

<b>Institution: University of Wolverhampton</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 28 - History</b>
<p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><u>a) The Centre for Historical Research</u></p> <p>The History submission at Wolverhampton reflects the activity of staff in the University's Centre for Historical Research (CHR). The CHR is the research centre of the Department for History, Politics and War Studies, and is located within the broader teaching and research environment of the School of Social, Political and Historical Studies in the Faculty of Arts, Business and Social Sciences.</p> <p>The CHR comprises 36 members of staff and is led by the management group of Benson, Buckley, Constantine, Gildart, Hussey, O'Kane and Ugolini. Its role is to further original research and maximise its dissemination and impact. To this end, it supports the research activities of staff and doctoral students, and provides financial support for conference attendance, archival research and public engagement initiatives. All staff are allocated £1,000 p.a. towards the costs of these core activities and are invited to apply for further funding from the Centre where funds permit. In this way, the CHR has been able to consolidate existing research strengths and develop new fields of inquiry, an ongoing process facilitated in the current REF cycle through the award of significant external income and the strategic recruitment of new staff.</p> <p>Within the CHR, three main research clusters facilitate scholarly exchange between colleagues working in similar areas, although their composition is fluid, and collaboration between staff across clusters and throughout the Faculty is promoted through workshops, seminars and mentoring.</p> <p>i) Class, gender and generation</p> <p>Colleagues working in this cluster have continued to publish innovative research since 2014. Their work on labour history, gender history and on the history of youth culture deserves particular emphasis and is summarised below.</p> <p>In connection with the AHRC-funded research project 'On Behalf of The People: Work, Community and Class in the British Coal Industry', Gildart, as Principal Investigator, together with post-doctoral researchers Curtis and Millar, have explored the development of the industry, its politics, and the culture and identity of those who lived and worked in mining communities. Their research sheds new light on the industrial disputes of 1972, 1974 and 1984/5, and on the political evolution of public ownership, gender relations in mining communities, and the social impact of deindustrialization (further details are provided in Section 3). Gildart is also lead editor of the <i>Dictionary of Labour Biography</i> (DLB), which brings together work by international researchers and has a long-established reputation as a research tool for scholars of nineteenth- and twentieth-century British history. Recent volumes (14: 2017) and (15: 2019) have paid especial attention to ethnic diversity in the history of labour and to the contributions of women to the trade union movement. The CHR's interest in ethnicity and gender as categories of historical enquiry is also reflected in Tomlinson's work on the British second-wave feminist movement, in Ugolini's research on masculinity, and in the studies of female hospital social workers published by Gosling-Page.</p> <p>Since 2014 Glen and Gildart's work on late 20<sup>th</sup> Century youth subculture and popular music has led to the first sustained critical examinations of Northern Soul and of the British Music Press, and to a series of additional publications on pop music, cinema-going and counterculture. Cunningham has also published a succession of original studies on the very different youth culture of rambling and hostelling, exploring the ethos and politics of the YHA, and (with Constantine) tracing the development of the international hosting movement in the inter-war years. These publications together comprise an important part of the UoA's overall output submission for 2021.</p>

## ii) War and conflict

CHR staff work on diverse aspects of the operational history of war and on its social and cultural impact. Of particular note is the depth of departmental expertise in the First World War. Badsey, Buckley, Constantine, Jones, McEwen, Sheffield, Ugolini and Wilkinson have all published extensively on the subject. Sheffield's work on the experience and agency of Anzac soldiers, Ugolini's exploration of conscription and male conduct, Wilkinson's study of British POWs in Germany, and Badsey's research on propaganda, are illustrative of the broad range of subjects explored in the current cycle. Wolverhampton's position as a leading centre for research in this field was underscored in September 2018, when the university hosted a major international conference on the First World War and its aftermath to coincide with the centennial commemorations (details in Section 4).

Buckley's research on the RAF and Steinert's on child forced labour under Nazism are examples of the valuable work that is also being done on the history of the Second World War. Wolverhampton hosted conferences on Operation Market Garden in September 2014 and on El Alamein and the War in the Mediterranean in September 2017. Steinert continues to play a leading role in the ongoing conference series 'Beyond Camps and Forced Labour'. First held in 2003, the fifth (in 2015) and sixth (2018) of these interdisciplinary conferences on the survivors of Nazi persecution have been held in the current REF period.

A separate strand of research in this cluster focuses upon terrorism and conflict resolution. Cunningham's work on political apology, Norton's and O'Kane's on Northern Ireland, and Kassimeris' research on Greek terrorism, are indicative of the important collective contribution made by CHR staff to this field of enquiry.

## iii) Retailing and distribution

Research in this area is coordinated by the Centre for the History of Retailing and Distribution (CHORD), established in 1998 by Benson as an international hub for research in this area. Now under Ugolini's leadership, this research centre hosts the annual CHORD conference, which remains the major international forum for scholarly exchange in the field, as well as workshops on a range of themes, a popular programme of on-line seminars and 'taster' events, and a thriving series of related blog publications.

