

Institution: University of East London
Unit of Assessment: 21 Sociology
1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

Context and structure

Sociology has been a major area of scholarship at the University of East London for over 50 years. The integral role played by the research of the UoA in shaping the ethos of the university is reflected in *Building a Radical University* (2020) a volume which traces the character of the institution from its inception as a polytechnic in 1968 to the present. Post-1992, and within the realm of the Social Sciences, which remains the natural environment of the UoA, an organic dialogue between researchers begun to yield distinct interdisciplinary approaches identity; internationally acclaimed work around migration and belonging; significant theoretical contributions in narrative theory, gender, and politics; and important interventions in policymaking in East London and in international communities.

Our research arises from East London and benefits East London, as well as having a global relevance. We maintain a dual local-global focus, strengthening our links with organisations and communities as equal partners and collaborators, questioning racism and hostility to refugees and immigrants anywhere in the world, promoting theoretically robust scholarship, and training a new generation of researchers to make material changes possible in communities across Europe, Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. Our approach is producing notable results, like the award-winning Open Learning Initiative (OLive) which assists refugees to gain access to Higher Education in the UK and several low-cost high-impact development projects around the world. Within the REF period, staff have also increasingly delivered innovative and impactful sociological research related to the Sustainable Development Goals. This work has gathered important empirical data about neglected and ignored phenomena of SDG relevance; has theorised social transformation towards and resistance against the SDGs; and has developed participatory and action-oriented research methods to drive forward SDG initiatives. The work has also delivered integration of understanding and action between often-neglected fields of SDG concern in global north countries, particularly in marginalised and povertised communities, with more recognised global south SDG concerns.

In REF 2014 Sociology was ranked the second highest in a post-1992 University with 59 per cent of outputs and 76.7 per cent of research impact at 3-4*. Our current submission offers a balanced representation of colleagues at various levels of seniority: lectures and senior lecturers (55%), readers (15%) and professors (30%).

Key areas of research excellence in the UoA are:

- *divided societies, migration and belonging*
- *social and political theory*
- *narrative research and auto/biographical methods*
- *development, sustainability, and economic life*
- *psychosocial approaches in the Social Sciences*

Much of the research in Sociology is aligned to the specialism of three research centres, which are hubs of cross-institutional collaboration:

- the **Centre for Narrative Research** (CNR), an internationally recognised centre which brings together researchers from psychological, sociological, anthropological, cultural and media studies, humanities, arts and performance research traditions.
 - the **Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging** (CMRB), which specialises in interdisciplinary perspectives on the relationship between migration, refugee and belonging.
 - the **Centre for Social Justice and Change** (CSJS), dedicated to research on development and the improvement of public policies both nationally and internationally.
- The contribution of the research centres to the UoA's environment permeates all subsequent sections.

Research and impact strategy

Current research and impact objectives and achievements

The pillars of the UoA's research strategy from 2014-19, have been:

- to consolidate our research by building on existing strengths and activities, and
- to develop and embed a more comprehensive and far-reaching impact culture across the research of the UoA.

In REF2014 we defined several research and impact objectives for the UoA:

a) to respond to current challenges and to develop and shape innovative theoretical and methodological approaches that can have a formative impact on society

This objective was addressed across all five areas of research excellence. More specifically:

We generated internationally known work on borders and migration, including the politics and policies of immigration, the well-being and education of migrants, the everyday lives of migrants, bordering, border-crossing and transnational controls (Wemyss), narratives of conflict and agency in civil war (Dona), nationalism and diasporic identities (Woods, Kim).

We produced research on issues around conceptualisations of global challenges within the Capability Approach and multidimensional poverty, including poverty in the UK (Tiwari); explored themes in the work of NGOs (Pickering-Saqqqa), gender and age issues in global development (Wright) and conflict (Korac), the role of religious organisations in humanitarian contexts (Kraft), emerging geo-political challenges and citizenship in the developing world (Ahrearne, Jamieson).

Researchers in the UoA have engaged with debates and epistemological positions on social change generating new theoretical perspectives on the philosophical underpinnings of social and political theory, social movements, social complexity, feminism, and new materialism. Research included race and the critique of neoliberalism and austerity (Bhattacharrya), labour conditions and production (Hyde, Boticello), the political economy of the commons (De Angelis), new directions in posthumanism and human non-human relations (Cudworth, Hobden, Langstone), interdisciplinary approaches to gender and feminism (Jabiri), research on the lives and narratives perspectives of women workers' labour and political activism (Tamboukou).

We carried out innovative research on spoken, written and visual narratives, shaping new methodological approaches (Lounasmaa, Esin). Research included narratives of ethnic violence, political change and political identities, age and ageing (Andrews), gendered experiences of displacement, travelling and migrant's narratives in Europe (Squire) as well as research on HIV and public health.

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

We contributed to debates around well-being and the intricate relations between society and the psyche. Our research interrogated the construction of methodological and conceptual categories in mental health (Rustin, Liebert) whilst advancing a sustained critique of political and therapeutic institutions from various psychoanalytic perspectives and examining the cultural and spatiotemporal dimensions of identity and psychic formations, with increased emphasis on affect and emotions (Lara) and the impact of the digital media on contemporary identities (Ellis).

b) to continue to shape research on social change by enhancing our existing strengths, supporting the research centres and creating greater synergies within the UoA and across the University.

