

Institution: University of Leicester
Unit of Assessment: 28
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Unit Context and Structure</p> <p>As a unit based in Leicester, the most ethnically diverse city in the UK, our research priorities reflect those of our environment, addressing challenges that Leicester, and other localities in the UK and overseas, face in the twenty-first century. Our research strengths cluster around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • colonialism and its legacies; • community and sense of place; • ethnic and racial identity; • heritage; • migration and diaspora; • religion and faith-based minorities; • the environment; • urban planning; • welfare and health. <p>The University's strategic restructuring of its Colleges and Schools in 2016 enriched our research environment and enhanced our ability to achieve our aims. Now positioned within the College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (CSSAH), History (31.4 FTE) merged with Politics and International Relations to form a new School (HyPIR). This transformation enables us to drive forward interdisciplinarity, engage in collective activities, and benefit from greater research support.</p> <p>Our research activity is powered by – but not limited to – our internationally-renowned research centres and networks. Spanning the early medieval period to the present, these dynamic nexuses of collaboration facilitate interactions between staff and PGRs, underpinning cross-disciplinary activity and impactful research and engagement. Importantly, they exist in synergy with each other so that many colleagues participate flexibly in more than one network or centre. They also incorporate and link colleagues from across the University. Their quality and vitality are demonstrated throughout this statement.</p> <p>History houses three longstanding, high-profile research centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for English Local History (ELH, established 1948); • Centre for Urban History (CUH, established 1985), incorporating the East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA); • Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (SBC, established 1988). <p>Historians are also active in two interdepartmental research centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for American Studies (CAS); • Leicester Medieval Research Centre (LMRC). <p>Colleagues also engage across the University in cross-disciplinary research networks and clusters. Five colleagues belong to the longstanding Early Modern Research Network, which brings together scholars in History, English, Museum Studies and History of Art and Film. The creation of HyPIR generated the opportunity to establish a new interdisciplinary network across History and Politics focusing on Modern Britain in 2017.</p>

Since 2014, the University has invested in two new research networks. In 2016 UoL was awarded £1.5m from the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (WTISF, Institutional Environment Statement (IES), section 2.2) to establish the Medical Humanities Network (MHN); funding for two further years was received in September 2019. The Global, Colonial and Postcolonial Research Cluster (GloCoPoCo) encompasses research on Australia and the Pacific, the Americas, Africa, the Indian Ocean and Asia. In addition, the Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS, IES 2.2) has provided support and funding for new research networks involving historians, including the Africa Research Group (ARG) and the Migration, Mobility, Citizenship Network (MMCN).

Collectively, our centres, networks and clusters facilitate a culture of aspiration, innovation and achievement, and cultivate an environment for research excellence and meaningful impact that incorporates both staff and PGRs, enabling us to deliver on the aims of our REF2014 strategy.

Achievement of strategic aims for research and impact over the assessment period

During this cycle our research strategy has been shaped by aims articulated in REF2014, now achieved.

2014 Research Aims	Achievements
Consolidate record of external grant capture; increase range of staff holding large grants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of mandatory internal and external peer, grant-writing support yielding increased grant capture. New grants in excess of £8.2 million, up 64% since REF2014. Total grant income increased 233% from £2.015m (2014) to £6.7m (2020). 30% Category A staff currently hold grants over £100k (23% in 2014).
Improve mechanisms and practices to support vibrant and sustainable research culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of HyPIR Research Development Fund (RDF) from 2018/19 to support new research initiatives. System of annual research mentoring meetings implemented. Creation of and participation in new research networks (ARG, GloCoPoCo, MHN, MMCN and Modern Britain).
Sustain staffing in areas of research strength and invest in growth areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of 6 staff on open-ended contracts including 2 investment posts in SBC and GloCoPoCo.
Recruitment of at least one postdoctoral fellow p.a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of 8 postdoctoral fellows over 7 years on independent projects funded by BA (2); Leverhulme (4); Wellcome (1); BEIS Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowship (1).
Strengthen PGR cohort through international recruitment and funded studentships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of 43 UKRI-funded PGR students by 2020 (23 in REF2014). Proportion of international PGR completions over cycle increased from

	12% (2014) to 18.5% (2020). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near-doubling of completion rate from 6.6 (2014) to 12.9 (2020) p.a.
Develop collaborative projects with academic colleagues beyond Leicester and research-led partnerships with non-HEIs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36% of grants awarded involved collaboration with external partners. Collaboration with 10 non-HEI partners in supervision of 17 CDAs and CDPs.

Impact Support

We support research impact generation through our agile approach and proactive interventions: embedding impact planning in annual research mentoring discussions:

- nurturing impact through responsive internal funding and targeted mentoring by experienced colleagues;
- supporting early-stage impact, to ensure that impactful research matures at its own pace;
- deploying responsive workload planning to allow for the development and evaluation of impact;
- seeking non-HEI collaborations, for example via CDAs and CDPs with IROs or HLF projects and partnerships;
- engaging with local, regional, national and international communities to develop partnerships where our research can support their goals;
- remaining alert to serendipitous opportunities arising through established and emerging research relationships;
- working intensively with colleagues at all career stages to develop impactful grant applications.

In delivering this strategy we draw on the institutional support of the UoL Impact Team, the CSSAH impact fund and HyPIR's RDF.

The three submitted impact case studies reflect our inclusive strategy for developing impact. Other projects with a longer-term trajectory are also being sustained and developed and new ones nurtured. The multi-faceted and wide-reaching impact resulting from the highly publicised discovery of Richard III, in which **Schürer** played a key role, arose in response to a serendipitous discovery (ICS2). Yet, it was catalysed by existing research relationships and non-HEI collaborations and internal funding served to maximise that opportunity. The highly-praised 'Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms' exhibition, which generated national public impact as well as economic benefit for the British Library (BL), exemplifies how a longstanding partnership between **Story** and the BL (including an AHRC CDP studentship) was developed to support the latter's goals (ICS3). Pro-active deployment of workload planning and focusing of internal resources by the School enabled **Story** to engage fully with the demanding requirements and timescale. Lastly, **Hopper's** transformative partnership with Newark Millgate Museum, now the National Civil War Centre (NCWC), grew out of informal collaborations which fed into the pathways to impact of 'Welfare, Conflict and Memory' (AHRC £761,542). Internal funding was used strategically to support two exhibitions at NCWC, plus visitor evaluation, while an AHRC M4C CDP studentship underpins ongoing outreach activity (ICS1).

Open Access

HyPIR regards Open Access (OA) as integral to research excellence and knowledge creation, and thus fully embraces – and exceeds – the University's ambitious OA Policy (IES 2.6). In

addition to the University's OA fund, HyPIR's RDF supports OA publication (up to £1500 for a Gold OA article and up to £5000 to subsidise a monograph), enabling, for example, Gold OA publication of **Bethke's** article in a 2019 special issue of the *International Journal of Fashion Studies*. Our efforts to include OA publication costs within grant proposals have resulted in further Gold OA outputs including six articles, a book chapter, an edited collection and a monograph. All PhDs are available OA, and OA publication is emphasised in research mentoring meetings, leading Goldsmith, for example, to place her first monograph with the Royal Historical Society's new OA *Historical Perspectives* series.

Ethics and Research Integrity

HyPIR follows the University's robust procedure for ensuring all research is conducted to the highest ethical standards, informed by University UK's *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* (IES, 2.7). All colleagues and students are required to submit research programmes for approval to a University Research Ethics and Integrity Committee, which ensures adherence to professional standards and legal requirements. PGRs undergo mandatory research integrity training in their probationary period. The extent to which our procedures enable ground-breaking research to be conducted ethically is exemplified by Khoshnaw who, under **Korb's** supervision, filmed and produced three short documentaries on genocide in Middle Eastern contexts involving interviews with victims as part of his practice-based PhD.

Key Achievements

Increasing success in grant capture has been accompanied by high numbers of publications, with 31 monographs, 147 journal articles and 144 book chapters published in this cycle. Outstanding examples include the five-volume *Reliquiae Baxterianae* (2020), a 'glorious resource' (*Renaissance Studies*) edited by **Coffey** et al. and **Schürer's** foundational work on historical demography published as the *Integrated Census Microdata (I-CEM) 1851–1911* (2020). Both constitute major resources for future historical research.