Colleagues working in this area publish on a range of topics. Constantine's research on the Sinti and Roma has been influenced by the group's interest in itinerant trade and its regulation, and on the marginalisation of traveling groups. Hussey and Ponsonby's work on material culture, the work of Hawkins on brand development and entrepreneurship, and Ugolini's research into military uniforms, are indicative of the diversity of the research conducted within the cluster.

b) Geographical focus and interdisciplinarity

The CHR's strengths in British and Irish History are apparent from the UoA's Output Submission, particularly its focus upon 20<sup>th</sup> century English social history, British military history, and on Northern Ireland. Several additional areas of collective expertise should also be noted. The research of Burns, Fuller and Hawkins on US history, and that of Constantine, Steinert, Dennis and Laporte on modern Germany are perhaps the two most prominent. In the latter case, a long-established German History Working Group facilitates scholarly exchange between CHR members and colleagues in Wolverhampton and in Germany. Staff interest in the history of military conflict - whether this concerns the different theatres of war, the captured, the displaced or deported - also means that a great deal of CHR research is necessarily international in scope.

CHR researchers engage in collaborative and inter-disciplinary projects across the University. Burns' expertise in the teaching of history has led to a joint undertaking with colleagues in the

Institute of Education, and in 2019 a new BA programme 'History with Education QTS' began under his guidance. Recent work on industrial relations between Gildart with Seifert and Perchard in the Wolverhampton Business School could also be cited here. The research of both Gosling-Page and Curtis, with their focus upon health care provision, is also notably outward looking, and shaped by its engagement with the broader medical knowledge base. Gosling-Page's research on voluntary action places him at the intersection of a number of different academic disciplines. He regularly collaborates with colleagues in Social Policy and Sociology, and also supervises post-graduate research in the Institute of Health (Faculty of Education, Health and Wellbeing).

### c) Performance and objectives

#### i) Review of activity

In the submission for REF2014 we outlined our commitment to maintaining the vitality and sustainability of our research by enhancing existing expertise and developing new research projects. With the appointment of Gary Sheffield to a chair in military history, we made it a priority to broaden our commitment to research on the Great War. The three key aims listed in REF2014 - the establishment of a First World War Research Group, the validation of a new MA in First World War Studies, and the organisation of an international conference - have all been realised in the current REF cycle. In 2014, we also committed to new research projects on British occupation policy in Germany and post-war humanitarian assistance, and to develop our research on consumption, youth, fatherhood and popular culture. A great deal of high-quality work has since been carried out in these areas. As evidenced in the UoA's Output submission, it includes Hussey and Ponsonby's case-study of material culture, Constantine and Cunningham's work on Anglo-German relations, Steinert's research on the liberation of Belsen, Ugolini's work on the father-son relationship, and Gildart's and Glen's work on youth sub-cultures.

The strategy outlined in REF2014 pointed to the need to encourage staff to make regular applications for external funding, and this is now recognised as a core activity for all CHR members. It is supported by both the CHR and Faculty and pursued within the broader allocation of research hours (set at 400 for Lecturers and Readers and 620 for Professors out of a total of 1597 contracted hours). Colleagues receive assistance in the preparation of research proposals from the University's Project Support Office and can apply to its External Income Generation Funds Programme for financial support to aid in the preparation of such bids. Together, these measures have contributed to a greatly improved record of grant capture. In the period 2008-2014 staff secured £350,000 of external income for research. In the current cycle, this figure has increased markedly to £847,817 and, in connection with the AHRC-funded project on mining history, we have been able to expand our team of researchers as a result.

Since 2014, the CHR has made it a strategic priority to broaden engagement with non-academic partners, with a view to enhancing the social value of the research that we carry out. All research staff in the CHR are keen that their expertise helps to shape the broader political and cultural environment in which we live. Public engagement is also welcomed because it influences historical practice for the better, changing both what we study and the approaches to research that we adopt.

#### ii) Open Access and the dissemination and impact of research expertise

Since 2014 the CHR has made its research more accessible to an external audience. The University's Open Access policy has maintained the requirement to deposit completed research within three months of acceptance for publication. Deposit in our institutional repository - WIRE - has been mandatory since the policy was implemented in 2010/11. The CHR welcomed these opportunities to share its research, and, in close cooperation with the university's Library Services, has implemented procedures to ensure that staff publications including monographs and book chapters are uploaded swiftly where publisher embargoes permit. In the case of Gosling-Page's

monograph *Payment and Philanthropy*, funding from the Wellcome Trust ensured that it was made freely available online at the point of publication.

The CHR hosts a number of Open Access collections that support research within the University and beyond. These include the Dictionary of Labour Biography Archive, containing entries on 950 individuals and organisations linked to trade unions, socialist organisations and Labour Members of Parliament. This has long served as an important resource for academics, as well as local and family historians. We also host the free, online Dictionary of Traded Goods and Commodities (1550-1820), which includes entries for more than 4000 terms used to label and describe traded goods in early modern England. Two freely accessible collections are of particular value to military historians: the New Model Army Regimental Lists Database, established by Wanklyn, which collates details of officers who fought for Parliament in conflicts between 1642 and 1660, and an archive of over 50 interviews with British Army veterans of the North-West European Campaign of 1944/45. This important resource continues to inform the teaching and research of staff in the Centre and is in the process of being digitised and placed online. As part of the AHRC-funded mining history project, researchers have also recently begun to compile a freely accessible database containing 98 interviews with retired coal miners and their families, along with a digitised series of key coal industry publications including *Coal News* and *The Miner*.