We combined our research centres and groups into three, further removing silos and increasing our focus on local impact.

The activities of the London East Research Institute (LERI) were reframed and linked to the work of the other three research centres about narrative, health, socioeconomic positioning in cities, forced migration and racism. CNR's work on refugee narratives were linked to CMRB's research on forced migration and racism in big cities. CSJC's research around the sustainable development goals and the developed world established connections with local communities, especially in Newham, a borough with vast health and education challenges, including being one of the most Covid-affected boroughs in Greater London.

c) to continue to enhance the quality of our research outputs

Highlights over this REF period include the publication of 34 books, including 21 sole or joint-authored and 16 edited collections, and 95 journal articles and 75 book chapters.

Examples of outstanding and awards winning publications can be found in section 4.

Our commitment to sharing of knowledge is reflected through Open Access and making our work approachable to non-academic audiences (see section 4).

d) to further develop key areas for interdisciplinary and international collaboration

The international standing of staff is evidenced in the extensive record of project collaborations and networks (see section 4) and the number of funding applications and research bids (see section 3). Highlights include:

CNR (Squire, Lounasmaa, Esin) has been leading on various impactful research projects, such as the lives of refugees in Calais and Dover and living with HIV in Zambia; Eric Woods, has been collaborating with the university of Toronto on understanding new ethno-nationalism; Giorgia Doná has been part of the Femicide across Europe network (European Cooperation in Science and Technology); Maria Tamboukou has been part of the New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship On 'How Matter comes to Matter!'; Meera Tiwari has collaborated with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India; the Development Management Institute in Bihar, India and the JKLU.

e) to increase support for researchers across the career ladder

Two key mechanisms by which this has been achieved have been targeted sabbatical and other research leave, and a robust mentoring scheme. Support to staff is further discussed in section 2.

f) to further support and strengthen the postgraduate community

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

The graduate student community has flourished, with an increased rate of completions and growing dynamism (see section 2). We have attracted international students from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Italy, India, and South Africa.

In 2016 the University joined the ESRC UBEL Doctoral training partnerships with five leading Social Science institutions: UCL, SOAS, LSHTM and Birkbeck. UEL has a strong presence in the partnership and has so far secured 6 studentships with 4 being in the UoA. Two of these include Co-funded studentships, one with World Vision and the other with Global One.

In 2014 the University launched a Research Excellence Scholarship scheme. The UoA has been successful in recruiting four students in these competitive scholarships. Since 2019 Meera Tiwari has been appointed as one of the two Deputy Directors of UBEL DTP and leads on the Widening Participation programmes and strategies.

g) to expand research grant income

Our income profile and grant applications reflect an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to research, evidenced by the bids won in this REF period and detailed in Section 3. These were supported by:

- a series of grant capture workshops were organised within the UoA to promote confidence in bid preparation and to share best practice.
- members of the UoA made effective use of the University's Research support team.
- several sums of seed funding were awarded to the UoA (see section 2).
- the internal process of review and feedback prior to submission of bids has improved the quality of applications and is assisting colleagues in honing their skills.

h) to support a full range of collaborative and participatory impact research activity; to develop and embed a more comprehensive and far-reaching 'impact culture' across the research of the UoA; to improve the communication of research impact both internally and externally

Impact is intrinsic in the research of Sociology. Our three case studies

1. Explaining and challenging 'hostile environment' policies towards migrants and racialised individuals.

2. Educating without borders: Building refugee inclusion in Higher Education; and

3. Signature literacy and women's empowerment in rural India,

arise from broad collaborative work and an increased emphasis on embedding impact in most of our projects. To achieve the above, the UoA

- appointed a dedicated Impact Champion (Tiwari).
- gained grants to establish and sustain networks, community and public engagement activity, and to support external training where necessary.
- incorporated research impact into annual personal development reviews (optional).
- embedded impact fully into all research bids.
- organised impact-related training as part of sharing good practice and research dissemination workshops with policy makers and NGOs to foster uptake of research findings and future collaboration (e.g., Tiwari and Pickering-Saqqqa).

Impact and its alignment to national and international challenges is discussed in detail in section 4.

Future Research and Impact Strategies

The UoA is now part of the School of Education and Communities. The long-term vision is to create four impactful subject clusters which can develop synergies with one another without losing their distinct character, each gaining in strength and providing the greatest potential for growth.

In line with the UEL Institutional Research Strategy 2018-2023 *Key Commitments to Sustainable Excellence*, and building on our 2014-19 objectives, the UoA's strategic research aims are to:

- invest in people, to further improve the research base through better informed and trained researchers.
- enhance research excellence through mentoring and peer review.
- further promote interdisciplinary work.
- further support a full range of high impact research activity.
- further develop partnership and collaboration with other institutions and organisations.
- maintain international reach in terms of the geographic spread of impactful research activity of the UoA across Europe, Africa, and South Asia.
- further promote research-informed teaching, in undergraduate and taught postgraduate provision.
- further support archival work and public engagement with archives.
- sustain a comprehensive and far-reaching 'impact culture' across the UoA with a target of 50% staff involved with some form of public engagement.
- improve the communication of research impact both internally and externally through increasing the numbers of UoA staff active in public engagement activities.

