

Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University
Unit of Assessment: C21 Sociology
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Sociology at Manchester Metropolitan University has evolved into a mature and confident research community that demonstrates sustained growth in strategic areas underpinned by considerable institutional investment. This assessment period has seen a substantial growth in staff numbers (from 23 in REF2014 to 47 in REF2021) and a threefold increase in research income, with major awards from funders including ESRC, Nuffield, European Commission, and Innovate UK, and we are the first UK university to receive research funding from Comic Relief. We are the only modern university with a <i>Q-Step Centre</i>, we hosted the <i>European Sociological Association Conference</i> (2019), and we have won national awards for our policy impact in reinvigorating high streets (see Impact Case Study (ICS) 1) and youth justice (ICS 2). We are only the second modern university in the UK to receive Leverhulme Trust doctoral funding (£1.35m), which will underpin our ongoing postgraduate research student (PGR) strategy.</p> <p>1.1 Context and structure</p> <p>Sociology research is hosted by the <i>Research Centre for Applied Social Sciences</i> (RCASS), one of 14 <i>University Centres for Research and Knowledge Exchange</i> (UCRKEs) established to deliver Manchester Metropolitan's ambitious RKE Strategy (see REF5a). Located in the <i>Faculty of Arts and Humanities</i> (one of the UK's largest with 530 academic staff), it includes staff from the Departments of Sociology; History, Politics and Philosophy; Languages, Information and Communication; Human Geographers from the Department of Natural Sciences; staff from the Institute of Place Management (IPM); and Law scholars from the Business School. There are also 25 RCASS members who contribute to C20 Social Work and Social Policy.</p> <p>RCASS is led by a Director (Prof. Young) with an <i>Advisory Board</i> comprising two Deputies (including a KE 'lead'), our Research Development Manager, the <i>Postgraduate Arts and Humanities Centre</i> (PAHC) Director (Prof. Miles), two academic leads (including Prof. Smithson), and representatives for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) (Dr Neate), Internationalisation (Dr Wong), and PGRs (Drs Bowman and Peter).</p> <p>Areas of expertise</p> <p>The progress Sociology at Manchester Metropolitan has made over this assessment period has been unprecedented, with significant investment in new staff and infrastructure enabling us to grow critical mass and additional specialist capacity while developing existing areas of expertise:</p> <p>Youth, Wellbeing, and Justice</p> <p>Led by Prof. Smithson's award-winning <i>Manchester Centre for Youth Studies</i> (MCYS), established through strategic investment in 2014, this area is recognised for its innovative youth-led participatory research methods. The <i>Knowledge Transfer Partnership</i> (KTP) between MCYS and <i>Greater Manchester Youth Justice Services</i> won <i>Best Knowledge Exchange Project of the Year</i> at the 2019 <i>Times Higher Awards</i> (ICS 2). Major external funding comes from the European Commission, Innovate UK and Comic Relief (their first research grant to a UK university). Research into the criminalisation of young BAME people has impacted on national policy (ICS 4).</p> <p>Space, Place, and Identity</p> <p>This interdisciplinary group of geographers and sociologists focuses on contemporary socio-cultural, economic, political and environmental change and is recognised for cutting-edge research in socio-cultural geographies (e.g. outputs 1935, 1915). Place and consumption are key interdisciplinary foci and include influential activity in China, India and Europe. Major funding comes from the European Commission, ESRC, AHRC and international funders such as the <i>Swedish Research Council</i>. There is considerable policy impact including by Dr Millington who</p>

has transformed UK high street policy (ICS 1) and Dr O'Hare's NERC-funded secondment as *Resilience and Adaptation Lead to Manchester City Council's Climate Change Agency*.

Music, Media and Popular Culture (MASS)

The interdisciplinary MASS group, led by Dr Peter, develops new ways of understanding the production, reception and aesthetics of music and sound. MASS explores the sociological aspects of music culture and heritage. The group collaborates with youth organisations, schools, archives and museums. Funding from the ESRC and the *Heritage Lottery Fund* underpins impact around the cultural significance of electronic dance music, alongside Dr Dale's research influencing national school music curricula (ICS 3).

Digital Society (DISC)

DISC undertakes critical research on the impact of digital technologies on society. DISC is a newly emergent cluster bringing together researchers from Sociology, Human Geography, Information Communications, and Politics through significant investment in new staff (Drs Kuntsman, Brock, Joseph, and Alexis-Martin). International networks in France, Finland, the USA and Canada have underpinned a focus on data and society, digital environmental politics, and the sociology of e-sports, gaming and gambling. Awards have come from EPSRC and the British Academy.

Intimacy, Gender and Sexuality

The *Contemporary Intimacies, Sexualities and Genders Research Group* (CISG) led by Drs Klesse and van Hooff provides an interdisciplinary space for ground-breaking research into non-binary relationships, including concepts of polyamory, which have been highly influential in the wider academic field (outputs 1889, 1891). The group's work on sexual discrimination, reproductive rights and (trans-)gender identity has resonated internationally. External funding includes a £163,000 Marie Curie International Fellowship for cutting-edge work on non-monogamous relationships.

Quantitative Methods in Social Research

Expertise in quantitative methods is underpinned by our status as the only modern university to host a *Q-Step Centre* (a national initiative to promote a step-change in quantitative social science training). Established in 2013 with £1.12m funding from Nuffield/ESRC/HEFCE, and led by Prof. Scott Jones, our *Q-Step Centre* is a national leader in numeracy and data literacy research. It supports quantitative research more broadly, including political analyses by Dr Luo (output 2000), long-term cohort analyses in the EC-funded work of Prof. Pollock (output 1951), and the relationship between sexual wellbeing and social class by Dr van Hooff (output 1987).

1.2 Research strategy 2014-20

Our objective during this assessment period has been to 'deliver research that has a real impact on current and future global challenges'. We have developed a supportive and innovative research environment, as evidenced in the increase in research-active staff, high-quality research outputs, volume and quality of external awards, PGR numbers and significant impact.

The focus has been on accelerating and optimising the evolution of our research culture, especially the recruitment and development of new talent through a staffing policy incentivising and rewarding high levels of performance. Career progression is a priority, including promotion to Reader and Professor. Clear and accessible systems of research support, supported by a well-resourced research infrastructure, have instigated a significant step-change in research capacity:

- 100%+ growth in staff, from 23 in REF2014 to 47. 20 new staff including 5 ECRs. Only one staff member from REF2014 has left (excluding retirements). Five staff have been promoted to Professor and four to Reader;
- Threefold increase in research income from £1.1m in 2014 to £3.2m in 2021, with funding/head/annum maintained despite staffing increase;

- Significant growth in the volume and quality of research outputs, with 40 books, 315 journal articles, 145 book chapters, and 50 reports since 2014;
- Articles in top social science journals including *Information, Communication and Society*, *Sociology*, *British Journal of Sociology*, and *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, and books with prestigious publishing houses including Bloomsbury and Stanford University Press;
- A vibrant community of 68 PGR students affiliated to RCASS;
- Award-winning impact – such as the *Times Higher Education Prize for Knowledge Exchange Initiative of the Year* (2019) (ICS 2).

1.3 Future aims, objectives and strategy

Our mission is to continue to produce the highest-quality sociological research that ‘lives in the world’ while extending its size, scope and sustainability. We aim to sustain our research using external income and by creating one of the most inclusive research environments in the UK through investment in PGRs and a passionate commitment to equality and diversity.

Four key intellectual principles will guide future investment in our research as it:

1. Delivers progressive social change using evidence to make a positive impact on policy and society locally, nationally and internationally;
2. Explores themes of identity and the contribution that social science can make to a more progressive and equal society;
3. Pioneers methodological innovation using both qualitative and quantitative approaches to deliver creative and intelligent solutions to real-world problems;
4. Engages with communities through a commitment to ‘open research’ and responsible co-creation.

