

<b>Institution: City, University of London</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> <b>D:34</b> (Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management)
<p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p>Our D:34 submitting unit is distinctive in drawing on the work of colleagues across two Schools: the Department of Journalism in the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS); and the Centre for Information Science, a research group whose members constitute the Library and Information Science (LIS) staff within the School of Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering (SMCSE). Researchers in both Journalism and LIS lead exploration of ideas and issues related to the communication of factual information to the public, as well as the preservation and safeguarding of that information, particularly in a digital era. Their focus is on information that enhances civic understanding and citizen well-being, encompassing libraries and archives, information systems and journalistic media.</p> <p>Compared with the 2014 REF reporting period, City's current submission is smaller but more cohesive, enabling us to generate high-quality work around a more clearly defined set of research objectives. In the 2014 submission, our UoA (D:36) included colleagues in Culture and Creative Industries. This cohort is now operationally and strategically aligned with Sociology; it is part of City's C:21 submission for REF2021. In 2014, City established a Department of English, encompassing the study and production of literary works. Research from English colleagues, also folded into our prior UoA, now is part of City's inaugural D:27 submission.</p> <p><b>Research strategy</b></p> <p><i>Prior REF assessment:</i> LIS scholarship at City has received the highest rating in HEFCE's research assessment exercises since 1996; REF2014 was a first entry into the national assessment process for Journalism. Our submission thus combined long-standing and emerging research strengths to earn our unit a top 20 national ranking in REF2014. Globally, our programmes have placed in the top 100 in the QS Top Universities world rankings every year during the current REF period; in 2021, City was ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in Library and Information Management and 50<sup>th</sup> in Communication and Media Studies.</p> <p><i>REF2014 unit strategy:</i> Aside from the transfer of some colleagues to different units of assessment, Journalism and LIS (referenced in the REF2014 submission as Computer and Information Science) have followed our strategy as then outlined. Through the work of new and existing colleagues, <b>LIS</b> has continued strengthening its leadership position in situating and contextualising information science within a digital environment, with a focus on open access policy and practice. The empirical and conceptual work of senior LIS scholars <b>Bawden</b> and <b>Robinson</b> has been central to the development of new conceptual models of creativity and innovation in a networked space, as our 2014 strategy proposed. Journalism also has fulfilled its pledge to expand its position as a centre for outstanding research, particularly in areas including international reporting, women and journalism, and new media models and approaches. As described below, Journalism remains a renowned leader in productive, research-driven knowledge exchange with the media industry, a core identity outlined in our REF2014 strategy.</p> <p>At the time of the REF2014 submission, <b>Journalism</b> had newly hired six early career researchers as part of its development strategy. One, a PhD alumna of our department, left the university, but the other five have matured into highly productive City scholars, and all are returned with the current submission. Supported by mentoring and other activities designed to nurture a collective and collaborative research culture, as outlined below, all five earned promotions during the current REF period; <b>Bunce</b> and <b>Rodgers</b> already are Readers, and <b>Abubakar</b>, <b>Lonsdale</b> and <b>Porlezza</b> are Senior Lecturers. Three additional research hires since 2014 have bolstered departmental strength in health communication, gendered media issues</p>

and investigative journalism, complementing the areas listed above. Overall, a stronger sense of shared purpose around the provision of information in the public interest has been achieved than was possible at the time of the REF2014 submission, when the department encompassed three disparate disciplines.

*REF2021 unit strategy:* Research by City scholars in D:34 is designed to be of value to a) citizens in a democratic society who rely on credible and accessible information; b) information industry practitioners and policy makers, in line with our institution's commitment of service to business and the professions; and c) the international academic community, primarily in the fields of journalism studies and information science. As part of our outward-facing philosophy and in line with the University's impact strategy, we engage extensively in interactions, grounded in our research activities and discoveries, with all three sets of stakeholders. In doing so, we enjoy support at the department, School and University levels. Departmental initiatives are highlighted throughout this document. At School level, talented professional staff – from communications officers to grant-writing experts to research student support teams – help sustain our scholarship and enable our work to reach and benefit the wider community. Extensive University resources, many newly implemented since REF2014, are described in component 5(a) of this submission.

These interactions further our research strategy of knowledge creation and transfer in multiple ways. Knowledge transfer to the industry ranges from service on such oversight bodies as Ofcom, to the provision of expert testimony to Parliament and other government bodies, to keynote and other high-profile talks for industry and academic organisations. As part of the strategic expansion of our global research reputation, City also routinely hosts international conferences in our field, serving academics (for example, the International Society for Knowledge Organization conference in 2019, coordinated by **Bawden** and **Robinson**), the industry practitioners whose work we examine in our scholarship (for example, the Global Fact-Checking Summit in 2015, **Singer**), and both academics and practitioners together (for example, the Congress of the Worldwide Association of Women Journalists and Writers in 2018, **Harb**).

Indeed, connecting researchers and practitioners is a key strength and a core strategy for our UoA. Embedded in both our REF2021 impact case studies, for example, is our commitment to research that engages communities of practice to generate beneficial effects nationally and internationally. Our well-attended Women on Air symposia (2014, 2016 and 2018, **Howell** and **Franks**), highlighted in our expert women impact case study, have been cited as instrumental in improving industry practice around the use of female experts in leading news programmes. Comparably central to our crisis reporting impact case study is work of the Humanitarian News Research Network, launched at City in 2016; this unique initiative regularly hosts on-campus and external events that enable researchers and practitioners to share findings and publicly debate key issues (**Bunce** and colleagues). Colleagues' successful grant applications for funding from internal and external sources will help us drive work forward in both areas in the 2020s.