2. People

Since REF 2014, the staffing levels and constitution of the UoA have changed considerably but not its core character, its identifiable research strengths, and the collective commitment to research in dialogue and to inclusivity which sustain all our efforts, from PhD students and alumni to early career researchers and senior academics.

PGR student support

Training and development support for PGRs

- While we make the most of the Researcher Development Programme administered by the University Graduate School, we hold our own annual research seminar series which provides training, for example, in mobile, narrative, visual and digital research methods, and on different concepts and theories, such as complexity, capabilities approaches, feminism and posthumanism.
- Membership of the UBEL DTP enables access for all UEL PhD students to training events at partner institutions.
- PGR students in the UoA are encouraged to present their work at national and international conferences. The UoA supports these activities financially.
- Our *Research in Progress* annual symposium offers postgraduates an opportunity to co-present with senior staff and early career researchers in a supportive environment and is attracting increasing numbers of students and staff from outside the UoA.
- Most of our PGR students are members the UoA's research centres and present ongoing research in their annual events series. PGR-focused events organised by the research centres enable students to network within and beyond the University. For example, CNR runs a popular

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

annual PGR conference since 2003, entitled 'To Think is to Experiment' which attracts students from around the UK, Europe (Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Sweden) and beyond (South Africa and the US).

- The UoA produces an annual PhD yearbook entitled *Crossing Conceptual Boundaries* (blind peer-reviewed) since 2007 (ISSN: 2041-9090) with an editorial board composed of PGR students and staff at different levels of seniority. For many of our PhD students, an article in *Crossing Conceptual Boundaries* has been an invaluable first publication.

PGR students' involvement in reviewing and editorial work for the journal has the additional benefit of enhancing their employability.

- PGR students are encouraged to publish their work in peer-reviewed journals (Langstone, Thomas) and edited volumes (e.g., Jones, Bushay) as well as write for *The Conversation*, build a media profile (workshops given by experienced staff), and make their voices heard in diverse fora (e.g., colleague and PhD student [Bushay](#) recently gave a presentation on Race and Education at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Jones co-authored an opinion piece with Professor Marcia Wilson for *Times Higher Education* (2020) entitled 'Dear senior university leaders: what will you say you did to address racism in higher education?').
- PhD students develop their teaching skills by contributing to lectures and seminars when such opportunities arise, and by volunteering to teach at the Olive Erasmus programme.
- Paid internships have also helped some students to further develop their research remit whilst studying for their PhD (e.g., Mulubale).

Doctoral completions

Since 2014 there have been a total of 49 completions, 34 in Social Sciences, an increase over the 28 completions in the previous REF period, and an additional 15 in the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust PhD programme, which UEL validates.

To ensure timely we conduct annual reviews in which each student is given independent feedback by members of staff outside the supervisory teams, whilst supervisory meetings, annual monitoring reviews and upgrades are recorded on PhD Manager, the electronic platform for tracking progress from registration to completion.

Sociology Alumni

The support of supervisory teams extends beyond the life of the PhD, through promoting alumni work (e.g., book launches), invitations to events, and collaborations in grant applications and academic outputs (e.g., Squire and Mulubale; Squire, Canat et al; and Godin and Dona on the award-winning paper *Reversing the gaze on Fortress Europe: visual interferences produced by migrants in transit at the France-UK border*, jointly written with Crispin Hughes, 2019).

Since 2014 our alumni have secured academic jobs nationally (for instance, at the Universities of East London, UCL (IoE), Oxford, Leeds, Warwick, Westminster, Leicester) and internationally (for example, Central European University, Budapest; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Tampere, the University of Zambia, United Arab Emirates).

They have produced

- 10 single authored books developed from PhDs
- 4 edited collections
- 2 readers

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

- 1 co-authored book
- 68 chapters in edited volumes and in journals including *Refugee Studies; Movements: Journal for Critical Migration and Border Regime Studies; Migration and Development; Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; The Journal of Oral History; Journal of Education and Practice and Public Health*.

Several alumni have won early career and postdoctoral scholarships (e.g. Canat, Marie Curie early career (2014-15) and Central European University postdoctoral scholarships (2016); Godin, British Academy post-doctoral fellowship, Oxford (2019-20); Hasem, research fellowships at the University of Nottingham (2020-present) and the University of Warwick (2018-20). Others have combined research with activism (e.g., Guemar, research and monitoring role in the Info.Migrants.net platform funded by the European Commission, AHRC and France Médias Monde), or academic life with high profile public roles (Mulubale: project leader in Zambia, for a UNESCO's Silencing the Guns in Africa through investing in Youth Education project (2020).

Apart from collaborating on research projects and publications with members of the UoA, several of our alumni have contributed to contribute directly to the UoA's intellectual life by returning to UEL to provide training to PhD students (e.g. workshop on applying for external funding, Thatcher, 2019-20; panel on developing research beyond the PhD, Jones, Gallagher and Beddell, 2020-21); by participating in the OLIve programme (Guemar, Hasem) and by continuing to develop the UEL Living Refugee Archive (Hasem).