The dissemination and impact of our research is evident in the broad range of activities undertaken by CHR staff outlined throughout this document. Some of this activity has been brought into sharper focus in the Unit's two Impact Case Studies (ICS) for REF2021. The first of these details the way in which the research and engagement of Gildart and others has transformed the educational provision of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU). This was achieved by working with affiliated organisations such as the Musicians' Union, the Social Workers' Union and the Professional Footballers' Association as creative participants in the process of documenting and marking their own histories, including at the youth festivals of the GFTU. The second ICS reflects our expertise in military history and its impact on the public commemoration of war and on military education. It highlights Sheffield's influence as an advisor to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and its decision to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Amiens in 2018. It also showcases Wolverhampton's new MA in Air, Space and Cyber Power, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Defence, and the manner in which this programme has enhanced the intellectual capital of the RAF.

### iii) Future strategic objectives

Our objective in the coming years is to sustain the vitality of historical research at Wolverhampton and to further its dissemination and impact. To this end the CHR will support and develop the research of the three clusters, continuing the excellent work of colleagues begun in the cycle to 2021. Research currently in progress will lead to the publication of a number of studies, including on deindustrialisation and popular culture, the persecution of Europe's Sinti and Roma; the Peace Process in Northern Ireland; the parent-child relationship and mental illness, British and Dominion soldiers in the two world wars, and on Operation Market Garden.

We will build upon our strong track record of engagement with partner organisations beyond the academy and continue to stimulate and shape historical debate in the public sphere. Maintaining our ties with local communities and the GFTU, its affiliate organisations, and the MoD, will be part of this endeavour, but we will look to expand such activities and broaden the impact of our research. The AHRC-funded 'On Behalf of the People', and the public engagement activities undertaken in connection with this project have provided us with an important foundation here, and it is envisaged that the publications arising from this research will underpin an Impact Case Study for the coming REF period. A recent initiative by Wilkinson to develop GCSE resource packs on the Great War with Pearson, and with Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations, is another project, currently in its early stages, which we may choose to pursue further.

The CHR recognises the important role that it plays within the broader educational landscape of the Black Country. The research-led teaching of our students is part of this, but we will look to

strengthen our relationships with a variety of local bodies, including schools, local history associations and heritage organisations such as the Black Country Living Museum and the museums of the UNESCO world heritage site at Ironbridge Gorge. Collaboration of this kind promotes a collective, critical engagement with the past, enhancing our community's appreciation of its diverse nature and origins, and helping to shape its sense of identity and purpose in the present. The research expertise of the CHR means that it is particularly well-placed to address the history of social conflict in the region. The workshops on rioting led by Kassimeris and O'Kane in 2014 and 2016, and the projects undertaken by Hirsh and Glen which addressed the racist legacy of local MP Enoch Powell (details in sections 3 and 4) will serve as exemplars for such collaborative work after 2021.

We face challenges in the short term given the impact of the pandemic, which has affected research activity of all kinds and looks set to do so for months to come. Through this period of disruption, and in the period of renewal to follow, the CHR will continue to foster the research activity of staff, post-doctoral researchers and doctoral students. The period following 2021 will also see some staff retire from the department. Recruitment will seek to offset the loss of their expertise, to address the gender imbalance within the Centre, and to build new research profiles within the CHR, this with a particular view to expanding its scope for interdisciplinary research.

## 2. People

### a) Staff

#### i) The Centre for Historical Research

The CHR is open and inclusive, comprising all members of staff employed in the department as well as our Honorary Research Fellows (HRFs) and Emeritus Professors. In July 2020 there were 36 members of the CHR, including 22 Category A staff in the UoA REF submission, two staff who do not have significant responsibility for research at present (but whose role may well change), two post-doctoral researchers employed in connection with the AHRC project, seven HRFs (Laporte, Caterall, Jackson, Mitchell, McEwen, Ponsonby and Toplis) and the Emeritus Professors Benson, Dennis, and Wanklyn. In 2014 the Unit returned 16 members of staff. The 22 members of the CHR submitting outputs this time include 17 full-time, permanent staff contracted to carry out both teaching and research, and five colleagues on fixed-term contracts: Wilkinson and Glen on research-only contracts (both .5), Krause (full-time), Gray (.3) and Burczynska (.5) who all teach and research. We also included outputs from Natalie Thomlinson, who was a Category A staff until she left Wolverhampton to take up a post at the University of Reading in 2018.

