

Institution: University of Plymouth

Unit of Assessment: UoA 28 History

1. Unit context and structure, research, and impact strategy

A. Context and Structure

Research on History at Plymouth is developed within a unit of 11.5 FTE scholars contained within the School of Humanities and Performing Arts, all of whom are on T&R contracts, which represents 100% submission of staff within the subject. Throughout the census period, the unit's research was conducted within a thriving interdisciplinary environment under the aegis of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute (AI) which supported the research activities of more than 200 academics across the disciplines of History and Art History, English and Creative Writing, Theatre, Dance, Performance and Music, Art, Design and Architecture. The AI fostered and enhanced research excellence and reputation in the Arts and Humanities at Plymouth by supporting and promoting strategic partnerships, collaborations and networking, and sponsoring cross-faculty and cross-university research initiatives in which History played a crucial role. With the expansion of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business (which now includes law and business schools and an education institute) these research structures were devolved to the Faculty in summer 2020 and are overseen by the ADR (**Daybell**) to facilitate further collaborative synergies across research, impact and KE.

History at Plymouth has an established tradition of internationally recognised research excellence in the fields of social and cultural history – which broadly defined within our unit encompasses expertise in early modern religion, gender and sexuality, Victorian and twentieth-century British society, politics, crime and law; modern labour history, popular politics, modern US politics and civil rights – as well as in modern political, maritime, military and diplomatic history, the British Empire and modern Japan. Since 2014, the profile of the unit has been strengthened by the recruitment of high-calibre researchers that broaden our expertise in important ways in Heritage and Eighteenth-Century Architectural History, Oral History, Maritime History, Archives and Digital Humanities (**Halewood** and **Emmett**). Post REF 2014 the unit made a strategic decision to develop areas of specialism in heritage with the appointment at Professorial level (**Maudlin**), the setting up of an interdisciplinary **heritage** hub, Cornerstone Heritage (which encompasses oral and public history), as well as an income-generating consultancy arm and public engagement arm, Cornerstone Praxis. Further strategic development was achieved in **archives and Digital Humanities** (through a formal partnership with The Box, a multi-million-pound state-of-the-art development of the Plymouth City Museum and local archives that sits adjacent to campus, a relationship that encompasses shared space and a jointly run professional MA in archival management) and **maritime history** (funded by long-term investment from a Charitable Trust). The unit invested in these key research priorities to drive research and impact strategy and develop local, national and international collaborations, nurture PGR and ECR researchers, facilitate external partnerships and grant capture and to build sustainability into impactful research.

The relatively small size of the unit, which **operates within a large-scale interdisciplinary research environment**, allows for a collegiate and supportive research environment that celebrates and hones excellence, an effectiveness that is distanced from the corporate factory-like approach of many places. As a result of these initiatives research is undertaken in a supportive, dynamic and truly interdisciplinary and collaborative

environment, which has produced substantial results. As a submitting unit of 11.5 scholars, we produced more than **14 books**, **29 edited books** or special editions of journals, **47 book chapters** and **28 journal articles** during the assessment period. Also, staff gave more than **70 papers** at international conferences and research seminars and organised more than 12 international conferences. Between us, we edit four book series and two peer-reviewed journals; are home to three major collaborative projects; and have formal relationships with over 15 national and international HEIs and 6 public bodies. Our strategy to target non-UKRI sources of funding delivered in excess of **£3,500,000** of collaborative research grants and consultancy income in addition to over **£250,000** traditional grant income, and **£300,000-600,000** over a 10 to 20-year period from a charitable trust to fund maritime history.

B. Research Strategy

The Research strategy since REF 2014 has been to enhance our position as a unit of international standing by building on the foundations of what was identified by the panel as a 'strong' unit for its size, developing research support for all staff including ECRs, and implementing policies and initiatives aimed at improving PGR numbers, grant income and collaborations in line with our strategic aims set out in 2014.

Our strategy has been to:

- develop a **supportive and intellectually stimulating research environment**, ensuring the continued production of high-quality outputs, the supervision of PGR students, the inducting and development of new members of staff, and ensuring the successful retention and strong career development of top-quality researchers;
- shift the unit towards a stronger research orientation through the **appointment of high-calibre junior and senior researchers** to strengthen our research profile;
- **enhance long-term research planning** and effectively manage research leave;
- **increase research income** from traditional and non-UKRI sources, and to increase PGR numbers;
- develop and **foster collaborations** internally, as well as with other universities and external bodies locally, nationally and internationally;
- to enhance the **visibility and profile** of our research.

The following **initiatives** were **implemented at subject, school and faculty level** to deliver this strategy in line with the university's key research objectives:

1) the establishment in 2016 of a cross-disciplinary **Arts and Humanities Research Institute** (AI), which was home to more than 200 academics. The AI generated important economies of scale and is a highly visible organisation with a mission to promote and maximise the impact of world-leading research across and between disciplines at the University of Plymouth. Capitalising on the diverse strengths of our research and networks, it occupied a central position regarding future research development, funding initiatives, impact, KE and public engagement. With the expansion of the FoAHB, these structures were devolved to the faculty in 2020 to achieve greater synergies in collaborative research.

