

Institution: University of Gloucestershire
Unit of Assessment: 28 History
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Achievement of Aims Since 2014, History has consolidated its research profile and successfully built on its existing and new areas of research expertise. The History UoA has submitted to all research exercises to date and has achieved world leading and international significance rankings in its outputs. The History UoA is now a small, cohesive and highly effective research team delivering high-level outcomes.</p> <p>One of the UoA's strategic development goals focuses on the generation of research that fosters and promotes impact delivery through the design of projects that have social, cultural and community resonance and that will bring benefit to others. This goal is embedded in and enhanced by the values of environmental and community sustainability and of equality, inclusion and diversity by giving voice in historical study to formerly excluded, marginalised, minority, disadvantaged and underrepresented groups and individuals. The activities of the UoA promote community resilience, cultural heritage and historical legacy. Members of the UoA staff team have organised a series of external-facing events, including seminar series and active festival participation (detailed in section 4).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Research Strategy</p> <p>Overall research strategy and management at institutional and school levels is subject to the University's administrative structures, processes and committees. The university's research procedures are overseen by the Academic Development Unit (ADU), headed by the Dean of Academic Development. The University Research Committee (URC) has responsibility for the development and implementation of policies and practices relating to research across the institution. University Research Degrees Committee (URDC) approves PGR research proposals and monitors individual student progress through the research degree programmes. At subject level, in History, Ilic leads the Unit's research oversight, strategic development and management in regular consultation with all members of the staff team. Ilic sits on the UoA Development Group, URC, URDC and the Being Human RPA (see below).</p> <p>The School Research Administrator has responsibility for providing administrative support to the chairs of the various research committees, to staff in leading roles in research management and to the processes governing the monitoring and progress of PGR students. The administrator disseminates information relating to research supervisor and PGR training programmes, maintains the local records of PGR students from original application to final award by Academic Board, and is responsible for overseeing the administration relating to the appointment of External Examiners and the practical arrangements for PGR examinations.</p> <p>History UoA research activity is informed and underpinned by the University's 2017-22 strategy that aims to produce research that has 'impact and benefit for others'. In aligning with this aim, members of staff in History work closely with external individuals, groups and institutions extending from representatives of the local community to national and international collaborative organisations and specialist research networks. This is evidenced in the UoA's active participation in external events ranging, for example, from the annual Gloucester History Festival to specialist World Congresses, and the organisation of in-house events to support Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month and Women's History Month. The University hosts the regular meetings of the local branch of the Historical Association.</p>

Members of the History staff team participate in School-wide activities, such as day-long research symposia and writing workshops, designed both to promote internal research culture and good practice, and to foster collaboration, inter-disciplinarity and externality in research.

In the current round, the History UoA's strategy focuses on maximising the delivery of high-quality outputs with emphasis on research monographs. In addition, the publication of ground-breaking journal articles and book chapters promotes the goal of close engagement with international collaborative networks that aim to establish new research trends. These ambitions are coupled with the strategic aim of promoting research impact by close engagement with key target audiences ranging from the local community to global academic end-users. In publicising its on-going research projects, History runs its own seminar series, to which external speakers are invited in addition to staff and PGR students making presentations of their own current research. History also runs its own Facebook page and an online blog accessible to external readers: <https://uniofglos.blog/history/>. Members of the UoA are actively engaged in the national and international academic organisations of their core research discipline.

Unit Context and Structure:

UoA28 is based in the multi-disciplinary School of Education and Humanities. History sits alongside cognate Humanities disciplines with shared access to infrastructure, administrative support and amenities. Alongside Humanities colleagues, members of the History UoA are active in a number of inter-disciplinary research centres hosted by the University of Gloucestershire, most notably the Centre for Being Human: Past, Present and Future.

In terms of facilities, the History UoA has access to the University's thriving and expanding archive based at Hardwick, near to Francis Close Hall (FCH) campus (detailed in section 3). The History UoA also collaborates closely with staff at the Gloucestershire Archives and Heritage Hub, and makes use of local repositories, including The Wilson, the Local and Family History Centre and the Holst Museum.

History staff are actively engaged with the Gloucestershire branch of the Historical Association (HA) and members of the UoA have given talks to meetings of the HA around the country.

Peters is a current committee member of the Gloucestershire HA executive committee.

O'Connell sits on the organising committee for the annual Gloucester History Festival.

Internal funding

Since REF2014, oversight of the University research processes has been streamlined. Six Research Priority Areas (RPA) were developed extending across the institution with the strategic aim of promoting excellence in research. Each RPA scrutinises competitive research project bids as part of on-going centrally supported QR funded programmes and it works to extend capacity for impact. History falls under the 'Being Human: Past, Present and Future' RPA (BH RPA), which brings colleagues together from across disciplines in the Humanities, Arts and Media. Its remit fosters inter-disciplinarity and collaborative research. BH RPA has an Impact Co-Ordinator, who mentors staff and works with colleagues to maximise the potential and broaden the scope for demonstrable impact from research projects. BH RPA supports staff in making external funding bids and promotes collaboration with external organisations. The History UoA has been successful in bidding to the BH RPA for funds to establish and promote its impact case studies.