#### ii) Recruitment

The recruitment strategy of the CHR seeks to appoint staff who ensure continuity to the established research and teaching profile, but who also bring fresh approaches to their respective fields. In the cycle to 2021, the appointment of Wilkinson, a specialist on prisoners of war, and the addition of HRF McEwen, who has focused upon the medical history of the Great War, both strengthened an already impressive profile in this area, whilst the additions of Curtis and Millar (who adopts gender and oral-historical approaches in her work) enhanced existing departmental expertise in the field of labour history. Two permanent appointments have allowed the CHR to develop its research portfolio: Gosling-Page, who focuses on health-care provision, and Burns, whose major research area is American Imperialism. His appointment, and that of Krause, a specialist in colonial rebellion, means that colonial history and subaltern studies may now be developed as an area of collective expertise. Constantine and Jones have both published in this area previously. The arrivals of Gosling-Page and Burns also enhance the interdisciplinarity of CHR research, as outlined in Section 1.

Recent recruitment practice has also been guided by the intent to broaden departmental engagement with public and third sector bodies. The appointment of the military historian and



retired RAF Air Commodore Gray, and of Burczynska, in connection with the new MA in Air, Space and Cyber Power, and the recruitment of Gosling-Page, whose research has led to extensive collaboration with the voluntary sector, are examples of this.

### iii) Staff development

The CHR supports the intellectual and professional development of its members. All Category A staff are allocated a reduction in teaching hours in order to pursue their research and have each been given one semester-long sabbatical in the current REF cycle. Procedures for career progression are clear and transparent. The University-wide annual readership and professorship schemes are open to everyone with the requisite records of publication and research activity. Since 2014, Ugolini, Gildart and Kassimeris have been promoted from Reader to Professor, and O'Kane, Fuller and Hawkins from Senior Lecturer to Reader. All staff benefit from Faculty-wide mentoring and rigorous annual appraisal. Until 2019, staff submitted annual research forms to the CHR management committee, recording their research activity, publications arising, and other activities connected with wider dissemination and impact. These also listed new external funding applications and awards and new postgraduate supervision, information which in turn informed annual appraisal. In 2019, the Activity Forms were superseded, and the process streamlined, when the University adopted Symplectic's Elements information management software.

### iv) Early career researchers (ECRs)

The CHR provides ECRs with the material support they need to conduct their research. Archival work conducted by Burns in the US in 2019 for his monograph on William Taft was funded by the Centre and may be cited as an example here. In previous cycles, colleagues have also applied successfully to the University-wide Early Researcher Award Scheme (ERAS) which provides mentoring and financial assistance of up to £5,000 towards the research of staff who have completed their doctorate in the previous five years. ECRs are also integrated into the work of the CHR's research clusters, where they work alongside senior colleagues on funding bids and towards the publication of joint-authored outputs. Ongoing work between Watkiss and Gildart on the social history of Disco, and between Gildart, Curtis and Millar in connection with the AHRC project, are examples of this. As the representative of staff at Lecturer and Senior Lecturer levels on the CHR Committee, Constantine has acted as a mentor to Gosling-Page and Burns since their appointment. The career progression of ECRs is also supported. In recognition of their valuable contribution to the work of the Department, both Gosling-Page and Burns have been advanced from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer since their arrival.

### v) Support for exchanges, research, and impact

The CHR is responsible for the identification of research priorities and the subsequent allocation of resources. It does so in conjunction with the Faculty Executive Team, the Faculty Research Committee, the University's Dean of Research, and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The CHR plays a key role in ensuring that the scholarly infrastructure is in place to enable all of its staff to produce world-leading research. It does so by supervising the operational development of research across the Centre and by ensuring that research and impact activity are properly funded and included in the annual staff workload allocation. Through its representation on the Faculty and University Research Committees, it also shapes the strategic development of research at Faculty and University level.

Collaborative projects involving staff place particular emphasis on the involvement of institutions and organisations outside of higher education. Annual CHORD workshops on historic textiles and dress attract speakers and participants from national and local heritage organisations and historic houses. Two conferences held in 2014 and 2016 and coordinated by Kassimeris and O'Kane on 'Why People Riot' were also both characterised by a strong non-academic presence, serving to facilitate the exchange of ideas between scholars and representatives from a range of public bodies including the West Midlands Police and local government. A further example is the ongoing series of Study Days led by the First World War Research Group which are held three times a

year and open to the public. They interlock with a series of First World War Public Lectures given by external speakers and funded by the Western Front Association.

Our partnership with the GFTU, which has seen staff and postgraduate students run workshops on labour history as part of its educational programme, may also be cited here. As part of its duty to manage the research budget, the CHR Management Group allocated additional funds for travel and expenses connected to the development and delivery of the GFTU Case Study. The visits made by colleagues to the GFTU headquarters in Quorn, which also proved crucial in the development of the successful funding bids outlined in Section 3, were financed in this way.

#### b) Research students

##### i) Recruitment

As of July 31 2020, CHR staff were supervising 39 full and part-time doctoral students, a significant increase on the 20 research students recorded in our return for REF2014. Since 2014 CHR staff have supervised 11 PhD theses to completion. Imaginative, original doctoral research on a wide variety of topics is being carried out under CHR staff supervision, including on the commemoration and remembrance of war, on Quaker humanitarian relief, on anti-racism in the 1970s and on the social consequences of de-industrialisation. Our improved recruitment of research students is in part a consequence of the introduction of four new Masters programmes in History. An MA in Second World War Studies and an MA in the History of Britain and the First World War were set up following a successful bid to the University's Research Investment Fund in 2014. October 2018 saw the first iteration of a new MA in Twentieth Century Britain, and, in September 2019, the first RAF recruits were enrolled on the new MA in Air, Space and Cyber Power Studies. Five of our doctoral students are graduates of our Masters programmes.

