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| Institution: University of Salford |
| Unit of Assessment: 25 |
| <p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Unit context and research areas</p> <p>Building on the University of Salford's (UoS) previous strengths in Politics and Contemporary History (PCH), research in this census period in Area Studies has focused on politics, international relations, intelligence studies, contemporary history and societal challenges. Our Area Studies submission has evolved from previous submissions to European Studies (RAE2008) and Modern Languages and Linguistics (REF2014). In previous returns to European Studies, researchers from PCH were based in the European Studies Research Institute. In 2015 the Arts, Media and Communication Research Centre (AMCRC) was founded, based in the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology (SoAMCT), to which PCH and SoAMCT researchers were relocated.</p> <p>As part of the AMCRC Strategy, a decision was made to pursue a more global outlook in Area Studies research and to include regions beyond Europe's borders. Expertise in EU Studies, contemporary and military history, and intelligence studies has been strengthened, with diversification in the geographical reach of our research extending into Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa and China. AMCRC's vision for Area Studies also facilitated and supported investigation of wider societal issues around marginalised communities, poverty and the role of microfinance in Britain and Europe.</p> <p>In this submission, we return 12.6 FTE (13 staff): Bull (Professor), Searle (Professor), Newbery (Reader), Ward (Reader), Murphy (Senior Lecturer), Barnett (Lecturer), Chiva (Lecturer), Dron (Lecturer), Hall (Lecturer), Lomas (Lecturer), Maher (Lecturer), Vik (Senior Research Fellow), and Correia (Research Fellow). Reference to the important contributions of three leavers are included (Callaghan, Corum, Pieper); Pieper has contributed to REF2.</p> <p>Researchers within Area Studies are committed to engagement with the wider public, UK charities, security professionals, international organisations and HE institutions, to ensure positive impact on society. The work of the group encompasses three broad areas: politics and international relations; contemporary, military and intelligence history; and societal challenges. The division into three main areas of activity does not, however, communicate the diversity of work undertaken by the group. Area Studies research cuts across disciplinary boundaries, with several sub-disciplines represented, while interdisciplinary and collaborative research is strongly encouraged.</p> <p>i.) Politics and International Relations: Bull and Chiva have continued to research European politics, with Bull specialising in Italian and comparative European politics, Chiva focusing on issues of gender and the new democracies in Europe. Maher and Pieper have conducted research into civil wars, the Iranian nuclear deal, geopolitics and Russian foreign policy. Callaghan conducted research into ideologies of American foreign policy since 1945. Ward examined the use of social media in political discourse in Kenya.</p> <p>ii.) Contemporary History: Among the areas covered is intelligence history, with Lomas investigating British Intelligence from the 1930s to the 1960s, Newbery considering interrogation techniques and Murphy covert activity in India, as well as media dimensions to intelligence (REF3). The Cold War is a subject of investigation in work by Barnett, Callaghan and Lomas, including the role of Communist ideology. Corum, Hall and Searle are active in nineteenth and twentieth century military history, with work on technology in the era of the world wars, strategic culture, air power and comparative military history.</p> <p>iii.) Societal Challenges in Europe: Work by Vik examined microfinance and the role of banks in European societies (REF3), as well as related challenges around poverty. Correia's work interrogated questions surrounding the experience of immigrant communities in Britain via the work of artists from BAME groups, thus resonant with current prominent social movements, such</p> |

as Black Lives Matter. **Dron** and **Ward** examined disaffected and marginalised groups in British politics through analyses of social media.

Research strategy and achievements 2014 – 2020

Our research strategy was founded on the desire to expand our research orientation beyond Europe, while maintaining our previous core specialisms. This has been achieved through the appointments of **Correia**, **Maher** and Pieper, as well as through a new focus on China (seen in outputs by **Murphy**, Pieper and **Searle**). The range of outputs produced in politics/international relations, history and societal issues, both geographically and in terms of scholarly approach, provide evidence that a basis has been laid for a firm commitment to Area Studies.

The linguistic abilities of staff, employed to good effect in the census period, provides evidence that a broad approach to Area Studies will be sustainable in the future. Researchers are fluent or native speakers in several languages: French (Pieper), German (Pieper/**Searle**), Italian (**Bull/Chiva**), Norwegian (**Vik**), Rumanian (**Chiva**), Russian (Pieper), Spanish (**Maher/Newbery/Vik**). In the next census period, Chinese will be part of research capability (Wu).

The group has demonstrated a growing engagement with interdisciplinary research approaches. In political science, combining disaggregated/micro-level analysis with process tracing methods has enriched the work of **Maher** on civil war and development in Columbia. The work of behavioural psychologists has informed **Searle's** research on rumour in the First Opium War (1839-42). Elite interview techniques have been employed in the research of **Maher** on Columbia, Pieper on contemporary issues in foreign policy and **Vik** on business history and microfinance. **Lomas/Murphy** have cooperated with computer specialists as part of the UoS's contribution to the Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry, partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

During his time in Salford, Pieper enriched the new emphasis on Area Studies with alternative approaches to understanding regions bordering on and outside Europe, exemplified by two accounts of his own overland travel experiences: *Vom Gelben Meer bis zum Atlantik. Eine Reise mit der Transsibirischen Eisenbahnen*, Manuela Kinsel Verlag, 2016, and *Die Tür zum Balkan. Eine Reise von Serbien nach Griechenland*, Reisebuch Verlag, 2018.