2) with the gravitational-pull towards institutes, the Humanities and Performing Arts research centre (HuMPA) was replaced by a **school research committee** that functions to support and coordinate research planning across the school, monitor KPIs for outputs, PGR numbers, grants and research income; and to allow for the strategic deployment of

QR funding at local level, enabling efficient financial planning and management in the support of research and impact activities;

3) the **recruitment of high calibre scholars** of international research standing in the fields of maritime, and naval history (**Halewood** joined us from Oxford and Yale); archives and digital humanities (**Emmett** joined us from Oxford, York and Queen Mary) and in eighteenth-century architecture and heritage (**Maudlin** was a professorial appointment);

4) continued monitoring of **workload** scheme which supports research priorities;

5) enhancing in History of structures for **mentoring and research planning** and management, with mentor training delivered by an external consultancy, and working closely with two members of staff not returned in the last REF to support and develop their research careers, including early sabbaticals;

6) continued support of competitive **sabbatical** scheme for all research-active staff to enable dedicated research time every four years for the production of monographs, impact case studies and grant applications;

7) use of internal and university **strategic development grants** (mirroring funding council procedures and paperwork) to grow a stronger bidding culture, and to nurture pilot projects seeking external funding, with separate funding streams targeted towards conference organisation and attendance, collaborative projects, research trips and related expenses, and impact;

8) increased **training in grant writing** for all staff, including ECRs (including externally run workshops run by Parker-Derrington Associates); close liaison with Research and Innovation at Plymouth to foster collaborative bids and develop research groupings directed at funding calls, including monthly drop-in grant surgeries; the creation of a bank of successful grant applications, which are available to all staff as models for future bids; regular updates on funding opportunities and research council developments; and a monthly research e-newsletter to disseminate news of outputs, projects, grants, awards and conferences;

9) the development of **faculty-wide teaching studentships** to increase PGR numbers;

10) **workshops, away-days and R&I facilitated sandpit events** aimed at identifying potential collaborative projects with other universities, public sector bodies and other external bodies;

11) foundation of a **Research Leadership Programme** run in partnership with an external consultancy. This began in History to develop talent within the unit, and now because of its initial success has been extended to the whole university as a flagship training programme situated within R&I.

C. Impact Strategy

Impact is an integral part of the regular working-practices of all historians within the unit, and resource and effort has been concentrated to develop this area of our research because it is an area in which we can excel as a concentrated unit of research excellence. Since 2014, a major strategy for impact within the history team at Plymouth has been the realignment of our impact-related research towards heritage, public history and oral

history, with the development of a hub, **Cornerstone Heritage**. Directed by **Maudlin** and **Daybell**, Cornerstone acts as the University of Plymouth's research centre in cultural heritage – how we live with, use and understand the past through things, spaces, traditions and memory. As part of a group of 30 academics, historians exchange ideas and form new partnerships across the fields of heritage studies, art history, history, architecture, business, tourism, geography, 3D and graphic design, and digital technologies. We work in co-production with our partner organisations – museums, galleries, historic sites and landscapes – to develop new projects, test ideas and prototypes and produce new research (e.g., with **Powderham Castle**, **impact case study 2**, the Vasa museum and the V&A, and UNESCO Cornish Mining Landscapes). With the support of faculty funding, we host a range of activities that include network events, visiting speakers, research showcases, and an annual postgraduate symposium hosted by the National Trust at Saltram House. Cornerstone Heritage is also home to **Cornerstone Praxis** our heritage research-practice unit, which was set up as a public engagement hub and consultancy arm which is also the institutional home of **Daybell's** public history brand ***Histories of the Unexpected*** (**impact case study 1**), as well as Plymouth's **Oral History Hub** (run by **Aoki**). Moreover, Cornerstone Praxis benefits from strong institutional support in terms of locally allocated HEIF funding to help promote its activities and cover the salary costs of a manager to run it.

History also benefits from sitting within **The Bridge**, a new faculty research initiative for open innovation and knowledge exchange, designed to increase the growth, productivity and resilience of the Creative Economy in the South West. The Bridge supports collaborative research, development and innovation; develops opportunities for impact, knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange; fosters new connections, partnerships and collaborations; provides access to funding opportunities and helps academics to increase the visibility, profile and impact of their research, and has attracted approximately £2,000,000 worth of funding since 2019. Directed by our faculty business partner and overseen by the ADR (**Daybell**), and with a dedicated team of advisers, the Bridge is a catalyst for collaborative impact-related research activities and is part of the South West Creative Technology Network (£6.3m), iMayflower (£5.9m), and Cultivator European Regional Development Fund (£3.3m). As a gateway to link academic research to individuals, businesses and the community, this initiative has led to fruitful relationships with a range of local user-groups, including Real Ideas Organisation, the Box, the Octopus Project in Devonport, and The Elizabethan House.

Context

The main **non-academic user-groups, beneficiaries and audiences** for the unit's research are wide-ranging. They comprise **heritage organisations** (e.g. National Trust, English Heritage, Powderham Castle (**impact case study 2**), Rame Head Peninsula, UNESCO World Mining Landscape, Plymouth City Council to develop Mayflower 2020 Heritage Trails, Place House in Fowey, Stenton House in Philadelphia in the USA), **local history societies** (Plymouth Historical Association, Friends of Devon Archives, Richard III Society, Devon and Cornwall Record Society) and **local and national archives, libraries, galleries and museums** (Victoria and Albert Museum, Vasa Museum, Stockholm, Galt Museum and Archives, British Library, The Box Plymouth, Devon Heritage Centre, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Plymouth Proprietary Library, Britannia Naval College, Bodleian Library, British Library, The National Archives and Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies). The unit's research is also used by **local, national and international charities and cultural organisations** (The Philip Nicholas Trust, Plymouth Pride, Barnardo's, Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge, Nikka Yuko Japanese Canadian Centennial

Garden). Finally, user-groups also include **local and national media, radio, TV and film** (BBC1, BBC4, Radio 4, Keo Films, Discovery History, Longbow Productions); as well as **local councils, organisations** and **international institutions** (e.g., Plymouth City Council, the Royal Navy, Swedish Royal Court, and Royal Court in the Netherlands) and **policy-related think tanks** (Phoenix Think Tank).