Recent significant awards will provide the future investment to carry out this ambitious agenda, specifically to:

a. Grow our international collaborative research

Developing large-scale, interdisciplinary projects, targeting new international opportunities, and building on achievements in international collaborative research. For example, Prof. Pollock has been awarded £3m from the European Commission for the *Coordinate* project with 22 partners from 14 countries. Dr Luo has gained UKRI-MRC funding to work with Glasgow and Beijing Universities on Chinese Government measures to contain COVID-19. Other strategic partnerships include links with Columbia, Finland, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and China using funding from Royal Society, British Council, Newton Fund and GCRF.

b. Align research with emerging theoretical developments and needs of policymakers

Our submission demonstrates an established reputation for applied research that drives world-leading innovation in key fields. We will continue to carry out research into funders’ strategic priority areas through investment in increasingly influential groups such as MCYS, DISC and MASS. For example, £870,000 has been invested to align MCYS with the wider funding environment for national youth justice provision. We will continue to develop our distinctive methodological expertise, including MCYS’ Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) approach and quantitative methodological innovations pioneered by our *Q-Step Centre*.

c. Increase the value, diversity and sustainability of research

We will maintain our success with external research income by working closely with our Research Development Team to identify future opportunities aligned to our specialisms. The aim is to continue to attract large-scale funding through our extensive European networks while diversifying our funding portfolio, for example through increasing the number of UKRI awards where we have already enjoyed notable success. Mentoring and bid-writing away days will support staff development in this area.

d. Support research impact, KE and public engagement

We will maximise engagement with local, national and international networks via staff exchanges and secondments using mechanisms such as the *MetroPolis* Chancellor's Fellowship scheme. Resource needs for KE and impact will be costed into funding bids. A new focus will be the inclusion of 'people of experience' into collaborative bids and co-creative research design. Policy engaged and applied research will be developed by working with our in-house *Policy Evaluation Research Unit* (PERU). We will continue to break down barriers between social scientists and the public through our long-term partnership with the *ESRC Festival of Social Science*, use of our new (2020) award-winning £46m Arts and Humanities building, participation in the new All Saints Campus-based *Arts and Creative Quarter*, and the Faculty's award-winning external engagement programmes. We will expand the digital events programme we set up in response to COVID-19, which enabled us to reach a larger audience, improve accessibility, and facilitate collaboration.

e. Grow and strengthen our PGR communities

We aim to optimise the PGR experience through working closely with the University *Graduate School* and the Faculty *Post-Graduate Arts and Humanities Centre* (PAHC), increasing PGRs from 68 (on the census date) to 100 by 2025. A major step in this direction is the recent (2020) £1.35m *Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships* award to Prof. Miles, offering 15 PGR scholarships for interdisciplinary projects on the 'Design of Cities of the Future'. We are only the second modern university to be awarded such funding.

1.4 Support for Enabling Impact and Link to Impact Case Studies

We have a clear strategy for achieving impact with policy makers and community partners, enabled by a combination of outstanding academics and support staff, specific training and imaginative use of resources.

External relationships are supported by an award-winning *KTP team* (ICS 2), *Business Development Manager*, *Partnership Manager*, and a *Public Engagement Assistant*. £80,000 of internal funding has been allocated to supporting KE leading to impact. An 'Impact Champion' (Dr Klesse) leads our *Impact Academy* (formed in 2014) which delivers training in impact-focused research design, impact capture, and evaluation, and staff can work with two *Impact and Public Engagement Managers* and an *Impact Capture Assistant*. This infrastructure helps staff execute 'theories of change' around their research. For example, MCYS worked with the impact team to create a theory of change that incorporated young people's perspectives into the lifecycle of their projects (ICS 2).

MetroPolis is a research-led think tank established in 2016 to amplify policy-relevant research. Its patron is the University's Chancellor, Lord Mandelson. Offering professional policy training from specialists such as the *Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology* and *Dods Training*, *MetroPolis* hosts visits from policy makers, organises discussion events, coordinates responses to Select Enquiries, and supports presentations to All Party Parliamentary Groups.

The *MetroPolis Chancellor's Fellowship Scheme* provides buyout time and £9,000 to enable staff to translate their research into policy impact. Dr Millington worked alongside Jake Berry MP (then *Minister of State for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth*) and the *Local Growth Unit* of the *Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government* leading to policy impact affecting the vitality of the UK high street (ICS 1). Dr Arun used her award to translate her research on female entrepreneurship into positive policy impacts in Bihar, India's third-largest state.

External funding has been used creatively for impact. MCYS mobilised its KTP for their award-winning impact on youth justice (ICS 2) and Dr Peter's 'Lapsed Clubber' project developed through a funded *ESRC Festival of Social Science* followed by £38,000 of *Heritage Lottery* funding (ICS 3). Dr Williams received funding from *Stopwatch* for his report on the Metropolitan Police's 'Gangs Matrix' which was shown to infringe the rights of young black men (ICS 4).

Public engagement activities represent a key pathway to impact through utilising and recalibrating high-quality research via pioneering new partnerships. Sociology researchers have contributed to the Faculty's highly successful public engagement initiatives *Humanities in Public* (HiP) and *Research in the Arts and Humanities!* (RAH!), which have benefited from internal funding and support. Notable examples include 2014's *Contesting Youth* event, organised by MCYS and featuring talks by Camila Batmanghelidjh CBE and Dave Haslam (international DJ); 2017's *Manchester as Cosmopolis: Global Migration in a Changing UK*, organised by Dr Arun and Prof. Miles featuring a keynote by Prof. Saskia Sassen, University of Columbia, USA; and Drs Binnie and Klesse's work with international queer film festivals such as 2016's *Queer Film Festivals as Activism: An International Symposium*.

Our support for impact will be sustained after REF2021 by four permanent Professional Services posts, a continuing programme of training in impact literacy, and the early identification of interdisciplinary areas of impact closely aligned with RKE strategy.

1.5 Support for Interdisciplinary research

Based in an Arts and Humanities faculty, Sociology researchers interact with architects, artists, designers, creative writers, poets, linguists, historians, philosophers, fashion designers and criminologists, complemented by human geographers, law, and place management researchers. This rich interdisciplinary environment is nurtured by a vibrant events programme which introduces colleagues to each other across disciplinary boundaries. Multi-disciplinary PGR supervision is encouraged (e.g. human geographer Prof. Young and sociologist Prof. Miles co-supervise a PhD on the consumption of tourism death spaces). Interdisciplinary teams also form to develop external funding applications e.g. Reader in Digital Politics Dr Kuntsman collaborates with human geographer Dr Alexis-Martin on digital environmentalism in Russia. Dr Binnie (human geography) and Dr Klesse (sociology) have a long-standing collaboration that has resulted in a superb body of high-quality interdisciplinary research on LGBTQ+ transnational politics. Dr Khan works with Prof. Kettle (Manchester School of Art) – a world-leading textile artist – on participatory research using crafts to explore identity among young British and Pakistani Muslims. The European Commission bids led by Prof. Pollock engage multi-disciplinary teams including international experts in demography, economics, psychology, and statistics. Dr Brock works with a political scientist on video game streaming. Many of our ECRs are at the forefront of this interdisciplinarity. Dr Alexis-Martin has published pioneering research with an international sociologist on social movements in uranium-mining communities. Human geographer Dr Millington works with colleagues in retailing and business on externally funded, high-impact research on UK high streets (ICS 1).

