

Institution: University of Plymouth
Unit of Assessment: UoA 18 Law
<p>1. Unit context and structure</p> <p>The University of Plymouth's UoA18 represents 15 FTE scholars from the School of Law, Criminology and Government (SoLCG) and is the University's first Law submission to the REF. This symbolises the growth and breadth of socio-legal and criminological research within SoLCG and emphasises here the unit's interdisciplinary research activity which aims to have maximum public impact in terms of driving forward social and environmental justice and local, national, and international policy.</p> <p>The Law UoA represents an integrated team of outstanding researchers. It has cultivated a vibrant and sustainable research culture that has offered a dynamic space for researchers to engage with each other across disciplinary boundaries within an inclusive and coherent environment that has provided support and guidance for all researchers, including mentoring of PGRs and ECRs. Research activity has been organised and managed through two internationally recognised research groupings consisting of a) Crime, History and Institutions: Transdisciplinary Conversations in Heritage, Art and Transmedia (#CHITCHAT), and b) Crime, Justice and Society (CJS).</p> <p>The #CHITCHAT research initiative (Schroff, Channing, Category B Stevenson) developed out of transdisciplinary conversations in heritage, art and transmedia that explored crime, history and institutions and has promoted knowledge exchange to an international audience with a distinctive South West England approach. That approach has embedded an historical narrative of discovery, innovation and exploration that has presented local crime heritage accounts through innovative transmedia methods.</p> <p>The CJS research group has provided a flexible, responsive and proactive environment for international, interdisciplinary methodologically innovative research in criminology and socio-legal studies. The CJS research group works in three research clusters informed by the UN sustainability goals as they feed into the Economic and Social Research Council strategic priorities. The research clusters are: <i>Crime, Culture and Society</i> (Gervassis, Gould, Lowther, Medley, Schroff, Smith, Category B Raymen, and 3 PGR); <i>Governance, Penalty and Policing</i> (Channing, Deblasio, Goodall, Gray, Simmonds, Category B Annison, Lyon, Newbery-Jones and 3 PGR); and, <i>Vulnerability and Inequality</i> (Hanley-Santos, James, McBride, Milne, Von Berg and 2 PGR).</p> <p>Our research draws on our expertise across law, social policy and criminology, and extensive links with sociology, history and psychology. Through most of the REF census period, the SoLCG sat within the Faculty of Business and therefore the research in #CHITCHAT and CJS formed part of the Institute for Social, Policy and Enterprise Research (ISPER). ISPER facilitated research links with policymakers and organisations, civil society and social enterprise. In 2019, SoLCG joined the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business, augmenting existing research links with new and creative spaces for research development within the Law UoA.</p>

Research Strategy 2014 – 2020

A commitment to innovation has underpinned our research strategy in the census period, wherein original and creative ways of thinking, methodologies and approaches are embraced. This has resulted in the intellectual development of law, criminology and cogent disciplines and impact in local, national and international communities. Although REF 2021 is our first entry to UoA 18, it represents the culmination of a strategic synergy between researchers across Law and Criminology since REF2014, including:

- The development of an international profile by prioritising researcher engagement and leadership roles on international boards and committees.
- Development of effective routes of knowledge exchange through building relationships with groups and communities who are impacted by our research.
- Embedding sustainability through outstanding research and cultivation of a collaborative research community through specific researcher training and opportunities to share research and ideas.

A concerted investment of energy, time, and resources in core areas of expertise has enabled us to achieve our strategic aims.

#CHITCHAT Research Initiative

Innovation is demonstrated by the development of projects by **Stevenson**, Visiting Prof. Rowbotham, **Channing** and **Schroff** as part of the **#CHITCHAT** initiative, to collect and digitise oral histories, storing them on a bespoke new archive, *Contemporary Oral History Resource*. The transdisciplinary themes of law, crime and history are further embedded in the SOLON project (Promoting Interdisciplinary Studies in Law Crime and History) hosted in association with **#CHITCHAT**. SOLON is a collaborative partnership of 8 Universities, a network of over 300 academics, produces an open-access journal *Law, Crime and History* and a collaborative book series with Routledge, *SOLON: Explorations in Crime and Criminal Justice History*. The work produced from **#CHITCHAT** has resulted in outputs that have informed knowledge regionally, nationally and internationally. As well as resulting in attainment of the Dada Saheb Phalke International Film Festival Mumbai Certificate of Recognition, work has been published in *Cultural and Social History*, and the edited collection by David J Cox (Wolverhampton) and **Channing**, *Leading the Police: A History of Chief Constables*. **Channing** was an invited keynote speaker in Berlin on his research at the Institute of British Studies on policing political extremism. Further, work in this area has been published in refereed journals, including *Policing: a Journal of Policy and Practice* and the *Australian Feminist Law Journal*. Books include **Channing's** *The Police and the Expansion of Public Order Law in Britain, 1829-2014* and Cox, **Stevenson**, Harris and Rowbotham *Public Indecency in England 1857-1960*.