As a unit, we actively seek wider dissemination of our research through a series of **impact pathways**, for purposes of public engagement and knowledge transfer to achieve impact by contributing to civil society and cultural life. Our impact is **co-produced** with and for the benefit of community groups, including **working with LGBT+ groups** (e.g. with Pride in Plymouth at Powderham, with the LGBT+ research group at the V&A on Daybell's AHRC-project 'Gendered Interpretations of the V&A and Vasa Museums', and Maudlin's HLF-funded Rainbow Connections project with Pride in Plymouth and Barnardo's), **with disability charities** (The Mede, Tophsam, a local provider of dementia care and activities; Living Options Devon, a local advocacy and campaign group for disabled people, which is currently undertaking an HLF project 'Heritage ability' to expand access to heritage sites in the South West) and Devon Gardens Trust.

Approach to impact

1) An important aspect of the unit's approach has been to emphasize **six main pathways to impact** in order to disseminate our research to a diverse range of non-academic users and to foster mutually beneficial relationships with external bodies to develop impact from our research that is intentional as well as serendipitous. Staff disseminate their work i) through public lectures and events; ii) to our network of local schools and colleges; iii) to local history societies, museums, heritage sites and archives; iv) via the media, documentaries and film; v) through websites, podcasts and other social media e.g., Histories of the Unexpected; and vi) through exhibitions e.g., Mayflower 2020.

2) The **History public lecture** series run by Peninsula Arts (renamed in 2018 as the Arts Institute), the University's cultural umbrella organisation, is vital to the dissemination of the unit's research to non-academic audiences and to foster links with local history groups and societies, such as the Historical Association, Plymouth Proprietary Library.

3) Our strategy to develop **relationships and networks** with external partners ranging from historical societies; libraries, museums, and archives; as well as local properties and charities, includes:

- staff forge links through committee work for local historical societies and organisations, e.g., Historical Association (**Daybell/Gregory**), Friends of Devon Archives and Council of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society (**Daybell**); **Bennett** is trustee of the historical books, manuscripts and artefacts for Britannia Naval Museum Trust;
- History hosts an annual **local history networking day**, aimed at engaging with local societies, businesses and institutions, e.g. Lest We Forget project at Oxford;
- we have actively sought to **build relationships with archives, institutions and potential user groups alongside grant applications** for research projects. At a national level, we have worked with the National Trust, Historic Houses Association, the British Library, the National Archives, the Royal Maritime Museum and the Bodleian Library.
- externally-funded projects have also developed **international partnerships** with HEIs, museums and heritage organisations generating impact for research. The

AHRC 'Gender, Power and Materiality in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800' network grant and AHRC 'Gendered Interpretations of the V&A and Vasa Museums' projects (**Daybell**) developed links with the V&A, Museum of London, and the Worshipful Company of Glovers; in Sweden, Skarhults kulturminne, the Vasa Museum and the National Archive (Riksarkivet), Stockholm; and in The Netherlands, The Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague, the Museum Catharijne Convent Utrecht, and The Hague Historical Museum. The 'Nikkei Memory Capture Project – Narrating Japanese Canadian inter-racial relationships in southern Alberta during the postwar' (funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada) developed collaborations with the University of Lethbridge and Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge.

- Finally, staff contribute to the current debate on **policy-making and public discourse** (e.g., Bennett's work with Phoenix Think Tank).

Support of impact

The unit has sought to build a strong culture of impact across the team in several key ways:

- 1) **mentoring** on pathways of impact is a key component of research mentoring at all levels, from early career researchers to more experienced colleagues; this is provided by the research coordinator and our professorial consultant;
- 2) a pathway to **impact statement** is an integral part of all personal research plans and internal funding forms, similar to UKRI requirements;
- 3) staff have attended **impact training and workshops** organised at the school, faculty and university level, including by Fast Track Impact;
- 4) staff have attended **national impact** awareness/training events and reported back to all colleagues to build expertise and share knowledge across the entire unit;
- 5) relationships with external partners have been sponsored by **internal funding** at a university level, which has been directed towards projects between the University of Plymouth and local non-HEI partners (including Theatre Alibi in Exeter to develop an oral history project, May 2020)
- 6) At the faculty and university level, History is supported by a **dedicated impact team**, which aims to support each stage of impact from incubation, mapping of pathways, evidence gathering and audit, to development, monitoring and writing of case studies;
- 7) University **PR specialists** help develop media plans for impact case studies, acting as important conduits for public dissemination of our research in local and national media, and production of **films as legacy outputs**.
- 8) Finally, the University has invested in market-leading **VV-Tracker Impact Software** to identify, capture, and archive evidence of resulting impacts, and facilitate follow-up activities.