1.6 Open Research

Our research is compliant with the *Concordat on Open Research Data* and REF *Open Access* policy. OA training is provided. Journal articles are deposited in the University's institutional repository, e-Space, and often achieve significant downloads, for example: 'Polyamory: Intimate practice, identity or sexual orientation?', *Sexualities* (output 1891) by Dr Klesse (over 1750 downloads) and 'Insurance as Maladaptation: Resilience and the "Business as Usual" Paradox', *Environment and Planning C* by Dr O'Hare (613 downloads).

Colleagues publish in journals supporting Green OA. Staff can access funding (including a UKRI OA grant) or build costs into external grants, to make outputs immediately accessible via Gold OA. A paper by Dr Gray in *Addiction Research & Theory* on the use of the synthetic cannabinoid spice among homeless people, published in March 2020 supported by an APC of £2,350, has had 2,000 views and been cited in a major UK Government report on drugs policy. Similarly, 'Populism...and Young People's Identity' in *Sociological Review* (output 1905), by Prof. Pollock and Dr Brock, funded through the EU MYPLACE project, has been viewed 900+ times.

Our researchers also make use of other OA routes. For example, Prof. Young's co-author is at Stockholm University who are members of the Bibsam consortium enabling articles to be automatically OA (outputs 1995, 2003, 2004).

Several staff have written for *The Conversation* and national newspapers. Dr Alexis-Martin has written in *The Guardian* and *The Independent* and has featured in *BBC Futures* and *Newsweek* on her research into the sociological aspects of nuclear communities. Dr Peter's research into clubbing culture and heritage has led to the co-creation of a publicly accessible online interactive map of clubbing memories and a Facebook group with more than 700 members that regularly receives media coverage (ICS 3).

1.7 Research Integrity

Research is compliant with the *Concordat for Research Integrity*, and our staff contribute to the Faculty's ethics review processes. Dr Gray is Deputy of the *Faculty Research Ethics and Governance Committee*, and Prof. Smithson and Prof. Scott Jones are former *Heads of Faculty Research Ethics and Governance*. Currently nine staff are members of the *Research Ethics and Governance Committee*. Applications for ethical approval are submitted via EthOS, the University's online system for ethical review.

Ethical and legal considerations are core to our research development programme and are addressed in mentoring discussions at the earliest stage of project development. We have access to online training and 1:1 support from a dedicated *Research Ethics and Governance Manager*. Clear procedures are in place for reporting and investigating allegations of research misconduct.

Our research often involves vulnerable people and 'people with experience' and addressing distinct methodological challenges surrounding sensitive subjects. Many staff have pioneered innovative approaches to complex ethical situations. Dr Calvey's work (output 1948) explores the challenges of covert ethnographic research, while Dr van Hooff's research into contemporary intimacies investigates topics such as infidelity and sex work (output 1920, 1967). Prof. Young's 'Encountering Corpses' ESRC series investigated the ethical dimensions of talking about and representing the dead, while Dr Latham explores ethics around regulating cosmetic surgery (output 1888). Our ECRs are at the forefront of negotiating these challenges. Dr Whittington's paper on co-producing sexual consent in participatory research with young people (output 1966) illustrates how our researchers demonstrate the highest levels of compliance with the *Concordat*.

2. People

2. People

2.1 Staffing strategy

Our aim is to attract – as well as to support, value, reward and retain – high-calibre researchers. We have invested significantly in new appointments and the infrastructure required to enable staff to achieve their full potential, underpinning a 100% growth in critical mass from 23 staff in REF2014 to 47 in 2021. Our recruitment policy emphasises the importance of high-quality research, and our workload categorisation scheme incentivises and rewards good performance. Our commitment to the *Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers*, support for ECRs and clear research-based pathways to promotion is demonstrated by a wide range of staff-development initiatives.

2.2 Recruitment

We work closely with Heads of Departments and Faculty planners to recruit to our areas of expertise reflecting our commitment to 'real-world' sociology. The reputation of our research is evidenced by our ability to attract international, high-quality talent. Considerable financial resources have been invested to accelerate growth in new specialisms. Between 2017 and 2020, for example, we invested £870,000 in the creation of six new posts in MCYS, thereby expanding our capability in youth-related research, generating increased income and award-winning policy and practitioner impacts (ICS 2).

Twenty new staff have been recruited (including five ECRs and 11 women). Drs Bowman (ECR), Jump, Khan, Nunn, and Whittington (ECR) have driven the focus on youth, wellbeing and justice. Three human geographers were appointed: Drs Neate, Alexis-Martin and Di Felicianantonio. The work of Drs Bindman, Brock, Jackson, Kuntsman, Nunez, Luo (ECR) and Schmid (ECR) progresses international political research. Dr O'Shea boosts our popular music research and Dr Joseph brings additional digital expertise. Dr Snee's appointment develops contemporary class analysis and Dr Wilkinson's (ECR) adds geographical expertise to youth studies.

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are embedded in recruitment processes, and we support staff at every stage of their academic career, as reflected in our staffing profile (Table 1).

Professor	Principal Lecturer and Reader	Senior Lecturer	Lecturer, Research Fellow
13%	13%	53%	21%

Staff contract level profile (Table 1)

All of our submitted staff are on permanent employment contracts (with one three-year Marie Curie Fellow). The stability of our staffing base throughout the assessment cycle demonstrates a high level of satisfaction with our research environment. Only one member of the 2014 submission has left (excluding retirements). Two ECRs who joined in 2015–16 have subsequently taken up posts at Strathclyde and QMUL.

2.3 Staff development

Staff development and training are central to our activities. The University is a signatory to the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*, and colleagues are provided with 10 days/annum for professional development. We organise a vibrant programme of activity, including 'Show and Tell' events where staff (including ECRs and PGRs) share details of their research and build collaborative networks within RCASS and beyond, and a number of long-standing seminar series. The University has held the EU *HR Excellence in Research* award since 2013 (see REF5a).

Mentoring and five-year plans

All staff are assigned a Research Mentor who provides support, informal peer review of papers and proposals, and general career guidance. Mentors support staff in developing five-year research plans establishing objectives for outputs, external funding and academic citizenship. Personal circumstances and wellbeing are balanced alongside career development. These plans form part of our annual review process and are aligned to RKE priorities, the REF cycle, and career development. They feed into departmental *Professional Development Reviews* (PDRs) ensuring that research strategies align with departmental goals. All staff who have a significant responsibility for research in line with our *REF Code of Practice* receive a minimum of 20% time allocation for research. The annual Researcher Categorisation process rewards high-performing staff with additional research allowances e.g. external funding that includes staff time is added onto their research allowance.

Colleagues at the top of Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and Reader scales can apply for additional 'Contribution Zone' increments designed to reward excellent research or impact. Professors undergo an annual pay review so that the Faculty can reward outstanding contributions. Promotion from Lecturer to Professor is guided via two Academic Career Pathways – *Education, Pedagogy and Citizenship* and *Research, Knowledge Exchange, Education and Citizenship*. Staff applying for promotion discuss applications with their mentors, RCASS Director, and Faculty RKE Head. Information workshops are delivered by the *Faculty Head of RKE* and *Pro-Vice-Chancellor for RKE*, including for BAME and female colleagues, ensuring the process is open and inclusive.

During the assessment period we have achieved five promotions to Professor and four to Reader.

2.4 Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

The Faculty assigns ECR status to staff within six years of their first substantive non-casual academic appointment at Grade 8 or above with research as a significant element of their role. Under the slightly different REF2021 definition, we currently have five ECRs (10% of our submission).

New ECRs are assigned a mentor and complete a five-year plan as part of their probation period, and benefit from a reduced workload with a 25% uplift in preparation time for new taught units. Expectations around research outputs and external research income are adjusted to ensure that ECRs are treated fairly and adequately supported. ECRs have access to the same support for career development as other colleagues.