Crime, Justice and Society Research Group

By emphasising core areas within each of the research group's clusters, it has been possible for the academic team to deliver a breadth of outputs, impacts and knowledge exchange activities across all clusters that have benefitted policy, practice and the academy.

The area of environmental harm and law that sits within the **Crime, Culture and Society** research cluster involves considerable interdisciplinarity. This links closely with wider university priorities and strengths in marine research and exemplifies the pioneering nature of research in SoLCG. A broad approach to environment is taken reflecting institutional strategic strengths in marine and maritime environments and societies; and including endangered species, sustainability, and

cultural heritage. The cluster works closely with two of the institution's strategic research institutes: the Sustainable Earth Institute (**Lowther** serves on the Institute Executive) and the Marine Institute. Colleagues have contributed to several conferences, workshops and other initiatives at Plymouth and internationally, a witness seminar, *Maritime Military Heritage: Illicit Salvage and its Consequences*. Such contributions have included, organisation, running workshops, delivering papers and having direct involvement in, for example, the governance mechanisms around the Marine National Park project being fronted by Plymouth City Council, the Blue Marine Foundation and sanctioned by Defra. **Lowther** and Visiting Professor of Law Williams have successfully delivered funded research for Historic England on enforcement options in respect of the protection of Underwater Heritage. This work is highlighted through a REF 2021 impact case study (ICS2) evidencing the significant influence this research has had on underwater heritage internationally. They have worked on projects with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport and the Ministry of Defence; and have memoranda of understanding with key underwater cultural heritage third sector organisations. Work in this area has been published in a breadth of international environments, including the *Journal of Planning and Environmental Law*, the *International Journal of Sustainable Development Policy and Practice* and *The Law Teacher: The International Journal of Legal Education*.

In addition, within the **Crime, Culture and Society** cluster, research on 'Deviant Leisure' (**Smith, Raymen** and 4 PGRs) has been a key area of development. Representing a new theoretical perspective within criminology, the critical examination of consumerism and harm within the leisure industries has pushed the boundaries of concepts of motivation and harm as well as expanding the purview of criminology as a discipline as evidenced by international engagement with the area in both research and teaching. There is a chapter in the *Oxford Handbook of Criminology 6th Edition* with postgraduate researchers using this work nationally and internationally. **Smith** and **Raymen** have a book series with Emerald publishing alongside Tara Brazabon at Flinders (Australia) and an edited collection (2019) building on contributions to their Blog. A podcast recorded by the late Prof. Steve Redhead was downloaded more than 50,000 times. Their work is published in high impact journals, including *Theoretical Criminology*, *The Journal of Consumer Culture*, and *The British Journal of Criminology*, as well as an edited collection entitled, *Deviant Leisure: Criminological Perspectives on Leisure and Harm*.

Within the **Governance, Penalty and Policing** research cluster, emphasis on the governance of crime and punishment in a penal culture overshadowed by marketisation, privatization and devastating cuts to public funding has been a key area of development (**Gray, Milne, Deblasio**). This is reflected in **Gray's** research and publications which critically interrogate the interrelationship between penalty and political economy, and how this is translated into youth justice and prison policy and practice. This research comprises two main strands. The first explores the current challenges posed by neoliberal penalty to the problematisation of youth crime and interventions with young people who offend. Recently this has galvanised into a focus on criminal justice responses to knife crime among young people. The second probes how the harms of imprisonment undermine the desistance process for adult offenders in a neoliberal penal environment. Since 2014 **Gray** has engaged with wider academic networks around each of these two themes (e.g. Universities of Durham, Nottingham and Queen's Belfast). Members of these research partnerships regularly present joint papers at the annual British Society of Criminology and European Society of Criminology conferences and have produced several articles in high impact journals, including *Theoretical Criminology*, *Critical Criminology*, and *Criminology and Criminal Justice*.

Milne's research considers criminal justice responses to women suspected of causing the death of their newborn children in which she analysed criminal court hearings relating to infanticide, child cruelty, abortion and concealment of birth. **Deblasio's** research considered the impact of adoption on birth mothers and the failure of the legal process to protect the rights and access of those parents in the interests of their children. As excellent ECRs this emerging research specialism within SoLCG has led to their work being presented nationally and internationally. **Milne** is a Steering Group member of the Women, Crime and Criminal Justice network of the British Society of Criminology and her work has been published in *Feminist Legal Studies* and the *European Journal of Health Law* and **DeBlasio's** research has been published as a Routledge monograph, *Adoption and the Law: The Unique Personal Experiences of Birth Mothers in Adoption Proceedings*.