We intend our strategic commitment to knowledge creation and exchange to continue to lead to original scholarship that is both theoretical and empirical. Particularly within the Department of Journalism, which returns 13 of City's 17.5 FTE for D:34, the REF2014 and especially the REF2021 periods have seen a significant shift from a predominantly practice-based culture, focused on preparing graduates to successfully enter the workforce, to one in which research is more prominent, more widespread and more broadly seen as integral to effective teaching. This shift has been enacted through hiring and promotion decisions, active research mentoring, regular research seminars to enhance visibility of our work across and beyond our department, and extensive institutional support, as well as through colleagues' individual efforts.

During the REF2021 period, we have consolidated research in the Department of Journalism around four clusters. One is **gender and diversity issues in journalism**, including matters related to the role of women within news organisations as well as media coverage of diversity and gender (**Blumell**, **Franks** and **Lonsdale**). A second is **international journalism**, including humanitarian news, coverage of conflict or crisis and those affected by it, and the role of external

actors such as funders and policymakers (**Abubakar, Bunce, Cooper, Franks, Harb, Honigsbaum, Rodgers and Tumber**). Another is **journalism policy, practice and ethics**, including policy and practice related to investigative journalism, freedom of information, and ethics in legacy and digital media (**Harb, Lashmar, Porlezza, Singer and Tumber**). And the fourth is **new and emerging journalism**, including innovative journalistic forms, models and production methods (**Bunce, Hewett, Porlezza and Singer**).

All staff within LIS are research-active, and engaged with open practice and digital scholarship. City's Centre for Information Science provides a home and a focus for their work, which balances theoretical and conceptual explorations with empirical scholarship of social and professional relevance. Although research topics are wide-ranging, work in LIS falls under three main categories, to which all colleagues (**Bawden, Dunne-Howrie, MacFarlane, Makri and Robinson**) contribute. The first is **foundations of the information sciences**, covering the nature of information; links between physical, biological and social conceptions of information; library and information history; and philosophy of information. The second is **documents and documentation**, including changes in the processes and nature of documentation and resources – how information is discovered, described, organised and communicated – and their consequences for information specialists. The third is **information behaviour** of individuals, groups and society more broadly. This area covers ethics, models and concepts of information behaviour, including behaviour associated with emerging technologies and other non-traditional realms exemplified by leisure and virtual communities. Information and digital literacy also are part of this focal area.

Particularly noteworthy is our commitment to open access scholarship, which goes well beyond compliance with the baseline requirement that institutions maintain a freely available repository of outputs generated by their researchers. During the current REF period, 354 outputs were added to our open-access repository by D:34 scholars. LIS colleagues have been especially proactive in leading the move toward fully open access within the University and among the wider academic community. Initiatives have included creation of a CityLIS area on the Humanities Commons repository, containing a wide variety of materials; memberships on the editorial boards of open access journals such as *Sci* (**Bawden**), *Information* (**Bawden**) and *Publications* (**Robinson**); and a leading role in an Emerald Editors Group initiative to persuade the publisher to allow no-embargo open access, years before funders required it. LIS staff also have implemented open-access publishing for major conferences that they have organised; examples include CoLIS, published in *Information Research*, and DocPerform, published in the *Proceedings of the Document Academy*.

Overall, as detailed below, both departments are characterised by an integrated and interdisciplinary research programme; a substantial and growing community of research students who go on to employment in both industry and academy; and strong and substantive engagement with the external research community.

**Objectives for REF2028:** Going forward, our unit's plan for sustainable achievement aligns with the three strategic priorities of City's 2026 Vision and Strategy. The first of these is to **maintain quality trajectory**. In D:34, we will continue recruiting and nurturing junior scholars to bolster our success in generating top-quality outputs and grant income; expand our small cohort of senior scholars through internal promotion and/or external hires; and build on a key strength, the alignment of our research with pressing societal needs around delivery and consumption of information. Examples include our provision of expert communication on health pandemics (**Honigsbaum**), our input into media policy development at parliamentary level (**Howell and Singer**) and our shaping of ethical communication about humanitarian crises and concerns (**Abubakar, Bunce, Cooper and Harb**).

A second University priority is to **achieve growth**. In addition to adding new research staff – who, like all D:34 colleagues with a primary responsibility for research, have 40% of their time earmarked for scholarly activities – we have implemented a policy of allocating 20% of the workload of teaching-focused academics to research-related activities. These education-oriented

colleagues, who bring extensive industry experience to their university roles, have now begun contributing to departmental research initiatives in innovative ways, especially but not exclusively in forging links between research and student-facing activities. Three recent educational hires are likely to move onto a research track ahead of the next REF, as they earn PhDs and benefit from internal mentorship around the creation and dissemination of academic research. We also will continue to improve our PhD student experience as former early-career researchers qualify for supervisory roles, broadening the range of expertise we can provide and the number of doctoral students we can support. The recent creation of a University-level doctoral college will help streamline and coordinate student recruitment, retention and progression. Finally, research income is expected to expand as colleagues build on grant success in the current REF period. Newly strengthened support at School and University levels facilitates locating suitable grants, submitting high-quality bids and sharing successful strategies.