Future Research and Impact Strategy focuses on:

- improving the UoA's overall REF ranking by emphasising high quality research outputs over quantity, supported with the targeted deployment of QR funding;
- extending and formalising established close working relationships with key local stakeholders, community groups and education providers to enhance collaborative funding bids and to promote research impact that has social benefit;

- enhancing environmental metrics by formalising the UoA's basis for bidding to external funding bodies and to promote a culture of successful external grant capture;
- extending active participation, management and leadership of international collaborative academic networks;
- the further promotion of research and impact through active engagement with local, national and international media outlets (online forums, hard copy publications and broadcast media).

2. People

Staffing Strategy

The University of Gloucestershire's School of Education and Humanities provides a supportive environment for staff to contribute to the high-quality research outputs of its staff teams. In History, staffing strategy is geared towards ensuring that all members of the permanent staff team, from professorial level to early career appointments, are research active, publish outputs that can be submitted to REF, are mindful of the impact of their research and actively contribute to the UoA's broader research environmental activities. The emphasis is on permanent posts rather than fixed-term appointments, though part-time and temporary appointments have been made to cover the teaching of permanent staff members who have been successful in bidding for periods of sabbatical leave to facilitate successful completion of monograph-length research projects and to progress ICS. This strategy has served to produce and underpin a small, tight knit, mutually supportive team. 100% of the History staff team has submitted outputs to REF2021.

The History team has undergone significant change to its permanent staffing since REF2014. **Ilic** (promoted to Professor in 2012) and **Randall** (formerly Morrisroe) (promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2013) remain in post.

Wynn retired in 2015; **Robertson** left to take up a post at the University of the Highlands and Islands in July 2015; **French** left to take up a post at the University of Liverpool in September 2015.

The following new staff appointments, all with successful PhD awards prior to confirmation of appointment, have been made since REF2014: **O'Connell** (American History) joined the team in September 2013 initially as a 0.5 early-career lecturer to deliver teaching in American history; the post was increased to 0.7 from January 2014 and was made full-time from September 2015 to accommodate the Academic Course Leader role; **O'Connell** was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2015 and recognised by appointment as University Teaching Fellow in 2019. **Peters** (Early Modern History) joined the team in September 2015, initially as a temporary fractional appointment; the post was made permanent full-time from September 2017. **Peters** was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2020. **Howell** (Modern European History) joined the team in 2015, initially to provide PTHP cover, then on 0.2 contract from 2018/19.

O'Connell has served as History Academic Course Leader (for undergraduate programmes) since August 2015 (taking over from **Robertson**); **Randall** served as Acting History Course Leader during the period of **O'Connell's** Visiting Fellowship in the United States in Spring 2016.

Academic staff

The History UoA is part of the multi-disciplinary School of Education and Humanities based at the University's Frances Close Hall campus in Cheltenham. All members of the History staff team have offices and teach on this site. All History staff team members are active in research and publication and all but one are part of postgraduate research degree supervision teams. In addition to producing research outputs, all staff members have considerable responsibility for delivering substantial amounts of undergraduate teaching, postgraduate supervision and

academic-related administration. **Ilic**, as chair of the History UoA, works closely with other UoA coordinators in Humanities, the chair of the BH RPA and is guided by the University's Dean of Academic Development and ADU support team in REF-related management activities.

The History team has specialisms in early modern British and European political, social and cultural history (**Peters**), late modern British and intellectual history (**Randall**), modern European history (**Howell**), twentieth-century American social, cultural and political history (**O'Connell**) and late modern Russian / Soviet history (**Ilic**). Staff research interests include topics relating to: women's and gender history; the history of print culture; historical studies of trauma; social protest and civil rights; black history and the history of race relations; intellectual history and the history of ideas; landscape, environment and heritage; public history, national identities and citizenship; transatlantic music; Cold War studies; international relations and transnational histories; oral history, life stories and memory studies. Teaching responsibilities for Historical methodologies, undergraduate and postgraduate research training are shared across the staff team.

The current staff cohort is 4.2 FTE (compared to 4.8 submitted for REF2014), with a gender balance of 3F:1.2M. All staff members are entered in REF2021. The History staff team is compact and consists of: one professor (**Ilic**); three Senior Lecturers (**O'Connell**, **Peters** and **Randall**); and one Lecturer (**Howell**). The team has an interest in revealing the untold histories, cultural significance and hidden heritage of marginalised and underrepresented groups. This is particularly reflected in the two Impact Case Studies, which explore the histories of Cheltenham's working-class community and immigrant populations, often excluded from the published accounts of the town's Regency past.

Staff Development

All University of Gloucestershire academic staff members have the opportunity to set out their career progression aspirations and professional training needs at a mandatory annual review and development meeting with their operational and / or line manager. This also provides the opportunity for staff to outline their research and publication achievements against identified targets from the past year and to set research priorities and goals for the current year. Within the History UoA, a quarterly monitoring update is made of research progress for each member of the team with updates entered on a spreadsheet maintained by **Ilic** as the UoA coordinator. Individual staff members are responsible for uploading their publications to the University Research Repository once they have been accepted for publication.

