

<b>Institution: Edge Hill University</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 20 Social Work and Social Policy</b>
<p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Social Work &amp; Social Policy (SW&amp;SP) research at Edge Hill University (EHU) is centred on work undertaken within the <b>Department of Social Sciences (DSS)</b>, based in the <b>Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS)</b>, and intra- and cross-faculty thematic collaborations involving the departments of <b>Law and Criminology (DLC)</b>, of <b>Applied Health and Social Care (DAHSC)</b> and the <b>Faculty of Education (FoE)</b>. Of the eighteen staff in this submission, eight have been appointed since REF2014, testifying to EHU's ongoing strategy to enhance its research and transform itself from a primarily teaching-led institution, noted for excellence in teaching, to one also recognised for excellence in research. The University is likewise committed to facilitating social science research undertaken in collaboration with, and to the benefit of, community stakeholders and research users and contribute positively to wider society at local, regional, national and international levels.</p> <p>The unit works closely with a range partners and collaborators to ensure that its research is relevant and addresses societal challenges. Collaboration, research initiatives, dissemination and impact activities are facilitated and supported by the <b>Institute for Social Responsibility (ISR)</b>, a cross-faculty research institute founded in 2013. Particular projects, thematic initiatives and collaborations are also supported by research centres and clusters, namely: the <b>Centre for Human Animal Studies (CfHAS)</b>; the <b>Centre for Child Protection and Safeguarding in Sport (CPSS)</b>; the <b>Children, Young People and Social Change Research Network (CYPS)</b>; and the <b>Migration Working Group-North West (MWG-NW)</b>. These groupings help to support the sustainability and vitality of the unit by providing the intellectual space to exchange ideas, receive mentoring and peer support, and generate both internal and external collaborations, often emerging out of the events that are organised by the institute (see below and section 4).</p> <p>While the University has a strong tradition in social science research, this REF period has been one of consolidation and growth. Our strategic objectives have been to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop our staff to produce excellent research that addresses the issues and concerns of partners, collaborators and research users across a range of themes</li> <li>2. Recruit, develop and progress our staff to ensure the vitality and sustainability of the unit (section 2)</li> <li>3. Promote a research culture that will support staff and PGR students, as well as providing a focal point of exchange for our partners and collaborators (section 4)</li> <li>4. Secure greater levels of external funding to support the delivery of research and to sustain it (section 3).</li> </ol> <p>The ongoing enhanced performance within SW&amp;SP since 2008 reflects the University's long-term drive to advance its research culture and activity. The REF2014 submission identified our primary aim as the development of 'theoretically-driven research [with] significant societal impact grounded in end-user participation throughout'. Our overarching strategy has been designed with this goal in mind. We have sought throughout to encourage policy-relevant, participatory research that advances social justice, challenges inequalities and nurtures diversity. This commitment is what coalesces the various strands of our work. We have sought to build on continuities in areas of identified long-term strength, while facilitating new ventures and directions of research excellence to emerge; notably through support for early career</p>

researchers and newly appointed members of staff. The UOA research culture likewise seeks to support a diversity of strengths and individuals/teams specifically engaged in impact-orientated work.

The commitment to both theory and practical application underpins the various strands of our work. Our research has continued to demonstrate a long-term commitment to advancing the human rights of children (**Cockburn, Coppock, Hester**) and safeguarding young people (**Hartill, Lang, Moore**). It has supported and given voice to socially excluded, minority, ethnic and migrant communities (**Bunyan, Foster, Green, Kinsella, Moran, Sage, Vathi**) and advocated victims' rights in post-conflict transition (**McGovern**). It has also fostered gender, non-binary and non-normative sexuality diversity (**Greenough, Simpson**) and the radical rethinking of human-animal relations, veganism and global sustainability (**Arcari, Twine**).

### **Research institutes, centres and groups**

A core objective of the research institute, centres and groups is to foster integrative, innovative responses to complex social issues by encouraging interdisciplinary research. Edge Hill has three research institutes designed to generate a dynamic research environment for staff and PGRs, providing a hub for research collaborations and focussed engagement with external stakeholders and research users. The **Institute for Social Responsibility (ISR)**, (previously the Institute of Public Policy and Professional Practice (I4P)) is the core environment framework to facilitate and support social sciences cross-disciplinary research and knowledge-exchange initiatives. During this REF cycle, ISR has become an ever-greater focus and institutional vehicle to further SW&SP research and underpin our impact strategy. ISR's central approach is to encourage joint-working and collaborative practices to work with practitioners, policy and decision-makers, professionals working in a multiplicity of settings, the not-for-profit sector, communities and community activists in the rapid and ever-changing landscape of the public realm. In addition, the ISR provides important staff development resources to ensure that staff at all career stages benefit (see section 2).

The work of ISR has been complemented by bottom-up initiatives specifically designed to support emerging areas of excellence, while simultaneously strengthening further thematic concerns identified as having a strong, well-established track record of research excellence. For each, recognising the capacity to grow and enhance the reach and significance of the impact of our research, at local, national and international levels, has been a key consideration.

Several unit staff are also members of, and active in, the Institute for Creative Enterprises (ICE). These include **Foster** and **Vathi**, who are members of the ICE Arts for Well-being Research Group and its CREATE Research Network. ICE is a practice-led, theoretically grounded interdisciplinary research forum that connects scholars with the digital and creative economy and cultural institutions. It supports arts-based community and social justice research (e.g. Foster's Cultivate (2018) project).