The third University priority involves **leveraging partnerships**. Here we already enjoy considerable strength through our close connections with diverse industry bodies, as described below and in our impact case studies, and through our collaborations across and outside the University. We seek to extend and enhance these connections post-Covid through public events featuring high-profile practitioners, building on the model created through our Women on Air symposia; our hosting of public addresses by industry leaders, such as our annual Cameron and Cudlipp lectures; and our many panel sessions, open to the public and packed with well-known journalists. We also anticipate that the joint research project involving LIS and Journalism in the development of unique newsroom tools, funded by a £258K Google Digital News Initiative grant, will bear fruit in the next REF period and afford expanded partnership opportunities.

### Inter-disciplinary research

The unit's research explores topics encompassed by diverse academic disciplines, including but not limited to media sociology, international politics, law and ethics, economics, data processing and information science. Our researchers' backgrounds are similarly eclectic, including physical and social science, journalism and media studies, drama, information systems and computer science. Ongoing collaborations also cross disciplinary boundaries. For example, a Journalism scholar (**Porlezza**) is the PI on the Google grant project mentioned above, with two co-investigators from LIS (**MacFarlane** and **Makri**) and a third from Journalism (**Cooper**); co-authored research papers stemming from this collaboration were presented at two international conferences in 2020 and are expected to lead to publications during the next REF period.

Our engagement with research intended to improve industry practice also has facilitated inter-disciplinary collaboration with colleagues in City's Cass Business School, consistently ranked among the 100 best in the world. One example has been our work with colleagues in the Centre for Creativity in Professional Practice, launched in 2015 by a former SMCSE researcher, which unites colleagues from three of City's five Schools to explore new forms of creative leadership and digitally augmented human creativity. Journalism colleagues involved in Centre activities during the current REF period, including a project to develop creative search strategies for explanatory digital journalism, have included Brock, Payton and **Singer**. Another example is **Franks'** ongoing work with business school colleagues on an EU Commission / Horizon 2020-funded project around digital innovation in science and technology communication.

## 2. People

### Staffing strategy and staff development

We envisage additional recruitment and promotion of permanent academic staff to continue the research trajectory established before and during the current REF period. Following REF2014, three new Journalism researchers were hired at either the Lecturer or Senior Lecturer level; all three have already received promotions. LIS also has expanded its scope with the addition of a colleague (**Dunne-Howrie**) who unites information science with innovative theatre performance. New research-active hires are required to have a PhD prior to employment, as well as published

outputs assessed as at least 3\* by REF criteria. Most also have strong professional backgrounds. The unit is multi-national in composition, another strength on which we will continue to build; active researchers include citizens of Canada, Lebanon, New Zealand, Nigeria, Switzerland and the USA, in addition to the UK. All D:34 colleagues in this submission have an ORCID ID.

The hard work of research-active staff initially hired as Lecturers who have now attained promotion – for which sustained production of high-quality outputs is required, along with teaching excellence – was supported in multiple ways during the current REF period. These include an increase in opportunities for sharing and discussing research processes and findings, notably through monthly research seminars, described further below; the foregrounding of scholarly accomplishments in annual appraisals; departmental financial support to fully cover participation in international academic conferences; and ongoing display and celebration of our research outputs via social media, in departmental public spaces, and in panel discussions and symposia. Research-active staff who join us as early-career researchers also are eligible for institutional ‘pump priming’ support; **Abubakar, Blumell, Cooper and Rodgers** received these university grants for their work during this REF period.

Mentorship also is integral to the D:34 research culture at City. All research-active staff in LIS and Journalism are mentored by a senior scholar; **Singer** and **Tumber** in Journalism, and **Bawden, MacFarlane** and **Robinson** in LIS, routinely advise colleagues as well as research students on appropriate strategies for planning and executing publishable research and, more broadly, on their personal and professional development as scholars. In 2017, Journalism additionally instituted a policy of having the department’s research lead attend all performance appraisals of research-active staff whose line manager is not engaged in research. The change provided a formal process for researchers to obtain feedback on completed scholarship and guidance on planning their research trajectory over the coming year; it also made research integral to a performance consideration that previously focused on teaching and administrative activities. This has not only created a stronger incentive for producing high-quality outputs but also has ensured that time is ring-fenced to generate it within the department’s Workload Allocation Model.

Unit staff also provide support for junior colleagues outside the institution. For instance, during the current REF period, **Lashmar** helped a colleague at Bangor University develop a successful proposal for an ESRC-funded project on holding intelligence elites to account, **Porlezza** helped a colleague from Lugano obtain an early postdoc scholarship from the Swiss National Science Foundation, and **Singer** guided colleagues through the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) mentorship scheme.

Other departmental structures also nurture the research community. A core component is the assessment of all research staff outputs – including books, chapters and academic journal articles – through City’s Annual Research Quality Monitoring (ARQM), an intensive process that applies the same criteria as the REF. Publications are reviewed by a panel of experienced internal researchers in Journalism or LIS, with panel composition guided by equality and diversity considerations; further advice from external experts is solicited as needed. Reviewers provide confidential comments to authors about their work, offering constructive informal feedback that supplements and informs more formal staff development initiatives.