More broadly, our achievements show how our research centres, clusters and networks develop distinctive research agendas that generate world-leading scholarship and impactful research:

Snell's *Spirits of Community* (2016) confirms ELH's international reputation for the historical study of community. With **Muir's** monograph *Deviant Maternity and Illegitimacy in Wales, 1680–1900* (2020) and **Hopper's** major AHRC award 'WC&M', it is also developing a reputation for histories of welfare and health. **Jones'** collaboration with geographers, geomorphologists and place-name specialists on flooding perpetuates the Hoskins tradition of innovative interdisciplinary research: 'Flood and Flow: Place-Names and the Changing Hydrology of River Systems' (Leverhulme Trust £128,725) and 'Enhancing UK Flood Resilience' (AHRC £32,679). This is generating new data on riverine flooding in England across two millennia that will underpin robust future flood models. The work of both **Jones** – and **Hopper** with the NCWC – is evidence of our impact strategy at work, allowing impact pathways to grow organically from carefully crafted research programmes.

CUH has consolidated its reputation as a centre of excellence, particularly for the twentieth century, with **Gunn's** *Automobility and the City* (2019), **Lincoln's** *Urbanizing China in War and Peace* (2015) and articles from **Butler** on post-war Irish planning. **Lincoln** and **Butler** were awarded AHRC Early Career Leadership Fellowships in the fields of post-war urban reconstruction in China and post-war Irish town planning respectively. **Kidambi's** widely-acclaimed *Cricket Country* (2019) was the fruit of ten years research initiated through a

Leverhulme fellowship (2009). **Gunn** and **Sweet's** reputation for modern British and eighteenth-century urban and cultural history attracted two British Academy post-doctoral fellows (Ansell and **Kefford**) and one Leverhulme Early Career Fellow (LECF) (Goldsmith) in this cycle.

Bethke's monograph, *Tanz auf Messers Schneider* (2015), signals SBC's widening remit to include investigations of race, ethnicity, and identity formation, and a new focus on post-1945 European and world history. This was reinforced by her Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (2019–21). **Korb** and **P.Moore's** research and publications maintain SBC's reputation for innovative work on the Holocaust, attracting international scholars such as LECF **Fenoglio**.

Story's research on narratives of identity and connectivity between early medieval Britain and the Continent, via the Leverhulme Trust Programme Award 'Impact of Diasporas on the Making of Britain' (2011–2015) and 'Networks of Knowledge: Insular Manuscripts c. AD650–850' (Leverhulme Trust International Network £87,507), underpinned a series of articles and the BL's 'Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms' exhibition (2018/19) and its award-winning catalogue (ICS3).

Colleagues from CAS have authored three monographs in this cycle (**Toner, Johnstone, Clapp**). CAS has provided an institutional framework for **Toner** to extend her research beyond Mexico into North America, leading to her multi-disciplinary project 'Consuming Authenticities' (AHRC £18,296) and her Early Career Leadership Fellowship, 'Alcohol, Race and Ethnicity' (AHRC £245,651). Through **Johnstone's** 2016 British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award 'The US and American History in Britain in the Twenty-First Century' (£14,971) CAS organised engagement workshops for ECRs across the UK and through **Lewis** it leads an important outreach initiative, *Journey to Justice*.

Major awards associated with the MHN include King's 'In Their Own Write' (AHRC £872,127), Gentilcore's 'The Water Cultures of Italy, 1500–1900' (ERC Advanced Grant £2,744,003) and Taylor's WTISF-funded fellowship 'Medicalising childhood in Britain, 1900–2000' (£46,287), while Gentilcore, **Hurren** and King have published four monographs arising from Wellcome, Leverhulme, AHRC and ESRC-funded research in this cycle.

Anderson, founder and co-convenor of GloCoPoco, has co-authored a major study of the Andaman Islands and, arising from the ERC-funded 'The Carceral Archipelago: Transnational Circulations in Global Perspective, 1415–1960' (2013–2018), a series of articles, a co-edited special issue and an edited volume. PI on a BA-GRCF grant in collaboration with the University of Guyana and the Guyana Prison Service, 'History and Security Sector Reform' (£45,545), **Anderson** is now PI with CI **Toner** and the same partners in an interdisciplinary project with the Schools of Arts and Criminology, 'Mental Neurological and Substance Abuse Disorders in Guyana's Jails: 1825 to the Present Day' (ESRC-GCRF £1,308,801). **Groves'** monograph *Malawian Migration to Zimbabwe, 1900–1965* (2020) explores labour migration in Southern African cities, bridging the research agendas of GloCoPoCo and CUH. Four post-doctoral fellows, Henrich, Ryan, **Boehme** and R. Anderson, funded by Wellcome, Leverhulme and BEIS (Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowship) respectively, have been supported by GloCoPoCo.

COVID-19 has inevitably impacted research activity, but we have worked hard to maintain a dynamic research culture (e.g. writing retreats, online seminar series and reading groups) despite the challenges caused by internal constraints on research allowances, postponed study leave, and a short-term institutional shift to prioritise blended teaching. Successful applications

to UKRI for extensions to existing projects (**Hopper, Story, Anderson/Toner**) will minimise the impact of COVID-related restrictions; other projects have been able to continue (e.g. **Toner, Lincoln, Butler**). LECFs **Boehme** and **Fenoglio** were supported in taking furlough and PGRs benefited from a comprehensive package of University support. We have also grasped opportunities created by responsive COVID funding, drawing on existing external partnerships and internal interdisciplinary relationships to leverage funding and stimulate research initiatives through LIAS (e.g. Moss working with Guyana Prison Service) and the University's Research England GCRF QR allocation (Carstocea on COVID-19's impact on European Roma communities).

Strategic Aims and Ambitions

Research successes in this cycle reflect our pursuit of excellence and innovation alongside greater cross-disciplinary collaboration within and beyond the University. Our strategy going forward will focus upon the following priorities:

- Improve diversity in our staffing profile and our research portfolio, particularly in terms of gender among promoted staff and ethnic diversity across all career stages, including our PhD cohort.
- Focus staff recruitments in areas where BAME historians are better represented, such as histories of migration and race in modern Britain and the Global South.
- Develop our research centres, networks and clusters through support of and investment in our research themes, appointing staff with the ambition and ability to deliver impactful research.
- Work with LIAS to foster collaborative and cross-disciplinary initiatives, providing the foundation from which to apply to a broader range of funders.
- Maintain and develop our success in grant capture through diversification of sources of funding, including philanthropic donations.
- Widen the proportion of colleagues holding major awards (≥£100k) through targeted support and mentoring of applications.
- Provide a supportive and inclusive research environment for ECRs and PGRs that equips them with skills and experience to build a successful career through allocation of increased resources to the ECR network.
- Enhance opportunities for our PGR community, e.g., through participation in doctoral training partnerships and expanding CDPs with IROs and other partners.
- Create opportunities for research impact, and nurture impact arising from long-standing partnerships (e.g. **Horrocks'** collaboration with the BL and **Hopper's** work with the NCWC), as well as from new partnerships (e.g. **Anderson** with Guyana Prison Service)
- Strengthen our programme of community engagement by building on the strong local, national and international partnerships we have already established and by aligning research priorities with contemporary challenges, especially those reflected by our host city and the county.

2. People

Overview

History currently comprises 33 Category A and 31.4 FTE (36 in REF2014). Our present staff profile comprises 8 professors, 11 readers/associate professors/senior lecturers, 11 lecturers, 3 post-doctoral fellows (plus 3 fixed-term lecturers/teaching fellows and 5 project RAs). Our staffing strategy is informed by principles of transparency, consistency, accountability and

inclusivity, highlighted in the University's strategy document, *A Culture of Equality: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion* (IES, 3.1). Life-long academic and career development features prominently as we seek to retain outstanding colleagues and develop world-class research.

Our recruitment strategy sustains strong areas by replacing departing senior staff with high-calibre ECRs (e.g. **Vandeburie** interactions between medieval Islam and the Christian West), and securing new posts in emerging areas (e.g. **Groves** to African History). We shortlist on excellence, potential, and fit-to-job, supported by mandatory unconscious bias training to produce diverse candidate lists.

PGR recruitment strategy has been to: maximise opportunities created by the AHRC and ESRC Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) including sharing best practice in preparing CDP/CDA applications; build on international partnerships to recruit overseas students; and facilitate progression through our BA and MA programmes to doctoral research (51% of UKRI-funded students are/have been UoL graduates).

Our review and selection of REF outputs was completed in accordance with the University's Code of Practice and was fair, transparent, robust and accountable. In making the final selection, all available information was discussed case-by-case within the UoA 28 REF team and selected to reflect quality and demographic profile. Of the 70 outputs submitted, the proportions by BAME and female staff are marginally higher than might be expected *pro rata* and the number of outputs submitted by grade of staff are in line.