Staff Development

Mentoring and research development

Both the university and the UoA contribute to staff development, starting from early career researchers. A formidable team spirit within the UoA means staff regularly support each other so that a colleague has the time to finish that article, submit that grant application or attend a conference.

The UoA operates an **organic mentoring scheme**, based on a needs analysis and involving staff at all levels of seniority. Mentors and mentees are expected to meet regularly and to be outcome focused. A mentoring co-ordinator monitors the scheme (De Angelis). We also encourage informal mentoring through self-**directed** peer collaboration. All staff in the UoA are encouraged to be **members of a research centre**, giving them opportunities to launch ideas or collaborate with senior staff.

Mentoring and support of **early career researchers** often takes place within these centres, allowing them to benefit from **existing** experience (e.g., on funding bids and project management). For example, Jabiri gained invaluable experience grant applications by being a member of an interdisciplinary team (CNR and CMRB) working on a funded project on refugee university education in Jordan and Lebanon (2019?) and Susannah-Pickering by being co-investigator on two projects with fellow-CSJC member Tiwari (*The role of dignity in improving sanitation and menstrual health in rural India*, Global Challenges Research Fund, DFID (2018 – 2020) and *Tracking SDG progress in the London Boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets*, London Scholars Programme (March - Sept 2019). Lounasmaa has been playing a leading role in the OLIve programme and the Calais Jungle project. She has since published three book chapters and given several dissemination workshops at UK universities. She was co-recipient of The Guardian award for the Calais Jungle project (2017).

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Another form of mentoring involves more experienced colleagues supporting **early career researchers** in supervisory **roles**. Other research-related development includes the opportunity for early career staff to present papers at Departmental seminars and symposia prior to conferences, and holding training events according to emerging needs, for example, 'hands-on' workshops to support bid development.

At institution level, all staff can access training through the Researcher Development Programme run by the University Graduate School, which provides both generic and tailored disciplinary support on subjects like writing for publication and dissemination and on grant capture. Various sums of School- and College-wide funding have been made available over the years for attending **international conferences and for organising research** events at UEL. As the stipulations for the award included developing publications out of conference papers and dissemination to colleagues this funding has led to quality outputs and research dialogue. During the same period, 10 members of the UoA were awarded **sabbatical research** leave for a semester.

Seed funding and GCRF QR funds

Since 2017 UEL have received GCRF QR funds from Research England in the form of an annual allocation. These annual allocations are considered internal funds for research and are awarded by the [PVC] to UEL academics across Schools following an internal competition. The funds are aimed at small research projects and building partnerships in Development Assistance Committee countries. These seed funds are meant to be used as a springboard to external grants applications.

UEL acknowledges the UoA's vibrancy and the necessity of its research by awarding such funding to several projects, including:

- The role of women's collectives in curbing alcoholism in rural India (Tiwari, GBP 7,798).
- Role of Dignity in improving Menstrual Health (MH) in rural India and Uganda (Tiwari, GBP 21,230).
- Resource insecurity and HIV: How material, psychosocial and medical HIV-relevant resource access and deficits in Zambia and Brazil may contribute to or inhibit meeting the 90-90-90 goals (Squire, GBP 15,718).
- Migration Balkan Route and its Transit Societies (Korac-Sanderson, GBP 6,910).
- Refugee university education in Jordan: supporting and evaluating the provision of key skills, guidance and support for Syrian refugees (Doná, GBP 14,323).
- Building capacity among development researchers in Ethiopia (Pickering-Saqqa, GBP 11,200).

Staff Strategy

After being part of the School of Law and Social Sciences and subsequently the School of Social Sciences within the College of Professional Services (2014-17), the UoA now resides in the School of Education and Communities.

Since 2104 the UoA recruited **five Early Career Researchers** (Gephelitis, Kim, Jensen, Javornic, Woods), supported **colleagues to PhD Since completion** by allocating research time (Mukasa, Saqqa-Pickering) and awarded fixed-term and permanent fractional **contracts** to recent PhD graduates (Gallagher, Ansong).

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

The workload model under which the UoA has been operating safeguards **research time for those with significant responsibility for research and** has been used flexibly to accommodate specific commitments. Staff training and development needs are identified through mandatory **annual appraisals** and annual Staff Development Plans, conducted by senior staff and line managers, which include research plans, research impact and civic engagement.

Since 2014 the UoA has continued to successfully support **promotion** with 4 promotions to reader (Bernstock, Hobden, Radeljic, Voela) and 2 promotions to Professor (Cudworth, Doná).

Equality and Diversity

The Uoa has a diverse student and staff body with 77% of our students and 34% of staff coming from minority ethnic backgrounds. More importantly, equality and diversity, in relation to race, gender and feminism are key areas of research excellence in our UoA, subjects we are passionate about and form significant part of the impact of our research.