A mentoring system operates to support new staff appointees, the development of early-career researchers and to foster a vibrant publication culture. This is particularly important for underpinning the research undertaken by staff new to the institution as they become integrated into the relevant UoA. In the History UoA, peer mentoring is in evidence in: the internal review of draft publications and funding bids by providing critical feedback before submission; encouragement given to disseminate research findings externally beyond initial publication; the collaborative approach taken to the promotion and assessment of impact; the mutual support and advice provided in the area of career progression and seeking promotion; and ensuring that all members of the team have the opportunity to take part in PGR student supervision and that the opportunities for and demands of PGR supervision are appropriately balanced across the team. This peer mentoring scheme is important to the successful and mutually supportive working practices of the UoA and to the research career progression of its individual staff members.

Research management

At University level, **Ilic** provides regular updates to the central ADU and to URC on research progress in the History UoA. URC is chaired by the Vice Chancellor, and the Dean of Academic Development has the specific remit to oversee the University's research strategy in progress towards REF submission. A RAG rating system operates at central level as part of the overall monitoring process to track UoA progress against targets and to identify examples of good practice. UoA coordinators report on a range of issues: gender balance and diversity of the staff members to be entered to REF; progress on research and outputs, charted against the maximum submission allowance for the UoA with commentary on preliminary quality ratings; progress of the required number of Impact Case Studies and the implementation strategy for progressing and capturing impact; progress in the Environment implementation strategy, including targets for external funding bids and records of successful awards; successful doctoral completions and PhDs in process; and a final ranking against overall UoA targets.

At School level, the allocation of research time and access to short-term research leave is overseen by the Head of School and is negotiated in consultation with the relevant Academic Subject Group Leader. A mandatory time allowance for 'research and scholarly activity' and additional time allocations for externally-funded research projects are provided in the University's Workload Allocation Model, which underpins individual staff balance of duties. The balance of duties is reviewed annually in discussion with the appropriate line or operational manager.

Progress in the research achievements of the History UoA and updates of its budgetary expenditure are regularly reported to the BH RPA co-ordinator, who is responsible for overseeing the smooth running of the RPA, including forecasting budget needs and auditing the expenditures of funding allocated to individual UoAs. As History UoA coordinator, **Ilic** sits on the BH RPA Steering Group. Internal funding to support research activities, including conference organisation and attendance and expenses incurred in field work, research data collection and finalising outputs for publication, are available through monies disbursed through the BH RPA, including supplementary allowances for each member of the UoA with enhanced allocations for Professors and Readers.

BH RPA funding is also available to relieve staff of their teaching duties on a rotational basis by providing partial sabbatical leave, teaching remission and short-term buy-outs in order to advance research towards final publication. Such disbursement of funds has allowed staff in the History UoA to generate high quality monographs and additional research outputs.

Randall benefitted from one semester of sabbatical leave during 2016/17 to complete the writing of a monograph, *Empire, Islam and History*, and to progress research on a number of journal articles.

Ilic benefitted from one semester of sabbatical leave during 2017/18 to progress writing a monograph on *Soviet Women - Everyday Lives* and to oversee the final stages of production of two further substantive volumes: (co-author) *Women's Experiences of Repression in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe*; (editor and contributor) *Palgrave Handbook of Women and Gender in Twentieth-Century Russia and the Soviet Union*.

Peters benefitted from one semester of sabbatical leave in 2018/19 to support development of impact and to complete work on research outputs.

Howell benefitted from research funding to develop and promote research projects geared towards impact generation.

In addition, staff have been successful in securing periods of externally funded research fellowships providing for semester-long teaching remission and sabbatical leave:

O'Connell was awarded a British Association of American Studies and UCL Institute of the Americas Visiting Fellowship, January to March 2015, to research the Black American South in British TV programming; and a prestigious Fulbright-Elon Scholar Award (January to May 2016) to conduct research and work at Elon University in North Carolina on African American Culture in Italy.

Peters was Visiting Scholar at the University of Northern Colorado (January to May 2020) to develop plans for an international summer student exchange programme and to set the foundations for establishing an international research centre for the study of cultural trauma. This visit was cut short when Covid-19 travel restrictions were put in place.

During these periods of sabbatical leave, part-time hourly paid staff members were employed to cover undergraduate teaching.

In addition, staff have secured short-term visiting fellowship abroad, have hosted visiting researchers at the University of Gloucestershire and hold honorary research posts in the UK:

Ilic (who has an interest in transnational Cold War history) hosted Dr Pia Koivunen (University of Turku, Finland) during a visit to the UK in June 2016 to consult on the Soviet Union's use of 'soft power' diplomacy at mega events.

Ilic holds an on-going Honorary Senior Research Fellowship at the University of Birmingham Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies, which provides access to the Centre's extensive Soviet Studies source materials held in the Baykov Collection.

Peters was a Visiting Scholar at University of Ottawa (July to September 2016), and Research Fellow at the University of Toronto Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies (July to September 2016) providing access to their libraries and research collections.

These Fellowships provide access to specialist research collections, engagement with high-level research seminars and conferences, and opportunities to collaborate in international research projects.

The History UoA encourages team members to utilise their weekly 'research day', when available, and 'research and scholarly activity' time allowance to progress their data collection and writing. Staff are encouraged to attend research training, planning and writing workshops.