In accordance with the recalibration of research towards Area Studies and the recruitment of talented early career researchers (ECRs), the major research objectives during this cycle have been:

1. To create a sustainable research culture in terms of staffing levels and research funding.
2. To facilitate the production of internationally excellent, innovative and high-quality research outputs, wherever possible in leading journals and/or university presses.
3. To deliver on-time postgraduate research degree completions and promote a postgraduate research culture of high achievement.
4. To work closely with practitioners and public bodies in fields relevant to our primary research concerns, undertaking research that leads to benefits for these organisations.
5. To integrate new staff into the group, mentor them in their duties, encouraging them to develop ambitious career plans.
6. To pursue research which is interdisciplinary and pushes methodological boundaries.

The Unit has moved from 10.6 FTE in REF2014 to 12.6 FTE in REF2021 through recruitment of new staff and research income has risen substantially, from £238k (REF2014) to £808k (REF2021), demonstrating the achievement of objective 1. The group has authored 144 academic outputs (excluding blogs, shorter pieces, books other than monographs, etc.), with 54 peer-

reviewed journal articles published. This return consists of seven monographs (as opposed to none in 2014), an edited documents collection and 21 articles. In this cycle there were 27 PhD completions, with students demonstrating high levels of achievement, for example, McLoughlin's four articles published prior to completion of his doctorate. Researchers have worked closely with practitioners and many national and international organisations: **Vik** with the European Union (REF3), Corum with NATO, and **Lomas/Murphy** with the Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry. The achievements of researchers at lecturer level in publications, prizes and awards demonstrates a very positive outcome: six monographs have been produced by Lecturers; **Barnett** published by I.B. Tauris, **Hall** published by Cambridge UP, **Lomas** by Manchester UP, **Chiva** and **Maher** both published by Palgrave MacMillan and Piper by Routledge.

The pursuit of different methodologies, the engagement with different types and forms of publication, demonstrate a sustained performance throughout the census period: the application of information management methodologies to the history of technology has taken **Hall's** research beyond the traditional confines of military history (award-winning CUP monograph).

Future research strategy and initiatives in development

Our vision for the next five years is: *To build on our strengths in politics, history and the addressing of societal challenges, encouraging research into the transnational and global aspects of interstate relations, technological development, war and conflict, and inform political solutions to regional, national and European problems.*

Aims:

1. To broaden our research agenda to include international relations and comparative military history linked to China and the Pacific Rim. As part of the strategy to expand expertise in Chinese Studies a new appointment will be made in 2021 and two institutional partnerships with HEIs in China. This builds upon a guest lecture by Pieper at the Zhou Enlai School of Government, Nankai University (2018), arranged by **Searle**, resulting in an output on China's Belt-and-Road Initiative (*Rising Powers Quarterly*, 2018).
2. To strengthen the use of digital technologies both in our methodological approach (supporting the work of the Digital Humanities Lab based in MCUK) and collaboration with computer scientists and related academics as part of the *Partnership for GM Security and Trust*. A regional HEI partnership (University of Manchester, Lancaster University, Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Salford) with GCHQ.
3. To institutionalise our commitment to interdisciplinary work through the creation of the Salford Centre for Interdisciplinary Historical Studies.
4. To continue to produce internationally excellent, innovative and high-quality research outputs, and support colleagues to publish monographs in high-quality university presses and publishing houses.
5. To increase of the level of research funding to underpin the production of high-quality work.
6. To expand our numbers of postgraduate researchers (PGRs) and promote a supportive and inclusive culture committed to both international quality work and timely completion.
7. To develop the international impact of our work, including influencing public policy and supporting governmental organisations and stakeholders in the heritage industry.
8. To support a culture of inclusivity and excellence with a commitment to enhancing the diversity of our workforce and building a vibrant research environment.

Strategy to support current and future impact

We return to REF3 our two strongest examples of impact during this period. The first relates to the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision co-developed by **Vik**, a best practice framework for over a third of European signatories which has resulted in a more consistent and transparent provision of services to microfinance customers across Europe. In the second, **Lomas**, **Murphy** and **Newbery** challenged the widespread assumption that the world of intelligence is secret and unfathomable through public engagement activities to transform public and practitioner understanding of intelligence.

During this cycle our aim has been to communicate research beyond traditional academic audiences as a means of influencing the perceptions and practices of wider society. This has been achieved through the following mechanisms:

- Social media (@SalfordUni_PCH – 5,600 followers) as a platform to disseminate new work since 2014 and engage the public in dialogue
- Active engagement in current affairs via *Conversation* articles (e.g. on Russian foreign policy, the Novichok poisoning of Sergei Skripal and popular intelligence-related subjects, such as the death of John le Carré)
- Contributions to print, radio and TV news reports, reaching an audience of 589 million (**Lomas**)
- Interviews on topical issues through the BBC News Channel, BBC2, BBC Breakfast and Sky News, e.g. security implications of the Manchester Arena bombing (May 2017) and the London Bridge and Borough Market attack (June 2017), reaching a combined audience of 22.5 million (**Newbery**)
- Contributions to wider public understanding of military history through regular interview appearances in two TV documentary series, 'Nazi Megastructures' and 'Abandoned Engineering' (National Geographic/PBS) (Corum)
- Delivery of lectures to coincide with First World War one-hundredth anniversaries (**Hall, Searle**).

Further initiatives to facilitate broader impact in future include: establishment of the Freedom of Information Archive within the UoS Library (**Lomas/Murphy**), which is accessible to staff, students and the general public and seeks to improve and track public understanding of intelligence; the cross-university Post-Conflict, Resilience and Peace-Building Research Cluster, co-founded by **Newbery** and Magennis (UoA27), together with **Lomas** and **Maher**, in order to facilitate greater interdisciplinary work and public engagement; establishment of the Salford Centre for Interdisciplinary Historical Studies (in progress), whose membership will include all SoAMCT historians, as well as others drawn from the wider University community, including historians of architecture, technology and from the Industrial Archaeology Unit.