The **Centre for Human Animal Studies (CfHAS)**, founded in 2014 is an interdisciplinary forum for research and activities that engage with the complex material, ethical and symbolic relationships between humans and other animals. Co-directed by **Twine**, CfHAS brings together scholars in the social sciences with those in the arts and humanities and natural sciences (within and outwith EHU) to inform innovative teaching and encourage collaborative engagement with research users and audiences beyond academia. Through the production of high-quality research and impact activities, CfHAS promotes a rethinking of our relations with animals to create meaningful social, policy, environmental, ethical and cultural change. CfHAS has already

established itself as a good environment for early career researchers with the arrival of Leverhulme Early Career Fellow **Arcari**, one of the University's first ECR fellows.

**Hartill** and **Lang** co-founded the Centre for Child Protection and Safeguarding in Sport (CPSS) in 2019; this built on a track record of impactful and policy-orientated research, including support and funding from the ISR. With a unique focus, both within the UK and internationally, CPSS provides high-quality, research-based evidence to support policy and practice development in the field of child protection, safeguarding and athlete welfare. Emphasising survivor participation, it creates a collaborative, critical and neutral space to debate sensitive issues relating to athlete welfare and provides engaged support for individuals and organisations seeking to challenge and enhance the cultural context of sport. The work of the CPSS is central to a case studies (UOA24) and it is also increasingly interdisciplinary, with colleagues participating from other areas, including Education. Its work with major bodies has led to significant funding and impact.

Beyond recognised research centres, collaborative and interdisciplinary research is also fostered by networks and groups. Founded in 2013 and led by **Cockburn**, the **Children, Young People and Social Change Network (CYPS)** provides a focus for critical research on, for and with children and youth. It is a locus of activity for many DSS and other EHU staff (e.g. **Coppock, Green, Hester, Moore, Moran, Vathi**) working on issues of children's rights, safeguarding and child participation in both research and professional settings. The CYPS has organised conferences and seminar series to engage with ongoing children and young people research.

The **Migration Working Group-North West (MWG-NW)**, established in 2017, is led by **Vathi** and provides a collaborative nexus bringing together academics, organisations and practitioners working on migration based in, or researching migration in, the North West of England. Aligning with EHU's overall research strategy and groupings, the MWG-NW responds to, and seeks to shape, national and international research and policy agendas, engaging with professionals, third-sector organisations and community groups to forward migrant-inclusion and social-justice concerns. The MWG-NW also drives interdisciplinary research: it organises a cross-faculty seminar series and has generated funded projects involving cross-department collaboration: e.g. 'EU migrants in post-Brexit Britain', 2017, £10k, (**Vathi** and UOA34) and two GTAs researching the UK refugee crisis awarded are jointly supervised by DSS, Media and Law.

Other significant research clusters include the **Sensory Research Methods Group (SRMG)**, founded in 2018 and led by **Simpson** (members: **Foster, Hester, Moore**) and the FoE-based **Narrative Research Group (Greenough)**. These are in an earlier stage of development but, in the coming REF period, will provide the same peer support and will be encouraged to foster collaborations and partnerships across disciplines and with research users to ensure that research is high-quality and relevant.

Our impact case studies (**McGovern**, Collusion, Human Rights and State Accountability; **Vathi**, Migration in the Western Balkans) exemplify the wider development of impactful research as a key objective. Reflecting the strategy to develop the research infrastructure to promote and underpin impact-orientated work, the centres and groups have underpinned the impact work.

**Vathi's** MWG-NW work aims to build on her impact case-study and research influencing migrant-management and social and child protection policy in the Western Balkans.

**McGovern's** work has been supported by the University to establish strong external collaborations which have led to greater impact. His work seeks to influence policy on state involvement in human rights abuses, demonstrates the ongoing commitment of EHU to critical social-scientific inquiry focussed on accountability and challenging inequality and social injustice.

**Research integrity**

As concerns for human rights and principles of inclusivity, equality and justice are integral to why, what and with whom we conduct our research, promoting the highest standards of research integrity is a cornerstone of our work. This means ensuring that the research process, from initial design to end-user participation and dissemination, must embed and exemplify the principles set out in the University's Code of Practice for the Conduct of Research (CPCR) and our work is informed by the standards and expectations of professional practice identified, for example, by the British Sociological Association. Those principles include a commitment to excellence, honesty and accountability, alongside full compliance with all legal and ethical requirements. Likewise, the promotion of co-operation, reliability and respect, and the commitment to upholding and advancing the safety, dignity and rights of all involved, are paramount concerns. The research-governance infrastructure and resources (section 3) are therefore designed not only to enable researchers to abide by those principles, but to promote a broader dialogue and reflexivity about good practice and research integrity.

**Open access**

The unit is committed to open research activities wherever possible and adheres to the University requirement that all viable publications are at least green open access. We have encouraged staff to make research reports freely available via our research repository, Pure, and encourage staff to maximise the use of the University's OA agreements with publishers while still ensuring that they are the best outlets for our research. In the next REF cycle, along with promoting OA journal articles, we will explore with Library and Learning Services options for OA books and chapters, by working with Open Book Publishers, university presses and other providers, building on the nascent steps we have already taken in making chapters and reports OA wherever possible. Embracing open research is an important way of reaching greater audiences, particularly HE colleagues in developing countries and research-users who may not have the same access to libraries and subscriptions, which is particularly important to us given our research interests.

**Future goals**

Although social science research is well-established at EHU, we seek to enhance it further. We will build on our record of outputs, funding, networks, PGR provision and impact. Particular goals focus on developing our PGR community further (section 2) and targeting a greater array of research funders (section 3). In each area we will contribute further to the overall aim of the University to enhance its reputation for developing and delivering impactful and theoretically-driven research. Engaging with marginalised and socially excluded groups and communities, encouraging their active participation and involvement from the outset in the planning and design of research and in the policymaking process, will be central to our approach. Building on past and current activities and experiences, a core aim will be the development of research with impacts that underpin positive social change and reduce inequalities based on class, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age and disability.