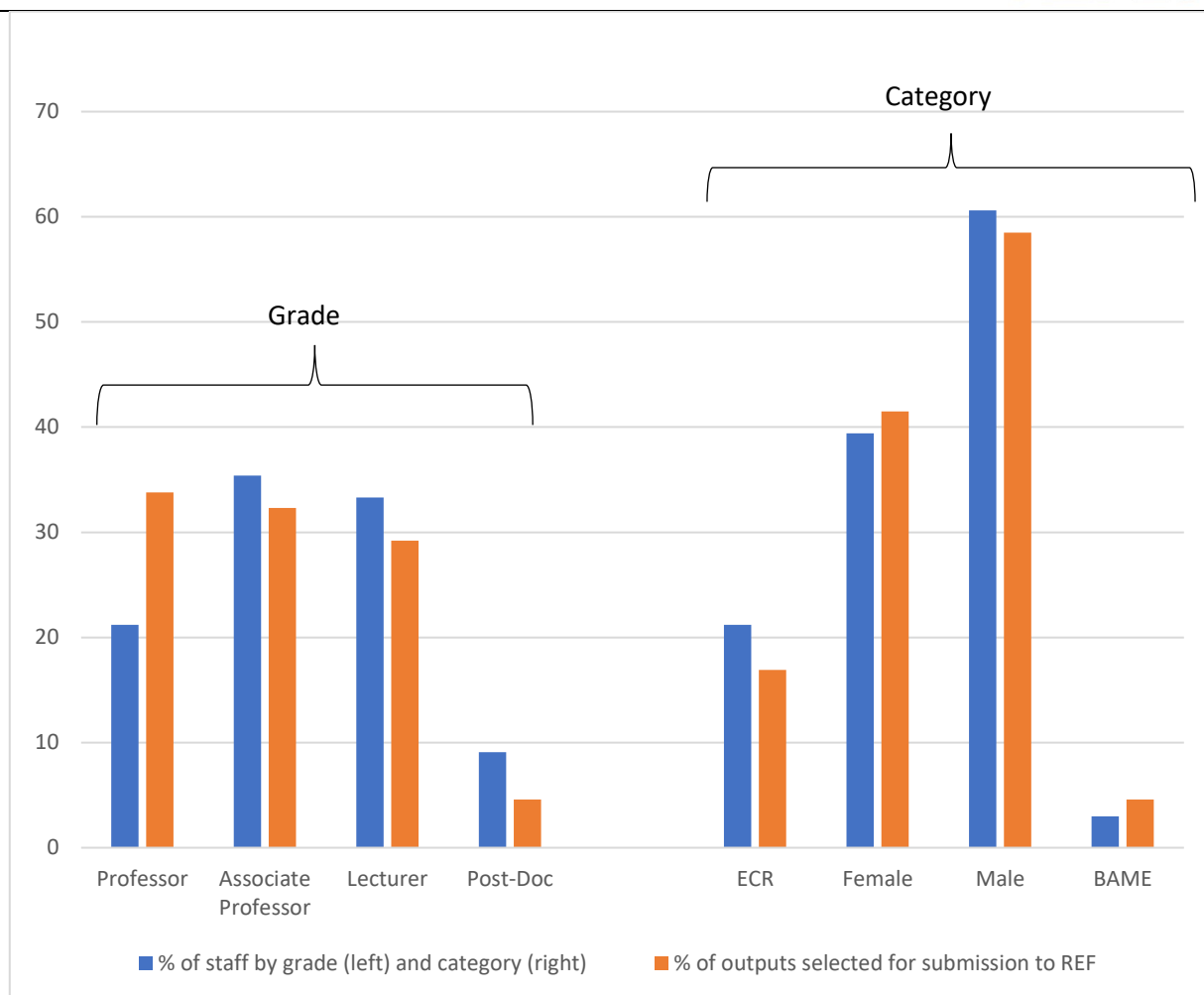


Figure 1: Proportion of outputs submitted to REF by grade and category of staff member

Since REF2014 we have made six open-ended appointments (**P.Moore, Bethke, Butler, Groves, Muir, Vandeburie**) of which two were investment posts in new areas (**Bethke and Groves**). Other new appointments were targeted to sustain research excellence in our Centres: **Butler** (twentieth-century architectural and planning history) in CUH; **P.Moore** (modern Germany) in SBC; **Muir** (eighteenth/nineteenth-century gender, poverty and welfare in England and Wales) in ELH and **Vandeburie** in LMRC. We also appointed 9 fixed-term associate lecturers and teaching fellows funded by external research grants or staff secondments to research organisations to support our full-time T&R staff, ensuring 40% research time in line with University strategy (IES 3.2).

Mentoring and Staff Development

Appointments to academic and research posts are subject to a period of probation overseen by the Head of HyPIR who follows up recommendations relating to research needs with History's Director of Research. Every new colleague is allocated a mentor from across HyPIR who advises on research, teaching and career development, promoting collegiality and interdisciplinarity. Mentoring support is provided throughout the career cycle: all academic and research staff (open-ended and fixed-term) are supported through a process of annual personal development discussion, which intersects with annual research mentoring meetings. The latter give colleagues dedicated space to discuss research agendas, to flag needs and to focus on six core issues: immediate research and publication priorities; longer-term plans and publication

strategy (including OA); grant applications; doctoral student recruitment; impact and KE opportunities; and career progression.

Colleagues are supported in attending leadership training (completed by **Lewis, Toner** and **Johnstone**, all of whom were subsequently promoted) in line with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and the University's Concordat Action Plan 2017–2019. All colleagues, regardless of contractual status, are entitled to an annual research allowance (£850 in March 2020 and £1200 for ECRs) to support research related activity and may also apply to a range of College funds (see section 3). Additionally, through continued grant success in HyPIR and the University policy of allocating 50% of overheads to departments, we made a strategic decision in 2018 to establish a fund (RDF) to support the research development of all colleagues including PGRs, teaching fellows and RAs, spreading the benefits of grant capture beyond the Pls. Decisions are made by School Management Committee, informed by reports from the Directors of Research.

Colleagues on both open-ended and fixed-term contracts may apply for research leave once in every seven semesters, subject to the submission of an agreed research and publication plan and completion of a teaching qualification. Applications, decided by the College, are unaffected by periods of ill-health, parental leave or secondment. Since 2014, no eligible colleague has been denied leave and 27 have benefited from leave totalling 45 semesters, sustaining our increased research income and publication of 31 monographs.

We encourage colleagues to take up secondment opportunities to other organizations where this supports career development and strengthens networks and partnerships. **Horrocks** has been seconded as consultant to the BL (0.05-0.1 FTE) since 2011, generating successful CDP applications and impact pathways. **Sweet** was seconded to the AHRC as Director of Partnerships and Engagement (0.6 FTE) from March 2018-May 2019, strengthening History's contacts with both the AHRC and the IRO network.

Early Career Researchers

We are committed to enhancing the careers of new researchers and ensuring that colleagues who join us on fixed-term contracts leave better qualified than when they arrived, in accordance with the Concordat and University action plan. We seek to create a supportive work environment that recognises the challenges of precarity. We support all early career staff to develop their research portfolios through grant capture, regardless of contractual status. All ECRs have a reduced teaching load and are offered career-development mentoring and continuing professional development through access to on-the-job training from the Doctoral College (IES 3.2). With the creation of HyPIR, we established an informal School-wide network for ECRs to discuss expectations around ECR research achievements for career progression. Following UKRI's best-practice we allow self-definition of 'ECR' for this purpose and our network includes teaching fellows, post-doctoral fellows, new lecturers, and project-RAs. This group, chaired by an ECR (who also sits on the CSSAH ECR forum), currently has 38 members and meets every 6 weeks. It provides an informal space for discussing issues such as publishing in peer-reviewed journals, writing book proposals, and demystifying REF. With the Director of Research, it also organises events on research finance, grant writing, OA policy and impact.

The success of our support strategy is evident in the growth in number of our ECRs, their grant income generation and their onward trajectories to academic positions in the UK and Europe. Of our eight post-doctoral fellows, four (Ryan, R.Anderson, Henrich, **Kefford**) have been appointed

to open-ended lectureships, two (Ansell, Goldsmith) to fixed-term posts while **Fenoglio** and **Boehme** have been awarded honorary fellowships by HyPIR until February 2021, ensuring they maintain an academic base during furlough. Of fixed-term lecturers and teaching fellows leaving during this cycle, two went on to open-ended contracts at other HEIs, four to research fellowships or academic-related posts and Dailey was supported to the successful award of an ERC Consolidator Grant (c.1.5M euro to Leicester, Nov.2020). Three RAs from projects funded in this cycle have since secured research posts and five were appointed to open-ended lectureships; of these only two are in history departments, reflecting both the quality of the career-development support provided and the cross-disciplinary environment in which our major research projects operate.