Generation of research impact through these activities is being facilitated through the framework devised by Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE), which supports academics to develop annual impact action plans around their projects. The School has a dedicated Impact Coordinator (**Vik**), who meets regularly with action plan holders and leads the support and training for development of impact activity across the School.

Research integrity and supporting an open research environment

The University's Research Code of Practice incorporates and develops the principles set out in the UK Research Integrity Office's Code of Practice for Research and Universities UK's Concordat to Support Research Integrity. At a local level, development of research strategy, implementation of associated processes and compliance with integrity and ethics policies set by the University is managed by the School Research and Enterprise Committee (SREC). Staff are required to undertake compulsory ethics training as part of their duties as PhD supervisors and all staff with a Significant Responsibility for Research (SRR) are required to serve as members of the research ethics panel. PGRs are strongly encouraged to participate in the Salford Postgraduate Research Training (SPoRT) programme (see REF5a), which provides training in research ethics. Academic activity cannot commence until an application for ethics approval has been submitted and approval received. The group has made its own contribution to School endorsement of ethics as **Newbery** chaired the School Research Ethics Panel (11/2015–05/2020) and was also a member of the University's Academic Ethics Committee.

All publications are deposited in the University of Salford Institutional Repository (USIR) and are accessible through the 'Green' or 'Gold' routes. All of our researchers have an ORCID identifier, which further increases the visibility and accessibility of their research outputs, and they are encouraged to hold profiles on external sites, such as ResearchGate. Some staff outputs have been published as Gold Open Access as the University offers funds to facilitate OA publishing.

Maher is Associate Editor of an OA journal, while **Bull** has consistently championed OA, including during his Directorship of the European Consortium for Political Research (sections 3, 4).

2. People

Staffing strategy and development

There are 13 research staff (12.6 FTE) across our three research areas, equally divided between ECRs/mid-career and more senior researchers: two Professors, two Readers, one Senior Lecturer, six Lecturers, one Senior Research Fellow and one Research Fellow. The core approach towards staff is based on mentoring (new members of staff are assigned a mentor), offering internal funding opportunities, encouragement of research in each member's own specialism, while also strongly supporting collaborative work.

This REF cycle has seen significant support for the move towards Area Studies via external recruitment, supporting the three broad areas of focus in politics, contemporary history and societal challenges. Recruitment has been based around reinforcing existing strengths, developing future expertise in regions outside Europe, whilst taking due account of teaching requirements. Five new full-time appointments were made (**Barnett**, **Correia**, **Corum**, **Dron**, **Pieper**), with an additional three staff moving to full-time contracts in 2015 (**Hall**, **Lomas**, **Maher**). The improved capacity of the group to research broader societal issues was a result of the involvement of three staff (two recruited during the census period): **Correia**, art historian (School Research Fellow); **Dron** (Lecturer in Digital Enterprise and Innovation, Salford Business School); and **Vik**, microfinance in Europe, history of banking (School Senior Research Fellow). Furthermore, to reinforce expertise in China, in late 2019, SoAMCT initiated the process of recruitment to the post of Lecturer in International Relations; Dr Fuzuo Wu, previously at Aalborg University, Denmark, was recruited in early 2020 (contract start date delayed until August 2020 due to COVID-19). She will make a strong contribution to Politics and International Relations, expanding our expertise on Chinese and Indian foreign policy and climate diplomacy.

Development of research staff

Development is conceived as a career pathway which can begin at the level of Research Assistant or Research Fellow and end with a professorship or a senior role in sector-relevant organisations. We divide our support for moving along this pathway into three overlapping strands (development, training, opportunities) and it is organised at three levels: 1) PGRs; 2) ECRs, broadly defined to include Research Assistants, staff working towards a PhD and staff within five years of PhD completion; and 3) all research-active staff.

Development and training:

REF5a describes the institutional support for development, including the REF2021 Code of Practice, the annual Performance and Development Review (PDR) and the University-wide mentoring scheme, all of which are essential to this objective.

- The School has offered a sabbatical scheme since 2015, providing six sabbatical opportunities of 5 months duration per year. UoA25 researchers have enjoyed success in their applications: **Hall**, **Lomas**, **Maher**, **Newbery** and **Searle** have benefitted from sabbaticals (at the time of the decisions, four of the recipients of these sabbaticals were lecturers).
- VC Early Career Scholarships offer £1,000 research support, a reduced teaching load (20% additional research time) and mentoring support to assist junior researchers in the early stages of their career. **Pieper's** field research in Russia, Kazakhstan and China, conducted through semi-structured elite interviews with foreign policy officials, was supported by a VC Early Career Scholarship, leading to a co-authored article with **Maher** on Russian intervention in Syria (*Political Studies*, 2020). **Lomas** used his VC Scholarship to undertake archival research in London and **Maher** was able to fund his attendance at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Winter School in Methods and Techniques, Bamberg, FRG, 03/2017.

- Within the Unit, senior researchers team with Research Associates, ECRs or mid-career researchers to develop and submit bids for funding, supporting a process of learning by doing.
- Staff can seek advice about their career development by consulting the Research Group Lead (**Searle**) or the Associate Dean Research and Innovation (ADRI).