**2. People**

The submission includes experienced, mid- and early career researchers and reflects institutional investment in research benefitting the development of social-science research in general, invigorating areas of identified strength and underpinning new initiatives. Since 2014 there have been six new appointments in DSS (**Arcari, Green, Moran, Sage, Twine** plus new Head of Department (**Cockburn**)). **Hartill** and **Lang** joined us from another department thereby strengthening expertise on children's rights and child protection. The submission also includes

**Greenough** (Education) and **Simpson** (Applied Health and Social Care), both appointed since REF2014. This submission includes three professors (**Cockburn, Coppock, McGovern**), three readers (**Hartill, Moore, Vathi**) and eleven lecturers and SLs (**Bunyan, Foster, Green, Hester, Kinsella, Lang, Moran, Sage, Simpson, Twine**), including early career researcher and Leverhulme Fellow (**Arcari**). Leverhulme Fellow aside, all staff have continuing contracts.

Recruitment has targeted those who are research-active, and candidates are required to demonstrate clear evidence of research plans and ambition. Given the number of new appointments, including ECRs, we have a comprehensive induction process that complements central provision. Each new staff member is mentored by senior staff and encouraged to participate in collaborative projects. Mentors discuss research plans and strategies for accessing institutional support to help mentees realise their ambitions. Newly appointed staff (NAS) and ECRs have reduced administrative and teaching loads in their first year and priority with internal research support funds. Institutional and departmental staff induction ensures such NAS, and particularly ECRs are alerted to the pathway-opportunities and support-infrastructure available to advance their research portfolio and career progression. Career support for our Leverhulme Fellow (**Arcari**) aims to prepare her for her post- Fellowship career. She has been given a leading role in CfHAS, helping to organise an international conference (June 2021). Her own symposium within this conference aligns with her research. She co-supervises a Master-level student (with mentor, **Twine**) and teaching responsibilities add to her professional experience.

Professional development is encouraged via research planning and both formal (e.g. performance and development reviews: PDRs) and informal (e.g. mentoring) structures. The University Code of Practice for the Conduct of Research enshrines support for the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. All staff and PGRs have access to the Researcher Development Programme (RDP) which is benchmarked against Vitae's Research Development Framework. Department research co-ordinators provide further research mentoring, advice and support on, for example, internal and external funding opportunities. To develop their understanding of the REF process, ECRs were involved as internal peer reviewers (see below).

Internal support workshops on bid writing and research skills are open to all staff, with a focus on NAS/ECRs. These include ISR's competitively awarded, fully-funded three-day writing retreats. Unit staff are encouraged to access central internal funding to support research, including pump-priming for external bids, and departmental monies to support staff development activities, (section 3). All staff, notably NAS/ECRs, are encouraged and funded to participate in external training events to develop and hone research skills; e.g., having attended internal workshops on 'bid writing' and 'impact evidence', **Simpson** was funded to attend a Missenden Centre three-day bid-writing and grant-capture training programme, which informed subsequent successful bids (section 3).

Promotion pathways have been revised to ensure greater transparency and opportunity for staff progression via research. SW&SP staff already in post have been supported in developing their research and in rewarding excellence in research through promotion, e.g., **Coppock** (2014) and **Hartill** (August 2020) promoted to professors, **Vathi** (2015), **Moore** (2019) and **Greenough** (August 2020) to readers. We supported staff to become independent researchers through professional development leading to a doctorate by publication (**Bunyan**, 2018) and a PhD (**Kinsella**, 2018, Liverpool); other colleagues are being supported to become independent researchers in the future.



Staff can access internal funding to support research. Although we do not have a sabbatical scheme, the Research Investment Fund (RIF) provides teaching relief which has supported staff to progress research projects or develop funding bids (e.g. **Vathi's** ESRC bid). Supporting ECRs is an identified priority for RIF bids: having completed his PhD (2016), **Greenough** was appointed to his first full-time HE post at EHU (2018). RIF funding provided for teaching relief to complete his *Queer Theologies: The Basics* (2020) and present findings at national conferences. **Moran** (with **Green**) was funded to support a new avenue of research comparing the emotional labour of vets in the UK and Ireland.

Professional development at each career stage is also actively encouraged: **Foster** was funded to develop new collaborative arts-based research projects, including research on sustainability and engagement with a community farm. Monies also support national/international conference attendance to support staff networking and testing ideas (e.g. **Foster**, British Sociological Association, 2016; **Hester** International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis, Denmark, 2015) and international networking opportunities (e.g. **Coppock**, European Conference on Educational Research, Portugal, 2014; International Summer School, Canada, 2015 and **Cockburn**, European Sociological Association conferences).

### **PGR student development**

There has been substantial investment in, and development of, the infrastructure and resources available to support, mentor, train and supervise unit PGR students. Supporting PGR development thereby investing in the next generation of researchers is crucial to ensure the sustainability of the discipline. The graduate teaching assistant (GTA) scheme established in 2012 has increased recruitment to full-time PhD. The return on this investment is visible: at the census date, DSS, had six GTAs among a total of nine PhD registrations (we do not recruit to professional doctorates). Three PhDs were awarded in the current cycle (and a further three awarded since the census) and we have welcomed three new students.