Decision-making on the final submission of outputs to REF is informed in part by feedback provided annually by an external assessor and by the summary feedback provided by a second external assessor who was tasked to offer responses to all of the potential research outputs determined internally to be in scope for submission. The final selection of outputs for inclusion, double weighting and exclusion was made by collective agreement of all staff members in the History UoA. These decisions have meant that not all outputs produced during this round have been submitted for REF review.

Oversight of staff and PGR student research ethics is coordinated centrally and at School level. **Ilic**, a former member of the University's Research Ethics Sub-Committee, sits on the School of Education and Humanities Research Ethics Committee, which scrutinises and provides feedback on staff and PGR research projects that require formal ethical approval.

Research students

Since REF2014, the History UoA has witnessed an increase in the number of students registered for postgraduate research degrees (PhD and MA by Research) and has increased the scope of PGR supervision across a range of subject disciplines. Since REF2014, PGR student ages have ranged from early 20s (registering on completion of their undergraduate programme) to 70s (pursuing academic research post-retirement).

Postgraduate research topics are often, but not exclusively, linked to areas of staff research, publication and teaching. PGR students are mostly self-funding, with some internal financial support available to staff members registered for advanced postgraduate degrees. All History PGR students are expected to contribute to the research activity and environmental culture of the subject discipline. Applications for PGR degrees are centralised in the University's

Communications, Marketing and Student Recruitment Admissions Team, and then devolved to School Postgraduate Research Leads to arrange interview, acceptance and induction. PGR progress is rigorously monitored at university level by the Postgraduate Research Centre (PRC, located in the ADU), locally by the School Postgraduate Research Lead and individually by the allocated subject-level supervisory team.

All PGR students are expected to complete recent and relevant research degree training at Masters level (provided in-house if not already achieved) before embarking on PhD-level research. PhD students are able to access a broad range of academic and vocational training, some designed specifically for PGR students, and all of the professional development activities provided for academic staff. PGR students complete an annual Training Needs Analysis Form and Joint Annual Progress Report in collaboration with their supervisors. Their research project must be formally approved at University level before the thesis is submitted for examination.

The PRC provides administrative oversight of PGR admissions, progression, training and award. It has links with Vitae South West (as part of the Researcher Development Framework) and the Midlands Hub networks. PGR students are encouraged to engage fully with the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES). The University of Gloucestershire achieved the excellent outcome of being ranked sixth overall and seventh in terms of postgraduate research skills in PRES 2019. The PRC organises annual PGR conferences and summer schools, where students present papers to their peers and engage in specialist research training. The PRC also oversees the mandatory training programmes for all PGR supervisors and ensures that supervisor training remains up-to-date.

The University offers training to PGR students preparing for a career in teaching in Higher Education and opportunity is sometimes available for students to gain in-class teaching experience. Externally, PGR students in History are referred to the seminar series and research and vocational training offered by the Institute of Historical Research in London and specialist training courses and seminar series elsewhere. PGR students are eligible to apply for research expenses covered by the University to the value of £300 per annum for full-time students and £200 per annum for part-time students. Further financial support is accessible through discretionary bids to other funds.

In History, **Ilic** coordinates PGR activities by: advising potential recruits and talking them through the application process; allocating new recruits to supervisory teams; running regular PGR seminars and meetings; and encouraging PGR students to participate in School, University and external (national and international) conferences, networks and training programmes relevant to their thesis. All full-time members of the History staff team sit on PGR supervisory teams. History PGR students have participated in University-wide and subject-level 'Three Minute Thesis' competitions and PGR poster displays. **Ilic** sits on URDC, has extensive experience of chairing PhD vivas, and has acted as internal assessor on upgrade panels for PGR students advancing from MA by Research or MPhil to PhD.

All PGR students have at least two supervisors, and the supervisory team sometimes includes a staff member from another subject area or an external expert. Similarly, History staff members sometimes sit on PGR supervisory teams for students registered in other disciplines: **Ilic** in Creative Writing (post-Yugoslav diasporic writing), English Literature (life story interviewing of Polish migrants), and Illustration (History research methodologies in illustrative output); and **Randall** in Sociology (local public housing policy initiatives and outcomes). In constituting the supervisory team, at least one member must have previously supervised to successful completion at least two students, at least one of which must be at the level of the award being sought or higher. Experienced supervisors (with at least two successful PGR completions and experience of at least two PGR examinations) serve as mentors to staff new to supervision. **Ilic** and **Randall** hold 'experienced supervisor' status.

PGR students, including former University of Gloucestershire students studying elsewhere, publicise their research projects, findings and publications via the 'Postgraduate Profiles' and 'Alumni Stories' pages of the History blog and Facebook.

Since 2014, staff in History have supervised to successful PhD completion TWO students registered in History and ONE student registered in Sociology: 1F:2M.

The award of MA by Research was made to SIX History students: 2F:4M.

Staff members in History are currently on supervision teams of 12 PGR students: 5 PhD and 7 MA by Research: 8F:4M. Barnes was successful in 2020 in securing a £500 research grant from the Society for Army Historical Research and £250 grant from the British Commission for Military History for his MA project on defaults in early modern Hampshire.