A key enhancement in Journalism during the current REF period has been the reconfiguration of our **research seminars**, held monthly in Terms One and Two. These began as opportunities for individual research talks but have evolved to encompass diverse formats, including workshops, thematic panels, grant application tutorials, discussion of work in progress – even a research-themed ‘pub quiz’. The seminars help build cross-disciplinary connections, with LIS, Sociology and English staff and student colleagues invited to attend and periodically to share their own research. The seminars also serve as a forum for visiting scholars; recent speakers have hailed from Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, Lebanon, Sweden and the USA, as well as from other UK institutions such as LSE and Oxford. One seminar each year is devoted to presentation of

doctoral student work. The session is designed like an academic conference research panel, with up to five students sharing their work and obtaining feedback on it; this not only offers benefits in its own right but also is a useful rehearsal for actual conference presentations.

**Research committees** (departmental for Journalism and School-based for LIS) convene at least once each term, and more often if needed, to share information, discuss research strategy and address issues arising. Regular slots are allocated to reports and action plans related to research ethics, the PhD programme and the ARQM / REF. Committee members also serve as members of the ARQM panel, as described above. Broadly, the committee generates and communicates research policy for the department, as well as liaising with School and University bodies; committee members also serve on job search panels for research appointments.

**University, School and department-level ethics committees** ensure the ethical conduct of all research, providing a close review of all procedures involving or affecting human subjects, as well as a risk assessment covering researcher and research subjects. All researchers – including staff and PhD students as well as MA and undergraduate students conducting studies involving human subjects – submit detailed study plans for departmental ethics committee approval, including consent forms, participant information sheets and interview guides as appropriate. Most projects undertaken within the unit are of low risk, but those posing greater risks are considered by a School-level committee and, in rare cases, may require University-level approval. In 2018, the ethics approval process migrated from paper-based forms to an online system that uses a branching structure to channel projects appropriately based on their risk level. The online system has streamlined approval and record-keeping processes.

Generous **travel funding** fully supports conference paper presentation by D:34 researchers. During this REF period, Journalism has been able to fund one international and one domestic conference trip per year for all who have sought such support. Requests for funding are first approved by the travel budget holder (the chair of the department research committee), then circulated for final approval to all committee members. For LIS colleagues, School financial support for research is channelled through the Centre for Information Science, which funds conference attendance and related activities. All research-active D:34 colleagues whose conference attendance has been thus supported have published one or more of their presented papers in refereed academic journals during this REF period. Examples of REF2021 outputs that began as conference presentations include but are not limited to publications by **Abubakar** in *Journalism and Mass Communications Quarterly*; **Bunce** in *Journalism Studies*; **Cooper**, **Blumell** and **Bunce** in *International Communication Gazette*; and **Singer** in *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*.

### **Research leave and sabbatical policy**

In consultation with their line manager, research-active staff develop an annual action plan based on a Workload Allocation Model. Research-active staff have 40% of their time allocated to research activities and the rest to teaching and administrative responsibilities. That said, we support strong integration of scholarship and teaching, not just of our research students but also of master's and undergraduate students; examples of our research-informed teaching are below.

City maintains a generous sabbatical leave policy relative to many peer institutions: All staff are eligible to apply for sabbatical leave after seven terms of service and are encouraged to do so. With three terms per academic year, this policy allows one term dedicated to research in every third year. Applicants must provide a detailed plan showing how they will productively use any time awarded, and written support from their department head is required. School-level committees review all requests approved by the department head, assessing the feasibility and ambitiousness of stated research goals. Sabbatical requests typically are approved so long as eligibility criteria have been met and other departmental obligations can be covered; both policy and culture strongly support staff engagement in productive research. A report of achievements is due to the School committee three months after the sabbatical ends, with a more extensive

report due to the School Board of Studies within a year. Staff continue PhD supervision during their sabbaticals, ensuring that support for post-graduate scholars is uninterrupted.

Although most sabbaticals awarded within D:34 during this REF reporting period have been for one or two terms, the provision is flexible and longer awards are not uncommon. For example, yearlong sabbaticals have been awarded to **MacFarlane**, **Cooper** and **Franks**, notably to accommodate unique, externally funded projects. All 10 Journalism researchers who applied for sabbaticals during this REF reporting period were approved. As other sections of this submission demonstrate, these periods of research leave have provided time for authored and edited book projects, collaborative work, international data-gathering initiatives and impact case study development. Among the many examples of outputs directly resulting from sabbatical work are books by **Lonsdale** (*Rebel Women between the Wars*) and **Rodgers** (*Assignment Moscow*), articles in top-tier journals by **Bunce** and **Singer**, and book chapters by **Franks** and **Harb**.

### Equality and diversity

City has a policy of fair and equitable treatment of all staff employed on both permanent and fixed-term contracts, with a wide range of support services available, as described in our 5(a) submission. Schools also take additional steps to ensure equality of opportunities. For example, SASS funds are available for staff members who accrue additional childcare costs while attending research conferences or training-related activities. Both SASS, which houses the Department of Journalism, and SMCSE, which houses LIS, are committed to the university's flexible working policy and indeed go beyond it in accommodating long- or short-term staff needs for work flexibility. For example, two Journalism staff colleagues working on their PhDs have one workday free from other university obligations; another research-active colleague retained productive connections to a Swiss university thanks to flexible working hours.