Since 2014 the school has established a Racial Equality Chartermark and an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee and organised activities to involve both students and staff in dialogue around issues such as decolonising the curriculum and sharing good practice. Examples include:

- ElevateHer conference in 2014 and 2015, providing opportunities for both staff and students to engage in discussions, workshops, and networking on gender issues.
- Decolonise the Curriculum working group.
- Setting up dedicated teams and podcast series to share good practice on issues like racism and decoloniality (e.g., 'Sharing Good Practice and Critical Self-Reflection' team).
- Hosted anti-racist training programme for the school delivered by the Equity Collective.

The University is an Athena Swan bronze award holder. The School's application for a bronze award is under way but has been delayed because of the pandemic. In the meantime, several members of staff are engaged in Athena Swann cross-university mentoring schemes as mentors and initiatives to decolonise the curricula.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

External funding is central to the UoA's research culture. From REF 2014 onwards our aim was to increase the grant capture per FTE. Between 2013-20, 115 bids were submitted with a total value of GBP 11,758,740. However, only twenty-eight (24%) bids were successful and the total value of funding was under GBP 400,000.

The reason for this can be found by looking at the nature of the bids: staff in the UoA focused on lower-value high-impact bids, in line with the strategic emphasis on impact and embracing local communities in projects that alleviate poverty and inequality. A substantial number of these bids (19 out of 45 – 42%) were successful and income from UK central/local government and health authorities more than trebled from in this period compared to REF2014 (REF2014: GBP 33,177; REF2021: GBP 108,100). We also saw an increase of GBP 22,756 of income from non-EU based charities compared to REF2014.

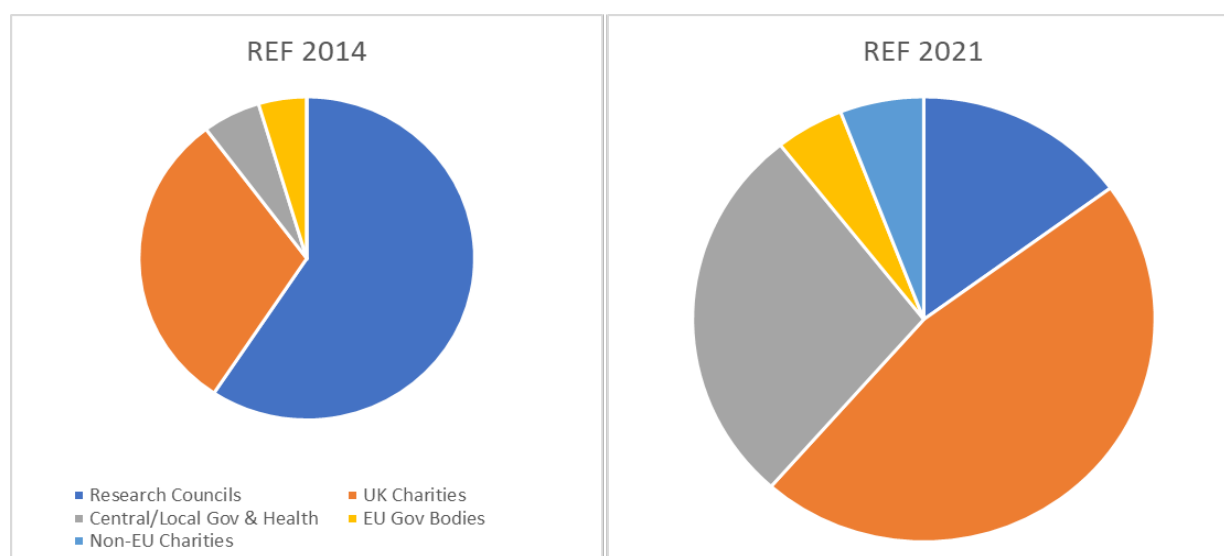


Figure 1 Funding sources

The two charts demonstrate the transition from a UoA whose research was funded primarily by research councils, to a UoA drawing most of its funding from government bodies and charities, reflecting the UoA's success in strengthening the links with a wide range of local organisations and local stakeholders. Examples include:

- Crops for the Future Research Centre, CFFRC Malaysia Project (Tiwari, GBP 2,115)
- South East Asian Prayer Centre, Establishment of Research, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Department for Served (Kraft, GBP 22,756)
- Islamic Relief Academy, Islamic Relief Domestic Programmes Research (Pickering-Saqq, GBP 10,290)
- BA/Leverhulme, Precaritised lives: Storying HIV and resource insecurities in the UK and South Africa (Squire, GBP 9,130)
- Leverhulme Trust Research Project, A linguistic description of Pearl Lagoon Basin Miskitu, with Edge Hill University (Jamieson, GBP 64,683)

The UoA has been successful with medium size grants. Between 2014-20, the average successful application provided GBP 13,260. Examples include:

- Leverhulme Trust Fellowship, Revisiting the Nomadic Subject (Tamboukou, GBP 54,248)
- BEIS Research Councils / Royal Society / British Academy and Royal Society of Edinburgh: Understanding the new Ethno-Nationalism, (Woods, GBP 12,028 - UEL share of GBP 42,634)
- Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship, The impact of cocaine money on social processes on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, (Jamieson, GBP 53,089)

At the same period, researchers in the UoA worked in several partnership bids, demonstrating the UoA's high profile and strong and active links to other institutions. For example,

- AHRC, Gargi Bhattacharyya, "Performing memory & memorialising conflict at a distance: innovative approaches to understanding the views of displaced people & receiving communities", with Birmingham City University and University of Pisa, UEL: GBP 18,904
- Wright (CO-I) with Lloyd (PI) British Academy Grant GBP 203,390. 'Towards early childhood education by 2030 for all children in Lebanon,' exploring inclusive educational access for 3 to 5-year-old deprived Lebanese children and Syrian child refugees (2019-2022).