RCASS has an ECR Lead (Dr Neate) who has membership of the University's ECR Forum. During the March 2020 COVID-19 lockdown, Dr Neate organised virtual output and bid-writing events for ECRs and PGRs. She also organises regular showcase events, which provide a platform for ECRs to present their work to senior Faculty and University colleagues, thus refining skills and boosting confidence while raising the profile of researchers.

We have an excellent track record of supporting ECRs and see this as vital to the sustainability of our research culture. A good example is Dr Jump, recruited as Lecturer in 2015 and awarded an internal £6,000 *Research Accelerator Grant* for research into women and gangs the following year. This led to the award of £286,000 from *Comic Relief* for her 'Girls in Gangs' project. Dr Jump was subsequently promoted to Senior Lecturer and is now *Head of Youth Justice* in MCYS.

2.5 Internal investment and support schemes for professional development

Five-year plans also guide the deployment of internal funding available to all RCASS members, including ECRs and PGRs, supporting a range of initiatives:

a. RCASS internal funding schemes

Funding for conferences and events: Staff (ECRs and PGRs) can access £150,000 per annum (shared across three UCRKEs, usually equivalent to c.£2,000/year/head) for attendance at international and national networking events and conferences, running workshops, inviting external speakers to events and developing KE and public engagement. PAHC invests a further £10,000/annum for PGRs, plus an additional £5,000/annum for PGR-led collaborative initiatives and co-production.

Writing Retreats: Regular two-day, off-site residential writing retreats provide staff at all career stages with collegiate support in developing publication strategies and outputs. We have expanded this highly successful approach to provide more specialised bid-writing retreats. A number of writing partnerships have developed producing high-quality outputs, including cutting-edge co-authored work by Drs Binnie and Klesse on transnational LGBTQ+ activism and publications on young people, boxing and criminal justice by Dr Jump and Prof. Smithson, and an article on women's football and society by Drs Themen and van Hooff. During the COVID-19 pandemic these retreats were moved online.

Innovative Research Projects awards: Staff – particularly ECRs and mid-career staff who wish to pursue new research directions – can access awards of £5,000 for innovative exploratory research.

'Showcase' Award: Supporting an annual high-profile event with an international keynote speaker in an area that showcases our research expertise. For example, in 2017 the *Contemporary Intimacies, Sexualities and Genders Group* organised the symposium 'Dirty Work:

Sexuality and Research in Higher Education' with a keynote by Prof. Janice M. Irvine, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, USA.

International Research Partnership Fund: Staff compete for competitive Faculty awards (up to £50,000 for two-year projects) to internationalise their research. Prof. Pollock developed links with the University of Helsinki resulting in the award of external collaborative funding, while Dr Goswami and Prof. Smithson established the *South Asian Research Network for Childhood and Youth Studies* (SARN-CYS) with partners in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

b. Research leave arrangements

RCASS Sabbatical Scheme: Staff can access three-month sabbaticals to focus on significant outputs, large external funding applications, impact, and international collaboration. Sabbaticals are offered on a competitive basis and include £8,500 for teaching relief or the recruitment of a Research Assistant (RA). 19 sabbaticals have been awarded to staff in this submission. Sabbaticals have resulted in high-quality outputs, for example in the area of genders and sexualities.

The sabbatical scheme has also supported the career development of RAs. For example, Dr Popan was originally employed as a part-time RA during Dr Themen's sabbatical. He was subsequently recruited onto Dr Arun's EC *MiCreate* project, and then (supported by Drs Themen and Brock) he won a three-year *Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship* (from September 2020).

c. RKE Directorate Internal Funding

RCASS staff have accessed considerable resources from the University's *RKE Directorate* (see REF5a). For example, Drs Jump, Neate, and Bowman received a combined £19,000 in *Research Accelerator Grants* to undertake preparatory work leading to external grant proposals. Dr Brock was awarded £4,000 for an international research placement in Canada exploring how gambling practices are disguised in video games, and £10,000 of GCRF funding has helped establish links with Nicaragua, Colombia and India.

The RKE *Future Leaders Scheme* (see REF5a) supported Dr Arun and Dr Kuntsman, both of whom were subsequently promoted to Reader. The *Good to Great* scheme, designed to advance mid-career researchers by developing their professorial leadership capability, is currently supporting Drs Klesse and Arun who have been able to access a combined £64,000 for bespoke training.

Dr Arun provides a good example of how these schemes support career trajectories. She was initially awarded £3,000 to support her international research, which she developed further with £3,400 from GCRF for her evaluation of gender-sensitive disaster management plans in Kerala, India. She was subsequently awarded a *MetroPolis Chancellors Fellowship* to work alongside the Indian State Government in Bihar, and then accepted onto the RKE *Future Leaders* programme. In 2018, Dr Arun was promoted to Reader and accepted onto the *Good to Great* scheme. This support led to the €2.9m Horizon2020 *MiCreate (Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe, 2019-22)* project.

2.6 Research Students

Strategy

PGRs are a vital part of our research community. Our strategy is to recruit high-quality students and support their career development in a nurturing yet challenging environment. We aim to develop our PGRs as researchers and advance their skills and employability through in-depth personalised support and development.

RCASS works closely with the University's *Graduate School* and the Faculty's *Postgraduate Arts and Humanities Centre* (PAHC) led by Prof. Miles. PGRs are represented on the RCASS Management Board by Drs Bowman and Peter. A generous proportion of the RCASS budget is ring-fenced to support their activities.

Recruitment and funding

RCASS has 63 PGRs (46 Home/EU and 17 Overseas) and 18 PhD awards in the assessment period. 57% of our PGRs are women, 27% BAME, 49% part-time, and 21% disabled, evidencing a mature approach to supporting reasonable adjustments as reflected in our ranking in the top quartile for the overall quality of the PGR experience in responses from disabled students (Postgraduate Research Experience Survey PRES 2019).

Studentships are funded from various sources. Our Nuffield/ESRC-funded *Q-Step Centre* has invested in three PhDs, one of whom has secured a Lectureship in our Sociology Department. We have one AHRC-funded studentship from the *North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership* (AHRC-NWCDTP). We have successfully competed for internally funded scholarships, including seven from the University's *Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship* scheme and three of the Faculty's five *Graduate Research Assistants*. Staff have been funded to complete PhDs (Drs Porter, Themen and Williams). Other PhD funding has come from international students with bursaries from their own countries. We are already recruiting our next generation of PGRs, facilitated by a £1.35m Leverhulme Trust doctoral programme award focused around the *Design of Cities of the Future* led by Prof. Miles, offering 15 PhD studentships from 2021 with a commitment to cross-disciplinary supervisory teams and creative methodologies. We are only the second modern university to secure this prestigious Leverhulme funding.

Management of PGRs

PGRs have a Director of Studies and at least one other academic supervisor who provide advice on their research and professional development. 100 hours of annual supervision is divided among the supervisory team, who set deadlines and give detailed feedback on progress and drafts. Our processes are designed to encourage cross-disciplinary supervision arrangements wherever possible, for example, Prof. Smithson supervising an AHRC/NWCDTP-funded student with the *Manchester Pupil Referral Unit*, and Prof. Steve Miles as the Institutional Lead for our NWCDTP students. According to the results of PRES 2019 Sociology are in the top quartile in terms of support, guidance and feedback, as well as development of theses (87% of students responded positively to questions about their 'Dissertation' and 83% to 'Organisation').

The *SkillsForge* system supports student progress and development (see REF5a) by recording official milestones, training and actions from supervisory meetings. An Application for Registration takes place after three months and a Progression Review/Transfer of Registration after 12 months (full-time). Independent reviewers scrutinise these applications.