City has been a member of the Athena SWAN Charter since February 2014, achieving the Bronze Award for its commitment to gender equality in 2017, with Silver Award status pending as of the end of the current REF period. Research staff in our departments reflect this commitment. In Journalism, half of the active researchers are women, including two of the three holding the rank of Professor (**Franks** and **Singer**); in LIS, the only researcher holding the rank of Reader is a woman (**Robinson**). **Franks** and **Robinson** have served as heads of department during this REF period.

Research by D:34 scholars also directly addresses issues of equality and diversity. For example, **MacFarlane** has explored issues related to dyslexia and information retrieval; the work of **Blumell**, **Cooper** and **Franks**, collaboratively and separately, focuses on media portrayal of women, as well as their experiences within media organisations; and our humanitarian news work, led by **Bunce**, foregrounds the concerns of global communities.

### Research students

PhD candidates come to City Journalism and LIS from all over the world. In this REF period, we have been home to research students from Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Swaziland, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USA; we also have hosted, as visiting junior scholars, research students from Brazil, Spain and Switzerland. Despite being housed within different Schools, the two departments share similar approaches to and success with doctoral-level study. PhD researchers in both LIS and Journalism have two supervisors, who provide extensive and intensive guidance to help them meet the goal of submitting their final thesis within four years of enrolment. Part-time students have been as successful as full-timers in completing the programme, and part-time enrolment has proved advantageous to those already holding academic or industry posts elsewhere. Examples include an LIS student researching communication in professional firms and another investigating the information needs of distance learners, as well as a Journalism student who a member of academic staff at Cardiff University.

Eleven research-active colleagues have served as first supervisor during this REF period; first supervisors must have previously supervised or co-supervised at least one PhD student to completion and average a 3\* or higher ARQM rating on their own research. In total, Journalism or LIS staff members supervised or co-supervised 34 PhDs to completion during the current REF period, including students not only without our own units but also those earning doctoral degrees in Computer Science, International Politics, Law and Sociology.

A majority of our PhD students are self-funded, but a small number in both LIS and Journalism have received University studentships; in LIS, one student has been funded by the British Library and another by an employer. All currently enrolled doctoral students in both areas are undertaking conventional PhD by research. One student in 2016 and another in 2017 were awarded professional doctorates. Two awards were made for PhD by prior publication to then-current members of Journalism staff in 2014 and 2015; this option has now been discontinued, and all PhDs must be based on research undertaken as part of the degree programme.

The progress of students in both departments is monitored through an internal Research and Progress system, which enables students and supervisors to transparently record and comment on activities relevant to their pathway through the programme. Under the guidance of departmental Senior Tutors for Research, who represent the PhD programme at School level, the system ensures that students remain on track through the stages of their doctoral studies, from commencement of work to final submission of their thesis. SASS also has been proactive within City in implementing parental leave policies for post-graduate research students, ensuring such leave does not count against the overall suspension-of-study limits allowed by the University. An LIS doctoral student recently benefitted from a year of parental leave.

Both departments also are committed to providing PhD students with training in the skills they need to succeed. In LIS, these include workshops through both City and the University of London's Bloomsbury training consortium on general research methods, led by colleagues from institutions including Kings College London, LSE and SOAS; this provision has substantially expanded the amount of research methods training available to students. LIS students also receive hands-on support with software packages such as SPSS and NVivo, as well as opportunities to complete MSC modules in social research methods and MA modules in academic practice. In Journalism, new PhD students attend a required induction programme covering research methods. SASS also offers a series of training sessions on fundamental skills in qualitative and quantitative methods, research ethics, thesis writing, viva preparation and more. These are augmented by specific impact-oriented sessions, including media engagement training led by Journalism colleagues.

City PhD students receive additional support, guidance and training through the University Doctoral College, which offers workshops on everything from research planning to presentation. A key benefit of joining the University of London is that funds now flow back to City to strengthen post-graduate research; some of this money, awarded competitively, supports conference attendance, supplementing the £1,000 in School funding for LIS and Journalism doctoral students on studentships. This support has enabled PhD students to present their work at major academic conferences around the world. For example, a Journalism student attended International Communication Association conferences in Japan and the USA, and won the overall top paper award for work presented at the 2019 International Conference in Journalism and Mass Communication in New York. LIS students have presented work at global ASIST, CoLIS and ISKO conferences.

Our PhD students also publish work from their doctoral theses and related research, both as sole authors and in collaboration with staff supervisors and mentors. During this REF period, their work has appeared in journals including *Journalism Studies*, *Journal of Documentation* and *Journal of Information Science*; three PhD theses have resulted in published books.

Their success as students has helped those wishing to pursue academic careers after graduation to do so. PhD graduates during the current REF period currently hold academic posts

at institutions including City, Kingston, Sussex and Central Lancashire universities in the UK, Queensland University of Technology in Australia, the University of British Columbia in Canada, and Ibn Khaldun University in Turkey, among others. Other graduates have gone on to work at academic libraries or in senior media positions at such prestigious outlets as BBC News, BBC World Service and Al Jazeera English.