Additional income of GBP 159,570 was raised through educational and consultancy projects, most importantly an ERASMUS+ award of GBP 93,000 with the Central European University, the University of Vienna, the European Network Against Racism, which supported the OLIVE programme for the education of refugees, enhanced the UoA's international standing in matters of inclusive education and provided the impetus for several publications from different members of the UoA.

Research infrastructure and facilities

Research is supported through a range of central University facilities including grant capture support is provided by the Research Development Support (ReDS) team which is part of the central Research and Enterprise office, Staff also have access to GrantCraft for dedicated support to write research bids. More than 80% of the UoA's research active staff have participated in grant capture seminars and workshops, while 50% have regularly benefited from feedback and support with their funding applications.

In 2016, the University invested in Vertigo Ventures Impact Tracker which enables the effective storage of impact-related information and the mapping and assessment of the nature of our research impact. All staff have training available and are strongly encouraged to track impact.

The research base is further supported by the work of the library and the University Research Repository. Particularly important for the UoA is the **Refugee Council Archive**, one of the largest collections of materials relating to the study of forced migration, and a source of information on displacement, flight and exile; on legal, political and social issues; and on refugee community life. The Archive contains materials on refugees in all parts of the world, with special emphasis on Britain, and has a dedicated archivist working on the further development of the Refugee Council archives: Living Refugee Archive – www.livingrefugeearchive.org. The work of the archives supports the research of PGR students and staff working on issues of transnational migration, dislocation and refugees and is an important enabling mechanism for research impact in the areas of anti-racism and migrant rights, and refugee education.

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

Our approach to our contribution to the research base and the economy are closely linked with building **a strong collective profile** rather than individual careers and therefore being more strongly represented in the research community and more effective in benefiting local communities. An important role is played by the three research centres as focal points of intellectual exchange, international visibility and impactful research, and most researcher in Sociology are aligned to one or more research centres.

Research Centres

The Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB) supports scholarship and debates on contemporary issues of migration, refugees and belonging by fostering partnerships between academics, policy makers, practitioners, activists and migrants from a wide range of backgrounds. The Centre benefits from its unique location at the heart of East London, an area which has seen some of the highest rates of international settlement in Europe – historically and in the present day. Between 2014-2020 CMRB has led with international research projects like the EU Borderscapes, financed through the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, and Refugee University Education, funded through the Global Challenge Research Fund (2018-2019). During the same period, the centre organised over 50 public events, including conferences, invited talks, book launches, documentary film screenings and seminars.

The Centre for Narrative Research (CNR) has been leading on various impactful research projects, such as the lives of refugees in Calais and Dover and the OLIVE programme that provides migrants with opportunities to access higher education in the UK. Since 2014, the centre has run 12 research projects, 13 co-organised collaborative events, an average of 10 research seminars per year and 5 impact projects. The centre also hosts post-doctoral and visiting scholars (7) and maintains an active media profile (14 events in the last five years).

The Centre for Social Justice and Change engages with the themes of social and economic justice, sustainability, community development, and resilience. It is dedicated to developing alternatives to new challenges, especially motivated by the multiple crises of a rapidly changing world, and new understandings of social reality. It promotes forms of dialogue that are inclusive, participatory and inter/trans-disciplinary, with a reflective attitude towards methodologies of enquiry and values, worldviews and the principles they presuppose. The centre is organizing, on average, 10 annual events open to wider public.

Awards and memberships

The UoA maintains a high international profile reflected in awards, membership and leading roles in professional bodies and networks within and outside academia. Members of the UoA regularly advise on book series, serve on editorial boards for leading academic journals, review funding applications and are invited to deliver keynotes speeches in international conferences.

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Notable awards include:

- Giorgia Doná, Winner B. Gudykunst Outstanding Book Award, International Academy for Intercultural Research for the edited book by D. L. Sam and J. W. Berry (Eds) Cambridge Handbook of Acculturation Psychology (2nd Edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, which includes the chapter Refugees and Forced Migrants, 2017.
- Giorgia Doná, Best Paper Award Senior Scholar for Reversing the gaze on Fortress Europe: visual interferences produced by migrants in transit at the France-UK border, jointly written with Marie Godin and Crispin Hughes, 2019.
- Aura Lounasmaa and CNR, The Guardian University Award for Calais 'Jungle' project, 2017.
- Meera Tiwari, was awarded the CROP International Studies in Poverty Prize 2016 for her manuscript proposal 'Why some Development Works'. Tiwari has also been elected a Fellow of the Human Development and the Capability Association in 2020 (HDCA).
- Georgie Wemyss, 2019 Sage Sociology prize for Innovation and Excellence for Everyday bordering, belonging and the reorientation of British immigration legislation, jointly written with Yuval-Davis and Cassidy.
- Nira Yuval-Davis, International Sociological Association (ISA) Award for Excellence in Research and Practice, 2018.