##### ii) Support and integration

Postgraduates are supervised by a team of researchers selected for their different expertise and with a view to providing optimal support for their students. Supervisors undertake mandatory training prior to accepting doctoral students and receive additional training thereafter via the Doctoral College's Research Supervisors' Development Programme. History students receive discipline-specific training, including in historical research methodologies, on preparing conference papers, publishing their work, and the requirements of the thesis and the viva examination. Their career development is further supported through their involvement in the delivery of the Department's undergraduate curriculum. Doctoral students in History have been able to draw upon funds of up to £500 p.a. from the CHR's postgraduate research budget to cover the cost of activities such as conference attendance and research visits. Requests for support exceeding this amount are supported where CHR funds allow.

Our postgraduate students play a full role in the research community, contributing, for example, to the CHR seminar programme and to CHORD conferences and workshops. Three doctoral students presented papers at the centennial conference on the Great War, and a fourth was part of the team that visited Japan in connection with the ESRC-funded project on mining heritage (details in Section 3). A new Women's History Group, initiated by Ugolini, and a Labour History Reading Group, set up by Gildart for postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers, foster scholarly exchange between new and established researchers and help to maintain the vitality of historical research at Wolverhampton. Under the guidance of CHR staff, and in the inclusive environment of the Department, many of our doctoral students begin careers in history and cognate subjects. Leonie Jackson (currently at the University of Huddersfield) and Jenny Gilbert-Evans (at the Black Country Studies Centre), who graduated in 2015 and 2016 respectively, are two recent examples.

As the University is not a recipient of the research councils' block-grant studentship funds, we have accessed alternative sources to fund doctoral research. In 2015, the CHR itself funded two fee-waiver scholarships and our partnership with the GFTU has resulted in the Federation funding

one doctoral student to research its history from its foundation in 1899. The British Commission for Military History and the Black Country Society have provided financial support for two further PhD students. The CHR also has an established record of attracting self-funding and part-time postgraduate students, many of whom combine research with employment. The recruitment process is open and rigorous, and all members of recruitment panels are briefed on equal opportunities. This has resulted in an increasingly diverse student community in terms of gender, age and socio-economic background, although we recognise that more work needs to be done to attract female applicants. In July 2020 just over a quarter (10) of our doctoral students were female.

### c) Equality and Diversity

The CHR recognises that creative, innovative research is furthered through the recruitment of scholars from different cultural and educational backgrounds. It enables the CHR, as a collective unit, to bring differing perspectives to bear on historical enquiry. Current staff come from a variety of social backgrounds, and from a range of countries including the UK, Italy, Germany, Greece, New Zealand, Poland and the United States. Since 2014, the Management Committee has looked to address the gender imbalance within the CHR and can claim an improved record of attracting female applicants to advertised posts. In the present cycle this has led to a more balanced recruitment of new researchers, including the appointments of Burczynska, Hirsch, Millar, Tomlinson, and (HRF) McEwen, although departures in the same period have unfortunately undone some of these gains. CHR staff are represented on the University's Women in Research group and are engaged in a long-standing collaboration with its Black and Ethnic Minorities Experience project, not least through involvement in the annual programme for Black History Month. CHR staff are part of the University's LGBT Staff Network and help to organise events for LGBT History Month in February each year. As part of Disability History Month colleagues have also presented papers on aspects of their work, most recently Gosling-Page in December 2019, who spoke on the charity St Dunstan's, and its re-training of blinded veterans after the Great War.

The CHR supports equality and diversity by promoting flexible working and by providing facilities for the integration of part-time and honorary staff. Across the University, staff who have taken parental or carers' leave, or who have needed to take long-term medical leave, are also supported in several ways. During their absence they agree keeping-in-touch (KIT) days to ensure their wellbeing and continued sense of inclusion. All those returning from career breaks are encouraged to engage a mentor, and to seek the advice and support of the CHR as they recommence their research.

## **3. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

### a) External Income generation

The CHR's commitment to sharing its expertise with local communities and public and third sector bodies informs its strategy for grant capture. This focus on mutually beneficent projects has proven successful in the current cycle and UoA staff have attracted substantial financial support from major UK funding bodies and comparable international organisations. The CHR's strength in the field of labour history was recognised in 2017 with the award of an AHRC Research Grant worth £655,736 for 'On Behalf of The People' a major research project on the history of the British Coal Industry. Led by Gildart as Principal Investigator it focused on eight collieries and their communities: Annesley-Bentnck (Nottingham), Bickershaw (Lancashire), Easington (Durham), Markham (Derbyshire), Point of Ayr (Flintshire), Prince of Wales (Yorkshire) and Tower (Cynon Valley). The research was developed in partnership with the national mining museums of England, Wales and Scotland and the GFTU. UKRI provided an additional £72,000 when COVID-19 disrupted a series of public engagement activities scheduled for 2020. The additional grant met the cost of extending the employment of the post-doctoral researchers involved, and of developing a public exhibition, now due to open in 2021.