The **Vulnerability and Inequality** research cluster includes a focus of work on hate crime (**James** and **McBride**) that has been high on the recent policy agenda. Yet, as work by **James** and collaborator Dr D. Smith (Anglia Ruskin) has shown, there have been few positive gains for hate victims despite policy interventions in this area. **James** and **McBride** are building a coherent body of work that challenges existing dogma and assumed knowledge on why hate happens and what we can do about it, through the framework of 'Critical Hate Studies'. They have presented this work at conferences nationally and internationally, including invited presentations in New Zealand in 2018. **James** gave a keynote address at the national inaugural Gypsy and Traveller Coalition Conference in 2018 considering the harms of hate against excluded communities. She is a Co-Director of the International Network for Hate Studies, sits on the Steering Group of the British Society of Criminology Race Matters Network and is an invited member of the UK government Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government roundtable on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller policy and the Law Commission review of hate crime legislation. **James'** work with Gypsies, Travellers and Roma constitutes an impact case study (ICS2) that evidences the positive outcomes for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma arising from her research, including better accommodation, more informed policing and acknowledgement of hate crimes against those communities. Work published in Critical Hate Studies within the journal *Theoretical Criminology* and **James** monograph, *The Harms of Hate Against Gypsies and Travellers: A critical hate studies perspective*, has been presented at international conferences, including the International Network for Hate Studies conference in Canada in 2018, and the American Society of Criminology Conference in 2019. In 2020 the University of Plymouth hosted the first online International Network for Hate Studies conference in partnership with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe attracting 530 visits to the event from attendees in 38 countries.

Impact strategy 2014-2020

Our core aim in the current REF period was to *embed impact culture within the broader research culture*. By initiating conversations around impact at early stages of research meetings, within Performance Development Reviews (PDR) and through mentoring, and investing in research with impact potential via funding, administrative support, and expert guidance from within ISPER, it has been possible to build an impact culture. We have offered training across the unit and, since 2019, have worked closely with The Bridge, the Faculty initiative to promote innovative research and knowledge exchange supported by HEIF funding.

Through the Justice Works project, which has developed into the Sustainable Social Justice initiative from 2020, we hold regular stakeholder events and workshops to maintain engagement

with policy and practice in core areas of research interest. We are committed to strengthening existing and developing new partnerships to develop pathways to impact and extend the reach of our research and expertise. UoA18's submitted Impact Case Studies exemplify our commitment to impactful work that has continued despite the challenges and restrictions encountered during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Within CJS, the Sustainable Social Justice initiative interfaces with criminal justice, third sector and civil society agencies to co-produce effective research and praxis. For example, **Gray** has led a team of researchers in providing an evaluation of rehabilitative innovation at HMP Dartmoor. Similarly, **James** has worked with Plymouth City Council to evaluate the family intervention project, and with Southampton City Council to evaluate their restorative justice approach to working with families. #CHITCHAT has worked alongside museums to engage local, national and international audiences in historical narratives of power, policing and crime.

Non-academic user-groups, stakeholders and beneficiaries of our research are far-ranging and diverse, consisting of criminal justice and third sector agencies, marine heritage organisations (see ICS1), local councils, national media, marginalised groups (see ICS2). The Plymouth Law Clinic has for the past six years run a variety of pro bono projects, and offer real advice and representation to clients – with an emphasis on family and asylum seeker support – making a genuine difference in people's lives.

Researchers within #CHITCHAT and CJS have undertaken a variety of pathways to impact to engage audiences, contribute to society and reduce inequality in pursuit of social and environmental justice. Within the current REF period, scholars have contributed to national media discussion on key issues, engaged audiences through public lectures, undertaken witness seminars, and contributed to archives. There has been a particular emphasis on working with and on behalf of marginalised and voiceless groups, in particular drug users, non-human animals, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, and LGBT+. For example, in November 2019, the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum, together with the University of Plymouth's #CHITCHAT team, Real Ideas Organisation and The Box museum gallery and archive space, hosted a Heritage Lottery-funded exhibition in Plymouth Guildhall to celebrate the contribution made by powerful women who, over the last 100 years, have promoted, protected, and empowered Plymouth's citizens. **McBride's** research on transgender victimisation underpinned an engagement event with young people, funded through the ESRC Festival of Social Science that offered participants a chance to share their lived experiences of growing-up Trans* and support young people. By sharing experiences of rejection, regulation, resistance and recognition across the generations, this event aimed to affirm a new generations' right to flourish in ways that were not possible in the past.

Lowther (ICS1) has organised regular events between the local authority, Royal Naval and private underwater cultural heritage exhibitors; those with a general interest in marine archaeology; and the broader maritime history community. Building upon previous ESRC events and current and published research by the team, he has engaged the public and experts in the discovery, retrieval, regulation, curation and communication of underwater cultural heritage through using ESRC Festival of Social Science funds.

Across the Law UoA we have been developing research networks facilitated by our membership of international initiatives, such as the International Network for Hate Studies and via our Visiting Professor Rob White at UTAS, Tasmania. Also, members of research clusters have served on

international research projects as expert advisors on victimisation and social inclusion. Further, members of the #CHITCHAT research initiative are working to internationalise projects that bring together historical accounts of transportation, currently working with colleagues at Dalhousie University, Canada.

James (ICS2) has attended international workshops on Gypsy, Traveller and Roma inclusion in Ireland, Romania and the UK, to inform change in social policy and practice delivery for those excluded communities. In addition, she has delivered and contributed to training, informed by her research, to a range of organisations to expedite appropriate treatment of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma within legislation and by emergency first responders, the police, and local authorities in the UK and Romania.

