Association; Shine). Moreover, as described in Section 3, networking grants and the GCRF Living Deltas Hub are enabling Unit members Berry, Hickman, McCorristine, Smith and Tindley to develop cross-institutional, interdisciplinary and international networks to further research on landscape and the environment.

Tindley has played a pivotal role as Director of Northern Bridge in developing PGR capacity across the region, serving as PI on the successful bid to extend the consortium in 2019, totalling £3,134,088. Approximately 20% of these studentships will be Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs), which enable us to develop partnerships with regional and national bodies. Colleagues currently supervise PhD students in collaboration with the National Trust, Tyne and Wear Archives, the Buccleuch Estates, the National Library of Scotland and the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society. Co-supervision brings benefits to the partner body and society through more co-designed and co-produced research which has greater impact.

Engagement and Place

Our impact and engagement work - which aims to secure health, social and cultural benefits for our regional, national and international partners - preceded the launch of the University's Engagement and Place strategic objective in 2018 and continues to deliver on this objective (ILE 2.1.2). The collaborative work undertaken with regional partner organizations by the Labour and Society research strand (and associated Faculty Research Group) over the census period demonstrates our Unit's commitment to historical justice, applying our research in public contexts, and engaging with local institutions and community groups, in line with the University's civic agenda. Strand members support colleagues in transitioning from engagement to impact, and fulfilling our ambition of enriching public understanding of the past and its relationship to the present. Perry's work on Ellen Wilkinson and the Jarrow March, for example, formed the basis of the 80th Anniversary commemoration of that event in 2016. The 'Marching into History' exhibition, co-designed by Perry and Adam Bell (assistant keeper of social history for Tyne and Wear Museums), ran at South Shields Museum and Art Gallery from October 2016 to February 2017, attracting 12,222 visitors. Perry also collaborated with the Poet Tom Kelly and South Tyneside Libraries to undertake a creative writing project with three local schools on the Jarrow Crusade, compiling a booklet of children's contributions. He participated in the conceptualisation and making of the film *Who Were*

the Marchers? produced by local filmmaker Gary Wilkinson. This was shown at the Customs House in South Shields, filling the 150 capacity, and has received over 4,300 views on YouTube. Perry was also interviewed for a BBC bitesize video for GCSE students on the Jarrow March. These interventions changed public discourse about the Crusade from a nostalgic stylized account that silenced and anonymized the marchers, to one that presented the marchers as historical actors. The project nurtured local pride in what remains an economically disadvantaged area and developed self-worth amongst local school children.

The Foodbank Histories project is a collaboration between the OHUC and Northern Cultural Projects. The team (including Atkinson-Phillips and Hepworth, a former PGR and now fixed-term lecturer) interviewed 33 foodbank users, volunteers and activists about their life histories and involvement with the Newcastle West End Foodbank. By listening to and sharing stories of clients, volunteers and supporters of Britain's busiest foodbank, the project challenges myths about poverty and underlines its historical and social context. It shifts conversations about foodbanks away from victim-blaming and towards questioning the social structures that lead people into food poverty. Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, 'found the Food Bank Histories produced by the Oral History Collective at Newcastle to be extremely informative and very instructive in terms of locating the evolution of food banks in the UK within a broader context.' The oral histories collected as part of the Foodbank Histories project formed the basis of Live Youth Theatre's performance 'Fed Up', delivered in three performances in July 2019 outside the Newcastle United Supporters' Foodbank donation station at the Grainger Market and at Newcastle City Library. As part of the 2018 AHRC-funded Being Human Festival (for which Newcastle was one of the hubs), Foodbank Histories organized an exhibition at Newcastle's Grainger Market which showcased the research. Foodbank donations increased by one-third during the exhibition.

The Irish Studies Network, co-founded by S. Campbell (another member of the Labour and Society Strand), and a colleague from English, launched in October 2019. It is establishing Newcastle as a major locus for Irish Studies research in the UK and is fostering multi-disciplinary approaches and partnerships by actively engaging scholars from Digital Humanities, Geography, Law, Linguistics and Politics, as well as NU's Institute for Health and Ageing, to expand fundamental knowledge in the field. It is also developing partnerships with the Tyneside Irish Centre, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums and the University's Special Collections.

While the collaborative partnerships described above demonstrate our commitment to working with local partners to effect change in the region, our impact work also has a global reach, generating societal and cultural benefits to communities far beyond the North East. Our work for Freedom City 2017, a city-wide programme of 54 events which were held at 37 venues to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King being awarded an honorary degree by Newcastle University, reflects our commitment to both the local and the global. Houston was a driving force in this initiative, serving on the Steering Committee which advised on all aspects of the programming throughout the entire city. His personal contribution was to curate an international exhibition, "Not As It Is Written": Black Pittsburgh in Voice and Image", held jointly at the Great North Museum and the Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh) in 2017. The show paired historic images, taken by African American photographer Charles "Teenie" Harris, with selections from a recent oral history project documenting Black Pittsburgh that Houston had directed. Set against the backdrop of civil rights event anniversaries, and in a new era of contemporary Black activism, the exhibition presented a case study of race relations in one city. Houston secured an ESRC-IAA grant to develop a free companion app which showed the exhibition in its entirety and enabled users to post their reflections via their own photos and audio recordings. Allen, Hammersley and Perry collaborated with local illustrators to bring the history of civil rights and politics on Tyneside to life for 8- to 12-year olds through the Freedom City Comic: 37,000 copies were distributed through libraries, Seven Stories The National Centre for Children's Books, and the Great North Museum. Freedom City 2017 was judged best North East Event of the year in the 2018 Journal Culture Awards.