All PhD students undertake a formal induction process organised by departments and the Graduate School (GS). Since 2019 GTA recruitment is organised on a UOA basis to encourage inter-disciplinarity, cross-departmental/faulty collaboration and cohort coherence. All PGR students have access to desk space, computers, printing facilities and presentation equipment via department-held resources and the University-wide 'research loft' in the newly built (2019) Catalyst learning-resources building. An annual learning-needs analysis informs support delivery: for example, access to methods training delivered by external agencies where required. Training sessions are provided throughout the student's studies (e.g. PGR writing skills, conference presentations, thesis completion, viva preparation, writing for publication, the HE environment/employment opportunities). Students are encouraged to access RDP sessions. Training and mentoring are specifically provided to prepare PGRs for employment and PhDs can enrol on the PGC Teaching in Higher Education to enhance employability.

Departments provide match-funding for competitively awarded PGR bursaries (available to both PhD and MRes students), e.g. for conduct of additional fieldwork, national and international conference presentation and specialist methods training courses. All doctoral students are expected to participate in conferences and seminars held at EHU and are encouraged to deliver presentations in the departmental seminar series to hone their skills. They are also encouraged to participate in the biennial ECR conference and poster competition.

Research institutes, centres and groups provide an important subject-specific environment for PGR career development; currently, three PhD students are members of the **MWG-NW**. They have taken on group responsibilities (e.g. administrators for web, social media, events and

impact) and avail of opportunities to develop networks and take up secondments with relevant partner organisations (e.g. Asylum Link, Merseyside Refugee Network). To encourage inclusivity, and reflecting our ethos that everyone should have access to an inspiring research culture, masters students are included as group members.

MRes provision has seen significant development since REF2014 with a growth in total student numbers and proportion in full-time study. DSS launched a Master's in Advanced Research Methods in 2013, which was the foundation for the institution-wide programme (2017). This has been a pathway to PhD level study and GTA appointments. **Foster** and **Moore** teach on the EHU-wide programme. All staff with SRR participate in supervision.

Student progress is monitored by supervisory teams of at least two (sometimes three) to ensure continuity of support and breadth of expertise. Supervisors are provided with training and career development opportunities for this role; including funding to undertake external research supervision training (e.g. UK Council for Graduate Education workshops). A monthly newsletter advises staff of PGR training opportunities (e.g. viva chair training). Several colleagues are trained in and have experience of chairing PGR panels; this enhances their own development and provides them with experience that can support applications for promotion. PGR and supervisory matters are discussed in staff, management and staff-student liaison meetings and annual performance reviews. Research-mentoring structures review and encourage best practice in PGR supervision and support ECR development. **Moore** is the Postgraduate Research Degrees Supervisor (Social Sciences) (0.3 GS secondment), overseeing Social Sciences PGR provision.

#### **Promoting equality diversity and inclusion**

The unit fully embraces University efforts to be an equal opportunities employer and implements all EHU anti-discriminatory policies and benchmarking to foster equality and inclusivity (see REF5a for detail). Unit staff are directly involved in inclusivity initiatives: **Simpson** was key in establishing the LGBTQ+ staff group and led on the trans- and non-binary recognition section of EHU's renewal application for the Athena Swan Bronze Award (ASBA). **Greenough** worked on FoE's current ASBA application and serves on the Faculty's newly-formed EDI Committee. EHU and the unit recognise that our ethnic diversity is limited. Encouraging greater inclusivity (e.g. via staff, PhD and GTA appointments) remains an important strategic goal (see REF5a) and we will work with HR when opportunities arise to ensure that we are reaching a more diverse pool. We will also seek to be more inclusive with regard to speakers at unit-organised events as we recognise the importance of role models for staff and students. We will also look to appoint visiting professors from a more diverse pool.

Women make up 56% of this submission and 50% of senior research staff and recent appointments in DSS. Departments represented in this UOA implement all policies to foster gender equality and redress diminished opportunities and work-life balance issues at all stages of career development. These include, e.g. ensuring women returning from maternity leave can benefit from phased reintroduction to administrative and teaching tasks. Appointing women to senior levels remains an important objective. Mentoring processes monitor progress to enable all staff (but particularly women) to achieve their full potential. Women are encouraged to avail of opportunities for leadership skills development and progress toward leadership roles, including participation in Advanced HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme for Women. Colleagues taking up this opportunity have included **Lang** and **Vathi** who received full funding to attend and have mentored other EHU colleagues doing the same. Both have taken on leadership roles subsequently – **Vathi** as Director of MWG-NW and **Lang** in supporting the

University's post-COVID research support strategy for social sciences. **Moran** recently completed the Aurora programme and one is currently participating.

EDI considerations were central to how REF preparations and reflected the criteria in the Code of Practice. The coordinators are senior staff (1F:1M) who have reviewed all outputs identified by researchers as potential for inclusion in the REF submission. All staff with SRR acted as peer reviewers which ensured transparency and provided staff development opportunities (understanding REF process and develop peer reviewing skills) – especially important for ECRs. Given the small size of the unit, it was not possible to engage in blind peer review. All peer review comments were saved to the shared drive to encourage transparency. Our diversity considerations reflected gender and career stage profiles and our part-time staff also participated in a pro-rata capacity (we have no staff with a declared disability or identifying as BAME). In recommending outputs to the REF Decisions Panel, identifying the strongest outputs was the first consideration; where the decision could not be determined by peer review, we prioritised the inclusion of ECRs. We chose not to double-weight outputs to maximise the number of outputs from all staff.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

#### Research funding income and strategy

Increasing external research funding was identified as a key objective to support and enhance the vitality and sustainability of our research culture. A total of £376k+ external funding has been awarded since 2014 (see REF4b). If still modest, it represents a 45% increase on REF2014. 80% of this awarded since 2018 illustrates the upward trajectory of successful external bids. As detailed below, a strategy to meet this goal has involved providing training opportunities, developing our research infrastructure and employing internal monies to seed external bids. Research support has targeted and provided information on funding bodies whose strategic priorities align with staff expertise areas. Internal resources (e.g. funding, advice) have been employed to support people to move from making smaller to larger bids, integrate income generation with our impact strategy and support collaborative and ECR applications for appropriate funding sources. Given the interests of the unit, we have developed good links with research users. This strategy ensures that our research is grounded in societal challenges and attempts to answer the questions of research user, as well as engaging with funder priorities and the 'levelling up' agenda. This partnership approach has given rise to important funding streams where partner agencies have funded research. Collaborative working with HEI partners has also strengthened projects leading to successful bids.