Examples of membership of organisations outside academia include:

- Doná was the University representative on the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics/ Scholars at Risk Universities Network (2007-2015), and for international Canadian Association for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies and International Association of Scholars of Forced Migration initiatives (2011-16). She is on the Board of Directors, Harrell Bond Foundation which was set up to provide micro-grants to refugees and asylum seekers and member of the country-of-origin expert team for Refugee Legal Aid (2011-2019).
- Jabiri is an advisor on UN's peace missions to conflict areas, including Libya (2014) and Yemen (2013); member of the Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Centre for Human Rights' Initiative on Violence against Women, a Board Member of Goethe-Institute's Middle East Initiative and a board member of Women Living Under Muslim Laws Coalition, London.
- Tiwari has a visiting Professorship at the Development Management Institute, Bihar, India and she has close links with the Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Foundation, India. She was on the Board of Trustees of the NGO Sanitation and Human Rights in India (2017-2020).
- Wright is a member of the board of trustees at 'Latin Elephant', a charity that promotes the engagement of migrant and ethnic groups (including Latin Americans) in urban regeneration processes in Elephant and Castle and other areas of London.
- Jamieson is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute. He is also a member of the advisory board of CIDCA (the Centre of Research and Documentation of the Atlantic Coast), a research institute set up in Nicaragua during the Sandinista administration period that promotes sociological, historical, anthropological and linguistic research on the minority peoples of the Central America's Caribbean coast, and is on the editorial board of CIDCA's peer-reviewed journal Wani.

Involvement with such international networks has led to UoA members directly influencing Governmental decision making. For example, since 2016 Doná has been one of the ten members of the Independent Advisory Group on Country of Origin Information (IAGCI), Office of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI). This group advises the ICIBI about the content and quality of country information and guidance notes produced by the Home Office and relied upon by decision makers. Membership of the IAGCI is by invitation of the ICIBI. Members are

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respected academics and representatives of organisations with a working interest in country information and how it is used by the Home Office.

Examples of senior editorial roles include:

- Dona is editorial board member of the International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care (2006-present) and Critical Childhood & Youth Studies (2017-Present)
- Tamboukou was co-editor, Gender and Education (2012-16) and is section editor of Matter: Journal of New Materialist Research. She is on the editorial boards of Gender and Education and Qualitative Research Journal.
- Tiwari was Associate Editor for the Journal of International Development (2014-2018).
- Wemyss and Yuval-Davis are editorial collective members of Feminist Dissent.
- Wemyss is on the editorial board of the Journal of Borderland Studies.
- Yuval-Davis is currently on the editorial advisory boards of Das Argument (Germany), Ethnicities (UK), Hagar (Israel), The Journal of Inter-cultural Studies (Australia), The International Feminist Journal of Politics (Routledge), Signs (US), Social Inclusion (Switzerland) and Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (American Sociological Association).
- Wright is associate editor of Progress in Development *Studies* (2019-present).

Since 2014, our staff have reviewed papers submitted to a variety of leading journals in the UK and internationally, including: *American Sociological Review*; *British Journal of Sociology*; *Distinktion*; *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*; *Journal of Social Theory*; *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology*; *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*; *International Political Sociology*; *International Sociology*; *Sociological Review*, *Sociology and Theory*, *Culture and Society*, *Development in Practice*, *World Development*, *European Journal for Development Research*, *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, *Voluntas (International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Organisations)*, *Contemporary South Asia*, *American Anthropologist*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*.

In addition, staff have reviewed book proposals and manuscripts for publishers such as Ashgate, Berghahn Books, Blackwell, Bloomsbury, Cambridge University Press, James Currey, I.B. Tauris, Oxford University Press, Palgrave, Pluto, Polity, Practical Action, Routledge and the Taylor and Francis group, Rowland and Littlefield, Sage, Springer, University of Minnesota Press, University of Toronto Press, Versita and Zed.

Our work has attracted significant attention both nationally and internationally. Since 2014 we have delivered 72 keynote addresses in UK institutions and in Austria, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. We have been invited to speak at academic events on 168 occasions in the UK and Australia, Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States.

In addition to contributing to academic events, members of the UoA have been invited to address international NGOs, charities, and Government Departments and to speak at events organized by local authorities, museums, and the United Nations.

More than 20 research outputs have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Sinhala, Spanish, Swedish and Tamil.

Staff collaborate both nationally and internationally as researchers or research fellows in areas of our specialisms on narrative research, cultural sociology, and migration. For example, Wright is an Associate Fellow of the Institute of the Americas, University of London and a Research Affiliate of the Centre for Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS, University of Oxford). Staff also hold honorary positions. For example, Tamboukou was Affiliated Professor in Gender Studies, Linnaeus University, Sweden (2016-2019) and Adjunct Professor, Griffith Institute for Educational Research, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia (2010-2019).

Academic collaboration is evident in extensive external PhD examining. We have examined more than 57 PhD theses across UK HEIs and HEIs in Australia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain and Sweden. Members of the UoA have also been external members of supervisory panels at HEIs in Belgium, France, Sweden, and the UK.