Postgraduates

Our PGR programme has developed significantly since 2014 with the establishment of the Midlands-3-Cities (M3C/M4C) AHRC DTP in 2014 and, from 2016, the ESRC Midlands Graduate School (MGS) DTP. **Horrocks**, who led the successful ESRC application, is institutional lead and **Schürer** the Social and Economic History pathway lead. These DTPs have allowed us to recruit and support a larger PGR cohort compared to REF2014: 91 PhDs have been awarded over this cycle compared to 40 in 2014 while completion rates have improved from 6.6 to 12.9 pa over the same period.

Figure 2 reflects the success of long-term efforts to boost international recruitment and our commitment to increasing BAME representation. 49% students identify as female (48% in 2014), exceeding the national average in History of 46.7%.

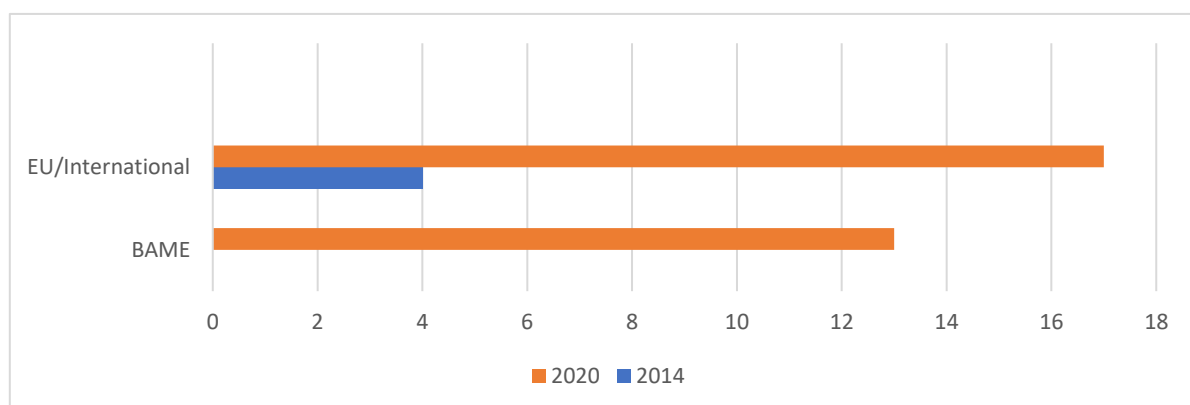


Figure 2: Diversity and internationalisation in PhD completions (%) 2014-20

Our students have been funded through external grants (3), internal investment in Graduate Teaching Assistants (6), international scholarships (2) and, as Figure 3 details, UKRI studentships (43).

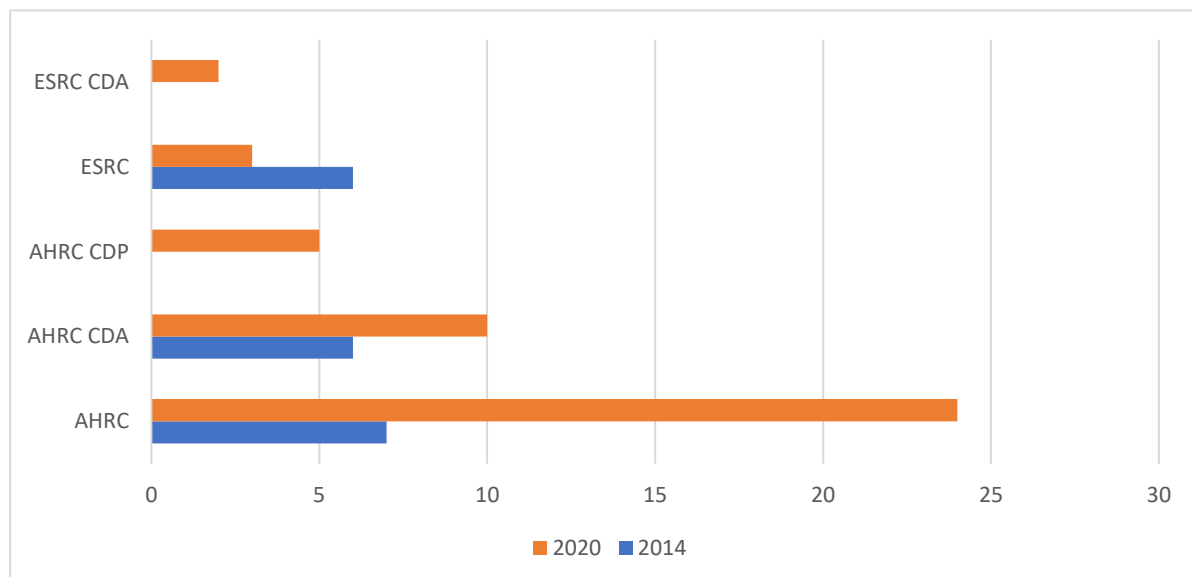


Figure 3: UKRI PhD studentships awarded 2014-20

All studentships are advertised and are offered on a full or part-time basis. Both DTPs hold application writing workshops, which can be attended remotely. Recruitment is conducted according to sector standard equal opportunities practices and interviews are held virtually if travel poses difficulties.

Our goal in REF2014 was to broaden the supervisory base, previously concentrated on a few colleagues. Consequently, all colleagues on open-ended contracts have been involved in PhD supervision during this cycle, ensuring that students continue to be matched with the most relevant supervisory expertise. Less-experienced supervisors, including post-doctoral fellows, are appointed to supervision teams where their expertise is appropriate. Opportunities for ECRs to build PGR-support skills are also available through Probation and Annual Review interviews (paired with experienced colleagues) and through their inclusion in assessment and interview panels for DTP studentship competitions.

Induction, training, and monitoring follow DTP and University regulations and are overseen by the Director of Graduate Studies. Monthly meetings with supervisors (including non-HEI partners) are documented and recorded. Probation reviews occur during the first year of full-time study (second year part-time) and are followed by the annual (or bi-annual) review; both involve two assessors external to the supervisory team. Training needs for skills development and future career preparation are identified at the first supervision and reviewed annually. A bespoke programme is agreed using University, College and School resources and/or those of the DTPs. The University's Doctoral College provides transferable skills and research methods training guided by the Vitae Researcher Development Framework. Subject-specific training (e.g. palaeography) is provided by staff in History.

Our PGRs are integrated into our research culture, which is in turn enhanced by their academic achievements and skills. We run specialist masterclasses for our postgraduates that provide immersive training and exposure to diverse methodologies; they encourage discourse and exchange across disciplines and are open to the M4C consortium (e.g. LMRC: Reassembling the Staffordshire Hoard 2014). Six different research seminars are run through History's centres, networks and clusters, which PGRs are encouraged to attend and where they also have

opportunities to present their own work. They are supported in organising their own activities, including an annual HyPIR PGR conference and the New History Lab (NHL) seminar, which provides opportunities for students to present their research, participate in employment-related events, provide mutual support and discuss shared issues around the PhD journey. PGRs also gain valuable paid experience working with academic staff to run conferences or as externally-funded research assistants, including for **Hopper's** 'WC&M' and **Coffey's** Wilberforce Diaries projects.

Students are supported in applying for grants to cover conference attendance, archival research, training or travel for fieldwork from the HyPIR RDF (7 awards to date), the DTPs, and other external sources of funding, including the Economic History and Royal Historical societies. CSSAH encourages applications to its PGR fund from self-funded students, with 17 successful History applications since 2017. Additionally, the 'Friends of ELH' have provided over £16k in travel and research bursaries since 2013/14, for self-funded students.

Our PGRs actively contribute to the wider discipline through publication of peer-reviewed articles, curating exhibitions, organising and presenting papers at national and international conferences. For example, in 2018, Satam received PGR RDF funding for a research trip to India that laid the foundations for a three-day international conference on 'Exploring the Unexplored: New Perspectives on the History of Mumbai', resulting in a collaboration with the universities of Göttingen, and Mumbai. Satam was appointed to an assistant lectureship at Amity University, India in 2019. The quality of PGR research is recognised through the award of prizes, including the Boydell & Brewer prize for the best PhD in maritime history (Roscoe, 2019) and the *Midland History* essay prize (Strange, 2018 and Blacklaws, 2017).