Relationship to case studies

The case studies were selected to reflect best practice across the researchers in the unit

and are based on research developed over almost two decades in each case. They also reflect the degree to which the research within the unit has an impact not only at a local level (on the cultural life and civil society nationally, and in the South West region) but also at a national and international level on debates of heritage and public history. The case studies reflect an important element of our impact strategy and are exemplary of wider practice in relation to impact demonstrated across the entire team.

Future Research and Impact Strategy, 2021-2026

The unit is currently working on a **five-year research strategy for the period 2021-2026**. All members of staff currently have in place a five-year research plan geared towards the next REF. Major research projects (aimed at delivering monographs and other outputs, and generating collaborations, impact and grants) are planned on early modern gloves (**Daybell**), transatlantic inns and Georgian architecture (**Maudlin**), naval libraries and reading culture (**Bennett**), Victorian mercy (**Gregory**), Anglo-Scottish printing (**Emmett**) African American GIs in Northern Ireland (**Topping**), Japanese-Canadians in Western Canada, 1949-88 (**Aoki**), early modern women and the sea (**Murphy**); German colonies in the Pacific (**Barkhof**), and popular politics in Ireland in the 1920s (**Fitzpatrick**), Huguenot refugees (**Tucker**) and grand strategy (**Halewood**). As a part of this planning process, we are beginning to anticipate longer-term post-REF strategy for further building of the unit into maturity. Our strategic aims are to increase grant capture through a faculty-based peer review college system made up of colleagues who sit on UKRI peer review colleges; increase recruitment of PGR through a new Teaching Assistantship scheme and a new suite of PGT programmes; to foster interdisciplinary research by engaging as a unit with cross-cutting research clusters at faculty and university level, and to enhance our outward-facing long-term collaborations and partnerships of regional, national and global reach. Finally, restructuring within the faculty in 2021 will bring History together with Art History, Politics and International Relations, which will enable interdisciplinary research collaborations, and the development of strengths in maritime, heritage, oral history and archives, and modern history.

The unit's goals and plans for **support for impact** from research in the future are:

- 1) working through the Bridge and Cornerstone Heritage we aim to **strengthen and broaden our range of collaborations** with external partners and develop new ways of targeting widening users-groups and identifying their research needs;
- 2) to continue developing an active engagement with the impact agenda across the unit, by continuing to develop the wider dissemination of our research through our **pathways to impact**. This will be developed through training programmes (provided by the Faculty for new and current staff members), research mentoring, and will be overseen by the research coordinator and individual progress in the area of impact will be assessed as part of the appraisal process;
- 3) to develop a new suite of **impact development and measurement tools** for capturing and recording impact data, taking advantage of university-wide initiatives and support but also embedding audit procedures as an everyday-part of individuals' research;

In addition to the two long-term impact case studies, we are developing several **next-generation case studies**: 1) A meta-case study of Cornertstone Heritage, 2) Gendered Interpretations of Museums in collaboration with the V&A and Vasa Museums which stems from two AHRC-funded projects directed by **Daybell** 3) **Aoki's** research-based oral history

project on Japanese internment camps in Canada during WWII investigates and archives the experiences of Japanese Canadians as a result of this policy; **Murphy's** women and the sea project in collaboration with the Royal Navy and community-based groups in Devonport.

2. People

A. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staff development in research takes place at various levels, supporting academics at each stage of their career in order to aid progression and facilitate research succession and retention. We operate a confidential **mentoring** system for all staff, with ECRs and new researchers assigned an appropriate mentor on joining the team. All colleagues produce a detailed personal research plan, have regular discussions with the research coordinator and head of subject, facilitating planning of sabbaticals and time management. Progress in research is monitored on a termly basis by the research coordinator as well as through a formal annual appraisal system (PDR). Experienced staff peer review the work of less experienced colleagues, provide advice on publications, responding to readers' reports, drafting research bids and prioritization. As part of these systems the unit has developed the research profile and careers of two members relatively inexperienced in research not returned in REF 2014, but who have greatly benefitted from the robust research mentoring and support offered within our compact and vibrant research community. Research away days aimed at **training and development** are held at Subject, School and Faculty levels, and the staff development budget is held at a school level, which allows for flexible funding sources to service our staff development requirements. The Faculty organises and delivers a wide programme of training (catering for people at all stages of their careers from PGR to Professor), which extends from supervisory training, REF strategy, impact and Open Access through working with museums to grant writing, publication, social media and presenting research on the TV and radio, and podcasts. All colleagues have access to and make regular use of a wealth of research expertise beyond the unit, including a professorial research consultant employed by the school (who has been instrumental in advising on successful bids and in assisting to develop collaborative projects), dedicated members of the university's research and innovation unit, who advise on grants, collaborations, project management and impact.

In recent years, the University has developed a **Research Leadership Programme**, which began in History (led by **Daybell** in his role as Director of the Faculty Research Institute). This began as a research report on the state of research leadership training within the sector, and a day-long symposium on 'Research Leadership in the Arts and Humanities' (2017). Working with HR and with DVCR support, Daybell succeeded in establishing a university-wide pilot Research Leadership Programme, which ran in summer 2018 delivered by the external providers Barefoot Training. This year-long programme consisted of an intensive three-day summer course, followed up by four half-day workshops, and a series of one-to-one meetings with the instructors across the year. Several members of the History attended the year-long course, designed to develop leadership 'projects' and are now RL champions for the Faculty, including **Emmett** (female and ECR).