Research and Impact Strategy 2020-2025

Our research and impact strategy for the next REF cycle aligns with the University of Plymouth 2030 strategy to produce world-leading interdisciplinary research that is pivotal in delivering knowledge exchange and innovation which 'makes a difference'. We will enter the next cycle with a reorganised research structure across a new School of Society and Culture. This structure will embed and normalise high-quality research outputs, and interdisciplinary collaboration through an organisation that consists of three strategic research groups, a social justice initiative (consisting of the Plymouth Law Clinic and Sustainable Social Justice Initiative), as well as The Culture and Heritage Exchange (#CHEX), which will build on the successes of #CHITCHAT, with greater emphasis on knowledge exchange and interdisciplinarity. Our strategic priorities include:

Advancing established and emerging areas of excellence to build research power, enhance collaboration and contribute to wider impact. This will be pursued by aligning research where possible to the University's strategic research institutes and by embedding outputs, pathways to impact and impact within the design stage of research projects.

Building a culture that celebrates interdisciplinarity and outward facing research. This will be achieved through providing support for PGR and ECR researchers, in partnership with experienced colleagues, through faculty and school-wide networks.

Growing and supporting a rich and diverse PGR community. By supporting PGR students via mentoring and workshops to turn their on-going research in to outputs in high-quality journals and ensuring recent PhD completions by ECRs are translated into research monographs where appropriate alongside drawing up personal research plans. Encouraging a ResM culture that fosters research partnerships with external agencies and contributes to impact.

Developing effective public engagement and knowledge exchange. Here we intend to build on our existing networks and partnerships, build capacity within our impact case studies and develop distinct and innovative pathways to impact through closer engagement with faculty and university-wide resources, and clear identification of research in our areas of excellence denoted by the themed research group, initiatives, and associated research clusters.

2. People

Staffing strategy and staff development

Since 2013, the SoLCG has recruited in accordance with our research strategy. This has focused on three related objectives:

- 1) Developing scholars to provide leadership in #CHITCHAT and the three research clusters,
- 2) Recruitment of outstanding junior scholars with clear potential to generate research excellence and sustainability, and,
- 3) Building a staff base with a wide range of methodological and substantive skills to generate innovative collaboration and contribute to research-led teaching.

Staff within the UoA constitute 70% Lecturers (Grades 7 and 8), 25% Associate Professors (Grade 9) and 5% Professor, with 81.3% on full time and 18.8% part-time permanent contracts. The staff team ages are 25-34 18.8%, 35-44 37.5%, 45-54 31.3%, and 65+ 12.5%. Other demographic details of staff are detailed further below. During the 2014-2020 period, some senior staff have retired (**Annison, Lyon, Stevenson**), and mid-career staff (**Newbery Jones, Raymen**) have moved on to develop their careers in other institutions. This has meant that the innovative research developed in Plymouth has extended its reach to other institutions and we have had the opportunity to recruit ECRs attracted to Plymouth by our increasing national and international reputation for research. Senior retired staff (**Annison, Stevenson**) have remained influential in the UoA via honorary positions that have facilitated and provided capacity for effective mentoring of mid-career and ECR researchers resulting in our research clusters and initiatives remaining active and vibrant, demonstrating a sustainable and stimulating intellectual environment. Capacity has therefore been provided for mid-career staff to take on research leadership and advancement, while ECRs have been supported to become future research leaders. Appointment of ECR posts (**Channing, Deblasio, Gould, McBride, Medley, Milne, Schroff**) has brought in a strong field of international candidates (**Medley**, Northeastern University, USA; **Schroff**, Waseda University, Japan) who have enhanced our work and built on existing strengths, as well as developed new interdisciplinary approaches within the SoLCG. ECRs have drawn on synergies across the School and engaged with other academics at the University, with other UK institutions and with international networks. All research-active staff have permanent contracts and have workload capacity, as determined by the SoLCG Workload Allocation Model, to contribute to the research and scholarship of the School. Further, part-time staff have equal opportunities for research and research-related activities.

Staff development

Development of research activity has occurred within SoLCG via a series of processes at all stages of career. Specific workload allocation for research activity has ensured that staff engaged in research projects, writing and dissemination have time, as well as services noted below. Such workload allocation provides for ECRs by giving them reduced administrative and teaching duties in their first year, with substantive administrative roles in teaching delivery and module leadership taken on in their second year of appointment so that they can publish from their PhD work, engage with research clusters and establish new research initiatives. All ECRs are provided with mentors whom they can attain advice and support from and who can introduce them to local, regional and international research networks that they are encouraged to exploit. New appointments also have reduced teaching and administration loads in their first year. All research-active staff have protected research time within their timetable, with teaching limited to specific days. In addition,

the University's 'curriculum enrichment project' has provided sufficiently lengthy inter-semester breaks to support focused research time.