The opportunities and training that we provide have enabled 23% of PGRs graduating in this cycle to enter academic or academic related roles in the UK or internationally, contributing to the future development of the profession. 20% have been appointed to posts in the heritage sector, local government, think tanks and publishing. 59% of those graduating were mature students, many of whom did not undertake a PhD for career progression; however, many remain active as volunteer researchers.

This strong and supportive supervision culture is recognised by our students, consistently scoring over 90% in the PRES during this cycle for both full-time and part-time students. Students have high confidence (91%) that they will be able to complete within the expected timescale. Its efficacy is reflected in the improvement in our completion rates (see above).

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are guided by the University's strategy to recognise and value diversity, ensure quality of opportunity and to enable all staff and students to flourish in an inclusive and respectful working and learning environment. Our Category A staff currently comprise 39.4% women and 60.6% men of whom 3% self-declare as BAME.

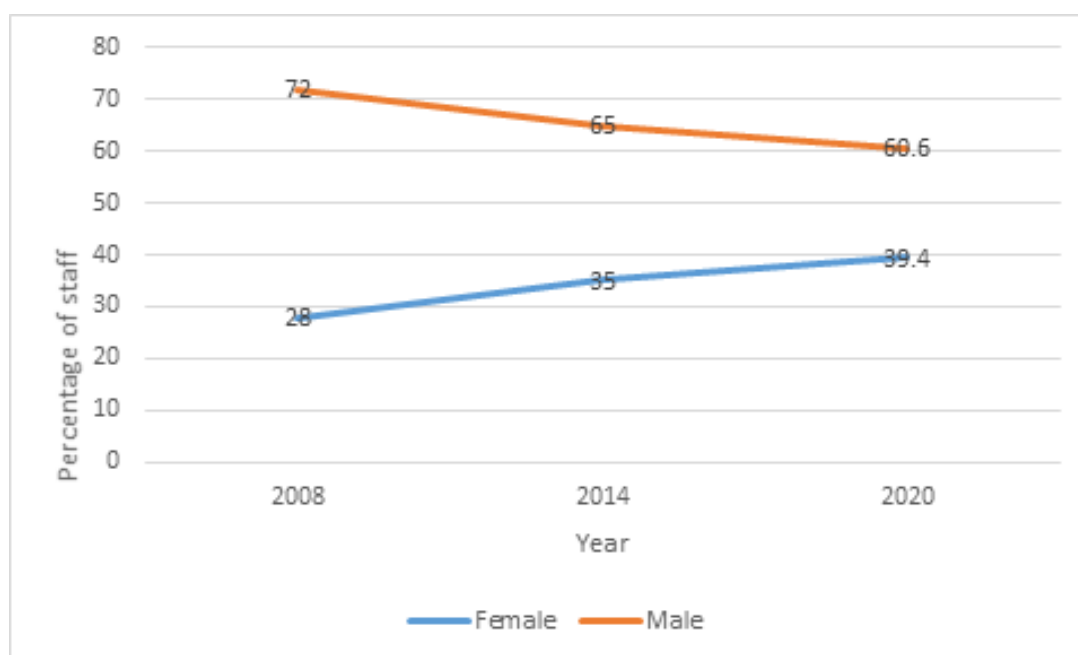


Figure 4: The closing gender gap in Category A staffing since 2008 (%)

The Royal Historical Society's recent reports on gender and race and ethnicity provide a salutary reminder of the systemic inequalities in the profession; inequalities which we are working hard to correct. Although we are approaching gender parity in staffing (Figure 4), much remains to be done in terms of recruitment and career progression: 37.5% professors and 41.6% associate professors are women; 33% of total promotions in this cycle went to women and 67% to men. There are no BAME staff at professorial level but 9% at associate professor.

To address these issues, HyPIR created a Staffing Committee in 2018 with a remit that includes proactive discussions around promotion applications and direct mentorship of those applications. We have appointed an Athena Swan (AS) Lead and an Inclusion and Diversity Champion, each with substantial time allocated in our workload planning model. In August 2019 the Staffing Committee formally adopted the AS Lead's Strategic Plan and established an AS Self-Assessment Team. An AS staff survey has been completed, the results of which became available in July 2020 and will inform our strategy from the beginning of the 2020/21 academic year.

Progress is evident in the fact that most new appointments in this cycle have gone to women and non-binary colleagues (50% open-ended, 60% fixed-term appointments and 50% post-doctoral fellows were female and 10% fixed-term non-binary). Although no BAME staff have been appointed to open-ended contracts, 33% of our RAs on funded projects identify as BAME.

We aim to build on our success in attracting outstanding early career female colleagues and to support them in developing the appropriate career profile to ensure promotion (e.g. support provided for **Toner, Bethke, Groves** and **Muir**). Addressing the ethnic diversity in our staffing presents a challenge that will inform future staffing decisions. We recognise that the problem starts early in the academic career cycle: we are therefore delighted that, as part of the institutional strategy to address the BAME awarding gap (IES 3.1), History was awarded one of CSSAH's inaugural BAME PGR 3+1 scholarships.

We follow the University's institutional workload modelling tool (IES 3.2) that distributes academic work efficiently and equitably (implemented in HyPIR 2018-19). Every administrative/citizenship role is advertised to ensure equality of opportunity. In keeping with the University's flexible working policies, established to support carers and enable gender equality in the workplace, three staff have successfully applied to work flexible hours to accommodate caring responsibilities in this cycle. Four staff – two open-ended, two fixed-term – have taken parental leave since 2014. Long-term health issues affecting three others have been sensitively managed through staged return to work and regular review, enabling individuals to remain research active and, in one case, secure ill-health retirement.

Academic research cultures can be exclusionary for those without a common background in and/or access to tacit knowledge about academic norms and behaviours: accordingly, our comprehensive induction programme for PGRs is designed to address areas that students may find intimidating such as conference attendance and engaging with established academics. Induction also provides a crucial opportunity to inform students about support available from the University's Doctoral College, in terms of mental health and well-being as well as academic resources. As with all other core activities, we enable remote participation to include students based outside Leicester or with caring responsibilities. This has provided a strong foundation on which to build new ways of remote working with PGRs since the onset of COVID-19.

In promoting equality and diversity we have successfully encouraged part-time, off-campus and international students to become student representatives on CSSAH's PGR Committee which offers them a forum to highlight how their experiences can be improved. We support our PGRs in engaging with events such as Black History Month and LGBTQ+ awareness, particularly through the activities of NHL. UKRI funded students with registered disabilities receive financial support from the relevant consortium to cover costs such as laptops or deaf-signing interpreters. The University's Accessibility unit works closely with staff to provide support for these and other students with a wide range of disabilities.

Our research environment draws its strength from the supportive and inclusive culture that we seek to inculcate. We are clear that much remains to be done further to diversify our staffing profile and to enable progression and promotion of female and BAME staff to meet our ambition to be a world-leading department that pioneers and empowers diverse interpretations of history. We believe that the measures that we have already implemented and our future strategy to further diversify our community will ensure that our research environment continues to generate cutting-edge historical scholarship that speaks to global challenges and reflects the University's exciting agenda for 'Citizens of Change'.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research Income

Figures 5 and 6 show the significant growth in our grant income and capture this cycle: ranked 18th by HESA in 2013/14 for research grants and contracts, in 2018/19 History was in 5th place nationally.