Equality and Diversity:

Equality, diversity and inclusion are intrinsic not only to the values of the University as a whole, but also to the History UoA. The University of Gloucestershire was shortlisted for its outstanding contribution in the *Times Higher Education* 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Awards' in 2020. The University is committed to the aims of the Athena Swan Charter in its culture, policies and practices, and it adheres to the Charter's principles in its support for and the advancement of gender equality across the institution. The University is taking action to narrow the gender pay gap across all grades of staffing through its Gender Pay Gap Action Plan. In addition, it has introduced a number of practices to facilitate gender inclusivity in its day-to-day activities. One of the most important examples of this is reflected in the way that the university supports working parents / guardians, staff and students with childcare responsibilities, most of whom are women, by timing the start of the working day from 9.15. This provides time for drop-off at school and childcare before teaching and meetings start. This policy also has environmental benefits by providing for more sustainable commuting opportunities that avoid the morning rush-hour peak traffic flow. Working parents / guardians are provided with the opportunity to select flexible working hours to meet their childcare needs.

The University provides specific mechanisms to promote the on-going support and mentoring of female and early career members of staff and other under-represented groups, as reflected in its Women Professors Group, Women's Network, BAME Network and Early Career Network. **Ilic** is one of the founder members of and sits on the Women Professors Group, which has an explicit remit to support and mentor female academic staff in their career progression and promotion. The Women Professors Group actively seeks to rectify the gender imbalance currently evident in senior and executive academic leadership across the sector, as well as in areas of access to research opportunities, research funding allocation and publication. In a recent example, in collaboration with the university's Women's Network and individual members of staff, the Women Professors Group organised a series of informal interviews and an open online plenary focusing on 'Women Negotiating Academia: Empowerment and Challenges' as part of the University Festival in 2020. A representative of the Women Professors Group sits on the University's Professorial Appointments Panel and the Women Professors Group is spearheading a culture shift in practices aiming towards academic career progression and leadership.

Members of the History staff team have attended university-wide training programmes on issues relating to equality, diversity and inclusion. One example of this is the compulsory unconscious bias training for all UoA coordinators, attended by **Ilic** for History, with other members of the team attending similar training events. At institutional level, Equal Opportunities training forms part of the induction programme for all new members of staff and it is also required for anyone involved in the selection and interviewing processes for new appointments. All members of the History staff team have been provided on an equal basis with the opportunity to bid for internal research funds, to apply in rotation for periods of sabbatical leave and teaching remission, to lead and take an active part in impact case study projects and to supervise research students.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are embedded in the History UoA's strategic aims as the specific focus of individual staff research projects, impact case studies, impact generation and teaching delivery. External events, outward-facing activities with local community groups and recruitment activities are geared towards the active promotion of inclusion. History staff work in tandem with the University's Equality and Diversity Manager, who provides support and funding for subject-level initiatives. This includes providing administrative support and making finance available to fund external speakers to present guest lectures during Black History Month (October; organised by **O'Connell**), LGBTQ History Month (February; organised by **Randall**) and Women's History Month (March; organised by **Ilic** and **Peters**).

Recent appointments to the History staff team, part-time teaching cover and paid research assistants have tended to reflect the local demographic make-up, which has more limited ethnic diversity in comparison with the national average. As such, staff members make every effort to reflect issues of equality, diversity and inclusion in their teaching delivery, personal tutor and supervisory support, and research outputs. As a counterweight to the limited diversity of the small staff team, prominent external speakers are regularly invited to give guest lectures to which members of the local community are invited. The History staff team is actively working towards decolonising the teaching curriculum, with **Randall** currently leading this initiative. Likewise, issues relating to environmental awareness, community sustainability and cultural sensitivity are embedded in the History UoA's aspirations, values and delivery.

All members of academic staff on fractional appointments are allocated pro-rata equivalent mandatory 'research and scholarly activity' hours on their annual balance of duties as set out in the Work Allocation Model. Additional hours may be allocated to allow fractional and part-time members of staff to undertake funded research projects. Early career academic staff members are paired with a colleague who provides on-the-spot mentoring and they are also allocated extra hours on their balance of duties to allow for initial teaching preparation and professional training.

The University promotes the welfare of all staff and students through a variety of avenues, including Workplace Wellbeing and Time for Change, and protects staff and students through the provisions of the 2010 Equality Act. The University has achieved Level 3 of 'Disability Confident' recognising it as a Leader. Students with notified disabilities and specific learning needs are well supported at University, School and subject level and every effort is made to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in their educational access and achievement. Access to specialist equipment, ICT hardware and software programmes, guided support and safeguarding measures are in place to facilitate the day-to-day work of staff and students with notified disabilities. The University took an early initiative during the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown, significantly in advance of the formal institutional shutdown, to allow shielding and vulnerable staff and students to work exclusively from home, and support to do so was quickly made available online.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

At central level, REF QR income and other monies are devolved to Research Priority Areas for disbursement to UoAs. This money is used to promote on-going research activity leading to high quality outputs, to kick-start new collaborative research projects and to increase the significance and reach of research impact. The History UoA is aligned to the BH RPA, an interdisciplinary grouping, identified by the University as one of six areas for research-focused investment. **Ilic** is a member of the BH RPA Steering Group, which oversees internal competitive funding bids. The History UoA has a successful record of securing internal research funding and this experience is

built upon to support and encourage further bidding to external national funding bodies. External funding bids are supported and facilitated by a central University Funding Office.