The University processes for probation meetings with new staff over their first two years of employment and subsequent performance development reviews are rigorous and collegiate to ensure career-long support for research and scholarship. An integral element of these bi-annual one-to-one meetings is an annual review of research and scholarship activity and future research plans for five years, and identification of development needs. Such review processes have enabled the identification of staff at all stages of their careers who have exceeded research expectations. Review processes allow for staff to reflect on their research contributions and subsequently engage with promotion processes. In addition, senior staff mentor ECRs with similar research interests and they are included on supervisory teams for PhDs in order to gain supervisory experience. Further, an inclusive and sustainable approach ensures that leadership opportunities are provided to staff throughout their careers, with senior staff working closely with mid-career colleagues and ECRs where appropriate to model and develop future research leaders. All research cluster and initiative leads report to the Associate Head of School for Research and sit on the School Research Committee which in turn reports to the Faculty Research Committee which informs the Faculty Management Group and the University Research and Innovation Committee.

University promotion processes are discussed with staff within performance development reviews, encouraging staff to engage with mechanisms to identify their strengths within promotion frameworks. As such, staff can produce robust accounts of their progression in terms of education, research, external engagement/enterprise, and leadership, management and engagement. Alongside other promotions within SoLCG, within the UoA **Gray** and **Smith** have been promoted to Associate Professor/Reader.

The University requires all new staff to engage in higher education teacher training and professional development and the SoLCG provides the opportunity for PhD students to complete modules in this area to enhance their career prospects. Other training is available via the Doctoral College, Research and Innovation, and Human Resources and is encouraged for all staff throughout their career on publishing, grant capture and research planning, doctoral research supervision and research ethics. A dynamic staff research seminar programme provides the opportunity for researchers to present work in progress to colleagues for discussion and debate, and associated workshops offer training in presentation, writing and collaborative working to ECRs and doctoral students. Thus, we have embedded the principles of the 'Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers', facilitating a supportive and collegiate research environment for staff.

Staff involved in potentially impactful work have been supported by internal funds and administrative assistance, as well as training and external advice, to build on and ensure that pathways to impact result in specific measurable social impacts on policy and practice. Funding applications are reviewed by the Associate Head of School for Research and an identified subject expert external to the bid. Resultant impact case studies (ICS1 and ICS2) identified within this REF submission evidence the success of those funding and support mechanisms. Those whose research is theoretically impactful, as evidenced by outputs in high-impact publications, received funds into their strategic research accounts.

Members of the research group have run ESRC Festival of Social Science events over the REF period, enabling staff, particularly ECRs, to develop skills in respect of bid-writing, event hosting/project management and research dissemination to both lay and cognate target audiences. Examples of knowledge exchange activities include the documentary screening of *A Returned Pilgrim: Nancy Astor & Plymouth*, *Plymouth Past: Sustainable Future*, and *Piracy and Plymouth: Privateering, Profiting and Policing*.

Research Students

Since 2014 we have had 12 PhD completions. Currently we have 26 research degree registrations (8:17:1, m:f:x). Applications for PhD registration have increasingly come from prospective students keen to engage with the areas of strategic expertise within the research group. SoLCG funds a number of students, however, the commitment to study and keenness to engage with researchers within #CHITCHAT and CJS has meant that increasing numbers of students have been prepared to self-fund their PhD work. SoLCG has ameliorated the financial impact of self-funding by providing PhD students with the opportunity for Associate Lecturer contracts to deliver teaching but with careful attention to workload so as not to negatively affect PhD study. All students are provided with funding to complete fieldwork and to disseminate their research, no matter their registration status.

SoLCG's commitment to sustainable academic careers for PhD students, amid the increasingly competitive nature of academic recruitment, has been evidenced through the appointment in 2017 of three Doctoral Teaching Assistants on 0.6 contracts for five years, with 0.4 PhD. The cost of PhD study, including fees, fieldwork and research dissemination are met by the school for these students. Within their teaching roles, these students have had the opportunity to lead modules in their research areas, and they have all successfully completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education in their first two years in role. On completion of their PhDs, these students will have associated publications, prepared in partnership with their Director of Studies.

Research students are supported via multiple mechanisms overseen by the University Doctoral College. Their input to the culture of the University, Faculties, the school and research groupings is embedded through their involvement in various research committees at all levels, including the SoLCG Research Committee and the Faculty Postgraduate Research Committee. A school-level Postgraduate Research Coordinator ensures all students access the various University, Faculty and School level support mechanisms, including funding streams. Throughout the REF period, research students have been able to organise and deliver an annual Faculty postgraduate research conference attended by academics across the University and the region, as well as by regional organisations engaged in research. This conference engages students in the process of conference management and dissemination in a supportive environment in preparation for the dissemination of their work on national and international platforms, as well as to enhance their career prospects.

Teams with a minimum of three members of staff, including an early career researcher, supervise PhD students. The online GradBook system documents supervisory meetings, identifies progression points and sets deadlines for PhD students and their supervisors. Students are offered the opportunity to publish their early work in the *Plymouth Law and Criminal Justice Review*, a peer-reviewed journal that serves as an excellent environment to publish initial ideas and literature review work, as well as research reports. Publication with supervisors in the later stages of enrolment has supported PhD student career development.