PhD students who plan to become teachers as well as researchers also are supported in developing relevant skills. Journalism PhD students holding studentships may undertake up to 180 hours of teaching-related work each academic year; this ranges from delivering classroom instruction, to providing support for tutorials or seminars, to assisting with assessment. Students not holding a studentship can gain teaching experience through a Visiting Lecturer appointment paid at the standard VL rate. LIS gives all PhD students who wish to teach the opportunity to do so on the department's Master's programmes; this activity runs the gamut from a single presentation to a full module, depending on student interests and proficiencies.

In 2018, Journalism underwent a University review of its PhD programme, resulting in commendations for the calibre of staff supporting, and students enrolled in, the programme. Also highlighted were completion rates, employment outcomes and student research publications, as well as the reputation of the department in facilitating industry links to support research projects.

Our master's-level students also enjoy significant research success. In LIS, roughly half of the recently completed doctoral degrees were undertaken by students who previously completed a taught MA or MSc programme. LIS master's students have had their work, co-authored with supervisors, published in journals including the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, the *Journal of Documentation*, *Global Knowledge Media and Communication*, and *Library and Information Research*. Another example comes from Journalism, where four recent Erasmus Mundus MA alumni have had their co-authored research presented at international academic conferences; three conference papers have since been published in refereed journals.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Our unit's strategy has been to seek funding pragmatically from a wide range of sources, including industry and academic funders, and in small as well as large amounts. The success of this strategy is attested by the level of funding received from diverse sources, with a total of £852,458 reported to HESA during the current REF period. This reflects an average funding level of more than £48.7K per FTE.

Sources of external funding encompass **government bodies** (European Commission, £301,059, Journalism, including £119,924 in Horizon 2020 funding for an ongoing collaborative project with colleagues in City's Cass Business School); **research councils** (AHRC, £61,440, Journalism; £20,101, LIS); **industry and academic entities** (Google Digital News Initiative, £220,790 spent to date of a total award of £258K, Journalism and LIS, joint project; Association for Journalism Education, £1,425, Journalism); **UK-based charities** (Royal Academy of Engineering, £131,078, LIS; Friends Provident Foundation, £67,434, Journalism); and the British Academy (£49,132, Journalism).

LIS researchers also shared in funding awarded to City's Computer Science department during the current REF period and included in City's B:11 submission, including £75,478 from Innovate UK (**MacFarlane**) and £125,753 from Cubic Transportation Systems (**Makri**). D:34 scholars have been successful in capturing additional monies to support public engagement activities, too; for example, **Cooper** was awarded £1736 to help her share her work through the ESRC Festival of Science. And our strong relationships with practitioners, highlighted below, have further benefitted our research initiatives. For example, the estate of leading 20<sup>th</sup> century information scientist Monty Hyams donated his archives to LIS, a resource that resulted in a *Journal of Documentation* publication co-authored by **Robinson**.

We additionally have competed successfully for internal funding to support our research. Pump-priming grants for early career researchers, totalling just under £19K, were awarded to four Journalism colleagues during this REF period; the funds went toward such REF2021 outputs as work by **Abubakar** on covering extremism and by **Rodgers** on reporting from the Holy Land. The university also offers Quality-Related Global Challenges Research Fund (QR-GCRF) money to enable researchers to build interdisciplinary collaborations and lay the groundwork for external funding applications; during this REF period, a total of £103,630 was awarded to six D:34 scholars. Additional funds are available through the Higher Education Innovation Fund, administered through the Schools; during this REF period, Journalism colleagues received a total of around £32.1K in HEIF money to support initiatives related to our two impact case studies as well as other outputs and research-related projects.

Both departments benefit from dedicated research support units within their respective Schools, along with resources available through the University Research and Enterprise Office, as described in our 5(a) submission. The Schools' research support staff provide dedicated assistance in identifying and applying for external funding, as well as in managing funded projects. University support is provided for all software programmes used in our research, particularly for data analysis. City's Interaction Lab, a human-centred design consultancy based at City, also has been useful for human-computer interface studies and for a Journalism PhD thesis study of virtual reality.

In addition to its knowledgeable team of subject-specific librarians, the University library provides discipline-specific print and electronic resources in information science and journalism; these include databases and data sets as well as an extensive collection of books, e-books and journals, as outlined in our institutional environment statement. Through its 'Read for Research' initiative, the library allows PhD students and research-active staff to order materials without departmental authorisation. City's membership in the University of London consortium affords access to the vast holdings of its 17 individual institutions.

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

##### Academic Engagement

Contributions of unit researchers to the wider academic community are extensive and multi-faceted. Space permits highlighting only a few.

**Academic publishers:** Two internationally prominent journals in our area are edited (**Bawden**, *Journal of Documentation*) or co-edited (**Tumber**, *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*) by members of our unit. **Harb** is co-editor of the *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* and associate editor of *Journalism Practice*. In this REF period, **Makri** served as guest editor for *Information Research* and **Porlezza** for *Studies in Communication Sciences*.

City D:34 members serve on the editorial boards of leading journals across our disciplines. These publications include but are not limited to the *Aslib Journal of Information Management*; the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*; the *Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies*; the *Journal of Information Science*; *Information*; *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism* (for which **Cooper** serves as reviews editor); *Journalism and Communication Monographs*; *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*; *Journalism Practice*; *Journalism Studies*; *Media, War and Conflict*; *Publications*; and *Sci*. In 2018, **Singer** received the inaugural Reviewer of the Year award from *Journalism Studies*.