Funding, Grants and Awards

The expansion of successful external applications for research funding, drawing on support from the University Funding Office, is a strategic future research aim for the University and academic Schools, as is the expansion of research student numbers. In the current round, the History UoA has been successful in securing the following external funding:

Howell secured a £5000 award from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Cheltenham: Diaspora project (ICS2)

Howell's research liaison work with Cheltenham Borough Council, supported by a £1500 award from the BH RPA, to develop a national funding bid on local heritage promotion was put on hold in 2020 once lockdown was put in place.

O'Connell was awarded £1500 by *International History Review* to conduct research for a proposed project on Black American GIs in Italy to undertake a field trip for archival research in Tuscany and Liguria (initially planned for summer 2020, but postponed because of Covid-19 travel restrictions).

Unsuccessful bids were submitted to: AHRC (national collaborative project on Transatlantic Blues Music); British Academy / Leverhulme Small Research Grants fund; Somerfield Charitable Trust.

In terms of internal financial support, the History UoA has benefitted from annual allocations and been successful in securing internal funding through competitive bids to the BH RPA to support and extend its activities. Yearly funding allocations to all UoA members are available to support staff attendance at national and international conferences and to fund other research costs (such as short research trips and travel for field work data collection, indexing, bibliographic compilation and book illustrations), as well as the periods of teaching remission (as described above).

In addition, the History UoA was successful in its competitive bids to underpin the development and enhancements of its ICS activities through application to the BH RPA collaborative projects funds: Cheltenham Lower High Street: Past, Present and Future (total £9000); and Cheltenham: Diaspora (£8000).

Internal funding was also secured through competitive bids to centrally disbursed funds. Activities to support the promotion and dissemination of Impact Case Study project findings and participation in Gloucester History Festival have been partially supported by funding awards from the University's Learning Innovation for Tomorrow (LIFT) initiative and the Janet Trotter Trust.

The History UoA has benefitted from non-financial support in kind from a number of local organisations and community support groups to publicise and disseminate research findings, particularly in relation to its two ICS, but also in other areas of project work geared towards presentation at the Gloucester History Festival. The History team has been provided with free access to exhibition and display space in Cheltenham (particularly by Chapel Arts Gallery, The Wilson, West End Project community resource centre, and the Frog and Fiddle pub) and in Gloucester (to display space in the Eastgate shopping centre and Discover DeCrypt). These venues have been utilised to stage exhibitions of work and a short film relating to the UoAs Impact Case Studies and to display the project outcomes prepared for Gloucester History Festival.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The History staff team has access to provision that forms part of the University's infrastructure across three campuses in Cheltenham and Gloucester. This includes access to the institutional archive, library facilities, specialist assistance provided by the University archivist and a designated experienced Humanities library staff member, and to inter-library loan services. Research and publication are further facilitated by the support provided by a dedicated Information and Computer Services team and to specialist ICT software training to enhance research and teaching delivery. The History staff team has received training and makes use of Talis Aspire and Talis Elevate.

The History UoA makes use of the research support provided by staff at the University of Gloucestershire Special Collection and Archives (UGA) and at Gloucestershire Archives and Heritage Hub, with whom it works closely in the preparation of the annual Gloucester History Festival (held mostly online in September 2020). In addition to the archive of the University's institutional history, UGA holds the library collection of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society (BGAS), Local Heritage Initiative Archive and Independent Television News Image Archive. It also houses the 'Gloucestershire Poets, Writers and Artists Collection', including papers relating to the Dymock Poets and the Dennis Potter Archive. The History UoA also makes use of collections held in Cheltenham by the Local and Family History Library, which provides access to the British Newspaper Archive.

The Humanities library stock, built up over many decades, is housed on the ground floor of Quad West on FCH Campus in Cheltenham, where staff offices are also located on the floors above. The library allows 24-hour access, 7 days a week. Purchases of new books take place regularly across the year reflecting the requests of History staff and student recommendations; subscriptions to journals are renewed on a rolling annual basis. The library is steadily building its collection of ebooks, publisher 'bundles', journals and specialist subscription collections making materials available to online users. These materials are identified (since 2017) through the Library Discovery search facility, which also provides indications of holdings worldwide. Staff, PGR and undergraduate students have access to the following collections:

- Archival Sound Recordings, linking to oral history, radio and sound recordings
- British Periodicals Collections
- Cambridge Core
- Census Services
- Digimap OS and Historic Map Collection
- Humanities Source
- JSTOR Arts and Sciences V
- JISC Historical Texts, providing access to Early English Books Online (EEBO), Eighteenth Century Collection Online (ECCO) and British Library Nineteenth Century Collection
- Lexis Library, with access to historical law reports and legal cases
- Oxford Academic Journals Online, including *Historical Research*
- Project Muse Humanities Collection
- Sage Premier Collection for Arts and Humanities

Staff members have generous access to hard copy library loans, ready access to e-books and journals, and an allowance of up to 50 inter-library loan requests per annum. The on-going process of digitisation and advances in scanning facilities are speeding up access to external research materials as well as to online archive collections.