PhD students are integral to the research environment, and participate fully in seminars, research fora and conferences, facilitating their academic networking and improving their employability. PhD students are encouraged to present their work in house, as part of the staff seminar series, at SoLCG/British Society of Criminology South West events, and when appropriate, at national and international conferences. Apart from the ESRC Festival of Social Science (noted above), PhD students played an integral role in the British Society of Criminology national conference 2015 and the International Network for Hate Studies biennial conference 2020, hosted by the University and organised by members of the CJS research group. PhD students were part of the organising committees and helped review abstracts for inclusion in both Postgraduate and Main conferences, which attracted 300 and 530 international delegates respectively.

Postgraduate students (2) have become members of the national Postgraduate Committee of the British Society of Criminology. They have taken on leadership roles within the Society and subsequently organised events, including the national annual Postgraduate Conference and events such as *Thinking Differently about Harm* at the University of Chester (2019) and, *Thinking differently about methods: challenging research in challenging times* at Staffordshire University (2020).

Equality and Diversity

The University of Plymouth is committed to equality and diversity and has comprehensive support structures in place to support, enable and empower all colleagues. All staff are required to undertake equal opportunity and unconscious bias training. The #CHITCHAT initiative and CJS research group have been committed to equality and diversity in delivery of their strategic aims and research portfolio. The staff in our teams are diverse in representing a gender split of 46.7%:53.3% (m:f) and leadership positions have been held in equal proportions by men and women. Representatives from the research initiatives and clusters have contributed to discussions of and planning within the Athena Swan agenda that is currently being prepared for submission within the new School of Society and Culture. The research group has a commitment to gender neutrality and as such have, in line with recent recruitment, ensured facilities, language, and expectations are gender-neutral, to foster a supportive and inclusive environment. The unit does however lack BAME staff (6.7% of population), which is recognised as problematic, although reflective of the South West England population. While research staff are largely white British, there is cultural diversity with 30% of colleagues identifying as variously Brazilian, Greek, Dutch and American. The research group acknowledges the needs and opportunities provided by a diverse community of scholars committed to research activity that challenges prejudice and discrimination. The research cluster, Vulnerability and Inequality draws together research across the unit on issues of diversity and inclusion that engages all members of the research unit with an appreciation of issues in this area and requires reflection on them. As noted above, **James** sits on the steering group of the Race Matters network of the British Society of Criminology and is co-Director of the International Network for Hate Studies. Her work with colleagues across the research unit has engaged them in a Faculty initiative to embed research-led teaching on diversity and inclusion into Induction and personal tutelage for all students via the *Stronger Together: Supporting a Sustainable and Professional Learning Environment* project.

All research-active staff have equal access to conference attendance funding, subject to application via robust processes that are coordinated and overseen by the Associate Head of School for Research but include research staff from all career points in the review process.

Furthermore, all staff have equal opportunity to apply for seed-corn funding subject to equally robust and inclusive processes.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Law UoA has received and spent **£150,879** funding from UK based charity open competitions and UK government during the REF census period. Our infrastructure recognises the capture of income as an essential element of sustainability, and the capacity of the unit to attain funding continues to grow, with projects funded through the end of this REF cycle and into the next totalling over £500,000. Collaborative working with colleagues in national networks and within the University to facilitate inter-disciplinary research funding has resulted in successful grant attainment. In 2020, **James** was awarded an ESRC research grant, with colleagues at the London School of Economics and the University of East Anglia, (£993,355; **£309,741** for the University of Plymouth), for an inter-disciplinary study entitled, *Gypsy and Traveller Experiences of Crime and Justice Since the 1960s: A Mixed Methods Study*. In addition, in 2019 **James** was part of a Horizon 2020 successful grant application for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Network, *NetHATE*, that constitutes funding for £3 million across 10 European Universities to appoint 14 PhD students. The research students will complete their PhDs on a breadth of issues relating to the issue of 'hate' in contemporary society, carry out research training together, sharing research findings and consequently informing knowledge and leadership on challenging hate in the future. This research has a value of **£260,144** to the University of Plymouth (postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19) but also augments Plymouth's position at the heart of international developments in research on hate studies. **James'** grant capture charts its genesis to her national reputation for research with Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, and her engagement with the Race Matters network of the British Society of Criminology, utilising these connections to develop the research project parameters that led to the successful ESRC funding evidenced above. Concurrent with the national research bid, **James'** role as Co-Director of the International Network for Hate Studies and active engagement with that network to present her research with **McBride** on critical hate studies at international conferences, resulted in her being invited to bid for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Network with its successful outcome in 2019. Other researchers across the unit have utilized their networks and successful regional initiatives, such as engagement in the ESRC funded Festival of Social Science, to attract further funding. **Lowther's** close links with regulators in fisheries and heritage have secured grants of £4,000, £32,000 and £30,000 respectively for projects reflecting the environment and harm expertise of the group that has culminated in impactful research evidenced in Lowther's impact case study (ICS1).