PGR Support and Training

The Faculty [Postgraduate Arts and Humanities Centre](#) (PAHC) provides interdisciplinary research training, well-being support, events and online discussion fora, as well as a meeting space for 380 PhD students from across the social sciences, arts and humanities. PAHC is committed to a culture of collaboration and co-production and operates as a multidisciplinary community of practice. Its *Research Training Programme*, designed around the *Vitae Researcher Development Framework*, comprises over 50 annual sessions including advanced methods training, digital research and EDI. The programme is reviewed annually with RCASS to ensure our students' developmental needs are met. PAHC also provides funding for PGR students to devise their own training initiatives (e.g. reading and writing groups, specialist research interest groups) with the aim of nurturing independent-minded researchers. Employability training is provided through workshops offering students hands-on advice for job applications and interviews, and via the University's *Postgraduate Passport* scheme.

PGRs automatically have full membership of RCASS and can access most of the staff research support outlined above, including support to attend major national and international conferences.

Students can access the PAHC *Research Fund* and the *Graduate School Research Award* for conference attendance and research trips (c.£200 per full-time student per year), as well as the *Student Initiative Fund* which enables them to devise their own collaborative research training.

2.7 Equality and Diversity (EDI)

EDI within the submission

We have improved diversity within the unit, particularly in leadership roles. 51% of staff are women (compared with 34% in REF2014). 30% of our Professors are women (none in REF2014), including the *Head of the Department of Sociology* and *Director of Q-Step* Prof. Scott Jones, and *Head of MCYS* Prof. Smithson, who were both promoted during the assessment period. Three out of seven Readers are women (Drs Arun, Kuntsman and Latham) and female staff are in the majority of those promoted to Reader.

We have seven BAME staff (15% which is the same as the total eligible population) and 11 staff (23%) from EU countries (France, Germany, Portugal, Holland, Italy and Ireland), reflecting the international profile of the unit in terms of recruitment and subject specialisms. 10% of submitted staff have declared a disability against a sector average of 6.8% according to the latest Advance HE Equality report (2019).

University-level management of EDI

The University's commitment to EDI (see REF5a) is outlined in our *Equality and Diversity Policy* and *Vision for Equality and Diversity*. The *Diversity and Equal Opportunities Committee* (DEOC) oversees five *Staff Equality Forums* (disability, gender, LGBTA+, race, and working parents and carers) and has invested in a comprehensive *Employee Assistance Programme* (EAP) addressing staff mental health and wellbeing. This commitment has been widely recognised:

- The first university (2017) to achieve 'Gold' status in the *Business Disability Forum's Disability Standard*;
- Recognised by the government's *Disability Confident* scheme as a *Disability Confident Leader*;
- *Institutional Athena SWAN award* (Bronze) (2018);
- Second in the English education sector on *Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index* (WEI) (2019) (a measure of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the workplace), and 22nd in the WEI national Top 100;
- 1 of only 14 *Stonewall Top Trans Inclusive Employers* (2019);
- The UK's first *Manchester Pride Role Model Organisation* (2020);
- Our gender pay gap for 2019 was 6.3% (mean)/5.7% (median) compared to HE averages of 15.1%/14.8% respectively;
- *Race Equality Charter* member (2019) (preparing an application for 2021).

Arrangements for supporting flexible working

Our flexible working processes facilitate temporary part-time working, compressed hours, job sharing, homeworking, and career breaks, all of which are acknowledged in the promotions process. Timetabling arrangements support colleagues with caring responsibilities. We recognise the effect of equality-related circumstances on an individual's research productivity. Disclosure of an equality-related issue leads to adjustment in expectations regarding research outputs. Similar adjustments are made for colleagues with caring responsibilities, chronic disabilities including mental health issues, and return to work after sickness or family-related absence. For example, one member of our submission was given six months' teaching relief following her return from maternity leave, and now works full-time compressed hours over four days. The impact of COVID-19 on staff working at home, particularly with caring or childcare responsibilities, is currently being fully considered in the promotions round, and a COVID Recovery Scheme is being prepared to support staff whose research has been interrupted.

Career pathways and other forms of support

All staff have equal access to mentoring, funding, sabbatical and career-development opportunities. Career pathways are equitable for part-time and full-time staff. Research Assistants/Fellows receive mentoring within their units (e.g. MCYS), participate in Research Centre activities, and are eligible for funding. Recruitment processes are inclusive and EDI is reflected in the diverse composition of recruitment and assessment panels. Women are encouraged to engage in leadership development programmes, such as *RKE Future Leaders* and *Good to Great*. Drs Jump, Milestone, Nunn and van Hooff participated in a *Developing Women Research Leaders* programme. Dedicated progression workshops support the promotion of female and BAME colleagues. We encourage participation in *Aurora* and *Stella HE* programmes. PAHC's PGR Research Training Programme includes an EDI Stream.

EDI considerations in the REF submission

RCASS has aimed to be fair, transparent and inclusive, complying with the University's *Code of Practice* to ensure that EDI is reflected in the REF submission. All colleagues with significant responsibility for research and independent researcher status are included. Staff preparing the submission completed training on 'Managing Diversity', 'Equality and Diversity Essentials' and 'Unconscious Bias and REF2021'. The *Sociology REF2021 Coordination Group*, and the team who prepared this environment narrative, had equal gender representation. The four impact case studies are led or co-led by female staff, one of which focuses on BAME identities in the criminal justice system (ICS 4) and another on youth (ICS 2).

We have taken positive steps to maximise EDI in output selection. Colleagues could request a reduction in outputs due to individual circumstances. However, we have not reduced the overall volume of outputs in our submission because we think there is enough scope for us to manage the impact of individual circumstances.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1 Income

Strategic investment in staff and comprehensive support for funding proposals has driven a threefold increase in external research income from £1.1m in REF2014 to £3.2m in REF2021. Despite a 100% increase in researchers we have maintained research funding per FTE compared to REF2014.

We have won an increasingly diverse set of awards (Table 2) including UK Research Councils such as ESRC, AHRC, MRC, NERC and *Innovate UK*, international funders such as the *European Commission* and the *Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet)*, and charities such as *Comic Relief*, *Leverhulme Trust*, *Heritage Lottery Fund* and the *British Academy*. In 2014 a relatively small proportion of our researchers brought in external funding, whereas now 50% of our staff are PIs or Co-Is on externally funded projects, reflecting the increasing maturity and dynamism of our research environment.

Diversity of Income Sources

Source of Income	BEIS Research Councils	UK Charities, Open Competition & Other	UK Govt, Industry & other UK Sources	European Union	Non-EU
Percentage of Income	5%	47%	15%	33%	0%

Table 2: Diversity of Income Sources

Strategy for external research income generation:

The development of fewer, larger bids from successful staff: Prof. Pollock's series of large European awards are a good example of our successful approach here.

Supporting ECRs to develop from small individual proposals to Co-Is on larger collaborative projects, then PIs in their own right: Dr Peter started out with modest ESRC *Festival of Social Science* funding before becoming PI on a £38,000 *Heritage Lottery Fund* project (ICS 3).

Identifying where our strengths contribute to collaborative proposals: Our successful £1.35m Leverhulme Trust award for the doctoral training programme was led by Prof. Miles in this submission but drew on synergies across the Faculty.

Investment in emerging clusters to attract funding aligned with our strengths in policy impact: MCYS have already secured external awards from UKRI, *Innovate UK*, and *Comic Relief* that are worth more than the initial institutional £870,000 investment and delivered award-winning policy impact (ICS 2).