Opportunities:

- **Vik** was able to complete his PhD at UoS (2014) with a fee waiver from the School.
- Career planning/promotion is structured around the University's central approach of requiring researchers to produce a three-year personal research plan which assists them in taking a longer-term view of their research. **Vik** was promoted to Senior Research Fellow (2016). **Murphy** and **Newbery** were promoted to Senior Lecturer (2019); **Newbery** was subsequently promoted to Reader. **Searle** was promoted to Professor (2015). Callaghan was awarded the status of Emeritus Professor (2020).
- **Bull** was seconded as Director of the European Consortium for Political Research for 6 years (2013-19) (see section 3).
- **Searle** was granted the opportunity to spend two months a year at Nankai University (NKU), Tianjin, 2016-19, as a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of History (regularly ranked in the top three history faculties in China). This has led to several positive outcomes in terms of research outputs and staff visits (sections 3, 4). **Searle** was also supported with a sabbatical to undertake a Visiting Fellowship to the Changing Character of War Programme, Pembroke College, Oxford (2016/17).

Promoting a culture of achievement

In order to achieve our objective (section 1) of publishing excellent research, researchers have sought to create an environment conducive to the creation of a strong body of academic work but extending well beyond journal articles and monographs. Staff have established national and international reputations across a range of fields through their publications, projects and other scholarly activities. Of the seven monographs returned, three were published by major university presses (1 X Cambridge UP, 2 X Manchester UP), the other four by respected academic publishers (1 X Routledge, 2 X Palgrave-MacMillan, 1 X I.B. Tauris).

Three academic textbooks were published in the census period: Callaghan, et al., *Ideologies of American Foreign Policy*, Routledge Studies in US Foreign Policy 2019; **Lomas/Murphy**, *Intelligence and Espionage: Secrets and Spies*, Routledge Seminar Studies in History 2019; **Searle**, *Armoured Warfare: A Military, Political and Global History*, Bloomsbury Academic 2017. **Newbery** co-authored a book with former intelligence chief Brian Stewart on the utility of intelligence (*Why Spy?* 2015).

Ensuring an excellent postgraduate research experience

The Unit has a healthy culture of PhD supervision, reflected in the number of PhD degree awards for this REF cycle which stands at **27**. The ADRI via the School's research committee plays a key role in directing the management of PGRs, recruitment and supervision, and is supported in this work by the School PGR Director.

Development:

- Students attend an intensive one-week School induction programme to complement a three-month general induction programme organised by the Doctoral School.
- Students are assigned a Supervisor and Co-Supervisor with whom they must meet at least monthly. They jointly design an initial Learning Agreement, and each completes annual evaluations of progress, helping to identify any emerging difficulties. To encourage timely completion, students undergo a compulsory Interim Assessment at the end of their first year and an Internal Evaluation at the end of the second year.

Training:

- PGRs are encouraged to attend external conferences. There is no set number of conferences per PGR as this is a decision made by each individual supervisory team. Funding is available on a case-by-case basis.
- PGRs are informed about career options in consultation with their supervisory team, in addition to the opportunity of receiving extensive skills training and career advice offered as part of the SPoRT Programme. PhD students are also encouraged to conduct field research: Kibet (supervised by **Ward**) and Yalmi (supervised by **Newbery**) carried out research in Kenya and Nigeria respectively.

Opportunities:

- The Unit is represented in the AHRC Northwest Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP) in the field of History, enabling students to apply for funding through this route.
- The School sponsors PhD students when funds are available (including match-funding in conjunction with other funding bodies).
- The UoS Pathways to Excellence (PTE) scheme and occasional sponsorship is available through outside bodies, e.g. the Lady Monica Cockfield Memorial Trust.
- Adam Dighton (PhD, 2016) was funded by an AHRC capacity-building grant; Stephen Dipnall (PhD, 2016) funded by the AHRC; Amos Kibet Korir (PhD, 2020) funded by a Commonwealth Scholarship.
- The PTE scheme, available since 2015, has utilised QR funding combined with School match-funding with William Carruthers (PhD, 2018) and Liam McLoughlin (PhD, 2020) funded via this route.

Two students are currently funded by competitive grants offered by the UK Armed Forces: **Newbery** is supervising a student who is the first Non-Commissioned Officer to receive a Royal Air Force Portal PhD scholarship; **Searle** is supervising a PhD student in receipt of a British Army 'External Placements (Academic)' scholarship. These scholarships indicate the good relations and high reputation the group enjoys with the British armed services.

In 2019/20, a successful application was made for an NWCDTP Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) for a project with the Lancashire Infantry Museum, Preston, entitled 'Fulwood Barracks and the "Garrison Town" of Preston: Lancashire Regiments, Regional Identity and Social Change, 1848-1948', currently being carried out by Rose Beck under the supervision of **Hall** and **Searle**. This is an important development as it intersects with cooperation planned between the Salford Centre for Interdisciplinary Historical Studies and local stakeholders; this will open up further avenues for collaboration with museums. Collaborative work is planned between the museum and the UoS Digital Curation Lab (Director, Dr Toni Sant - UoA 33), based in SoAMCT, one of the School's strategic priorities. This partnership with the Preston Museum presents exciting opportunities for digitisation projects. Preparatory planning is being assisted by the current joint supervision ongoing between Sant and **Searle** on Yanxi Wu's doctoral project on digital curation and art collections in Salford and Manchester galleries.

Examples of PhD student successes for bidding, employment and publication before and after graduation are:

Bidding/Employment

- Dighton secured a Scouloudi research grant (2017), Royal Historical Society research grant and travel grant (2016, 2014)
- Kibet was among 20 applicants selected for the highly competitive two-week Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Programme 2018
- McLoughlin secured a postdoctoral position at Birkbeck College, London (2020-21).

Publications

- Dighton, articles in *War & Society* (2016) and *War in History* (2020)
- Kibet (with **Ward**), article in *African Journalism Studies* (2019)

- McLoughlin, articles as co-author with **Ward**, et al., in *Information Polity, Journal of Legislative Studies, Intelligence and National Security*, with R. Southern in *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* (all 2020).