Successful applications for University seed-corn funding have been exploited to gain access to wider research environments, impactful working and to inform larger research bids. Between 2017-2019 a team of SoLCG academics conducted research at Dartmoor prison on the invitation of the Governor. The report - *Dartmoor Dialogues: An exploration of Dartmoor's journey towards becoming an integrated prison underpinned by restorative practices* - was published in June 2020. A pilot study the research was funded by three University research facilitation grants: SoLCG (£4882.50); Institute of Health (£2451.50); and CJS (£2000). **Gray** continues to work with colleagues from the Universities of Leicester and Cambridge, and the Governor of Dartmoor Prison to submit a larger scale research council funding application on how the rehabilitation culture at Dartmoor Prison can be strengthened following the creation of an 'enabling environment' in two wings of the Prison. Other successful funding applications include: BA Small Grant for

research on foreign national workers in the night-time economy (**Smith**); ESRC Festival of Social Science funding (**Lowther**); consultancy on working with troubled families and restorative practice for Plymouth City Council and Southampton City Council (**James**).

Plymouth's Law Unit is highly responsive to current events and issues, placing it at the forefront of key criminological issues. For example, the decision in 2016 for Britain to leave the EU posed several interesting questions for lawyers and criminologists. Having identified this specific research problem, the Unit arranged a conference and workshop on the need for a 'Brexit Criminology', inviting interdisciplinary guest speakers to talk about the potential for Brexit to impact housing, immigration and hate crime among other topics. Members of the unit successfully undertook guest editorship of the *Safer Communities* journal for a 'Brexit Criminology' special issue and used this success to apply for internal impact funding (£18,000), with the prospect for external funding applications to follow. **James** and D. Smith's (Anglia Ruskin) article from this event, 'Roma inclusion post-Brexit: a challenge to existing rhetoric?', also won an Emerald Literati award for 'Outstanding Paper'. In 2018, **von Berg** implemented this same process model on the issue of interviewing child suspects, particularly in the context of new threats posed by county lines drug markets. This event, 'Listening to Children in Trouble with the Law', led to multiple international and interdisciplinary communications on how best to access research funding and pursue the issues raised by the symposium further. In addition, a PhD student within the research group reported the event as a peer-reviewed paper in the journal, *Plymouth Law and Criminal Justice Review*.

Research funding applications are completed with the comprehensive support of the University funding advisory service and the excellent research advisors, who work with academics throughout the process of applying for research and in its delivery. Business partners within the finance, legal services and human resources support the delivery of research from completion of collaboration agreements and appointment of research staff to the facilitation of research dissemination. Within Faculties, research administration teams provide advice and guidance on the research process, provide event support and identify best practice. Librarians ensure provision of resources to enable and underpin funding applications. These various mechanisms have contributed effectively to the delivery of research and engagement by UoA staff throughout this REF period.

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

The #CHITCHAT initiative and CJS research group have encouraged and supported membership of national and international networks to generate opportunities for collaboration with colleagues from other esteemed institutions.

A series of seminars and dissemination events have been a key element of our approach to facilitating stimulating and effective exchanges between academic researchers and wider national and international academia, as well as civil society and the public sector. Our Faculties, SoLCG, and the British Society of Criminology South West branch, which has led South West criminology from the University of Plymouth, have supported these events. Presentation of our research through a range of events, as previously noted, has built sustained collaborations with local, national and international environments, including staffing connections. Our Visiting Professor White, from Tasmania, has emboldened and informed research initiatives in the school relating to

green criminology. Locally, the Plymouth Law Clinic and the Sustainable Social Justice initiative have augmented research with agencies, including connections with Victim Support in the South West that is embedded into delivery of research-led teaching and the set-up of a Student Victim Support Service in the University. Further, in 2016 a Prison Reform Forum was held by members of the Governance, Penalty and Policing research cluster, with presentations from the Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Deputy Director of the Prison Reform Trust. This was part of an initiative that fostered vibrant and collaborative research partnerships with criminal justice agencies and networks at regional and national levels that informed research collaboration and publication.

Other activities include the *50 Years 50 Voices* event in association with Devon and Cornwall Police that celebrated the force's 50th anniversary since amalgamation; North Devon magistrates project to collect the testimony of former magistrates; and, 7 witness seminars on themes of policing and crime in the South West. Witness seminars have included: *Post-PACE: Police and Policing in the South West and Law*, and as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science, *Crime and Dark Tourism in the South West*. Innovative methods of engaging the public with their crime heritage include the creation of virtual realities, such as a convict ship based on original drawings, a Tavistock courtroom, and a prison cell based on the original in Bodmin Jail. These have been showcased via partnerships with Bodmin Jail museum and Devonport Guildhall and underpin a funding project in association with Dalhousie University and Tasmania University on transportation from the South West. In addition, Heritage Lottery funding of £10,000 supported the Women in Power project that is a community-led project by the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum. Its first event in 2019 was attended by 450 people in its first 3 hours.