Strategic collaborations with research-intensive universities: Dr Williams is Co-I on the University of Manchester-led ESRC *Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity* (CoDE), while Prof. Pollock leads a large £3.8m consortium that includes UCL and the University of Bologna.

Accessing other national funding through international partnerships: Prof. Young's partnership with Stockholm University has attracted funding for over a decade, starting with smaller grants (from the *Riksbankens Jubileumsfond*, *The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education*, the UK *Royal Geographical Society* and *ERASMUS+*) and culminating in a £300,000 award from the *Swedish Research Council* (*Vetenskapsrådet* – Sweden's largest state funding agency). Dr van Hooff has had similar success with an £80,000 award with Tel Aviv University from the *Israeli Science Council*, while Dr Cheng has had numerous *China National Science Foundation* (NSF) awards through Visiting Professorships in China.

The use of internal investment to support external income generation: High levels of internal funding have been invested to support external grant capture (see Section 2.5).

Exceptional support from the RKE Directorate: We have a strong relationship with our *Research Development Team* who work with us on our long-term funding strategy. We also work with an *International Research Development Manager* and an experienced Research Delivery team. These relationships are key to our success by providing us with high levels of expert knowledge and support.

Major competitive awards include:

The Manchester Metropolitan Q-Step Centre – Nuffield/ESRC/HEFCE £1.15m plus £123,000 (2013).

Prof. Scott Jones is PI on this major initiative promoting quantitative methods. We are the only modern university to receive Q-Step funding.

Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe (MiCreate) – EC (GA822664) €2.84m (€357,996 to Manchester Metropolitan) (2018).

Dr Arun is Co-I on this 15-partner transnational consortium facilitating the inclusion of migrant children in Europe.

European Cohort Development Project (ECDP) – EC (GA777449) €2.048m (€424,622 to Manchester Metropolitan) (2018).

Prof. Pollock coordinates this 15-partner consortium that created the specification for a *European Research Infrastructure* that will provide a 25-year longitudinal study into child and young adult well-being. This project extended ideas in Prof. Pollock's €1.493m European-funded feasibility study MYWEB (2013) leading to the award of £3.8m for COORDINATE (2021–25).

Girls in Gangs – Comic Relief £286,473 (2017) with £150,000 extension (2020).

Dr Jump (MCYS) leads this project (the first time that *Comic Relief* provided research funding to a UK University) which works alongside at-risk young women and girls across Greater Manchester (ICS 2).

Greater Manchester Youth Justice Partnership KTP – AHRC/ESRC-funded Knowledge Transfer Partnership £117,000 (2015).

Led by Prof. Smithson (MCYS), this was the first of its kind in the field of youth justice and aimed to transform GM's *Youth Justice Partnership* by engaging young people in its pioneering *Youth Participatory Action Research* (YPAR). It won a 2019 *Times Higher Education* award for best KE initiative of the year (ICS 2).

Consensual Non-Monogamies and Social Movements (CNM Moves) – EC Marie Skłodowska-Curie €212,000 (GA845889) (2019–22).

Dr Klesse won funding to host Dr Cardoso to conduct a comparative transnational analysis of activism and social movements around consensual non-monogamies in Portugal and the UK.

We have already secured significant awards to ensure the long-term sustainability of our research environment beyond REF2021:

COVID-19: Understanding Chinese Government Containment Measures and Their Societal Impacts – UKRI-NIHR £334,000 (2020–21).

Dr Luo will work with the University of Glasgow, Beijing and Beijing Normal Universities.

The Youth Justice System's Response to the Covid-19 Crisis: Implications and Impacts - UKRI-ESRC Covid Response Fund £363,138 (2020–22).

Prof. Smithson leads this study in partnership with the *Standing Committee for Youth Justice*, which aims to understand the unprecedented implications that COVID-19 has had on children in the youth justice system.

COhort COMMunity Research and Development Infrastructure Network For Access Throughout Europe (COORDINATE) – European Commission £3.8m (£559,000 to Manchester Metropolitan, 2021–25).

Prof. Pollock leads this 22 partner/14 country consortium to extend the development of a longitudinal survey of inequalities facing children and young people.

The Leverhulme Unit For The Design Of Cities And Communities Of The Future (LUDeC) – Leverhulme Trust £1.35m (2021–25).

Prof. Miles leads this multidisciplinary doctoral programme that will fund 15 PhD studentships. We are only the second modern university to receive this funding from Leverhulme.

3.2 Infrastructure and facilities

Research and Knowledge Exchange Directorate (RKE)

RKE offers 'full service' support incorporating the *Graduate School*, support for grant bidding, IP, commercialisation and contracts. This includes a dedicated *Research Development Team*, an *International Research Development Manager* and a *Research Delivery Team* including post-award specialists and legal professionals supporting procurement, logistics and financial management. The *Research Impact and Engagement Manager* manages a team of impact and public engagement professionals, and a *Research Ethics and Governance Manager* offers guidance and training. Engagement with business is supported by a *Business Development Manager*, a *Partnership Manager* and an award-winning KTP team.

RKE Systems manage *Symplectic*, to maintain records of outputs, OA compliance, and web profiles; *Worktribe*, for the online management of external funding applications; *EthOS*, for research ethics and governance; and *SkillsForge*, to manage the PGR student journey. *RKE Systems* also provide management reports for annual review processes.

Administrators in the University's *Graduate School* work closely with our Research Degrees lead and the *Postgraduate Arts and Humanities Research Centre* (PAHC). We also have a dedicated press officer, an HR business partner, ISDS support, and Finance and Legal Services.

Library

The University Library is open 24/7 and offers access to extensive online resources for staff and PGRs. A subject-specific librarian advocates for extra resources and updates journal provision, and contributes to training in *InfoSkills* and *Open Research*. Journal titles, monographs, and online resources are reviewed annually. Inter-Library Loan requests are free. The SCONUL network facilitates access to other university libraries. International research methods packages are available e.g. SAGE Research Methods. New subscriptions to SAGE Premier and extra Taylor & Francis collections have expanded online journal access. The Library also manages Green OA through the *e-Space* repository and funding for Gold OA APC charges. The provision of online resources has been particularly significant during the pandemic, and the Library has invested additional resources into e-books. It also offers access to our Special Collections and other specialist resources such as the *North-West Film Archive*.

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

Support and effectiveness of collaborations, networks and partnerships

Our academic partnerships span the world, rooted in our commitment to scholarly excellence and applied sociology, and we have successfully built long-term national and international partnerships through externally funded research programmes. Prof. Pollock's research into youth wellbeing has attracted almost £5m in FP7 and Horizon2020 funding for multiple projects delivered by more than 30 partners from most EU member states. University partners include UCL, UCD and the Universities of Essex, Debrecan, Bremen, Bologna, Lisbon, Jyväskylä, Helsinki, Tallinn, Ivo Pilar, Pompeu Fabra and the *Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences*. Non-university partners include Ipsos (Germany), Kantar, the *Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences*, and the *European Centre for Social Welfare and Policy Research* (Austria). These networks are now operating as a nascent *European Research Infrastructure*, and outcomes are included in the UK's research infrastructures roadmap. Our *Q-Step Centre* is part of a national network with 17 partners, including the Universities of Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham, Essex, Oxford, UCL, Cardiff, and Southampton, which has influenced 81 degree programmes, the development of 236 modules, and in 2018–19 offered 304 placements with employers. MCYS has developed the *South Asian Network for Childhood and Youth Studies* with universities and civil society organisations in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and India. GCRF funding enabled initial research to take place in Islamabad on gender equality in partnership with *Quaid E Azam University's* Sociology department and their *Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies*. Sociology participates in the NWCDTP via the Cultural Studies pathway.