Gildart's expertise in the social history of mining led to further international collaborations which have attracted significant additional funding. He was Co-Investigator on the ESRC-funded project 'New Directions in Coal Mining History and Heritage' awarded £43,484 in 2019. This collaboration brought together UK and Japanese historians, archivists, and former coal miners in a series of workshops in Sheffield, Barnsley, Tokyo and Kyushu, where participants shared best practice on the dissemination of historical research beyond the academy and engaged ex-mining communities in the preservation of their own heritage. In May 2020 Gildart was Co-Applicant on a successful bid by an international team of researchers awarded \$2.5 million by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. On this seven-year project entitled 'Deindustrialisation and the Politics of Our Time' the Wolverhampton researchers will be exploring how industrial decline in mining communities in the 1970s and 1980s was reflected in popular music and youth subculture.

Since 2014 Ugolini has secured funding amounting to £20,000 for the Centre for the History of Retailing and Distribution and in 2018 Hirsch successfully bid for Heritage Lottery funding worth £9,400 in connection with her work on the impact of Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech. In 2018, Fuller was also awarded a Caird Short-term Research Fellowship worth £4,800 by the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. In 2020, Hawkins, together with Frank Challenger, the former CEO of the Wolverhampton Lighthouse Arts Centre, received a grant of £5,682 from the Windrush Day Grant Scheme for the BE-ME Foundation Project 'Windrush Generation Experiences On-line'.

In the course of his work on survivors of National Socialist persecution and on children's experience of the Second World War, Steinert has secured awards from a range of funding bodies. His research has been sponsored by Yad Vashem, and the foundation Remembrance, Responsibility, Future, who provided substantial grants to support both the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> international conferences on 'Beyond camps and forced labour' and the 3<sup>rd</sup> international conference on 'Children and War' held in Salzburg in July 2016 which Steinert co-organised. In the current cycle some £70,000 has been made available to the University for these purposes. The 6<sup>th</sup> international conference was also supported through an additional £35,000 from the Toni Schiff Memorial Fund. In 2015 Steinert was awarded a senior fellowship at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies worth £18,000.

To date, the AHRC Voices of War and Peace Engagement Centre has provided £3,500 to CHR staff for public engagement work. Jones is Co-Investigator of the Centre. As part of a joint initiative with the National Football Museum and colleagues at De Montfort University, Sheffield has secured funding of £10,000 from the Oxford United Community Trust to establish a 'Football and War' network, an initiative which forms part of a wider project to use the history of the game in wartime as an educational vehicle for schools and communities. A full breakdown of History research income by source is included in REF 4b.

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

##### **a) Partnerships, community engagement and impact**

The material in the following sections showcases the vital social contribution of the Unit, highlighting our partnerships with public and third sector providers and our engagement with community groups. As indicated above, formal partnerships have been agreed with the MoD, the GFTU and the National Mining Museums which have led to the impact detailed in the UoA's Case Studies for REF2021. In embedding our expertise in their educational programmes and exhibitions, we have helped to shape the curricula and teaching practice of a broad field of educators, enriching the learning experience of children and adults from a diverse range of social and cultural backgrounds. Colleagues also give regular talks to schools and local history societies, and the workshops and conferences we organise involve the participation of non-academics, whether as interested individuals or as members of associations and community groups. The project initiated by Hirsch in 2018 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wolverhampton MP Enoch

Powell's notorious 'Rivers of Blood' speech deserves special mention in this context. It brought together the local community at a series of public events to address Powell's legacy. This programme of activity, developed further by Glen, included a theatre production by pupils at West Park Primary School, a workshop with former pupils who had attended the school in 1968, and a major exhibition at Wolverhampton's Art Gallery. Collectively these interventions played a central role in confronting Powell's racist vision fifty years on.

#### b) Media work

Staff in the CHR are consulted regularly on a range of historical matters by the major national and international media organisations, outlets which enable colleagues to bring their expertise to a much wider audience.

The extensive media coverage of the First World War Centenary provided the CHR's military historians with many opportunities to influence the way the War is remembered and understood. Sheffield appeared in discussion with Professor Sir Richard Evans on the subject of the First World War on BBC Radio 4 in January 2014 and Badsey took part in Radio 5's 'Five Live Remembers' from St Philip's Cathedral in Birmingham on 4 August 2014 and was interviewed for BBC2's *Gallipoli: When Murdoch Went to War*, broadcast on the 25 April 2015. He subsequently advised the programme makers of Radio 4's *Voices of the First World War* in July 2017 and was interviewed in June 2018 for ZDF's television series on the Second World War. Buckley was interviewed for Radio 4's *The World at One* on the subject of the 1940 campaign and has acted as a consultant for the BBC/ Slitherine computer game *Battleground*.