Successful collaborative funding bids include **Simpson's** as part of research teams awarded funding by Comic Relief (£20k), Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA) and the Centre for Ageing Better (CAB) (£6k), and a collaborative project (based at Leeds University) developing online interactive resources helping meet the sex/intimacy needs of older care home residents (£98k+). **Twine's** relationship with the Vegan Society has resulted in funding (£11.5k) examining non-vegan constructions of veganism.

Competitively awarded external funding has underpinned our impact case studies. **Vathi's** research on migrant experiences has been supported by funding from the International Organization for Migration (\$3.5k), the British Academy (£10k), Terres de Hommes (\$10.5k), the World Bank (\$16k+) and the International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) (£4.4k). A substantial bid (£750k) to the ESRC was shortlisted but unsuccessful. A revised application (£459k) to Leverhulme is pending, reflecting our strategy of supporting staff to



repurpose bids through focusing on aligning with funders' priorities. **McGovern** received £15k+ from the EU Peace III Special Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Fund for his work on collusion, victims and legacy issues in post-conflict Northern Ireland.

**Hartill** and **Lang** transferred to DSS from another department in 2017: both had existing excellent relationships with a range of partners, both universities and other agencies, resulting in several inter-related projects undertaken by them which have attracted £900k+ funding (£667k+ to EHU) since 2014 (some of this income is reported in UOA24). These projects, situated within Child Protection and Safeguarding in Sport (CPSS) research centre, include 'Voices for truth and dignity: Combatting sexual violence in European sport (VOICE)', initiated and led by **Hartill**. An innovative cross-national examination of survivor/victims' experiences of child abuse in sport, VOICE was awarded a total of £450k by the European Union: Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) Erasmus+ Sport Programme. The EACEA has provided substantial support for two further projects. First, EU-wide research on 'gender-based violence in sport' (£143k) undertaken by **Lang** in collaboration with stakeholders and colleagues across Europe. Second, **Hartill** and **Lang** are working with **Sage** (and six EU-based universities) on 'Child Abuse in Sport: European Statistics (CASES)', awarded £360k by the EACEA. Following significant impact engagement, Sport England have funded two further projects led by **Hartill**: 'Survivor advocacy in sport' (£69.5k+) and 'Child abuse in sport study' (£100k).

#### **Organisational infrastructure supporting research and impact**

Making external income generation a strategic priority has been reflected in increased support for bid writing, via workshops, to develop knowledge of funding body opportunities and procedures. A system of internal peer review (and external review for substantial bids) for all research funding was also established. Bids with external partners are actively encouraged as evidenced by CPSS work noted above. In addition, the University incentivises bids by providing a 'reward' for grant capture and the EHU Consultancy policy allows a proportion of net fee income to be employed by staff/departments for research/knowledge exchange activities. These funds can be used for professional development, open access charges and other research-related activity.

The RO leads institution-wide support and training to develop external research bids and attract funding. This has included developing bids for specific programmes (e.g. Horizon 2020) and generic issues, including full economic costing and impact evidence. This programme has underpinned successful external funding bids: e.g., **Lang** attended these sessions and was later part of two successful bids for funding totalling £500k+.

Staff attend sessions provided by ISR on research training and support, utilising expertise within and beyond the University to enhance research bids. It runs a writing retreat twice yearly and hosted a workshop series (2018-2019) on writing for major external research funders, focusing on specific programmes (e.g. British Academy Small Grants), broader perspectives (e.g. 'Successful Application? Views from the ESRC, AHRC and British Academy') and generic themes (e.g. 'Collaborative grant writing'). These are well attended by staff (e.g. **Foster**, **Greenough**, **Hester**, **Kinsella**, **Lang**, **Moore**, **Moran**, **Sage**, **Twine**, **Vathi**). The ISR also have a one-year 0.4fte fellowship programme which provides concentrated research time for the fellow, including to work on larger external bids: **Vathi** was appointed fellow in 2020

The principal means to provide EHU staff with internal research support is the **Research Investment Fund (RIF)** which can be match-funded by departments. Priority criteria include projects leading to the generation of external research bids and interdisciplinary impact-orientated research. ECRs, those returning from extended periods of leave/absence are also

prioritised. RIF monies can be used for a range of purposes, e.g. teaching relief (**Foster, Vathi**), research assistants (**Hartill**) and impact events (**McGovern**).

Internal funding provides seed corn monies to encourage external bids (as detailed above) and advance the UOA's impact strategy. While expanding the portfolio of external funding remains an ongoing challenge and future objective, RIF support leading to successful external bids has met with marked success. For example, **Hartill** received RIF monies (£3.5k) in 2014 for a project on 'victim/survivor narratives of child sexual exploitation in sport' and a further £25k later for a post-doctoral research assistant. This funding directly underpinned work leading to the substantial awards from the EACEA (CASES) and Sport England.