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

Overview

The research activities of the History UoA are embedded in external collaborations and extend across the international academy. In its engagement with local stakeholders and community groups, it serves to bring specific reciprocal benefit and recognition to an underrepresented section of Cheltenham's population living in close proximity to the University's FCH campus. At national level, members of the staff team are actively engaged in the executive organisation and on-going activities of academic and related bodies relevant to their core research discipline. Internationally, team members are active in a range of collaborative research projects and have been strategic in leading initiatives to enhance the global reach of their academic discipline.

Much of the research output of the History UoA is focused on bringing to the fore the history of previously underrepresented and marginalised groups generally excluded from the historical narrative. This has often involved innovative research methods, with staff engaging closely with local community representative and uncovering untold stories from a variety of historical sources, to investigate such issues as the hidden and intangible heritage of migration and resettlement (**Howell**), critical readings of women's everyday life narratives (**Ilic**), the role of music in the transatlantic cultural conveyor belt (**O'Connell**), early modern trauma (**Peters**), and critical intellectual and popular discourse analysis of attitudes towards Islam in Britain (**Randall**).

External Research Collaborations, Networks and Partnerships

External national and international collaborations and participation in research networks add vibrancy to the History UoA and provide access to additional funding to support fieldwork, data collection and research activities as well as important forums for the dissemination of research findings.

Ilic's expertise in Soviet women's history and life stories led to an invitation to participate in two international collaborative research projects funded by the Research Council of Lithuania: *The Last Soviet Generation in Lithuania in the Context of Changing Modernity* and *Lithuanian Families and Migration: Everyday Life Experiences and Return Policies*, both based at the University of Vilnius. **Ilic** was also co-organiser of the BASEES regional conference in Uppsala, Sweden, in 2018, an event that attracted speakers and participants from around the world. **Peters'** expertise in the English Civil Wars led her appointment as Academic Advisor for the 'Battle Scarred: Surgery, Medicine and Military Welfare during the British Civil Wars' exhibition at the National Civil War Centre, UK (2016).

Links with other UoAs

The History UoA has benefited from working alongside UoA32 Art and Design to consult on projects linked to the changing retail landscape of the local high street, and with UoA34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies in discussions concerning interviews with local immigrant communities.

Relationships with key Research Users, Beneficiaries and Audiences

As important indicators of academic esteem, members of the UoA have established and maintained relationships with a broad range of key research users and related organisations that disseminate research findings. The research work and published outputs of the History UoA are publicised through the dedicated publicly accessible website of the Cotswold Centre for History and Heritage (cc4hh.co.uk) and via blogposts on the UG History Facebook page ([uniofglos/history](https://www.facebook.com/uniofglos/history)), as well as on Instagram and Twitter. The History UoA is in regular contact with a number of key local organisations such as Cheltenham Borough Council, Cheltenham Civic Society, Cheltenham Local History Society, Gloucester Heritage Hub, Gloucestershire Historical Association, Gloucestershire Victoria County History, Pittville History Works and St Paul's Road Area Residents Association. These organisations provide forums for external

consultation on research matters as well as the dissemination and debate of research findings beyond academic audiences.

History staff have organised public-facing events and activities for:

- Black History Month, including talks by: (in 2015) Bonnie Greer and Gary Younge; (in 2016) Seyi Rhodes and Dr Madge Dresser; (in 2017) Prof David Olusoga; (in 2018) Louisa Adjoa-Parker; (in 2019) Prof Kehinde Andrews; (in 2020, online) Dr Yvonne Battle-Felton.
- LGBT+ History Month, support materials for public talks and exhibitions
- Women's History Month, including talks by: (in 2017) Helen Rappaport; (in 2019) Dr Rachel Century.
- Gloucester History Festival, exhibition at Chapel Arts Gallery, September 2018 that attracted over 1000 visitors in its two-week run; exhibitions at Eastgate Centre in Gloucester and Chapel Arts in Cheltenham, September 2019; exhibition at Discover de Crypt in 2020 and online on the Cotswold Centre for History and Heritage website: cc4hh.co.uk.

Members of the UoA hold positions on the editorial boards of prestigious academic journals and governing bodies of important historical organisations:

Howell is a trustee of the Cistercian Way project.

Ilic sits on the National Advisory Board of *Europe-Asia Studies*. **Ilic** was Membership Secretary of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies Association (BASEES) for four years from 2014 to 2017, and remained as a co-opted member of the BASEES executive committee in 2018. **Ilic** is a founder member of BASEES Women's Forum, launched in 2015.

O'Connell is a trustee of the European Blues Association (www.euroblues.org).

Peters sits on the executive committee of the Gloucestershire branch of the Historical Association. In 2020, **Peters** was commissioned by the Canadian government to write a report on the impact of cultural trauma on Canadian society, democracy and national security.

Members of the staff team have been invited to take part in TV and radio broadcasts, reporting on topics related to their research interests:

Howell took part in a live broadcast Brexit debate on TV Wales in 2019. **Howell** has also spoken on BBC Radio Gloucestershire discussing the Queen's 90th birthday, and BBC Radio 4 Today programme discussing the results of the national 'happiness' survey.