Gildart's expertise has been called upon in a number of recent high-profile documentaries. He was consulted as part of BBC Radio's coverage of the thirtieth anniversary of the Miners' Strike and has contributed to BBC television programmes on post-war Britain, and to *Mods and Rockers Rebooted*, broadcast in August 2014. More recently he acted as a consultant for the four-part series *A History of the European Working Class* by the acclaimed director Stan Neumann and was interviewed in the final part ('Revolution') which aired on ARTE in May 2020. He was the leading historical expert on series 17, episode 1 of the BBC's hugely popular *Who Do You Think You Are?* which followed the actor Jodie Whittaker's investigation of her family history. Filming for the episode was completed in February 2020, and it was first broadcast in October that year.

#### c) Wider academic influence

##### i) Research councils, university research panels, editorial positions

CHR Staff play important roles in the work of the Research Councils and on other national and international bodies. Badsey was appointed as a member of the AHRC's Peer Review College in 2017; Gildart is currently a member of the Australian Research Council and Ugolini has been an invited Member of the Pasold Research Fund since 2004. We also perform a central role in planning, monitoring and managing University research at Wolverhampton. Buckley is Head of School Research and, with Gildart, also a member of the Faculty and University Research Committees. In July 2020, Gildart was appointed Chair of the University's Professoriate.

CHR staff undertake editorial responsibilities for numerous historical journals. Buckley is on the editorial board of the *British Journal of Military History*; Burns edited *The Bridge: Journal of Educational Research-Informed Practice* between 2014 and 2016 and is currently on the board of *Management in Education*. Fuller is Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Naval History* and Gildart serves on the editorial boards of *Socialist History*, *Historical Studies in Industrial Relations*, and *Llafur: the Journal of Welsh People's History*. Kassimeris is on the board of *Critical Studies on Terrorism*. Ugolini remained co-editor of *Textile History* until 2016, becoming sole editor in that year, and is currently on the boards of the *History of Retailing and Consumption*, and the *Journal of Management History*. Badsey, Buckley and Fuller edit the *Wolverhampton Military*

*Studies* series of monographs for Helion, the specialist military history publisher. Benson, Hawkins and Ugolini are all on the editorial board of the *Journal of Historical Research in Marketing*.

## ii) Seminars, workshops and conferences

Throughout the year the CHR invites speakers to present their research as part of its regular seminar series. These are open to staff and students and form an integral part of the research culture of the department, providing a platform for CHR scholars, post-graduates and visiting speakers to present and discuss their work. In 2018, for example, Buckley and Sheffield gave papers (on Cornelius Ryan, and on Combat motivation), with scholars from City University, London and the Universities of Manchester, Nottingham, Edinburgh and Canberra also presenting on a range of topics that year.

To coincide with the centennial commemorations, Badsey, Sheffield, Ugolini and Wilkinson organised the major international conference 'The End of the War and the Reshaping of a Century'. This event was held at Wolverhampton over three days in September 2018, and developed in collaboration with heritage agencies, museums, art galleries, schools and community groups involved in First World War research and commemoration. Over 50 speakers attended, and keynote lectures were presented by distinguished scholars in the field, including John Horne, Alison Fell, Peter Frankopan, Hew Strachan, Jay Winter and our own Gary Sheffield and Laura Ugolini.

With colleagues at Royal Holloway and Birkbeck College, Steinert co-organised the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> interdisciplinary conferences 'Beyond Camps and Forced Labour' in 2015 and 2018, both attracting over 100 speakers. In collaboration with academics at the University of Salzburg, and in association with the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, he also organised the conference 'Children and War' hosted in Salzburg in 2016. More recently, in November 2019, Steinert co-organized the conference 'Children, War and Forced Migration. Past and Present' also in Salzburg.

O'Kane's role in organising the 'Why People Riot' conferences has been noted above. He and Norton were also instrumental in the School's hosting of the National Museums, Northern Ireland traveling exhibition 'Voices of '68' in April 2019, which addressed the pivotal events of that year and the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland on the eve of the outbreak of the Troubles. O'Kane and Norton both spoke at its launch.

Under Ugolini's leadership the Centre for the History of Retailing and Distribution continues to host the leading international annual conference in this field. For two decades now the CHORD conferences have been a vital forum for scholarly exchange, bringing together established academics, early career scholars and researchers from heritage and charitable institutions across Europe, the US and Australasia. Recent events have explored, in successive years, the changing patterns of retailing and consumption from the early modern period through to the twentieth century. The conference in September 2019 included contributions from scholars from the UK, France, Switzerland, Italy and Finland, and from staff working at the Salvation Army International Heritage Centre, London and the museums of the UNESCO world heritage site at Ironbridge Gorge. CHORD also runs workshops twice yearly which focus on more specific historical themes, such as that held in June 2020, via Zoom, which explored the relationship between retailing, distribution and the natural world.