In addition to authored outputs, unit colleagues also serve as editors for major research texts and book series. In the current REF period, the latter have included **Bawden** and **Robinson's** joint editorship of Facet's Foundations of the Information Sciences series, **Harb's** joint editorship of a Bloomsbury series on Political Communication and Media Practices in the Middle East and North Africa, and **Singer's** role as inaugural series editor for an innovative joint publishing initiative

between Peter Lang Publishers and AEJMC. Edited texts have included *The Routledge Companion to Media and Human Rights* and *The Routledge Companion to Media and Scandal* (both **Tumber** and Waisbord, 2017 and 2019, respectively); *Africa's Media Image in the 21st Century* (**Bunce, Franks** and Patterson, Routledge, 2017); *Reporting the Middle East* (**Harb**, Bloomsbury Academic, 2017); and *Humanitarianism, Communications and Change* (Cottle and **Cooper**, Peter Lang, 2015).

**Collaborations:** Our researchers are active in a range of formal networks and partnerships. National examples include but are not limited to collaboration with the Sheffield iSchool in the AHRC-funded OATAP project, which investigates the theory and practice of open access (**Bawden** and **Robinson**); an academic partnership with First Draft News, a social media verification network (**Cooper**); and a collaborative doctoral studentship with the British Library (**MacFarlane** and **Makri**). In 2020, **Singer** served as Specialist Adviser to the House of Lords Communications and Digital Committee, advising on policy related to the future of journalism in a digital world; **Howell** filled the same role for the committee's 2014 inquiry into women in broadcast news. International network roles during the current REF period include but are not limited to **Bawden** and **Robinson's** participation in the Erasmus+ ILO project to create a multi-lingual MOOC for information literacy; **Bunce's** creation of the Humanitarian News Research Network, as described in one of our impact case studies; **Harb's** role as executive trustee and board member of the Ethical Journalism Network, as well as an Ofcom content board member; and **Robinson's** collaboration with King Abdul Aziz University in Saudi Arabia on knowledge management. **Singer** served as inaugural Journalist-in-Residence for Jurist, a legal news and commentary service based at the University of Pittsburgh.

Additional opportunities for collaboration, networking and information-sharing with international colleagues come through our association with EU-funded Erasmus Mundus, which makes travel funds available to facilitate knowledge exchange. Among the City colleagues who have benefitted during this REF period, are **Blumell** (who visited Chile), **Cooper** (Australia), **Franks** (USA) and **Singer** (Germany). **Rodgers** and **Singer** also have organised and/or participated in research symposia for the Erasmus Mundus Journalism, Media and Globalisation programme.

**Keynotes and other research presentations:** Colleagues routinely deliver research talks at other institutions, in the UK and abroad. Space does not permit listing even a meaningful subset of the hundreds of such talks over the current REF period, but examples of invited keynote lectures include those delivered to the British Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the Swiss Federal Media Commission (**Porlezza**, 2017 and 2018), the Kahn Liberal Arts Institute at Smith College and Global Studies Centre at Smith College in the USA (**Harb**, 2017 and 2018), the Kipling Society (**Lonsdale**, 2015); the Universidad de Navarre (**Singer**, 2018), the University of Sussex (**Franks**, 2015) and Vilnius University (**Robinson**, 2018).

Unit members also deliver keynote addresses to conferences and symposia around the world. Again, space precludes a comprehensive list, but examples in this REF period include keynotes to the International Society for Knowledge Organization (**Bawden**), the Media, Communications and Cultural Studies Association (**Franks**), the Intelligence History Association (Berlin Workshop; **Lashmar**), the InForum conference (**Robinson**), and the European Communication Research Association / German Association for Communication Research (**Singer**).

**Academic conferences:** City researchers enjoy high visibility in all the key conferences in our fields, including ASIST, CoLIS and ISKO (LIS); and AEJMC, ICA, the European Communications Research and Education Association, and the International Association for Media and Communications (Journalism). Every year, colleagues present original, blind-refereed scholarship and participate on panels. In 2018 and 2019, **Bunce** won divisional top paper awards from AEJMC and ICA, respectively. **Singer** served during this REF reporting period on the AEJMC executive board, as well as chairing one of the organisation's standing committees.

**Review of colleagues' research:** City scholars serve as **external examiners** of PhD and MA by Research work at institutions around the UK and the world. During the current REF period, this work has been undertaken at institutions including but not limited to Brunel University

(**Rodgers**); the University of Cardiff and the University of Sydney (**Tumber**); the University of Copenhagen and the University of Ljubljana (**Bawden**); the University of Glasgow and the London School of Economics (**Franks**); Kings College London (**Robinson**); the University of Leeds (**Singer**); Northumbria University (**Porlezza**); Sheffield University (**Bawden** and **Singer**); and SOAS, University of London (**Harb**). We also regularly review grant applications for such funding bodies as AHRC, ESRC, EPSRC, the Leverhulme Trust, the NWO (the Netherlands), and the SSHRC (Canada), among others.