RIF has underpinned the case studies. **Vathi's** external funding record is founded on earlier RIF support provided for projects on returning Albanian migrants, belongingness for locals and migrants in Liverpool, and EU migrants in post-Brexit Britain. The latter directly formed the basis for the large-scale the external bids to the ESRC (2019) and Leverhulme (2020). Dissemination and networking impact opportunities have also been supported including EU-wide contacts developed from funded attendance at IMISCOE conferences (Spain, 2014, 2018, Netherlands, 2017) - Europe's largest network of migration/integration scholars. **McGovern** was funded to provide a briefing to the US Congress House Foreign Affairs Committee and deliver public talks in Ireland and the USA (New York, Philadelphia, Boston, 2019).

Internal funding also supports emerging impact profiles. **Moore** received RIF-funding to develop reports on professional practice, sexual consent and vulnerable groups – a gap she had identified and which led to engagement with various professional bodies on autism and sexuality issues (e.g. National Autistic Society, invited to chair their inaugural conference on sexuality, 2019). Her reports informed Autism Initiatives (AI) assessment submissions to OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission and **Moore** sits on AI's newly-established working group implementing her recommendations on sexuality training for all new and key staff. Engagement with the British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) (e.g. developing tenders for autism training for health/social care staff) led to **Moore** acting as the academic development partner for the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Learning Disability and Autism Training trial, funded by Health Education England (2020). RIF funding allowed **Twine** to further his impact-orientated work on human-animal relations, veganism and sustainability by delivering papers for the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) (Spain, 2016) and the European Association for Critical Animal Studies, (Spain, 2019).

EHU appointed a **Research Impact Manager** to advise and support the development of research impact. This has included regular meetings to discuss impact strategy with department research leaders (e.g. **McGovern**), REF3 impact researchers (**McGovern, Vathi**), others with established impact profiles (e.g. **Hartill, Lang**) and to help foster and develop research impact more widely (e.g. **Foster, Moore, Twine**).

### **Research governance and integrity**

EHU's research governance infrastructure promotes and ensures research integrity (see REF5a). All research projects are subject to ethical scrutiny. They must conform to all legal and professional requirements, adhere to all relevant and applicable EHU codes (e.g. the Code of Practice for the Conduct of Research, Undertaking Research with Children and Young People) and meet the University commitment to the Concordat for Research Integrity. Staff must register all research via a centralised, online ethics review system to ensure consistency and transparency. Projects undergo departmental review for development purposes and then formal review (in most cases) by the Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (SSREC: chair

**McGovern**). Where appropriate projects may also be scrutinised by the Education or Health-related RECs. The SSREC is a sub-committee of the University Research Ethics Sub-Committee (URESC). SSREC scrutiny involves trained committee members beyond the department where the research is located to ensure independence of the review process. Regular training sessions on research ethics are part of the Researcher Development Programme and chairs of RECs are available to offer guidance.

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

##### Support for research collaborations, networks and partnerships

The work of the unit is very much engaged with social issues and working closely with partners is a key part of how we develop our research and ensure that it has impact. Staff are encouraged, therefore, to establish networks and the unit encourages this through the centres and institutes. Supporting and enhancing effective research collaborations, networks and partnerships is a key objective of the Institute for Social Responsibility (ISR) since its inception. In her role as ISR Associate Director (External Relations), **Foster** has spearheaded international networking initiatives, e.g. with Stellenbosch Business School (Cape Town) and the School of Public Administration, University of Central Florida. This included developing a PGR Diploma international module for non-profit leaders. Current tasks include enhancing ISR CPD provision with sessions taught by internal and external leaders thereby helping to develop links and networks for future research.

Organising public seminar and lectures series develops networks and partnerships. The Institute, as I4P, launched with a public lecture by Prof. Richard Wilkinson (co-organised by **Bunyan**) and, since 2016, **Foster** has organised an annual public lecture series (e.g. 'What makes a good society', in collaboration with the Webb Memorial Trust). She also serves on the organising committee of EHU's annual Festival of Ideas (FOI) which involves a month of debates, films, exhibitions, roundtables and performances. As part of ISR's contribution (50+ events in 2018), Foster has organised initiatives specifically encouraging cross-disciplinary collaboration and stakeholder engagement and **Cockburn, Greenough, Hartill, Simpson and Twine** have also hosted FOI public events. The MWG-NW has organised activities as part of Action for Refugees, a University-wide initiative created in 2016 to support migration humanitarian work. Events have included a 2017 conference (supported by ISR) bringing together academics, activists and members of refugee communities to explore avenues for engaged research and an international online symposium (Return Migration: Implications for Policy and Practice, 2020) organised and chaired by **Vathi**.

**Cockburn**, through the Children, Young People and Social Change Research Network (CYPS), has coordinated the European Sociological Association Research Network 'Sociology of Children and Childhood'. He is currently a network board member and co-organised their conference streams (2014-2016). **Coppock** is a member of the European Educational Research Association Network 'Research on Children's Rights in Education' and the Research Recovery Network (King's College, London). She is an expert adviser for Child Studies research at Linköping University, Sweden, collaborates with international colleagues (e.g. Prof Brenda Le Francois, Memorial University, Canada) and UK practitioners (e.g. Tony Stanley, Chief Children's Social Worker, Birmingham City Council) and engages in relevant network events (e.g. PREVENT colloquium, East London, 2016). Coppock was also an invited member of a Horizon-2020-funded, EU-wide network (PROMISE: PROMoting Youth Involvement and Social

Engagement) and co-founded and co-leads the international Psychiatrised Childhoods Network (2015-ongoing).