## iii) Research networks

Staff in the department play important roles in national and international research networks. Ugolini was a member of the AHRC-funded network 'Tailored Trades: Clothes, Labour and Professional Communities (1880-1939)' and Gildart is a co-founder of the AHRC-sponsored 'Subcultures Network', established in 2011 and funded between 2013 and 2015 to foster interdisciplinary research into youth culture, popular music and social change. A central concern of this collaboration is to help policy makers understand how youth cultures change and the diverse ways

in which young people give voice to their political views. This Network generated the series *Palgrave Studies in the History of Sub-Cultures and Popular Music*, which Gildart co-edits and which includes Glen's 2019 monograph *Youth and Permissive Social Change in British Music Papers, 1967-1983*.

Wilkinson is co-founder and, up until Jan 2019, lead committee member of the AHRC-supported First World War Network, a network for early career and postgraduate researchers working on any aspect of the War. As indicated above Jones is Co-Investigator of the AHRC's 'Voices of War and Peace', one of the five Engagement Centres established by the Council to connect academic and public histories during the centennial commemorations. As part of this project, Jones has contributed to the 'Frontline' series of articles hosted by the project's website.

#### iv) Peer review and external examination

We have acted as referees for a broad range of historical journals and continue to evaluate proposals for the major academic publishers. The latter include Bloomsbury Academic (Gildart), Continuum (O'Kane), Palgrave Macmillan (Gildart, Ugolini), Polity (Jones), Routledge (Benson, Constantine, Gildart, Hawkins), and the University presses of Edinburgh (Ugolini), Liverpool (Gildart), Manchester (O'Kane, Ugolini), Oxford (O'Kane), Wales (Gildart) and Yale (Badsey). We have also acted as referees for funding applications, including those made to the AHRC (Gildart, Badsey), British Academy (Gildart), Australian Research Council (Gildart), Pasold Research Fund (Ugolini), Wellcome Trust (Ugolini), ESRC (Badsey), and the Social Sciences and Humanities and Research Council of Canada (Badsey). In the current cycle we have acted as external examiners at Edinburgh and Birkbeck (Badsey), Exeter (Fuller), Salford, Glasgow, Exeter, Huddersfield, Sheffield (Gildart), Leeds and Kings College London (Sheffield), Royal Holloway (Steinert) and Oxford and Brighton (Ugolini).

#### v) Scholarly awards, fellowships and invited keynotes

CHR staff have received international recognition for their work in the cycle to 2021. In 2014, Buckley was awarded the Templer Medal from the Society for Army Historical Research for *Monty's Men* (2013). In the same year *Stemming the Tide* (also 2013), edited by Jones, and containing essays by Jones, Badsey and Sheffield, was declared runner-up. In November 2020, Steinert was awarded the prestigious Yad Vashem International Book Prize for his 2018 work *Holocaust und Zwangsarbeit* on child forced labour. Badsey, Benson, Buckley, Curtis, Gildart, Sheffield and Ugolini are all Fellows of the Royal Historical Society. Buckley is a member of the Chief of the Air Staff Advisory Group at the Royal Air Force, Royal Air Force College, Cranwell. Steinert held a Senior Fellowship at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies between March and August 2015 and, in 2016, Burns was a Barringer Research Fellow at the Monticello Institute, Virginia. Fuller is currently an Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland University College and in 2018 held a Caird Short-term Research Fellowship from the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

CHR Staff are regularly invited as keynote speakers to symposia and conferences. In 2014, Badsey spoke on 'The First World War in British and German Cultures of Remembrance' at the 33rd Annual Conference of the Prinz-Albert-Gesellschaft E.V. in Coburg, and the following year on 'Alternate Spaces of War' at the University of Plymouth. In Tokyo, in September 2019, he delivered the keynote paper on 'The Unexpected Expansion of Conflicts' at the International Forum on War History convened by the Japanese Ministry of Defense (National Institute of Defense Studies). Keynote presentations were given by Buckley at the 26th Annual Canadian Military History Colloquial, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario in 2015, by Gildart, at the Wellcome-funded conference 'Working Environments and the Body' held at the University of Shanghai in April 2018, and by Jones, at the First World War Research Symposium held at the Portuguese Defence Academy in Lisbon in 2015. Sheffield delivered keynote addresses at the Western Front Association Irish Branches Conference, held in Cork in 2015 and in 2017 at the 28th Annual Canadian Military History Colloquial in Ontario. In November that year, Ugolini gave the keynote at the British Records Association Annual Conference held in London.



## vi) Professional subject associations

We also play a prominent role in the work of professional associations. Badsey organised the British Commission for Military History's 5th Annual Conference on New Research in Military History, held here at Wolverhampton in November 2014; Buckley is a committee member of the Society for Military History; Dannehl is on the Steering Committee of History UK; Fuller is a Fellow of the US Naval Historical Centre, Washington DC; Gildart is an Executive Board Member of the Labour History Society and also a Member of the Advisory Board for the Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick; Gosling-Page is the Communications Officer for the Social History Society; Hawkins is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Analysis and Research in Marketing Association; Jones is a council member for the Army Records Society; O'Kane is Co-Convenor of the Irish Politics Group of the Political Studies Association; Sheffield is a Member of the Council of Society of Army Historical Research and currently serves as President of both the Western Front Association and the International Guild of Battlefield Guides.