Our impact work also reflects the global reach of our Unit's research. This includes Brewster's ICS, 'Using the past to reaffirm indigenous identity in present-day Mexico', described in Section 1, and

Smith's contribution to the Living Deltas project, described in Section 3. We also transfer knowledge across international communities through our publications: Lawson's translation of Mao Haijian's 1995 book, *Tianchao de bengkui yapian zhanzheng zai yanjiu* (published in 2016 as *The Qing Empire and the Opium War: Collapse of the Heavenly Dynasty*), brought a modern classic of Chinese History to English-speaking audiences: as the *American Historical Review* observed of the book, there is 'an unconscionable scarcity of translations in English of works on Chinese history written in China'. Similarly, Hionidou's 2020 Η κατοχική πείνα μέσα από προφορικές μαρτυρίες. Η περίπτωση της Χίου, της Σύρου και της Μυκόνου (*The Greek Famine of the 1940s through Oral Histories. The Cases of Hios, Syros and Mykonos*) makes rare and valuable primary sources on occupation, famine and mortality available to Greek researchers.

Innovation, enterprise and policy

Unit members' research is helping to inform government policy. Tindley's ICS, 'Informing landscape decision-making frameworks in Scotland', details how her historical research has influenced Scottish land reform and management via a pilot study which explored the feasibility of putting together an administrative register of small landholdings and the subsequent report and policy briefing she produced for the Scottish government. Berridge's ICS 'Shaping Western responses to Sudan's civilian uprising (2018-2019)' demonstrates the impact that her research has exerted on the UK government's policy towards Sudan. We are building further connections for the next REF cycle, for example through the work of East, who is receiving support from the Policy Academy (ILE 2.2.5) for her project on citizenship education.

Contribution to the discipline and research base

Newcastle is big enough to sustain all the disciplines needed to address major challenges, but small enough to work cohesively across the University and with partners. Our Unit exploits these institutional attributes to establish novel interdisciplinary collaborations, such as the medical, maritime and environmental humanities networks, which aim to generate innovation within existing subfields. The Labour and Society research strand and Faculty Research Group have also capitalized on this attribute, reinvigorating the well-established labour history sub-field through interdisciplinary collaborative workshops with Newcastle University's Business School, Gender Research Group, and Music Department. Our OHUC is developing innovative uses of oral history to help secure sustainable development through Smith's involvement in the Living Deltas hub, and members are using oral history as both a method and a source in public history, evident in the partnership with Newcastle West End Foodbank and Northern Cultural Projects for the foodbank histories project. Smith's 2017 four-volume edited collection, *Oral History: Critical Concepts in Historical Studies*, reflects the contribution OHUC members are making, gathering over 100 cutting edge and canonical contributions on oral history research to demonstrate the field's breadth, and potential.

Peer review contributions

Colleagues contribute to the discipline by serving on the boards of learned associations and journals. Baker was editor of *American Nineteenth-Century History* 2010-2018. Clarke is on Amsterdam University Press's Late Antique and Early Medieval Iberia book series editorial board. Farr heads [Britain and the World](#)'s Board of Directors and is general editor of the organization's journal and book series. Grant chairs the [British American Nineteenth Century Historians Association](#), and serves on the Lincoln Prize Committee. She also sits on the editorial board of *Nations and Nationalism* and is a former editor of *Civil War History*. Hammersley serves on the editorial boards of *History of European Ideas*, *Global Intellectual History* and *Storia e Politica*. She served on the Royal Historical Society's Studies in History editorial board, 2007-2018. Hickman and Sehrawat both serve on the Executive Committee for the Society for the Social History of Medicine. Houston is an international consulting editor for the American National Council for Public History, and its journal, *Public Historian*. Lawson serves on the editorial board of *International Review of Environmental History*. Morton sits on History UK. Tindley is chair of the journal *Northern Scotland* and serves on the editorial boards of *Local Population Studies* and *Scottish Local History Forum*. She is a council member and office bearer in the Scottish History Society. Sehrawat,

Siemens and Tindley are all current members of the AHRC Peer Review College, while Long has served on Wellcome's Research Resources funding committee since 2014. We have also made a significant contribution to the field throughout the census period by reviewing article manuscripts for over 80 different journals, and book proposals and manuscripts for more than 25 publishers. Unit members have also reviewed funding proposals submitted to 13 funders.

Our determination to build on existing collaborations and to further invigorate our impact activities and to embed engagement and impact more widely within the Unit, will allow us to develop and extend the strong partnerships that we have already established. This will ensure that future research is increasingly co-designed and co-produced with stakeholders and beneficiaries allowing us to address more effectively issues of historical justice.