The unit hosts a large number of international Visiting Professors/Fellows who participate in specific research projects and provide master classes for PGRs/ECRs. Key examples include Dr Nicholas Hookway, University of Tasmania; Dr Kinneret Lahad, Tel Aviv University; Prof. Leanne Dowse, Professor and Chair in Intellectual Disability and Behaviour Support, UNSW Sydney; Dr Liutauras Labanauskas, Kazimieras Simonavičius University, Lithuania; Dr Khayaat Fakier, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; Dr Rajeev Verma, Chandragupt Institute of Management, Patna, India; Dr Marina Riera-Retamero, University of Barcelona; Prof. Anandhi Shanmugham, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. In addition, we regularly host visiting scholars from China including from Wuhan University, Central China Normal University, Shandong University, Nanjing Normal University, Anhui Normal University, Nanning Normal University, Chongqing University of Technology and Business, Northwest University, and the Guangxi University of Finance and Economics.

How staff developed relationships with key users, beneficiaries or audiences to develop impact and enrich research environment

Our staff have been particularly adept at using KE mechanisms in creative ways to develop relationships that have led to impact. For example, MCYS mobilised a *Knowledge Transfer Partnership* (KTP) to deepen their links with the *Youth Justice Board* and each of the ten *Greater Manchester Youth Justice Services*. Unusually for a KTP, this was funded by both the AHRC and the ESRC, which provides further evidence of MCYS' innovative outlook and approach. Aside from the award-winning impact (ICS 2) this partnership also opened further doors to collaboration with other youth justice providers and government across the UK and overseas.

Staff have also made successful use of exchange opportunities and secondments. For example, Dr O'Hare won £60,000 from NERC to conduct a placement with *Greater Manchester's Climate Change Agency* to improve the future resilience of the city. This will lead to various environmental and social impacts which will be tracked as the project develops.

Wider contributions to economy and society, including impact not in impact case studies

Research by Drs Binnie and Klesse on queer film festivals has developed into a partnership with the *Queer Film Network*, a professional body that supports film festivals across the UK and Ireland. The research has resulted in the creation of an interactive toolkit to support QFFs, which is hosted on the *Queer Film Network* website and will be widely utilised by film festivals, particularly as they look to reconstitute themselves in a post-COVID environment. The *Q-Step Centre* works with a wide range of community organisations who provide services for difficult-to-reach groups. *Q-Step* carries out pro-bono research for organisations to help them gather the quantitative evidence they need to demonstrate their sustainability in external funding proposals.

How the unit engages with diverse communities and publics

To ensure that our outstanding Sociology research 'lives in the world' we directly engage a diverse set of 'hard to reach' communities and 'people of experience' in our research and draw in diverse audiences through high-profile, innovative public engagement.

Members of the *Contemporary Intimacies* research group engage a range of LGBTQ+ groups and organisations, including people in non-binary relationships and older gay migrants. Work featured in the Electronic Dance Music impact case study (ICS 3) engages older ex-clubbers and schoolchildren. Dr Patrick Williams works alongside civil rights and advocacy groups to combat social injustice in the criminal justice system surrounding BAME men and women (ICS 4). Other projects work with young people, the homeless, substance users, atomic testing veterans, and individuals practising different forms of intimacies. In this way, we seek to give a voice to people that are acutely under-represented in academic research.

Public engagement is led through *Research in Arts and Humanities!* (RAH!). RAH! was shortlisted in the *Best Research Marketing* category at the 2018 *Heist Awards* for its diverse programme, aimed particularly at people who might not normally engage with academic research. The programme seeks to reach out to research end users via fashion shows, film screenings, pub quizzes, club nights, and public lectures, panels and symposia. Building relationships is at the heart of RAH! which encourages collaboration with Greater Manchester's diverse community groups, subcultures and cultural venues. With a budget of £50,000 per year it typically attracts over 3,000 guests annually.

4.2 Contribution to the discipline and indicators of influence

Our Sociology researchers shape the discipline locally, nationally and internationally, making significant contributions to the vitality and sustainability of sociology and related disciplines:

Editors/Editorial Board Members of peer-reviewed journals:

Prof. Edensor - Co-editor/Editor Emeritus, *Tourist Studies*; Prof. Miles - Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Consumer Culture*; Prof. Smithson, Editor-in-Chief, *Safer Communities*; Dr Dale - Associate Editor, *Journal of Punk and Post-Punk*; Dr Di Felicianantonio, Co-Editor, *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*; Dr Lalor, *Feminist Legal Studies*; Prof. Young - Editor-in-Chief, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*; Dr Brock, Book Reviews Editor, *Journal of Consumer Culture*.

Editorial Board memberships:

Sociology (Dr van Hooff); *Feminist Critique*, *Journal of Environmental Media* (Dr Kuntsman); *Qualitative Research* (Dr Calvey); *Work, Employment and Society*, *Migration and Development* (Dr Arun); *IASPM (International Association for the Study of Popular Music) Journal* (Dr Peter); *Gender, Place & Culture* (Dr Di Felicianantonio); *Journal of Contemporary Crime, Harm and Ethics* (Dr Jump); *Feminist Legal Studies* (Dr Lalor); *British Journal of Community Justice*, *Safer Communities* (Dr Gray); *Journal of Punk and Post-Punk* (Dr Dale); *Critical Gambling Studies*, *International Journal of Esports* (Dr Brock); *East European Politics* (Dr Bindman); *Journal of Youth Studies* (Dr Smithson); *International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development* (Dr Cheng); *Cultural Geographies*, *Emotion, Space and Society*, *Mobilities*, and *Senses and Society* (Prof. Edensor).

Guest Editors of international journal theme issues:

Journal of Environmental Media (Dr Kuntsman); *Extractive Industries and Society* (Dr Alexis-Martin); *International Journal of Film and Media Arts*, (Dr Carduso); *Migration and Development* (Drs Brahic and Arun); *Sage Open* (Dr Goswami); *Urban Geography* (Prof. Young)

Membership of external advisory boards:

Our sociologists make significant contributions to the sociological community through their service on external advisory bodies:

Prof. Smithson, Chair of the *Standing Committee for Youth Justice* and the *Youth Justice Board's Academic Advisory Panel for Serious Youth Violence*; Prof. Miles served on the *Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFEC) National Advisory Committee on Research and Knowledge Exchange*; Dr Peter, Member of the *Executive Committee of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, UK & Ireland*; Dr Alexis-Martin, Scientific Advisor, *British Nuclear Test Veterans Association Board* and Education Advisor, *Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Board*; Prof. Young, Committee Member, *Association for the Study of Death and Society*; Prof. Scott Jones was a *Member of the International Editorial Board of Experts, SAGE Encyclopaedia of Research Methods* and Member, *Advisory Board for the CORE International Economics Quantitative Skills Project*; Dr Cheng, Member, *Advisory Board for the Smart City Association*, Guangxi Province, China; Dr Arun, *Advisory Board for the Evaluation of Gender and Socially Inclusive Flood Relief Camps* in India; Dr Brock, Committee of the *Digital Games Research Association*; the *Historical Geography Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers* benefits from the service of Dr Neate; Dr Snee, Co-convenor, *British Sociological Association's Youth Study Group*.