**Research-informed teaching:** Finally, it is worth noting that all research-active members of the unit on appointments of at least 0.5 regularly teach undergraduate and/or post-graduate students. City as an institution, and LIS and Journalism as disciplines, are committed to research-informed classroom teaching, and our scholarship is integral to interactions with students across all levels. Examples during this REF period of taught modules drawing directly on colleagues' research include but are not limited to Reporting Science and the Environment (UG, **Honigsbaum**); Reporting Conflict (UG, **Rodgers**); The State of Humanitarian Journalism (UG, **Cooper**), International News (UG and PG, **Bunce** and **Rodgers**); Global Journalism (PG, **Harb**); Journalism Innovation (PG, **Porlezza** and **Singer**); Digital Forensics (PG, **MacFarlane**); Digital Libraries (PG, **Robinson**); and Cognition and Technologies (PG, **Makri**). A research-based textbook by **Bawden** and **Robinson**, *Introduction to Information Science*, has been widely adopted around the world.

### Industry Engagement

In addition to our contributions to the academic community, City's Journalism department is renowned for the breadth and depth of its engagement with the media industry. The department hosts dozens of events every year that bring leading news industry professionals to campus, usually in-person but also virtually. Almost all these events are open to the public and commonly attract audiences in their hundreds.

**Presentations, panels and special events:** The **James Cameron Memorial Lecture** series, named in honour of the legendary BBC correspondent, is delivered annually by outstanding international journalists. Recent speakers include international writer and broadcaster Isabel Hilton, BBC Chief International Correspondent Lyse Doucet, *Guardian* editor-at-large Gary Younge, and *Financial Times* editor Lionel Barber, among others. Recently inaugurated Hugh Cudlipp and Marjorie Deane lecture series also showcase prominent media practitioners.

Talks by **key editors and other newsroom leaders** take place throughout the year, hosted and moderated by a City academic. In 2018 alone, visitors included *Guardian* editor-in-chief Katharine Viner, *Washington Post* editor-in-chief Marty Baron; BBC political editor Laura Kuenssberg; long-time *Sunday Times* editor Sir Harold Evans; and Dow Jones CEO and former *Daily Telegraph* editor Will Lewis.

An even larger number of **panel discussions**, covering contemporary topics of civic importance, are held throughout the year, with available spaces generally filled to capacity. Panel members typically include leading journalists and academics known for their topical expertise. A few recent panels illustrate the wide range of topics: media coverage of Brexit (2020), reporting on refugees and hate speech (2019), interviewing vulnerable witnesses (2019), the state of humanitarian journalism worldwide (2018), the deadly threats that reporters face (2018) and the experiences of undercover reporters (2018). Each of these topics relates directly to colleagues' research but also is of interest and importance to students, practitioners and citizens.

Innumerable other **events**, diverse in their nature and scope, add to the dynamism of our intellectual culture. Recent examples include a talk by a Hong Kong barrister and former lawmaker on freedom of expression under China's shadow; a screening of the film 'No Stone Unturned', an investigation of the 1994 Loughinisland murders, followed by a discussion with journalists who covered them; a discussion of news publishing in the digital age, led by alternative press regulator IMPRESS; and a debate on whether journalists failed the residents of

Grenfell Tower, bringing together journalists from BBC Newsnight and trade publication Inside Housing with a Kensington MP and a borough council member. In 2015, a series of talks convened by **Harb** and hosted at City in conjunction with the Ethical Journalism Network covered topics including the role of readers' editors or ombudsmen; broadcast regulators' effect on news decisions; and ethical journalism in an age of toxic information. Most events are scheduled in the evening, to accommodate members of the working public, but some are more extensive; examples in this REF period include a daylong Journalism Innovation Summit (2015), co-sponsored by MediaShift and focused on emerging content and business models; and a daylong conference of fact-checkers from around the world, co-sponsored by the Duke Reporters Lab and the International Fact-Checking Network (also 2015).

**Media engagement:** Colleagues appear frequently in the media, facilitated by our own extensive contacts as well as those of dedicated School-level communications officers. Our researchers also regularly deliver talks to an enormous range of industry bodies and organisations. Examples include but are not limited to Al Jazeera International, the European Federation of Journalists, the Frontline Club, the Media Society, and the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting. In addition, we judge a host of media industry awards (the British Journalism Awards, the One World Media Awards, the Orwell Journalism Prize and the Royal Television Society awards, among others). Both LIS and Journalism maintain active departmental Twitter accounts, with more than 18,000 followers between them. And in 2019, **Blumell** and **Cooper** launched the KnowHow podcast, enabling researchers and professionals from around the world to discuss the challenges of covering contemporary political and social issues.

The European Journalism Observatory – a network of independent non-profit media research institutes in 14 countries that seeks to bridge journalism research and practice, and to foster professionalism and press freedom – relocated from Oxford to City in 2020, under the auspices of **Porlezza**. Until 2019, City also was home to the UK offices of The Conversation, an independent source of news and views written by academics with an intended audience of members of the educated public. Research-active Journalism colleagues wrote frequently for the Conversation during this REF period; a small sampling of topics they covered includes the BBC's extension of soft power through its World Service expansion (**Abubakar**); media coverage of the #MeToo movement (**Blumell**); communication strategies to combat disinformation spread by anti-vaxxers (**Honigsbaum**); and the negative effects of surveillance technology on disclosures in the public interest (**Lashmar**).