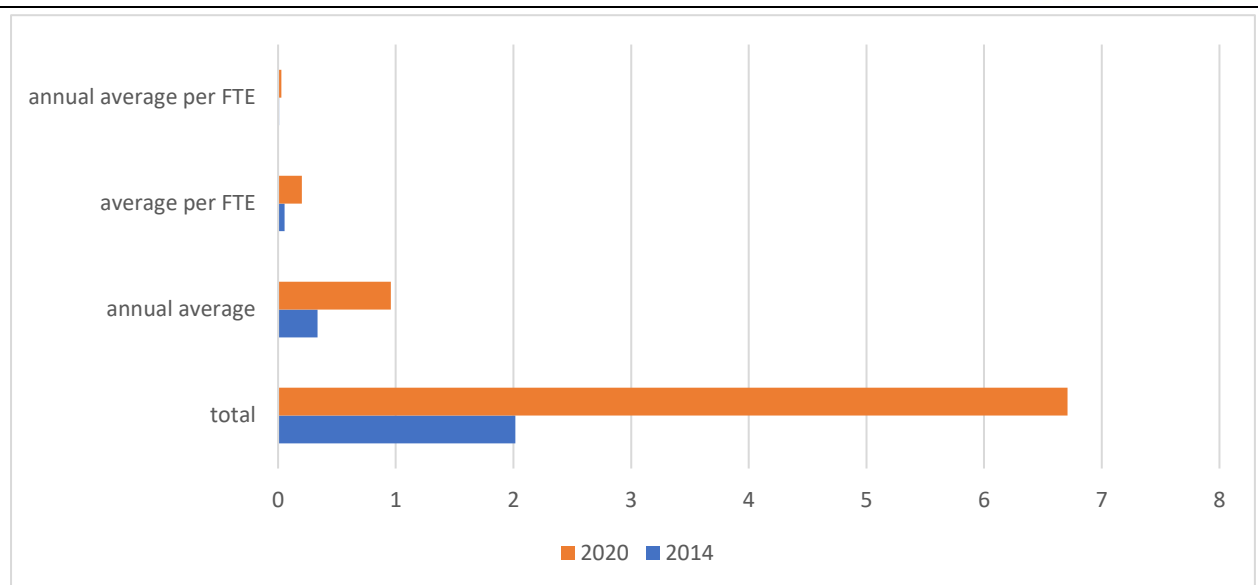


Figure 5: Growth of grant income (£m)

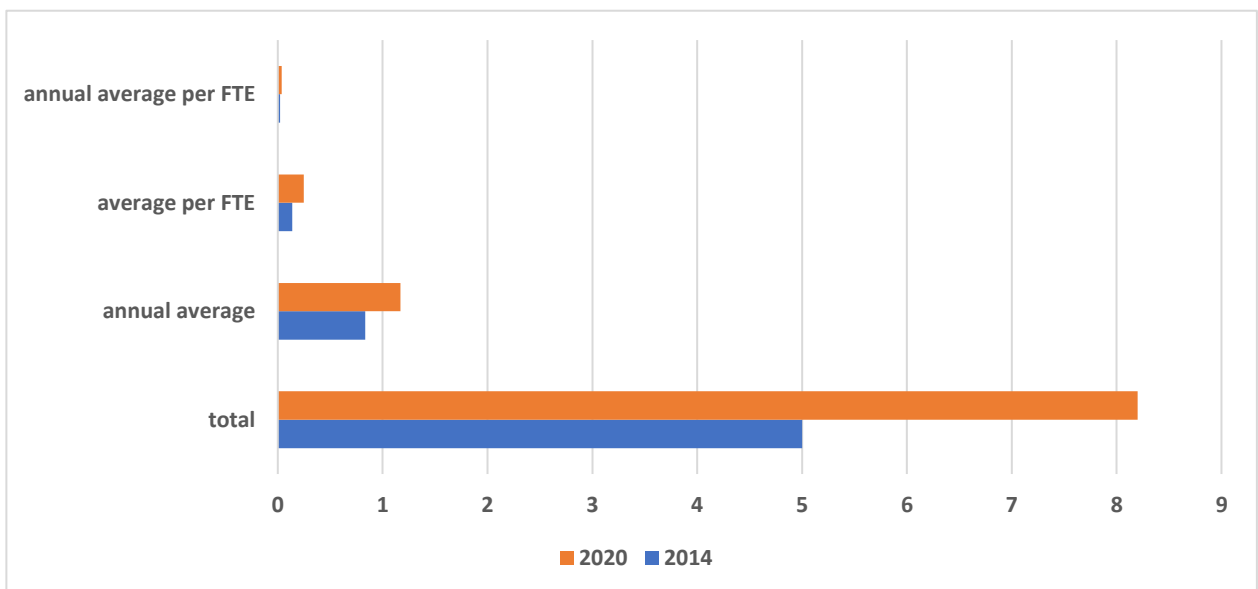


Figure 6: Growth of grant capture (£m)

This success has been achieved by:

- providing staff with one-to-one support from experienced colleagues through the whole cycle of developing a major funding bid, from early ideas discussed at research mentoring meetings, to applications for small grants for pilot projects, and through to large individual or collaborative bids;
- strategic use of institutional support and School funds derived from grant overheads as seed funding for pilot projects and impact activities;
- improving the quality of applications through internal and external peer-review and targeted investment in professional grant writing support;
- incentivising success in grant capture by allowing PIs a share of grant overheads allocated to HyPIR (15% for grants < £200k, 20% for awards ≥ £200k, with potential for further flexibility for larger grants) to further develop research and impact activity and grant income generation.

Grant income over this cycle has been fuelled by 72 new grants awarded from 23 different external funding bodies comprising UKRI, charitable trusts, third sector organizations and philanthropic gifts, including £60k for the digitisation and transcription of William Wilberforce's diaries (Coffey). Compared with the 110 awards reported in REF2014, this reflects our strategy of securing larger, collaborative awards. 73% of current Category A staff have secured grants during this cycle and 30% currently hold grants over £100k, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of large grants according to career stage and gender

	No. staff	Career stage	Gender split
Awards over £500k	6	5 professor 1 associate professor	2F 4M
Awards £200-500k	2	1 post-doctoral fellow 1 lecturer	2 M
Awards £100-200k	3	1 professor 2 lecturers	1 F 2 M

Our strategy of supporting colleagues from initial internal funding to a small grant to a major award is illustrated by **Toner's** achievements: College RDF funding supported the Drinking Studies Network which she co-convenes; this coincided with her AHRC Care for the Future Early Career Developmental Award 'Consuming Authenticities' and was followed by Co-I roles on two related projects leading to her 2019 AHRC Early Career Leadership Fellowship, and enabled her to publish articles, a monograph, and a special issue of *Food and History*.

Many projects are on-going and outputs will follow in the next cycle; equally, grants awarded in the previous cycle have enabled acclaimed publications by **Anderson, Coffey, Hurren, King, Kidambi, Schürer** and **Story** as outlined in section 1. Our ambitious research strategy continues with applications worth £4.4m FEC currently under consideration (Nov. 2020) while recent awards such as Dailey's ERC Consolidator Grant (1.5M euro) will underpin our research income and impact pathways into the next REF cycle.

Operational Infrastructure

HyPIR's research is overseen by a single committee that includes the Directors of Research and Directors of Graduate Studies for History and Politics/IR respectively and ECR representatives. Since 2014 it has expanded to include Research Environment co-ordinators, responsible for identifying opportunities to augment institutional support, and Research Impact co-ordinators, tasked with widening ownership and oversight of impact strategy and developing pathways, for each UoA.

Advisory Boards support each research centre, comprising external members from HE and non-HEI backgrounds. These enhance the research environment through provision of: advice on strategic direction and new initiatives; links beyond HEIs for the purposes of grant submissions, sponsorship, internships and knowledge transfer partnerships; and support for staff and students through informal mentoring and advice on impact. The CSSAH Research Committee reviews the centres at least once every three years, providing feedback to improve performance and impact.

The dedicated CSSAH research support team supplies costings for and oversees a robust and supportive framework for internal peer-review of all grant applications: those under £150k are

reviewed within the department by at least two colleagues; grants over £150k are reviewed by a subject specialist within History and by a colleague in CSSAH with funder-specific expertise. Overall, this has enabled a success rate of 47% for applications to the AHRC and 38% to the British Academy during this cycle. College-centred support is complemented by the University's Research and Enterprise Division (RED) team (IES 4.1).

The CSSAH team also administers College-specific research funds to which historians have successfully applied to fund travel, proof-of-concept/scoping projects, develop international partnerships, enterprise and public engagement and assistance in grant writing. To date, 19 colleagues have received 25 awards (value £62,312). For example, **Bethke** was awarded £4000 for travel to Israel underpinning her subsequent Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, and **Groves** was awarded £3792 for travel to Malawi to improve language skills, build networks and investigate archives for a forthcoming AHRC application. LIAS has awarded funding worth £80,500 to historians to create cross-disciplinary networks and 'Tiger Teams' and to undertake proof-of-concept research: e.g. **Vandeburie** and **Bethke** currently have funding to develop a cross-disciplinary network of historians, sociologists and material scientists to address questions of mobility, migration and identity as expressed through textiles. £2500 from the University's Research Development Partnership Fund enabled **Anderson** to conduct a scoping survey in the UK and Guyana to develop her successful application to the British Academy, which subsequently paved the way to her major ESRC-GCRF award.