Collaboration with non-academic, stakeholder organisations is an important strand of impact orientated research. For example, **McGovern's** case study is founded on long-term collaborations with victims' organisations and representatives (e.g. Relatives for Justice), human rights groups (e.g. Committee on the Administration of Justice, Pat Finucane Centre) and human rights lawyers (e.g. Kevin Winters Solicitors, Broudie, Jackson and Canter Solicitors). Similarly, the work of the CPSS is founded on relationships with non-academic bodies identified below.

Emerging portfolios of impact also rely on academic and non-academic collaborations. **Sage** works on employment policy and well-being issues with colleagues at Queen Mary and Sheffield Hallam and non-academic organisations (Policy Network, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Germany). Developing work on professional practice and elder intimacy needs, **Simpson** has provided leadership in both academic (e.g. Older People's Understanding of Sexuality Interdisciplinary Research Group) and non-academic networks (e.g. the Older People Sex and Intimacy Forum, involving service providers, local authority staff and campaign groups). **Twine** has developed international academic collaborations (e.g. Australia, Sweden and Finland, as co-founder of the European Association for Critical Animal Studies) with his research on human-animal relations, veganism and sustainability. This work is also built on active engagement with animal rights/vegan advocacy groups (Secretary of Minding Animals International, 2011-2017, Chair of the research advisory committee of the Vegan Society, 2014-ongoing).

ECRs are encouraged to develop collaborations and networks: **Greenough** works with international colleagues (e.g. Auckland, New Zealand) and is a member of the Sheffield Institute of Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies and the Shiloh Project, which explores gender violence, culture and religion. He also co-organised a regional public event on 'Queer faith voices' with the Diocese of Liverpool, Homotopia and Liverpool Queer Collective; **Moran's** diverse projects on migrant families, young people's social spaces and environmental policies has been developed through collaborations with academics (University College, Dublin, National University of Ireland, Galway) professional stakeholders (Teagasc: Agriculture and Food Development Authority, the Office of Public Works) and international bodies (Eurochild, UNESCO and UNICEF Innocenti).

#### **Wider contributions to the economy and society**

Reflecting our overarching ethos to work with and for marginalised social groups, many staff have undertaken impact-orientated research that make a significant wider social contribution. Along with global academic partnerships (e.g. universities of Antwerp, Bucharest, Vienna, Okayama and Toronto), the work of **Hartill** and **Lang** in the CPSS on child abuse and gender in sport is built on long-term engagement with key national and international organisations (e.g. the English Football Association and the International Olympic Committee (IOC)) and developing research outcomes contributing to the work of a wide range of national/international stakeholders. The VOICE project developed practice-based resources in collaboration with survivors (translated into several languages) that have been used by various UK national bodies (e.g. Director of Children and Young People, Sport England/NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit, National Working Group (NWG) Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Response Unit) and beyond (e.g. the Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education (KIGEPE)). Further advocacy collaborations followed (e.g. Council of Europe, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, German Sports Council, Austrian Sports Council). The work has impacted on policy development in several EU countries (e.g. Germany, Belgium).



In 2017 Sport England invited the VOICE UK Acknowledgement Forum (established by **Hartill** and the NWG Network, 2017) to create a new Sport England Advisory Panel (SEAP). Expert consultancy, training resources and programmes on child protection policies have been provided to other key stakeholders (e.g. Amateur Swimming Association, British Cycling, Lawn Tennis Association, the Rugby Football League). **Hartill** was the invited expert for the Football Association Independent Inquiry into Allegations of Child Sex Abuse in Football (chaired by Clive Sheldon QC, 2017) and has joined a new FA Survivors Panel. He is a trustee of the Male Survivors Partnership.

Research recommendations from **Lang's** work on 'gender-based violence in EU sport' have been disseminated by (and informed EU-level policy of) the Council of Europe and European Commission. Research findings on 'adult-child touch in sport' have been taken up by national stakeholders (UK Coaching, NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit). A review report of the Home Office's independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse was published (April 2020).

**Bunyan's** collaborative work under the auspices of ISR's predecessor examined policy measures designed to tackle poverty and inequality (e.g. Fairness Commissions). This research was funded by the Webb Memorial Trust (total £35k) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty. Resulting reports, launched in the House of Commons and acknowledged for their influence on policy-making (e.g. Carnegie Trust UK, 2017), have since informed numerous local authorities adoption of Fairness Commissions (e.g. Blackpool, Sheffield, Camden, Tower Hamlets). Direct consultation fed into the creation of the Liverpool City Region Fairness and Social Justice Advisory Board (2018). National dissemination events and seminars (Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Swansea) involved local NGOs, poverty action groups, public sector, business and Fairness Commission representatives and focused on the impact of poverty on marginalised social groups (e.g. young and older people, ethnic minorities). Local NGOs (e.g. West Cheshire Food Bank) have since commissioned further work with ISR to inform ongoing poverty alleviation strategies.

Co-author of the 2016 Sydney Declaration on Interspecies Sustainability, **Twine** was a key collaborator in the Veg\*n Sustainability workshop (Australia), promoting initiatives for organisations to adopt sustainable diet policies. Work undertaken with the Vegan Society, reflecting his research examining 'vegan transitions', was featured in *Vegetarian Living Magazine*. Public talks given nationally (Brighton, Manchester, London) and internationally (Australia, Sweden, Finland) seek to influence people's views on climate change. **Sage's** research on Universal Basic Income and active labour market programmes, unemployment and health has been shared with non-academic audiences (including World Economic Forum). A report on 'Young People at Risk: Challenges and Policy Options for the UK' was launched at Westminster, co-hosted by Policy Network and Bertelsmann Stiftung (2016). **Foster's** arts and community-based collaborative research also pursues social justice goals. CULTIVATE highlighted the educational and sustainability benefits of community farms. Schoolchildren were recruited and trained as co-researchers to evaluate interventions to counter gang violence (Drama-based Crime Prevention), followed by an invited talk for the Chief Nursing Officer's Black and Minority Ethnic Strategic Advisory Group Annual Conference.