Equality and diversity (E&D)

E&D is integral to the recruitment, support and welfare culture in AMCRC and the wider School. E&D requirements are integrated into UoS's policies and procedures; support for staff and students returning from sick leave is provided through Human Resources and in consultation with Line Managers. Members of staff have taken advantage of part-time and flexible working.

In May 2019, **Searle** organised the annual 'German History in the North' Workshop: for the first time, there were only female speakers (six in total), with the keynote address given by Professor Susanne Kord (UCL). Supported by the UoS Women in Research Network and the German History Society, the event sought to promote the work of female university researchers and postgraduates by modelling the University's action-based Inclusion and Diversity Strategy.

The selection of staff for REF submission and outputs followed our Code of Practice closely. **Newbery** was a member of the six-person panel that reviewed the School's three-year research plans, determining which staff were to be given SRR status. This panel was composed on the basis of a 50:50 gender division and included representation of staff from a BAME background. **Newbery** was also deputy lead for the UoA25 REF submission.

Going forward we will be actively seeking researchers working within different geographical or cultural contexts, which will significantly increase the diversity of our PGR community and staff. Alongside this, our research already incorporates issues of discrimination and marginalisation, for example, research by **Lomas** on previous discrimination in security service recruitment policies (**Lomas**, 2019 article) and **Correia's** work. The latter delivered a presentation at UoS entitled 'Black Homes, Safe Houses' as part of Black History Month in October 2015, as well as further talks on the legacies of Empire, and raising awareness of the lives of black artists in Britain through blog articles.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income

Total research income of **£813,355** has been secured in this REF cycle from a range of funders, including the EU, UK charities, academic and governmental sources. Two thirds of our income has been acquired from UK charities (£530k), enabling us to provide a focus in this period on investigating and addressing significant, contemporary societal and cultural challenges. Awards have supported three principal areas of activity: 1) research projects, 2) contributions to professional disciplinary development, and 3) event organisation and the development of new networks.

1) Research projects

Through the research unit Community Finance Solutions, **Vik** led on and contributed to projects attracting £400k in research and consultancy income to investigate the extent and nature of exclusion from banking services in the UK, and the development and nature of microfinance in Europe. The projects funded fall into three main categories:

- Evaluations and contract research for local government, charities and community organisations to inform policy and programme design to mitigate or reduce exclusion: Leeds City Council (2018, £47k) to undertake a survey of households regarding their access to banking services, enabling the Council to identify and target areas and household types unable to access such services; and Toynbee Hall (2015-19, £29k) for **Vik** to evaluate its financial education programme, informing improvements in programme delivery and monitoring.
- Research on self-regulation for microfinance institutions for the European Commission (2013-19) informed the development of the Commission's code of practice for microfinance

providers. In 2013-14, **Vik** contributed to the development of the framework for assessing compliance with this code (£44k) (included in REF3). In 2016-18, he provided research support and advice to a group of practitioners and stakeholders to develop a social impact chapter to the code of practice (£20k).

- Applied research on viable models for scaling up microfinance institutions in the UK was conducted in 2017-18 through the Carnegie UK Trust (£69k) to compare the financial performance and growth strategies of seven leading microfinance institutions. As well as a paper presented at the 6th European Research Conference (Paris, 2019), the project resulted in a series of recommendations informing the Trust's microfinance fund.

External funding has enabled us to conduct archival research, engage in field work, or pursue extended periods of writing on scholarly outputs. **Hall** secured a Scouloudi Foundation research grant (2019), which funded research at the US National Archives in Washington, DC, for a new project on US Army communications in the First World War. His first article on the subject has been accepted for publication by the German journal *Militärgeschichtliche Zeitschrift* (MGZ) and will be published in 2021. **Lomas** secured two Scouloudi grants (2019, 2020) to work on intelligence history, contributing to an article in the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2019). **Newbery** was awarded a British Academy small grant to cover the costs of archival research conducted in 2014, contributing to her 2015 monograph.

Correia was awarded a grant (£12k) from the Paul Mellon Centre for the Study of British Art in 2017 for research into the art of Albert Adams (1929-2006), whose work is represented in the UoS Art Collection. Her Visiting Fellowship at the Paul Mellon Centre (2016/17) contributed to the completion of journal outputs 2017-20. **Searle's** Visiting Fellowship to the Changing Character of War Programme, Pembroke College, Oxford (2016/17), provided access to research facilities, college libraries in Oxford and the Bodleian, thereby supporting long-term research projects and his comparative article on war elephants and early tanks (MGZ, 2018). Presentation of an earlier draft at the Military History Seminar, All Souls College (2016), contributed to the development of the ideas in the paper. His Visiting Professorship at Nankai University contributed to the completion of several outputs.

2) Contributions to professional disciplinary development

Bull generated over £300k through his tenure of the Directorship of the European Consortium for Political Research (2013-19). ECPR is the leading scholarly society for political science in Europe, with over 300 institutional members in almost 50 countries. It has played a leading role in scholarly debates on, among other central topics, gender equality, open data access and research transparency. The funding enabled **Bull** to be seconded for six years, thus enabling him to enhance our reputation, influence and strategic reach in the field of political science. Among the outcomes: he oversaw and championed the launch of the ECPR Gold OA journal, *Political Research Exchange*, published by ECPR, Routledge and Taylor & Francis, in 2018; and the political science blog-site *The Loop* (<https://theloop.ecpr.eu/>), which is aimed at disseminating political science research to the wider, non-academic community.