In January 2020, in response to rising grant income, we increased the maximum HyPIR RDF allocation from £3000 to £5000 (under review post COVID-19). 'Research Development' is broadly defined to include impact, KE, and enterprise activities, as well as early stage 'speculative' work. Examples include: research assistance (King, **Attard**); conference attendance (Pells, **Muir**); publication costs (**Muir**); archival visits (**Johnstone**); and public engagement (**Lewis**). Preference is given to ECRs and to applicants intending to leverage funding from elsewhere. These combined resources are proving essential in furthering colleagues' professional development and will be critical in sustaining future growth in grant income and leveraging innovative research directions.

The institutional context in which impact is managed has changed substantially since REF2014, with the University assuming a more strategic role, through the provision of Impact Development Funding, bespoke support by members of a central Research Impact team, training on how best to realise impact from research projects and writing workshops. **Schürer** who is PI on the institutions ESRC Impact Accelerator Account (IAA) plays a key role in shaping institutional strategy. During this cycle, History has made nine successful applications worth £46,589 to the College's Impact Development Fund (IDF) and three to the ESRC IAA worth £10,940, supporting, e.g., **Hopper's** collaboration with NCWC. Strategic use of teaching relief allows colleagues time to develop impact-generating activities: e.g. for **Gunn** when commissioned by the Government Office for Science in 2018 to write a history of twentieth-century UK transport systems and for **Horrocks'** work at the BL.

All this support is available equally to colleagues on fixed-term and open-ended contracts: thus Foxhall (fixed-term lecturer) received IDF funding to employ an RA to support the curation of an exhibition arising from her Wellcome-funded project on the history of the migraine while RA Moss received IAA funding to develop a VR model of Mazaruni prison in Guyana to improve staff training.

Scholarly Infrastructure and Facilities

The digital infrastructure for research has been enhanced through the University's Research Environment Infrastructure Fund (REIF), enabling historians to collaborate with other Schools to purchase major digital archives (totalling over £1,023,000). These include Gale Cengage Newsvault; Colonial State Papers Online; Parliamentary Papers; the Women and Social Movements Library; Early Modern State Papers Online and Grand Tour Online. **Harris** and **Riedi's** recent publications depended upon 'Parliamentary Papers' and Cengage Newsvault and Cengage's 'Slavery and anti-slavery: a transnational archive' underpins **Coffey's** work on Wilberforce. Grand Tour Online was essential for post-doctoral fellows Ansell and Goldsmith, while Early Modern State Papers was key to **Hopper's** 'WC&M' project and 6 successful early modern M4C applications.

£20k from REIF purchased equipment to support landscape research and the analysis of buildings and material artefacts, including a drone, laser distance meter, high specification digital camera and tripod, and digital microscope for macro-photography. This equipment is critical to the success of both **Story's** 'Worked in Stone: Completing the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture' (AHRC, £54,880) and **Jones's** 'Flood & Flow' projects.

The David Wilson Library and its Archives and Special Collections are particularly strong in antiquarian and topographical holdings and modern British archives (especially for the history of the University and the city). These resources support public engagement, e.g. **Horrocks's** work around the University's 2021 centenary, and research, e.g. **Sweet's** 2016 Rhind lectures for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. 'Unlocking our Sound Heritage' (HLF £528,924), part of the BL-led £5.3m *Save our Sounds* project, preserves and provides access to the nation's rare and unique sound recordings. Our successful bid, drawing on **Horrocks's** (PI) and Hyde's expertise in oral history (EMOHA), built on partnerships that **Horrocks** has been establishing with the BL since 2011. The new oral history resources it creates will support research in modern British social history, complementing EMOHA's extensive archive of oral history recordings.

CUH and ELH benefit from dedicated accommodation in Leicester's Marc Fitch Historical Institute, with a specialist topographical library, archives, seminar room (used for workshops and masterclasses across History), offices for academic staff, workspace for PGRs, post-doctoral and visiting fellows, and common-room facilities. SBC has a resources room to support teaching and research, including books and desk space for PGRs. LMRC also enjoys dedicated space housing a small research library, study area, and conference space. Cumulatively these facilities encourage the integration of PGRs into our research culture and foster collaborative working across all career stages.

Our supportive and inclusive research environment, combined with substantial investment in infrastructure and financial support, has facilitated remarkable success in growing research income across all career stages. It underpins our scholarly outputs and ensures that the impact of our research is fully realised.

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

Our reputation for research excellence reflects the strength of our national and international collaborations and our strategy to develop a global framework for our research. Major outputs, such as **Anderson's** Andamans book and co-edited special issue on convicts, **Gunn's** comparative study of automobility, **Coffey's** edition of Baxter and **Horrocks's** award-winning

work on the oral history of British science were all the product of collaborative research projects with academics in other institutions. Our success in grant capture is built upon major collaborative projects including **Anderson** and **Toner** work with partners in Guyana); **Hopper** 'WC&M' (Nottingham, NCWC), King, 'ITOW' (National Archives) and **Schürer**, 'Britain's First Demographic Transition' (ESRC £100,928, 2020–2023) (Cambridge).

Successful research partnerships (e.g. **Hopper** with Nottingham NCWC and National Archives; **Story** with BL) are often initiated through small-scale collaborations, such as joint PGR supervision through the DTPs and CDA/CDPs. 17 colleagues are involved in cross-institutional supervisory teams benefiting 22 students and we have established partnerships with 10 different sector organizations through the CDA/CDP scheme including the Salvation Army, the MCC and the National Trust. CUH has strengthened international collaboration through participation in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Joint Doctorate Programme, *Urban History in 20th Century Europe*, led by Bauhaus University (2016–2020) and through formal collaborations leading to postdoctoral and PGR exchanges with the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Hangzhou Normal University and the Centre for Global Urban Culture, Shanghai Normal University. SBC and GloCoPoCo are developing joint research collaboration for academic staff and PGRs with cognate institutions including TU Berlin's Centre for Research on Antisemitism, the Amsterdam Institute for War and Genocide Studies and the Hebrew University. These relationships are fostering a cohort of PGRs with excellent national and international networks in and beyond academia.

Discipline Contribution

All colleagues make an international contribution to the wider profession through editing major journals and book series and through participation in peer-review and awarding panels. **Gunn** and **Sweet** edit *Urban History*, the world's leading journal in the field; Snell co-edited *Rural History* to 2020 and King edits *Family and Community History*; **Anderson** edits the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* and **Hopper** chairs the board of *Midland History*. Additionally, 16 colleagues sit on the editorial boards of 27 journals and 7 are either general editors or on the editorial boards of 8 book series. All colleagues regularly review book proposals, manuscripts and journal articles and **Attard** received the *Australian Economic History Review* excellence in refereeing award (2016). **Sweet** is Academic Director of the *Bibliography of British and Irish History*, and **Butler** and **Groves** have served as associate editors.

13 colleagues belong to peer review colleges and assessment/awarding panels for UK and European funders and smaller charities such as the Marc Fitch Trust and the Economic History Society, while **Sweet** was seconded to the AHRC as Director of Partnerships and Engagement. The expertise of our colleagues as referees for funding applications is in high demand from global funders and for international applications for promotion and tenure. We are also sought by non-UK HEIs to examine PhD theses and UG and MA programmes across 12 different countries. Over 50 invitations to give keynote addresses and public lectures worldwide further indicate the wider impact of our research, including **Lewis's** delivery of the annual public lecture on the History of US Racism, University of Kassel (2015) and **Anderson's** keynote for the Australian Historical Association annual conference (2018).

Historians at Leicester play a key role in shaping and sustaining the discipline beyond Leicester. We have organized over 180 conferences and workshops, hosted visiting scholars and supported learned societies, community groups and historians beyond the academy. CUH operates as a national and international hub for urban historical research, hosting international

visitors at all career stages (averaging 12 p.a.). Colleagues belong to the organizing committees for the annual conferences of the Pre-Modern Towns and Urban History Groups and the biennial conference of the European Association of Urban Historians. **Sweet** is one of 3 UK representatives on the International Commission for the History of Towns and a Trustee of the Historic Towns Trust; **Butler** has led the Irish Modern Urban History Group with Erika Hanna (Bristol) since 2014 while **Kidambi** and **Lincoln** play key roles in the emergent Global Urban History Hub (inaugural international conference held at Leicester, 2019).