### **Research base influence, contribution and recognition**

The unit's reputation has been evidenced in staff membership of **expert groups, panels and advisory bodies**. These include **Coppock**, who was a member of an International Expert Group for World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre (Switzerland) and has been visiting professor at Linköping University, Sweden. **Green** served on an International Expert Panel for

the Committee for the Study on Institutional Child Abuse, established by Dutch Government at the Hague (2019). **Hartill** has been a member of several expert panels, including the Sport England Advisory Panel and (with **Lang**) the Council of Europe Pool of European Experts on Sexual Violence in Sport and Task Group on Safeguarding and Protecting Talented and Elite Young Athletes for UK Coaching. **Hartill** has also acted as a consultant to Football Association's 'Survivor Group' and served as the Child Protection in Sport expert for Football Association's Independent Review of Child Sexual Abuse Allegations. **Lang** continues as a member of the NSPCC/Sport England Child Protection in Sport Unit.

Staff who have received **prizes and awards** include **Bunyan**, awarded the John Stewart Prize for Best Article by the Local Government Studies Journal (2015) and Sam Aaronovitch Memorial Prize by *Local Economy: The Journal of the Local Economy Policy Unit*. **Hartill** received a Diamond Award (2018) from the NWG Network for his work with victims of child sex abuse in sport.

Invitations to deliver keynote and plenary talks at other universities internationally evidence expertise and substantial research standing within the academic community. This includes **Cockburn** (universities of Prague; Ghent; and Hildesheim), **Hartill** (University of Reykjavik), **Lang** (Pompeu Fabra University), **Simpson** (Barcelona University), **Twine** (universities of Lisbon; Sydney; Krakow; Gothenburg; and Helsinki) and **Vathi** (universities of Lisbon; Padua; Geneva and Jinan).

Likewise, invitations as **keynote speakers for public events for public bodies, professional organisations** (and **conference organisation**) demonstrate research reputation within and beyond the academy. **Coppock** has been an invited speaker for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Work at Westminster and a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre research workshop held at the Brocher Foundation, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. **Hartill** was an invited speaker to the inaugural conference of Safe Sport International (Madrid), to the Council of Europe Conference on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sport (hosted by the Presidency of Finland), an international conference organised by the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and, with **Lang**, organised a special symposium for the New Direction in Sex Offenders Practice national conference and delivered the keynote address for the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers national conference. **Lang** was also invited to the Council of Europe's launch of an expert pool on gender-based violence in sport (Netherlands), an inaugural international symposium hosted by the Japanese National Institute of Fitness and Sports and for the GB Rugby Football Union annual conference, while also chairing the conference steering committee for the British Sociological Association (BSA) Sports Study Group PG Forum annual conference (2015). **McGovern's** work on collusion and accountability led twice to invitations to British Academy roundtables on 'Violence' (London, 2018, 2019) and as a keynote speaker at events organised by human rights/victims' NGOs in Northern Ireland, including the Pat Finucane Centre, Belfast Homecoming Conference, Bloody Sunday March for Justice, Relatives for Justice 'Harms to Rights' conference, Pat Finucane Anniversary Lecture and Bloody Sunday Trust. **Moran** was invited to speak at the Tavistock Institute, while **Simpson** was an invited speaker for the UK Dementia Congress, the CQC Equality and Human Rights Staff Network, Comic Relief/Age UK and a CQC Inspectors conference. **Twine's** active engagement with animal rights and sustainability concerns led to invitations to speak at public events in Helsinki, Gothenburg, for Vegfest, Veganlife Live and the Northern Vegan Festival and organising conferences of the CfHAS.

Contributing to the wider research base and discipline sustainability is evidenced via invitations to **act as reviewers of funding bids for major funding bodies** nationally and internationally. This has included **Cockburn** (Academy of Finland INVEST programme; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC, Canada); Leverhulme), **Coppock** (Swedish Research Council), **Lang** (International Olympic Committee; Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)), **McGovern** British Academy; ESRC), **Twine** (ESRC; SSHRC (Canada), ResearchNet (Canada) and the Wellcome Trust and **Vathi** (EU: Horizon 2020).

**Membership of editorial boards and journal editorial roles** helps foster the disciplinary research environment. Membership of journal editorial boards include **Lang** (*Irish Journal of Sociology; International Journal of Sport and Health, International Journal of Organisational Diversity, Journal of Sports Pedagogy and Physical Education, International Journal of Sport and Society, Journal of Sporting Cultures and Identities and Network* (British Sociological Association), **Moore** (*Journal of the International Network of Sexual Ethics and Politics*), **Sage** (*Journal of Social Policy and Social Policy and Society*) and **Simpson** (*Sociological Research Online*). **Twine** has been an editor for a Brill book series on Critical Animal Studies and **Greenough** is editor of the *Sheffield Journal of Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies*.

Public dialogue and knowledge of critical social issues is enhanced through **media appearance and contributions**; these include **Hartill** (BBC TV News, Sky TV News, Victoria Derbyshire, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio Lancashire and Manchester, The Economist, Deutschlandfunk Radio), **Lang** (BBC Radio 4 Today show, *The Guardian*, BBC Sport Online, BBC Radio Merseyside) and **McGovern** (BBC Radio Ulster, *Irish News*, Irish Voice (US), Irish Echo (US)).