3) Event organisation and development of new networks

In 2015 **Maher** secured funding from the Universidad del Rosario to enable him to present research at the workshop, 'Conflict dynamics and challenges to building a resilient peace in Columbia', Bogotá, Columbia, which supported work for his 2018 monograph. In 2015 **Searle** received a Santander International Travel Bursary to visit the Europe-Asia Research Cluster, Karl Jaspers Centre, University of Heidelberg, to deliver a paper on ancient Chinese military theory, the feedback improving his understanding of Chinese history. In addition to funds from a VC Early Career Scholarship, Pieper received additional financial support from the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation to attend the 7th EU-China Relations Conference, Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2018. In all three cases, a significant contribution was made to the expansion of the researchers' international networks.

International scholarly cooperation has been further supported through our institutional membership to ECPR which has supported staff in attending the prestigious ECPR Joint Sessions,

run annually over five days, involving 15-20 participants from institutions across Europe. **Chiva** delivered papers on gender and representation at the 2014-17 sessions, contributing to her 2017 monograph, while **Ward** presented at the 2017 Joint Session which led to an article in the *Journal of Legislative Studies* (2020).

A 2008 workshop funded by UoS led to an essay collection 'Genesis, Employment, Aftermath', Helion 2015, edited by **Searle** with contributions from **Hall** and other experts in European military history, including Ralf Rath (Director of the German Tank Museum, Munster), Markus Pöhlmann (German Armed Forces Centre for Military History and Social Sciences, Potsdam), Olivier Lahaie (French Ministry of Defence), and Bryn Hammond (Imperial War Museum, London). Participation in the workshop and volume assisted **Hall** in his development from ECR to mid-career scholar, encouraging an international approach to his research and contributing to a prize-winning article in the *Journal of Military History* in 2014.

Research infrastructure

The Library has invested in several electronic archive collections that support our research: a large newspaper database and collections such as 260 Gale Primary Source collections, British Online Archives (likewise containing further collections of documents) and 'Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War' (Taylor and Francis). The availability of the online archival material has supported our research on protest movements in Britain (**Barnett**), intelligence (**Lomas, Murphy, Newbery**), British and Chinese military history (**Hall, Searle**).

All staff are located on the Peel Park Campus; to bring researchers together to encourage intellectual exchanges and provide support and community, SoAMCT staff can attend seminars organised by groups within AMCRC. Assisting our agenda of cross- and interdisciplinary work into the future, SoAMCT has invested £5k for refurbishment of space to support the launch of Salford Centre for Interdisciplinary Historical Research in 2021. This will provide a focus for cooperation with local history stakeholders, museums and archives, such as the Working-Class Movement Library, Salford Local History Library, the People's History Museum, Manchester, Lancashire Infantry Museum, Preston and the Fusilier Museum, Bury. The Centre will be used for small conferences, providing additional space for research students and visiting scholars, and a place for meetings with local stakeholders so that we are able to strengthen existing relationships and build new partnerships.

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

Researchers have actively pursued productive collaborations and communicated their work to national, international and non-academic audiences, thereby contributing to the sustainability of their sub-disciplines and influencing public discourse.

Collaboration and engagement

Lomas and **Murphy** are part of the University's contribution to the Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry. This is an ongoing £6m project part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, involving the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and Lancaster University to support Greater Manchester businesses strengthen their cyber defences. **Lomas** and **Murphy** work together with computer specialists to provide historical context to challenges of cyber security and other contemporary security issues faced by SMEs.

Corum undertook contract work with NATO (2014-18), leading a team to produce a report sponsored by the Joint Air Power Competence Centre (JAPCC), entitled 'Mitigating Disinformation Campaigns against Air Power' (05/2017). He authored two chapters of the study, editing the final version which contained contributions by five other air power experts from Estonia, UK, US, Germany and Holland. In addition, he arranged three research placements for MA students at JAPCC, Kalkar, FRG. The NATO JAPCC 2017 report recommended a series of measures in order that NATO be better prepared to deal with strategic disinformation campaigns. It led to the introduction of a course on disinformation, contributing to the achievement of one of NATO's Joint Air Power strategic goals, which, as of November 2017, was to 'enhance effective and continuous

education and training... [which] should emphasise a multi-domain approach and the inclusion of traditional and non-traditional stakeholders into the planning and execution of joint air operations' (para.2.d, NATO Joint Air Power – Capability and Capacity Needs, policy paper, NATO UNCLASSIFIED, 09.11.2017).

Correia held a Visiting Fellowship, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, in 2016-17. This led to two presentations at the Centre: 'British Asian Art Histories', 2017 and 'Archiving Exhibitions of South Asian Women Artists in Britain', 2018, as well as several publications. An Arts Council 'Grants for Arts Events' enabled her to stage 'To Draw the Line: A Third Text Symposium' at Bluecoat Centre for the Contemporary Arts, Liverpool, 2017, also delivering a paper, 'Imagining India/Remembering Britain'. This contributed to promoting public awareness of Black and Asian artists. Conversations between **Searle** and the Tank Museum, Bovington, led to a jointly organised public conference in 2016 and a two-week student work placement in 2017. **Searle's** Visiting Fellowship at Pembroke College, Oxford (2016-17), led to the co-organisation of a practitioner-oriented workshop on military doctrine, 2017, hosted by Pembroke, at which Corum, **Hall** and **Searle** delivered papers.

Bull's research on Open Access (OA) resulted in the convening of conference plenaries and panels on OA in Europe and North America which brought together academics, publishers, scholarly societies and Higher Education consultants; he was also Founding Editor-in-Chief of *Social Sciences* (Gold OA), 2011-17. **Bull** has served since 2013 as a consultant for Italy for the 'Varieties of Democracy' international project which provides annually the global community with the world's most comprehensive democracy ratings (<https://www.v-dem.net/en/>).