ELH hosts the *Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust (VCH)* and provides a venue and support for seven different societies working on local and landscape history. It also provides facilities for *VCH* volunteer training events. **Jones** is a Council Member of the English Place Names Society and **Schürer** is UK representative on the European Historical Population Samples Network (EHPS-Net). **Muir** and **Groves** are collaborating with colleagues at DMU to establish a Leicester branch of the Historical Association. SBC staff sit on the academic advisory board of the National Holocaust Centre (**Korb**) and the council of the German History Society (**P.Moore**). CAS hosts the longest-running American Studies Annual Research Lecture in the UK, funded through the British Association for American Studies and the US Embassy; **Clapp** was a Committee member of British American Nineteenth-Century Historians (2013–2019); and **Johnstone** was elected to the Nominating Committee of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (2016–2018). Beyond the centres, **Knox** is Treasurer of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies and co-convenes their study group on Religion and Spirituality in Russia and Eastern Europe while **Bothwell** is a committee member for the Society for Fourteenth-Century Studies and sits on their editorial board and **Vandeburie** is secretary to the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean and International Liaisons Officer for the Ecclesiastical History Society.

Exhibitions, Consultancy and Public Engagement

Colleagues' research has enriched the content and interpretation of exhibitions and heritage sites locally, nationally and internationally. In addition to our impact case studies, **Anderson** consulted on the 'Splendours of the Subcontinent: A Prince's Tour of India 1875-6', exhibition: New Walk Museum, Leicester (2017) and sits on the National Maritime Museum's Trustees Collections and Research Committee. **Kidambi** consulted on and curated a travelling exhibition on historic Indo-South African cricket relations organized by the Government of India's Festival of India in South Africa (2014). **J.Moore** collaborated with the British University in Egypt and the Episcopal/Anglican Church in North Africa to establish the Cairo Research Centre and Archive (opened 2019) supported by £2000 of HyPIR funding and £2000 of College international seed funding. Goldsmith consults for the V&A's forthcoming exhibition on masculinity and King consults for the National Trust's new infirmary ward at Southwell Workhouse using his research on the old and new poor laws. **Hurren** is a consultant with Historic Royal Palaces and with The National Archives on 'Dignity', one of their four strategic areas.

Colleagues regularly share their research and expertise with diverse publics through interviews and consultancy for television, radio, film and plays: e.g. Goldsmith, an AHRC/BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinker (2018), made 6 radio appearances, podcast interviews and 7 public lectures at events such as the York Festival of Ideas. **Anderson**, **Hurren** and **Sweet** have all contributed to BBC programmes and **Hopper's** research informed the production of *The Hypocrite*, the Royal Shakespeare Company's most popular play of 2017. Colleagues have contributed to public debate in print and broadcast media and through reports for think tanks and government: e.g. **Bethke** has used her platform as a member of the SBC to support academic freedom and

oppose the Polish President's 2018 'Holocaust Bill' that bans historical discussion of Polish collaboration with Nazi Germany. **Kefford** contributed to a report by REFORM on the role of the private sector in public service delivery, advising on the historical background of private sector involvement in public services since 1945. Building on his ground-breaking research on traffic and cities in Britain and Japan, **Gunn** contributed to a key report on traffic and the future of mobility in the UK for the Department for Transport

The reach and impact of our research is international, but much of our most direct public engagement responds to the challenges and opportunities faced by the city and its region, particularly in terms of its heritage and the ethnic diversity of its population. The discovery and interpretation of the grave of Richard III has been critical in developing a partnership that **Schürer** continues to shape. The *Leicestershire VCH* 'Charnwood Roots' project engaged over 650 volunteers who donated 2731 hours between 2013–2017. CUH and EMOHA have worked closely with Leicester City Council around the management and interpretation of Leicester's heritage. These include 'Story of Parks' (**Sweet** and Hyde 2015); 'St Peter's Belgrave' (**Butler** 2016-17, £15,318), the 'Greyfriars Townscape Heritage Initiative Trades Directory Project' (**Butler** 2016–present), **J. Moore's** organization of public engagement events and workshops with Leicester's National Railway Museum, and a conference on 'Planning Leicester: Planning and the Historic Environment since the 1960s' (2016) that attracted over 100 delegates. EMOHA has provided over 150 training sessions in oral history methods for non-academic audiences in Leicester and the East Midlands since 2014, enabling successful grant applications such as the AHRC /Radio Leicester collaboration 'Our Place in the First World War' (Hyde/**Horrocks** £20,085, 2013–14) and creative partnerships with community groups through HLF-funded projects such as the 'Post-War History of Leicester' (Hyde £27,000, 2016) and 'Silence in the Archives: Oral Histories of the Menopause' (Foster/**Gunn** £20,000, 2019–20). **Gunn** is co-organizer of the Leicester Urban Observatory, a collaboration between the University, Leicester City Council, DMU and Loughborough University to share knowledge and promote events around the planning of Leicester, including public lectures, day schools and the 2017 *Leicester Urban Summer School*. SBC has built close links with community organizations such as Civic Leicester and collaborates with the City in Holocaust Memorial Day. Its members have been involved in public commemoration events, e.g., organising Northampton's commemoration of UK Holocaust Memorial Day in 2015 and advising on the Highfield Street Synagogue's *Sharing Jewish Heritage* HLF project. SBC-led film screenings highlighting key issues such as ethnic violence are open to the public and provide a space for discussion and understanding. Since 2010 we have celebrated Black History Month with both academic- and community-oriented events (lectures, film screenings, and other public engagement activities. HyPIR has a formal partnership with The Race Equality Centre and Highfields Community Centre in Leicester. Building on this relationship, in September 2019, **Lewis** (CAS) led a team from HyPIR and Museum Studies that hosted the *Journey to Justice* travelling exhibition to promote community partnerships, school and widening participation, social justice, and local heritage and history. Over 2500 visitors saw the exhibition, and a Schools' Day brought 128 secondary school pupils onto campus for guided tours of the exhibition and workshops on Black History led by academic staff. Additional funding through the National Collaborative Outreach Programme in 2020 supported the 'Social Justice Plaque' scheme which takes *Journey to Justice* into local schools, providing tools and support for pupils to research who they want to have represented on a plaque in their own school as their 'Social Justice Champion'.

Partnerships established through these initiatives have deepened our knowledge of working with policy makers in both local and central government and alert us to the wider applications of our

research. The experience of public engagement, consultancy and co-creation of research translates directly into our research environment, suggesting new research questions, creating opportunities for impactful research and generating career development opportunities for staff and PGRs. With the right principles in place, and with robust procedures for institutional support established, collaborative research leads to benefits for the wider community, which in turn feeds back into university life. Through our partnerships and networks, our hosting of events, our participation in learned societies, our extensive public engagement activity, and our distribution of expertise through consultation, media appearances, and organisation of exhibitions, we have benefited the wider academic and civic communities with which we work, and we have in return been enriched by them.

Prizes

The world-leading quality of the research and impact undertaken by Leicester historians has been recognised by international prizes juries: **Bethke** received the Irma Rosenberg Prize from the Institute of Contemporary History, University of Vienna (2016) for *Tanz auf Messers Schneide*. **Hurren's** *Dying for Victorian Medicine* (2015) was highly commended at the British Medical Association Book of the Year Awards ('Basis of medicine' category). In 2020, **Kidambi's** *Cricket Country* won the British Society of Sports History Lord Aberdare Literary Prize and was shortlisted for the Wolfson Prize and the MCC Cricket Society book of the year; King received the British Academy Peter Townsend prize for *Writing the Lives of the English Poor* (2019). **Knox** was a finalist and received a 'Special Mention of Excellence' for the 2020 Alberigo Award from the European Academy of Religion for *Jehovah's Witnesses and the Secular World* (2018). **Story's** *Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms* catalogue was highly commended for the Historians of British Art Book Prize (pre-1600 category: Multi-Authored Book) and received the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists award for best research tool (2017–2019). **Butler** received the 2014 Hawksmoor medal from the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, **Boehme** was shortlisted in 2019 for the Jack Goody award (*Comparative Studies in Society and History*) and **Campbell** for the 2016 Surrency Prize for best article published in *Law and History Review*. **Horrocks'** work on the Oral History of British Science was recognised in 2015 by both the Royal Historical Society Public History Prize for Web and Digital, and the British Society for the History of Science Ayrton Prize for web projects and digital engagement in the history of science, technology and medicine.

Conclusion

Our strong contribution to wider society and the research base constitutes yet another successful outcome of our flourishing research environment. We take pride in our support for and the success of our PGRs and ECRs through whom the future vitality and dynamism of the discipline will be maintained. We continue to develop and deploy our research strategy to create a global framework for our research and to effect diversity within the discipline. Our commitment to addressing contemporary challenges at a local as well as national and international scale through historical research mirrors the University's commitment to the city of Leicester and its region and is aligned with both the University's prior research strategy and current future-focused strategy for 'Citizens of Change'.