Clear procedures operate for career progression of all staff. Applications for promotion are considered annually at the faculty and university level. Career development (with an eye to promotion criteria) is an important part of the mentoring and Professional Development Review (PDR) structures in place for ECRs and other staff. Within the UoA **Tingle** was

appointed to a chair in 2015, and **Murphy** and **Gregory** promoted to Associate Professor in 2017 and 2018.

Our staffing strategy has aimed to produce a balanced unit, central to which has been the recruitment, development, and **support of new ECRs** with a mind to succession planning and career advancement. As part of the unit's strategy to grow research excellence, significant support is provided to ECRs, who receive a lighter teaching load in their first year, an extra 50 hours of research allowance (delivered via workload allocation) per year for their first two years in post and are encouraged to apply for a term-long sabbatical leave to be taken in their second or third year. On arrival, ECRs are assigned a 'buddy' in addition to a research mentor to aid acculturation to the demands of teaching and research. ECRs have regular meetings with the research coordinator, and our professorial research consultant as appropriate to discuss strategic planning. During the probationary period they experience regular progress review and professional development meetings with the subject leader and head of school, and an ECR representative from History served on the school research centre for two years. Recruitment of new members of staff within the subject follows university-wide equal opportunities guidelines. A workload allocation model administered by the subject leader allows for an equal distribution of duties across the entire team, which supports all colleagues' research and provides an open and fair structure that recognises merit and aims at building capacity across the unit. The Faculty runs an ECR network, which brings together researchers from across the faculty several times a term, with the aim of creating a forum for ECR issues, and targeting developmental needs.

Plymouth has fully implemented the expectations of the **Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers**, and members of the unit engage fully with Concordat requirements: contract researchers are inducted into the department; mentored by the project PI and encouraged to record their Continuing Professional Development activities in a developmental log. Project review meetings are two-weekly; monthly progress reports produced by the PI are monitored by the School Research Committee quarterly. Developmental review meetings are held monthly with the PI, and quarterly with the Head of School. Researchers on fixed-term contracts are members of the University's researcher forum and receive guidance on career options, feedback on applications and CVs, and support with interview preparation. The University Doctoral College also runs developmental workshops for postdoctoral and EC Researchers on all aspects of professional practice, which researchers in History regularly attend. Plymouth was among the first 35 European HEIs to receive the EU HR Excellence for Researchers kitemark. The unit actively seeks to support the career progression of its postdoctoral research fellows. Temporary staff are similarly inducted, enjoying regular review and mentoring meetings, support and training, and are eligible to apply for internal funding to support research trips and conferences.

B. Research Students

Research students in History are members of an intellectually vibrant cross-disciplinary postgraduate community with the Faculty, which is home to more than 450 PGR students, overseen at university-level by the Doctoral College. The organisation of **training and research environment** by the faculty-level Deputy Director of the Doctoral College aims to facilitate doctoral work across disciplines by fostering rigorous and genuinely enriching PGR training, in line with national and international best practice and guidelines; to provide support for supervisors and research groups and build on the developing international profile of our doctoral training expertise in order to compete successfully for externally

funded studentships. A comprehensive programme of research training is provided to PGRs by a multi-disciplinary team of more than 30 staff, enhanced by subject specialist training within History, and supplemented by professional development workshops run by the Doctoral College. Postgraduate students are fully integrated into a rich research culture of specialist seminars, conferences, public lectures and reading groups at the subject, school and faculty level. Doctoral students are active members of the History research group and trans-disciplinary research strands within the faculty. History PGRs are provided with a Director of Studies and at least one other supervisor, with whom they work closely in developing their projects. Supervisory team members are active researchers within their field and well-placed to provide relevant support. All students have access to a workspace including a desk, lockable space for personal items, computing (a personal netbook), printing and photocopying facilities, and funds each year for photocopying and printing, to attend conferences and for archival visits. Students are also encouraged to practise presenting papers at the History research seminar series and to gain experience of undergraduate teaching (working closely with an academic mentor whom they work-shadow and who observes their teaching) to enhance their professional development.

Over the last five years, History has begun to **build doctoral capacity** in the areas of early modern and modern social history, heritage, maritime and twentieth-century political and military history. We currently have 7 PhD students working on projects within these various strands. Since REF 2014, we have had 14 PhD completions in History. **Monitoring** of students' progress is enabled by Gradbook, in line with Doctoral College regulations; training needs are monitored from the point of enrolment to the completion of the project following national Guidelines. Training in the identified skills is provided by the Doctoral College (generic skills); the Faculty (via a credit-rated research training module for students in the arts and humanities and staff/student research clusters); and by the subject (specific skills development related to historical practices). The Doctoral College provides myriad courses, workshops, and training events throughout the academic year, which are regularly taken up by History students. The programme of events has been carefully constructed to meet AHRC Skills Training Requirements. History offers postgraduate workshops on skills development, publication and future careers, and assists them in gaining experience working on impact and KE projects as part of career development. A recent success story from our doctoral cohort is **Emmett**, who on completing her PhD at Plymouth in 2013 secured posts at Oxford, York, and Queen Mary before her appointment as lecturer in 2017.