Visiting academics have been hosted by SoAMCT: Dr Wang Wei, Lecturer in International History, Nankai University, hosted for a month, 05/2017; Prof Marilena Macaluso, University of Palermo, visited 08-09/2019 as part of the EU Staff Mobility Scheme to conduct research and cooperate with staff in her field of political communication. **Searle** was appointed Visiting Professor, College of History, Nankai University, PRC, spending six months in total, 2016-19, to engage in teaching and research collaboration, resulting in the appointment of Prof Chengshuang Fu (Dean of Research, College of History, NKU), a leading Chinese environmental historian, as UoS Visiting Professor, 2019-20.

Indicators of wider disciplinary influence and esteem

Indications of wider influence, both nationally and internationally, can be seen in several awards. **Hall** was awarded the Whitfield Prize 2018 by the Royal Historical Society for the best first book on British or Irish History (**Lomas** was shortlisted for the same prize). According to the judges' citation: '*Communications and British Operations on the Western Front, 1914-1918* is a landmark of First World War scholarship. Drawing on an impressive range of primary sources, the book is a compelling piece of historical exposition. It draws attention to an aspect of warfare that is vitally important and yet curiously neglected in the existing literature – the extent to which the participants know what is going on, and the methods they use to try to find out. A wide range of historians will be obliged to take note of this book's lessons.'

Hall's book was also shortlisted for the Templar Prize 2018, awarded annually by the Society for Army Historical Research. He was awarded the Moncado Prize 2015 by the US Society for Military History for the best article in the January 2014 issue of the *Journal of Military History*.

Both **Vik** and Pieper have received recognition for their work. **Vik** received the Reg Matthews Award 2017 for his article 'What's So Social About Social Return on Investment?', *Journal Social and Environmental Accountability Journal*, 37/1 (2017), pp. 6-17, for the most important contribution to social and environmental accounting literature in the journal in 2017. Pieper was the Winner of Best Paper Award for 'The Belt and Road Initiative and Sino-Russian Order Conceptions in a Post-American World', 7th EU-China Relations Conference, Astana, Kazakhstan, 04/2018, sponsored by the University Association for Contemporary European Studies/Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Submitted staff have been elected to disciplinary societies due to their contributions to their respective fields. **Bull** was elected a Fellow of the Social Sciences Academy in 2016; he has also had a prize named after him for his contribution to the institutional development of European political science, as well as being awarded it as its first recipient: 'The Martin Bull Prize for Exceptional Contribution to the ECPR' (2019). All the historians in the group have been elected Fellows of the Royal Historical Society: **Searle** (2007), **Newbery** (2016), **Murphy** (2017), **Barnett** (2019), **Hall** (2020), **Lomas** (2020). **Newbery** is a registered expert with the Institute for Global Security and Defence Affairs, a think-tank in Abu Dhabi.

Researchers have also been engaged in refereeing for publishers, research councils and government bodies. Reviews of book manuscripts for leading academic publishers were: **Correia** for I.B. Tauris; **Lomas** for Manchester UP and Routledge; **Murphy** for Oxford UP, Yale UP and Taylor & Francis; **Newbery** for Oxford UP, Palgrave and Edward Elgar Publishing; **Searle** for Ashgate, De Gruyter and Bloomsbury Academic; **Vik** for Routledge.

Peer reviews of project proposals/research outputs include: **Bull**, reviewer, Killiam Research Fellowship, Canada Council of the Arts (2015), Italian REF, Italian Ministry of University and Research, Political Science Section (2016-17); Callaghan, project reviewer, Austrian Science Fund (2017); **Newbery**, project reviewer, AHRC (2016), ESRC (2016), Council for the Humanities of the Netherlands (2015); **Searle**, project reviewer, Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats, Lancaster University (2017), Austrian Science Fund (2016).

Researchers are/have been actively involved on journal editorial/management boards: **Bull**, Editor-in-Chief, *Italian Political Science Review* (Cambridge University Press), *Social Sciences* (MDPI), and *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* (Taylor & Francis), Editorial Board, *European Political Science* (Palgrave MacMillan), *Contemporary Italian Politics* (Taylor & Francis), *South European Society and Politics* (Taylor & Francis), *Modern Italy* (Cambridge University Press); Callaghan, Editorial Advisory Board, *Twentieth Century Communism* (Lawrence & Wishart) and *Socialist History* (Lawrence & Wishart); **Maher**, Associate Editor, ECPR open-access journal, *Political Research Exchange*; **Newbery**, Reviews Editor, *Journal of Intelligence History* (Taylor & Francis), Editorial Board, *Intelligence & National Security* (Taylor & Francis) and *Journal of Intelligence History* (Taylor & Francis); **Searle**, Editorial Board, *Nankai Journal (Philosophy, Literature and Social Science Edition)* (Nankai UP), and *Open Military Studies* (De Gruyter).

In addition, editorial roles for book series have included: **Barnett** as founder and editor for 'Routledge Studies in Espionage and Culture'; Callaghan as General Editor, 'Critical Labour Movements' (Manchester University Press, 16 vols. published to date); and **Searle**, founder and co-editor, 'Modern Military History' (Helion Publishers, 6 vols. to date), International Advisory Board, 'Krieg in der Geschichte' (Schoeningh Verlag/Brill).