O'Connell was filmed as part of ITV's *Coronations Street's DNA Secrets*, broadcast in September 2018. **O'Connell** has also spoken on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, Heart Radio (Gloucestershire) and Heart Swindon on topics relating to Black History Month, the US elections and Brexit, the Trump / Biden presidential election and the work of the Cotswold Centre for History and Heritage. **O'Connell** was invited to speak at the prestigious and internationally renowned Cheltenham Literature Festival (sponsored by *The Times* and *Sunday Times*) on 'New Orleans: a portrait of a City' in 2016, and 'How History is Taught in Schools' in 2017.

Peters was interviewed by BBC Radio Gloucestershire on 5 November 2017 discussing the 500-year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in Europe, and on Radio Winchcombe in November 2017 discussing the anniversary of Gunpowder Treason.

The academic esteem in which members of the History UoA are held is reflected also in invitations to serve as external examiners of PhD theses. During the current census period, **Ilic** has examined PhDs at Queen Mary University of London, University of East Anglia, University of Glasgow and University of Sheffield. **O'Connell** has examined two PhDs at University of

Northumbria. In addition, **Ilic** and **Randall** have both served as internal examiner on PGR theses.

Contributions to the Research Base, Economy and Society

History UOA members have contributed in many ways to the wider research base since 2014. Within this census period, History staff members have engaged in activities that are critical to the on-going vitality of academia and to the dissemination of research findings, in terms of both their own research and that of others.

In connection with his work on intangible cultural heritage, **Howell** has delivered conference papers in the UK (USW) and France (ICOHTEC, Saint Etienne, 2018), and served as anonymous reviewer for manuscripts submitted to Bloomsbury and Cambridge University Press. **Howell** has also worked closely with a number of organisations in Wales to sustain and promote Welsh cultural heritage and history.

In relation to pioneering research in Soviet women's history and victim studies of the Great Terror under Stalin, **Ilic** has delivered papers and guest lectures, served as discussant and chaired panels nationally in Belfast (ESSHC 2018), Birmingham, Cambridge, Leeds and Oxford, and internationally in Chicago (ASEEES 2017), Dublin (2014), Estonia (2017), Japan (ICCEES World Congress, 2015), Korea (EWAH, 2016), Lithuania (University of Vilnius, 2018, 2019) and Sweden (2021 online); scheduled delivery of a paper at the ICCEES World Congress in Montreal, Canada, in 2020 was postponed due to Covid-related travel restrictions. **Ilic** has served as anonymous peer review reader for book proposals and manuscripts submitted to the following publishers: Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Springer Verlag, and IB Tauris; for article submissions to the following journals: *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Journal of Baltic Studies*, *Journal of the European Society of Women in Theological Research*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Kritika*, *Region*, *Russian Review*, and *Slavonic and East European Review*; and for funding and fellowship applications submitted to: British Academy, Czech Science Foundation, FRIAS Cofund Fellowship Programme (Freiberg Institute of Advanced Studies), Leverhulme Trust, and Newnham College, Cambridge. In the course of this census period, **Ilic** has provided book reviews to the following journals: *Ab Imperio*, *History*, *Journal of Military History*, *Slavic Review* and *Slavonic and East European Review*. **Ilic** was awarded the BASEES Women's Forum best article / chapter prize in 2015 for her research on Soviet-era beauty contests.

O'Connell's innovative research in transatlantic blues music has provided the foundation for delivery of papers nationally at BAAS (Newcastle 2015, Canterbury 2017), European and British Association for American Studies (London, 2018), HOTCUS (Norwich 2015; Cambridge 2018; Liverpool 2019), Transatlantic Studies Association (Lancaster 2019), and internationally in Dublin (HOTCUS 2017), and Toronto, Canada (ASA 2015). In addition, **O'Connell** has provided anonymous peer review reader reports for the following publishers: University of Michigan Press, and Taylor and Francis, and journals: *Journal of American Studies*, *The Public Historian*, and *Southern Cultures*. **O'Connell** has also been invited guest speaker in Cheltenham (Historical Association, 2018), and Leeds (2104). **O'Connell** gave the Distinguished Samuel Shannon Lecture at Tennessee State University in 2016 and gave an invited lecture at Elon University, South Carolina, in 2016.

In relation to research in early modern trauma, **Peters** has delivered papers nationally in Cheltenham, Leicester, London (LSE closed workshop on contemporary and historical post-conflict trauma, 2019), Nottingham, Worcester, and York; and internationally in the US at ASECS conferences in Denver, Los Angeles, Orlando, Pittsburgh and Williamsburg; and at NACBS conferences in Providence and Washington DC; further papers were delivered at international conferences in France and Italy. In addition, **Peters** served as Outer International Assessor for the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme. **Peters'** work on early modern national shame has been translated into French (*Dix-septième Siècle*, 275:2, 2017, 269-284).

As a leading scholar in nineteenth century intellectual history, **Randall** has served as anonymous peer reviewer for the publisher Bloomsbury and the journal *Modern Intellectual History*.