C. Equality and Diversity

The unit is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion in all its forms, and has implemented and benefits from University-wide EDI protocols and procedures, which support, enable and empower all colleagues without discrimination. These comprehensive support structures ensuring a demographically balanced team and parity in terms of recruitment, levels of posts and promotions, workload, mentoring and access to funding, support and expertise. It is standard HR policy for all interview panels to retain a gender balance, for members to receive an intensive training programme in equality and diversity, and all members of staff regularly complete on-line training modules on equal opportunities and unconscious bias. **Maudlin** and **Grey** served on the Faculty Equality and Diversity Committee and were responsible for the school winning an **Athena Swan** bronze award in 2020, and its implementation and monitoring. Equality and diversity are a standing agenda item for History meetings, which facilitates periodic review to ensure that no groups have been disadvantaged. The unit acknowledges the importance of equal access for all staff to conference funding, sabbaticals, and an equitable workload. The gender balance of staff

within the unit is 4/7 (F/M), with leadership roles held in equal proportion by men and women. The university-wide women researchers forum offers mentoring for female researchers; while within the unit, careful mentoring and support has led to the development of the research trajectories of two female members of staff who were not returned in the previous REF exercise. The unit lacks **BAME** staff (8% overall) and is committed to addressing this lack of diversity through recruitment; however, while much of the unit is white British (58%), there is cultural diversity within the team, which comprises 42% international staff. Moreover, an **ethos of inclusion** underpins everything we do in History, from organisational matters, such as ensuring diversity and balance in membership of committees, speakers for research seminars and conferences, promotion and training opportunities and implementing many of the recommendations of RHS Race Ethnicity and Equality, and LGBT+ and Gender Equality Reports; restructuring teaching and research as part of **decolonising the curriculum**; to our research and external collaborations and partnerships which focus on issues of gender, sexuality, race and social inclusion as exemplified by our LGBTQ project Rainbow Connections with Plymouth Pride and Barnardo's.

3. Income, infrastructure, and facilities

The unit was awarded over £250,000 in research income over the duration of the REF census period and has partnered on successful grants or consultancy contracts worth approximately £3,500,000, as a result of strategically targeting non-UKRI funding. Among research funding awarded to multiple grants winners **Aoki** received funding for his project 'Nikkei Memory Capture Project – Narrating Japanese Canadian inter-racial relationships in southern Alberta during the postwar' (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant, CDN \$143,856; Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area Grant, CDN\$5500; Centre for Oral History and Tradition Award, CDN\$5000, Community of Research Excellence Development Opportunities Grant, 2017-2020); **Daybell** was awarded an AHRC Network Grant for a project entitled 'Gender, Power and Materiality in Early Modern Europe' in collaboration with an international CI, Professor Svante Norrhem at Lund University, Sweden (2015-17), and AHRC follow-on funding (also with Norrhem) for the 'Gendered Interpretations at the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Vasa Museum' project (2018-19); **Maudlin** was awarded a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship: The Inn and the Traveller in the Atlantic World (£128,526); the John D. Rockefeller Fellowship, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Colonial Williamsburg, 2016; HEIF funding to set up Cornerstone Praxis (£10,000, 2019); Mayflower Heritage Trails, National Mayflower Partnership, Plymouth City Council (£1.5 million public realm and digital interpretation, 2018-19); HEIF, Cornerstone Praxis (£29,950, 2018); HLF, Rame Peninsula Heritage Gateway (£248,000), HLF, Tavistock: Our Story: Tavistock Townscape Heritage Initiative (£3000, 2016), Tavistock Heritage, Trust, Cornish Mining World Heritage Gateway Centre (Heritage Lottery Fund, £1.65 million, 2016-18); **Murphy** was awarded a Beinecke Library Yale University Edith and Richard French Fellowship (2016) and Caird Research Fellowship, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (2016-2017). All of these grants benefited from external advice and internal support given to the UoA in the form of grant workshops, surgeries with UoP's R&I Directorate, and seed-corn funding to stimulate research activity.

The History Research Group was an integral part of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute, which supported the sustainability and long-term planning of the work of more than 200 academics across the school of Humanities and Performing Arts. With the creation of a new Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business, which includes researcher being submitted in 9 UOAs (13, 17, 18, 20, 23, 27, 28, 32, 33), the environmental

structures of the AI were repatriated to the faculty to allow for effective economies of scale and vital synergies between cognate subjects. The **faculty research environment** fosters a lively interdisciplinary culture, hosting seminars (including termly History research seminars), international conferences, and postdoctoral and visiting international research fellows and professors, and collaborations, public engagement and impact through the Bridge (see section 1). It supports several formal research clusters, including 'Cornerstone Heritage' and informal cross-disciplinary groupings in nineteenth-century studies. A balance of Subject level, School and Faculty Strategy and Research committees facilitate cross-fertilization of discipline level strategies. These are reviewed on an annual basis and inform the overall plan developed by the Research Coordinator which is inflected by School, Faculty and University-level strategy. Research strategy is also co-ordinated across the FoAHB by the ADR (**Daybell**) and Faculty Research Committee. The research coordinator for History has overall managerial responsibility for research, being advised by the Head of Subject and senior management team and working closely with the School research committee. Procedures are in place to ensure quality maintenance in research grant applications, which is overseen by the research co-ordinator and Faculty Grants Peer Review College Mentor: University procedures require that bids are peer-reviewed, risk assessed and signed off by a member of the costing team, Head of School and Dean. A further key aspect of research governance is the implementation of a university-wide code of good practice in research, which outlines protocols of ethics and professional practice which the unit closely follows. Research activities are a standing item for History meetings, which in addition to away-days allows all academic members of staff to discuss specific items. This encourages collective ownership of reviewing strategy, responding to staff needs, and mapping future activities.