Contributions to the sustainability of the discipline

Members of the group are actively involved in contributing to the sustainability and advancement of their respective disciplines, evidenced by a range of activities. During the census period, 74 peer reviews were undertaken for a range of journals in history, political science, art history, housing policy, social sciences and sustainability; 31 book reviews were published; and 91 conference and invited papers were delivered. Two staff have served on prize juries: **Bull** for the Sartori Prize, *Italian Political Science Review* (2017 Award), ECPR Lifetime Achievement Award (2015 and 2017 Awards), and Christopher Seton-Watson Memorial Award, *Modern Italy* (2016 Award); **Searle** for the Annual JCES Essay Prize, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* (2019), and the Annual Wilhelm-Deist-Prize, Arbeitskreis Militärgeschichte (2014-17).

Staff at all levels of research experience have contributed to the management and governance of scholarly societies. **Bull** was Programme Chair (2015-17), Vice-President (2017-19) and President (2019-22), for the Conference Group on Italian Politics, American Political Science Association. Alongside **Bull's** formal involvement with ECPR, **Maher** has been a member of the Steering Committee for the ECPR Standing Group on Political Violence since 2019. **Newbery** has served on the Management Committee, Political Studies Association Irish Politics Specialist

Group, since 2018. Two historians have made contributions: **Searle** was a member of the Executive Committee, Arbeitskreis Militärgeschichte, 2007-19, while **Hall** was a Councillor for the Army Records Society, 2015-18. **Correia** has been an Advisory Board Member, Stephen Lawrence Gallery for Visual Culture, University of Greenwich, 2010-15, and on the Board of Trustees, Third Text Charity, overseeing the finances of the journal.

Staff were involved in both national and international conference organisation during the census period. **Newbery** was co-organiser (with Dr Stephen Dorril) of 'Symposium on the First Decade of "The Troubles": What we now know, and what we don't know about the role of security and intelligence', UoS, 2019. **Searle** was the main organiser, 'The Media, Museums and the First World War Anniversaries', at MediaCityUK in 2014, and 'German History in the North', UoS, 2019. He was co-organiser of other events in the UK: Study Day on 'Military Doctrine', Pembroke College, University of Oxford, in 2017, and 'The Tank in the First World War' public event, The Tank Museum, Bovington, 2016. Supporting art history events, **Correia** was session convenor for two Association of Art Historians annual conferences: Diaspora Artists and British Art History at the University of Brighton in 2019; and Black British Art Histories, University of Edinburgh, 2016. **Bull** has contributed throughout the REF period (2014-2020) to the organisation of various panels for the American Political Science Association's annual meetings.

Contribution to public understanding of politics, history, intelligence and policy issues

Submitted staff have disseminated research to non-academic audiences, with public talks on broad social questions (Black and Asian artists, alleviation of poverty), security policy (future NATO policy, counterterrorism) and military history (First World War anniversaries).

Correia and **Vik** delivered a range of public lectures on contemporary societal issues. **Correia** presented talks on Henry Moore and photography, and his experience in the First World War, at the Hepworth Wakefield (03/2020), and Leeds Art Gallery (11/2014). At Asia House, London, she delivered a talk, 'Looking for Home: Remembering and Imagining India in Contemporary Art' (01/2015), with further public talks on British Asian art histories at The Stuart Hall Library, London (11/2015), the Paul Mellon Centre, London (07/2017), and a talk on 'Archiving Exhibitions of South Asian Women Artists in Britain' at the Paul Mellon Centre (01/2018). Further lectures on Black British women artists were delivered at the Friends of Rochdale Art Gallery Lecture Series (11/2019) and the South Asian Women's Creative Collective Symposium, Rich Mix, London (10/2017). **Vik** contributed to public debate through a talk on the role of affordable credit in alleviating poverty at the Manchester Mechanics Institute (04/2019), following an invitation by the Greater Manchester Poverty Action Group. A contribution to practitioners' thinking was made through a presentation on the economic benefits of affordable credit at the Financial Inclusion Roundtable, Barclays Bank Head Office, London (06/2017). He offered input at European level through a lecture on public policy and commercial drivers of growth in microfinance at the National University of Public Service, Budapest (11/2018), and on the development of the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision in Brussels (02/2016).

In the field of security policy, **Corum** contributed to the JAPCC Conference 2015 on 'Air Power and Strategic Communications: NATO Challenges for the Future', held in Essen (11/2015), which saw him present to Panel 3 (Air Power and Disinformation) and Panel 4 (Preserving Credibility). **Newbery** acted as a consultant for the 2Magpies Theatre event 'Last Resort', a multi-sensory performance about Guantanamo Bay (03/2016). In addition, she delivered public lectures on countering terrorism in the UK at Wilmslow High School (12/2019) and the Churchill War Rooms, London (05/2018), and a talk on intelligence ethics and new technology at the Close Protection Technology Forum, London (01/2016).

The interest generated by First World War anniversaries in the census period provided opportunities for **Hall** and **Searle** to offer their expertise to a wider public. **Hall** delivered two talks to the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire Branch of the Western Front Association, Stoke-on-Trent, on tank communications (05/2015) and the RE Signal Service (05/2016). Both **Hall** and **Searle** presented public lectures at the National Army Museum, London, **Hall** on the Battle of Cambrai, 1917 (12/2017), and **Searle** on the action at Villers-Bretonneux, 1918 (04/2018). **Searle**

gave the Army Records Society Annual Lecture on Major-General J.F.C. Fuller at the National Army Museum (12/2017) and public talks on tanks in WWI at the Tank Museum, Bovington (09/2016), and the German Tank Museum (09/2016).

Overall, we conclude the current assessment period with significant growth in the quantity and quality of our research and in its contributions to the research base and society. We have consolidated and developed our areas of expertise and corresponding networks. Clear planning and robust support for research activity provide the foundations for continued improvements and contributions in politics, contemporary history and societal challenges and support our increasingly global outlook and approaches.