Research staff within the #CHITCHAT initiative and CJS research group have contributed to the disciplines of law, criminology and socio-legal studies by acting as PhD external examiners (18 in the period) in the UK and internationally, including University of Limerick, Ireland; Flinders University, Australia; University of Birmingham; Cardiff University; University of Leicester; Teesside University.

Stevenson and Visiting Prof. Rowbotham are the founding Directors, in 1999, of *SOLON*, which represents a cross-disciplinary academic-professional partnership providing a focus for international interdisciplinary research and application of that research to a range of issues and problems, past and present. Through engaging lawyers, criminologists and historians in research, in collaboration with multi-media technicians, *SOLON* has served as a hub for dissemination of research generated via multiple events, activities, a website and journal of *Law Crime and History*. They are also members of crime history networks including *Our Criminal Past* and *Digital Panopticon*.

James is Co-Director and Board Member of the International Network for Hate Studies that aims to provide an accessible forum through which individuals and groups can engage with the study of hate and hate crime in a manner that is both scholarly and accessible to all. Its biennial conferences, held internationally and hosted online by the University of Plymouth in 2020, attract academics and practitioners from across the global north and south and board members are regularly called upon to advise and comment on practice and policy at national, international and supra-national levels.

The dynamic nature of our research is evidenced through the extensive number of conferences, workshops and symposia we have organised, many of which are noted above. Of particular note, in 2015, Plymouth hosted the British Society of Criminology national conference, with an excess of 300 international delegates. This event also resulted in the creation of the BSC Critical Criminology network. As previously noted, the International Network for Hate Studies biennial conference was hosted in partnership with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2020. We also hosted the prestigious international annual *Britain and the World conference 2020* in association with the Mayflower Quadrennial and the UK *Environmental Law Association* annual conference online in 2020.

The University of Plymouth has hosted the British Society of Criminology South West Branch since 2009 supporting activities within the CJS and a national profile. Further, members of the research group have significant involvement in multiple British Society of Criminology networks. **Smith** co-Chairs their Critical Criminology Network and **Channing** sits on the steering group of the Historical Criminology Network. **James** was involved in the creation of the Race Matters Network in 2019 and sits on the Steering Group and **Milne** sits on the Women, Crime and Criminal Justice Network. Through her role in the Race Matters network, **James** has collaborated on 2 research bids as noted above. In addition, the Deviant Leisure Blog (**Smith, Raymen**) and associated networking has resulted in an edited collection with Palgrave (2019), a book series with Emerald, and an annual stream at the American Society of Criminology conference.

Despite being a relatively small unit, researchers in law and criminology have collectively published over 60 refereed journal articles, 31 book chapters, 6 monographs, 4 edited books, and 2 special issues of journals since 2014. **Smith** and **James** are on the Editorial board of the *Journal of Contemporary Crime, Harm, and Ethics*. **Smith** is on the Editorial board of *Critical Criminology*, and with **James** co-edited the Brexit Criminology special issue of *Safer Communities* in 2017. **Stevenson** is on the Editorial Board of *Nottingham Law Journal*, and **Lowther** is a long-time editorial board member of the *Journal of Environmental Law and Management*. Invitations to review articles from international 3 and 4* journals include *International Journal of Law in Context*, *Victorian Periodicals Review*, *American Journal of Legal History*, *British Journal of Criminology*, *Theoretical Criminology*, *Punishment and Society*, *European Journal of Criminology*, *Youth Justice: An International Journal, Criminology and Criminal Justice*, *Feminist Legal Studies* and *The Journal of Consumer Culture*. All research-active staff regularly peer-review journal articles.

Researchers in the unit co-edit a number of book series, most notably *Emerald Studies in Deviant Leisure* (**Smith, Raymen**) and the Routledge *SOLON book series* (**Stevenson** and Visiting Prof. Rowbotham). **Stevenson** and Rowbotham and **Channing** have co-edited the journal *Law Crime and History* from its inception.

Researchers in the unit have delivered 9 conference keynote presentations at international and national conferences. Notable examples are: ECR **Raymen** (British Society of Criminology Postgraduate Conference, Birmingham 2018); **Channing** (Institute of British Studies, Berlin, 2019); **James** (Project PDP4 Integrated approach for preventing victimization in Roma communities, Bucharest, Romania, 2016; Gypsy and Traveller Coalition Conference, UCLAN, 2018); **Smith** (National Conference on Harm and Deviance, York, 2016); and, **Stevenson** (Historical Criminology, Leeds Beckett 2018; Historical Child Sexual Abuse, Kent, 2017).

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Most members of #CHITCHAT and the CJS research group serve as peer reviewers for funding bodies including **Gray, James, Lowther, Smith,** and **Stevenson** who are ESRC peer reviewers. Similarly, **Stevenson** is an ARC peer reviewer, and **Lowther** is a Norwegian Research Council peer Reviewer. **James** peer reviews for the EHRC and **Smith** reviews for the British Academy/Leverhulme.