The organisation of research activities under the umbrella of the **School Research Committee** allows for direct financial control facilitating flexible directing of resources targeted in accordance with research strategies and enabling effective management of research leave. Members of History can apply for a term of sabbatical leave every four years, with ECRs given priority within their first two to three years. The School Research Committee holds a pot of funds (c.£40K p.a.) to support conferences, research trips, publication costs, and collaborative research initiatives. This competitive internal funding is managed mirroring AHRC application procedures and reporting to grow a stronger bidding culture across the school. Within this institutional framework History is supported by the University's R&I Office, which advises on grants; and enjoys strong administrative support for conference organisation, PGR support, funding and grant applications. The faculty is housed within £30m state-of-the-art Faculty of Arts building, with History occupying offices in a well-maintained building across campus. The Seale Hayne Library is a well-supported research library for History, with substantial printed and on-line resources, and a rare books collection, which support staff scholarship. History has a dedicated subject specialist, is allocated c.£50K p.a. (2014-2020) for purchase of books and online resources, and virtually unlimited ILL provision. History staff also have access to affiliated libraries and institutions, including Plymouth Propriety Library (which houses the Halliwell Phillips MSS and rare books collection), the collection at Britannia Naval College, and to nearby archives at Antony House, Port Eliot, Powderham and Saltram. Furthermore, History is an integral partner in *The Box*, Plymouth, a £42m flagship capital investment in the city's museum and archives, incorporating Plymouth Museum, Plymouth and West Devon Record Office and other local archives all housed within a new purpose-built site situated adjacent to campus, where the university has designated teaching and research space and launched in 2018 a new MA in Archival Studies.

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

A. Collaborations

There are a series of key structures that facilitate collaborative research for historians at Plymouth, both within and beyond academia. At a macro-level, historians operate within the **rich and diverse research environment** of the FoAHB, which is directed by **Daybell** as ADR. The strategic coordination of research at faculty level purposely encourages and facilitates cross-disciplinary research within the Arts, Humanities and Business and stimulates collaborations across subject, institute and institutional boundaries at the University of Plymouth, and with international collaborators within and beyond the university sector. The Faculty has the following top-level drivers: to foster and enhance research excellence and reputation at Plymouth by supporting and promoting strategic partnerships, collaborations and networking. It does this in the following main ways: 1) Enhancing our visibility and profile: i. Generating exposure; ii. Showcasing research; iii. Enhancing influence; 2). Furthering the Impact of our Research: i. Identifying and reaching non-academic research users and beneficiaries; ii. Improving the impact and sustainability of our research through enterprise initiatives; iii. Enhance public engagement; 3). Facilitate World-Leading Research: i. Facilitate cross- and inter-disciplinary exchange and opportunities; ii. Enhance the research environment to support groups and individuals in their development; iii. Provide strategic leadership to ensure alignment with national and European research agendas. External collaboration is facilitated by **The Bridge** (see section 1) and driven by a series of faculty-sponsored research themes, the most successful of which is **Cornerstone Heritage** (and its subsidiary consultancy **Cornerstone Praxis**) (Directed **Maudlin** and **Daybell**), which is an interdisciplinary research group which brings together more than 30 staff from across the University of Plymouth working in the field of heritage. This group has a series of external collaborations with for example Powderham Castle in partnership with Penn Design at University of Pennsylvania, UNESCO World Heritage Site Cornish Mining Landscapes, and The Box.

The unit enjoys collaborative links at a regional, national and international level with other research groups, networks, HEIs and a range of public bodies. It has hosted the AHRC funded research network 'Gender, Power and Materiality in Early Modern Europe, 1400-1800' which generated a valuable dialogue between the four university nodes (University of Plymouth, Lund University, Leiden University, and University of Western Australia) and curators and research department at the V&A, and practice professionals at Skarhult Castle, Sweden, Museum of London, Worshipful Company of Glovers, Powderham Castle, Catherijne Convent Utrecht and Cultural Heritage Leiden.

B. Contribution to Research Base

Staff within the unit have served on **research councils, committees of professional societies and other organisations, research-related consultancies**. **Daybell** and **Maudlin** are both members of the AHRC Peer Review College; **Maudlin** was on the Judging Panel, Morris Essay Prize, Society of Architectural Historians, the International Advisory Board, World Monuments Fund, New York; Trustee, Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Trust; Director, Tavistock Heritage Trust (UNESCO Cornish Mining World Heritage Site), Advisory Board, The Elizabethan House Museum (Plymouth City Council), Advisory Group, The Box; **Murphy** is Chair of Selection Committee for the Pearsall Fellowship in Maritime History, and Sir Julian Corbett Prize in Modern Naval History, and Section Editor for the Bibliography of British and Irish History.