Fellowships and Prizes:

The international reach and significance of our sociological research has been recognised by the award of numerous prestigious fellowships:

Dr Kuntsman, *International Visiting Fellow* at the prestigious *Aleksanteri Institute*, Helsinki, Finland; Dr Alexis-Martin held a *Hiroshima City University Peace Fellowship*; Dr Di Felicianantonio was a *Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow* and recipient of the *Juan De La Cierva Early Career Fellowship* from the *Spanish State Research Agency*; we host Dr Cardoso as a *Marie Skłodowska-Curie Incoming International Fellow*; a *Liss Jeffrey Award*, a *Rogers Fellowship* at Ryerson University, Canada, together with a *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Engage Grant* supported international research and exchanges by Dr Joseph; Dr Lalor won a *Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship* and Dr Bindman was also honoured by a *Leverhulme Trust Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship*; Prof. Smithson won a *Visiting Scholarship* at the Sydney Institute of Criminology, University of Sydney, Australia; *Visiting Research Fellowships* were held by Prof. Edensor at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Durham University, Roskilde University, Denmark, and Wollongong University, New South Wales, Australia; a *Visiting Fellow* appointment at the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, University of Alberta, Canada recognised the work of Dr Brock.

The quality of our research has been recognised through numerous prizes, for example:

Dr Alexis-Martin's book *Disarming Doomsday* won the *British International Studies Association (BISA) L.H.M. Outstanding First Book Prize* (2020 – output 1970); Dr Di Felicianantonio won the *Association of Italian Geographers 'Gabriele Zanetto prize' for Best Early Career Geographer*; Dr Cardoso was awarded a *European Union H2020 Seal of Excellence* in 2018; Dr van Hooff was shortlisted for the 2016 *British Sociological Association SRO SAGE Prize for Innovation and/or Excellence* and the 2018 *Sociological Review Foundation Award for Outstanding Scholarship*; Dr Snee's book *Cosmopolitan Journey?* was shortlisted for the *BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize*; MCYS were 2020 Finalists at the *KTP Best of the Best Awards for Societal Impact*, Finalists at the *Criminal Justice Alliance Awards*, 2018, and *Organisation of the Year Award* winners for the *Greater Manchester Youth Justice University Partnership THE Awards 2019 - KTP Project of the Year (Youth Justice) (ICS 3)*; Dr Luo was awarded the *Graduate Student Best Paper Prize by the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS)*, 2014; Dr Goswami was awarded the *International Society for Child Indicators Impact Award*, 2019.

Conference Chair and Keynote presentations:

The reputation of our Sociology research was demonstrated when we hosted the 2019 *European Sociological Association Conference* in Manchester (Prof. Pollock Chaired the Organising Committee), the largest sociological conference in Europe with 3,000+ delegates.

Staff in the unit have organised and chaired a vast number of panels and sessions at international conferences, and have been Conference Chair/Organiser for international events, including:

Dr Millington Chaired the *IPM International Conference* in 2017 (Manchester) and 2019 (Adelaide); Dr Brahic organised the conference *Brexit Wounds* (2018) at Manchester Metropolitan and *The Migration Conference* (2017) at Harokopio University, Athens, Greece; Dr Peter was Co-Chair (2019) of *Sonic Waves: Music and Sound Beyond Borders*, Manchester Met.; Prof. Young was PI and Chair of nine events on the ESRC Research Seminar Series *Encountering Corpses*, including a final two-day conference in Manchester (2014-17); Dr Di Felicianantonio was Co-Chair of the *3rd European Geographies of Sexualities Conference*, Sapienza-University of Rome (2015); Dr Snee was Member of the Scientific Committee for the 2015 *International Journal of Youth Studies Conference* and *Lifecourse Stream Co-ordinator* for the 2018 *British Sociological Association Annual Conference*; Dr Luo was Chair for the 2015 *Information Gathering in Contemporary China in Comparative and Historical Perspective*, *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference* and *Representation and Propagation on Digital Platforms*, *Modes of Connection: The 16th Chinese Internet Research Conference* (2018); Dr Arun Co-Chaired *H14: Women's Inequalities and Global Progress in Work: Access, Dignity, Decency of Women's Work at the Development Studies Association Annual Conference*, The University of Manchester (2018); Dr Cardoso Co-organised the 1st, 2nd and 3rd *Non-Monogamies and Contemporary Intimacies Conference* (2015, Lisbon, Portugal; 2017, Vienna, Austria; 2019, Spain).

Similarly, the unit can demonstrate a huge number of keynotes and plenaries at national and international conferences, key among which are:

Keynote presentations at major international sociological conferences include Dr van Hooff, Keynote Speaker at the 2017 BSA Conference *Romantic Relationships in a Time of Cold Intimacies*, Canterbury Christ Church University; Dr Peter and Prof. Miles at the *Leisure Studies Association Annual Conference*; Dr Di Felicianantonio, invited keynote speaker at the *IV European Geographies of Sexualities Conference*, Barcelona (2017); Dr Dale gave a keynote presentation at the *International Centre for Music Studies*, Newcastle University (2017); Dr Brock presented a keynote to the *Polish National Esports Congress*, Katowice, Poland; Prof. Smithson's keynotes include one to the 2018 *National Autistic Society Annual Conference* and several invited presentations to meetings of the *Youth Justice Board*, *Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation*, *Ministry of Justice*, and the *Standing Committee for Youth Justice*; Prof. Edensor at the *Critical Tourism Studies Asia-Pacific conference*, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Dr Goswami at the 2019 *International Symposium on Child Well-being*, Seoul National University Asia Centre, South Korea; and Dr Arun's keynote on her book *Development and Gender Capital in India* (output 1934) at the *Institute of English and Cultural Studies*, University of Kerala, India; Dr Calvey

presented keynotes at British Sociological Association events including *Ethnography in Action: Bouncers, Boxers and Drug Dealers BSA Early Career Forum Regional Event*, Manchester Metropolitan and the *BSA Early Career Event Ethics as Practice and Praxis*, Bangor University; Dr Cheng, invited Keynote Speaker at the *International Conference on Public Safety and Urban Health* (2020), Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China.

National and international peer review:

Staff in the unit have been members of national grant award bodies, including:

Drs Kuntsman and Dale, Prof. Miles - *AHRC Peer Review College*; Prof. Scott Jones, Dr Cheng and Prof. Young - *ESRC Peer Review College* and Dr Cheng *Secondary Data Analysis Grants Panel*; Prof. Scott Jones - *White Rose DTC Advanced Quantitative Methods Award Committee*.

Sociology staff regularly act as international reviewers for key funding agencies, including: *French National Research Agency (ANR)*; *Nuclear Community Charity Fund*; *Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research*; *British Academy*; *Leverhulme*; *ESRC*; *HEA*; *Nuffield Foundation*; *Health and Care Research Wales Social Care Grants*; *Horizon2020*; *British Council*; *NERC*; *Independent Social Research Foundation*; *AHRC*; *Newton Fund/British Council*; *Swiss National Science Foundation*; *Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen (FWO - Flanders Research Foundation, Belgium)*; *Georgian Rustaveli National Science Foundation*; *HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area)*; *Leibniz Junior Research Groups*, *Leibniz Association*, Germany; *Romanian Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding*; *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*; *Slovenian Research Agency*.

Researchers in the unit contribute to the discipline by conducting numerous reviews for a significant, multi-disciplinary range of over 200 individual international journals. Regular reviews are conducted for key sociological journals including the *British Journal of Sociology*, *Sociological Research Online*, *Cultural Sociology* and *Sociology*. Major inter-disciplinary journals are also reviewed for, including the *Environment and Planning A, B, C and D* series, *European Journal of Social Work*, *Oxford Development Studies*, *Gender and Society* and *Emotion, Space and Society*. Staff also contribute reviews to specialist regional journals shaping international research agendas, such as *East European Politics*, *The China Quarterly*, *The East Asian Journal of Popular Culture*, *New Zealand Geographer*, *Rivista Geografica Italiana* and the *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*, as well as journals with a methodological focus, for example *Child Indicators Research*, *Qualitative Research* and *Urban Research Practice*.