Members of the unit are active as **editors of journals, peer-reviewed book series, members of editorial boards, and in refereeing academic publications or research proposals**. The unit is home to four book series: the Routledge book series 'Material Readings in Early Modern Culture' (co-edited by **Daybell** and Adam Smyth, Balliol College, Oxford), which has an advisory board consisting of academics at the universities of Cambridge, York, Aberdeen, Columbia, Penn, Ottawa and York; the Amsterdam University Press series 'Gendering Medieval and Early Modern Worlds' (co-edited by **Daybell**, and Professors Svante Norrhem, Lund, Merry Wiesner-Hanks, UWC, Milwaukee), the 'Military History' series and 'WWII Battle Summaries' Series at Plymouth University Press (**Bennett** with Britannia Naval College). It also houses the peer-reviewed journal, *Law, Crime and History*. Members of History are on the editorial boards of *Epistolary Cultures*, *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*, *Architectural Histories*, *Journal of the European Architectural History Network*, *Gender and History*, *Cultivate Feminism*.

Members of the History group are regularly invited to **referee scholarly manuscripts** (e.g. Oxford, Cambridge, Yale and Manchester University Presses, Routledge, Palgrave, Longman, Boydell, Ashgate and the Camden Society), research proposals and professional reviews (e.g. AHRC, the American Philosophical Society, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, HERA, the NEH, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and Universities of Northern Illinois and Toronto) and to contribute **reviews to leading journals** (e.g. *Albion*, *Contemporary British History*, *Continuity and Change*, *Economic History Review*, *English Historical Review*, *History*, *French History*, *Journal of Early Modern History*, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *Reformation*, *Twentieth Century British History*, *Urban History*; *Cultural and Social History*, *Gender & History*, *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, *Medical History*; *Social History*, *Women's History Review*).

Staff have **examined over 12 PhDs** at the following institutions during the REF period: Queen Mary, Oxford, Glasgow, Birkbeck, Hull, Abersythwyth, University of Western Australia, Cardiff University, Courtauld Institute, Newcastle University, and University of Sheffield.

History has hosted many **international conferences and symposia**, including 'Gender and Political Culture in Early 'Modern Europe' (2016), 'Gender Power and Materiality in Early Modern Europe' (2017), '*Union and Disunion in the Nineteenth Century*' (2017), and '*A Time of Judgement*' (2016). Plymouth historians co-organised conferences elsewhere including: *New Directions in Early Modern Women's Correspondence* (University of Oxford, 2015), and *Social History Society Annual Conference 2017, 2018* (UCL and University of Keele)

Staff have also received **scholarly awards or fellowships** for their research. **Daybell** was awarded the prize for best collaborative project by the Society for Study of Early Modern Women (2016); **Halewood** won the Smith Richardson Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Yale (2018-19); **Maudlin** was awarded a Leverhulme Trust major fellowship (2014-17) and the Allen G. Noble Prize for *Building the British Atlantic World* (2016); **Murphy** held the Edith and Richard French Fellowship, Beinecke Library Yale University, the Caird Research Fellowship, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (2016) and two Bodleian Library Fellowships (2017, 2020); and her book won the Society of Naval Research Certificate of Merit (2019); **Tucker** was awarded the Maddock Research Fellowship at Marsh's Library, Ireland (2019).

Members of the unit receive regular **invitations to deliver conference papers and keynotes**, and collectively gave more than 70 papers since REF2014. Plymouth historians delivered invited lectures and papers at international universities including Pennsylvania, Lund, Paris-Sorbonne, Yale, and Trinity College Dublin; and within the UK have delivered papers at numerous universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Leicester, Sheffield, Glasgow, and St Andrews.

C. Contribution to Economy and Society [see also, 1 C. Impact Strategy]

Over the course of this REF cycle, the unit has sought to contribute significantly to the economy and society through its strong and wide-ranging impact activities, in line with the University of Plymouth's wider mission as a Civic University to make a real difference locally, nationally, and internationally. Within History **Cornerstone Heritage** has strategically allowed us to deliver impactful research in three interrelated areas: heritage, oral history, and public history. Our work ranges from knowledge transfer projects with community and school groups to the in-depth physical investigation of historic buildings, landscape surveys, oral history, criminal and legal history projects, site-related performances, cataloguing archive and library collections, historic building conservation, heritage strategy consultancy and the development of interpretation materials for historic sites including digital and new media platforms. Cornerstone researchers have been involved with regional, national, and international heritage projects during the census period, working with museums, galleries and historic sites ranging from the V&A to the Eden Project to Bodmin Jail and the town of Nantes, France. We are currently working on projects with several partners including The Box (Plymouth City Museum and Gallery), National Trust, Historic Houses, UNESCO Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and Powderham Castle.

Exemplary of our research in this area is the AHRC 'Gender, Power and Materiality' project (**Daybell**), which as a result of four workshops run over a two-year period in dialogue with non-HEI partners (including the V&A) developed an interpretative methodology for understanding objects through the lens of gender, power and materiality, as constellations of power which impacted upon the design, form and function of objects. These collaborations led to an AHRC follow-on funding project on 'Gendered Interpretations at the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Vasa Museum' which involved working with collaborative partners including Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam; Skarhult Kulturmine, Sweden; and a network of Swedish state museums. Through the deepened and expanded stakeholder engagement and knowledge transfer achieved over two years, the project raised awareness of gender as an interpretative category in the modern museum environment.

Aoki's research-based oral history project on Japanese internment camps in Canada during WWII engages with user-groups among local community groups of **Canadians of Japanese descent** (including Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Nikka Yuko Japanese Canadian Centennial Garden) in an attempt to process and understand this period in their lives and history within a broader framework of studying how community and identity are shaped in cross-cultural contact and how this contact enables us to understand identity in a wider transnational context.