Members of the UoA are involved in a range of academic networks. Emeriti professors Rustin and Yuval-Davis are members of the Academy of Social Sciences and Yuval-Davis is also a member of its nominations committee. She is past president and a permanent member of the board of the International Sociological Associations Research Committee 05 on Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations. Doná is a management committee member of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) network *Femicide across Europe* (2013-17) and Tamboukou of the COST network *New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship On 'How Matter comes to Matter'* (2014-2018). Doná was a founding member and co-convenor (2014 - 2017) of the BSA Violence and Society Study Group.

Scholars are also involved with networks in their specialist areas such as:

- ATGENDER, the European Association for Gender Research.
- the Society for Latin American Studies.
- The Development Studies Association.
- the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration.
- The Human Development and Capability Association.

Given the focus on inter- and transdisciplinarity, members are also involved with other associations such as the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers, Development Studies Association, with Wright being convenor of the Migration, Development and Social Change Study Group and Tiwari being co-convenor of the Multidimensional Poverty Group (2004 – 2018) and an elected Council Member until 2014. Tiwari was also co-convenor of the Multidimensional Poverty Group (2005 – 2018) of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and founding co-convenor of the Sustainable Human Development Study Group of Human Development and the Capability Association (HDCA).

UoA members have also been significantly involved with advising national and international bodies, both academic and more widely. For example, Tamboukou is a member of Scientific Board, 'Hannah Arendt Centre for Political Studies', University of Verona, Italy and the International Advisory Board, Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory (SELMA), University of Turku, Finland.

Members of the UoA have been involved in peer review of fellowship and funding applications for a range of national and international funding bodies, including, the Arts and Humanities Research

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Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, the European Union, the Leverhulme Trust and the Medical Research Council.

Public engagement

We seek to maximise the benefits of our research through various forms of public engagement activity intended to communicate research insights to as wide a non-academic audience as possible. These include:

- Media engagement: the UoA takes every opportunity to use popular press, radio and television media to share its findings with the public by contributing to media discourse about topics relating to our work. Examples include Doná's TV interview, 2019; Korac's Radio interview 2018; Ahearne, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Arusha Declaration in Tanzania and the legacy of authoritarian rule which was accessed by more than 25,000 readers and led to follow-on publication on the political tensions in Tanzania.
- Features in The Conversation, for example, articles on life stories from the Calais 'Jungle' by Squire; Wemyss and Yuval-Davis on everyday bordering; Pickering-Saqqa on reliance of big development NGOs on UK aid money and the importance of the money development charities spend in Britain; Tiwari on India's Covid-19 mitigation in rural India.
- Artistic and creative work, for example:
- the film produced by Wemyss for the everyday bordering project was shown at a range of public venues and to members of NGOs and community groups.
- Bhattacharyya's collaborative Mapping Immigration Controversy project included a project film by the same title produced in 2015.
- the collaboration of Ellis and Harper on the 'Psychological Impacts of Surveillance' video presented at the Ars Electronica Festival in Glasgow (2020).
- Two exhibitions and one symposium related to longitudinal East German project by Molly Andrews: Remembering East Germany's Peaceful Revolution Twenty-Five Years Later; Exhibition and symposium at the German Historical Institute London, October 2014-January 2015; Exhibition at Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, November 2014- January 2015; Creation of website: "Remembering East Germany's Peaceful Revolution"
<http://eastgermanhistory.wix.com/peaceful-revolution>

Contribution to economy and society

UEL's Sociology UoA is an internationally recognised centre of excellence. The impact of the UoA's collaborative research is evidenced in three key areas:

- evidence-based policy
- campaigning
- public awareness

All three were met through raised awareness among community and political stakeholders as evidenced, for example, by the discussion of the CMRB produced film "Everyday Bordering" in Parliament and in venues across the country in 2015 and 2016.

Examples of collaborative and participatory impact activity include:

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- Organising workshops and symposia offering both training in, and opportunities for, networking with non-academics such as NGOs, community organisations and professional organisations. For example, research undertaken by the members of CSJC in the domain of International Development is closely aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with special focus on the SDG tag line of 'leave no one behind' (Wordpress research page in preparation). The thematic areas of our impact map directly into SDGs 1 (no poverty), 3 (good health and wellbeing), 5 (gender equality), 10 (reduced inequalities), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).
- Developing significant international reach. The countries in Global South where our research has been carried out include India, South Africa, Zambia, Brazil, Malaysia, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.
- Creating collaborative networks in each of the countries noted above to foster institutional partnerships with academic and non-academic organisations to achieve the research being undertaken in one or more of the SDGs.

Interventions to combat poverty and promote sustainable development included our research undertaken by the members of CSJC in the domain of International Development which has had significant international reach. The outcomes of the research have led to shifts in practice at individual, community and organizational levels, for example through:

- mandatory 'signature literacy' from thumb imprint for signature for each member of the women's collective network Jeevika (which has a membership of 1 million rural women) and the establishment of a separate health fund for each household in rural Bihar in India.
- local researchers in rural India acquiring new knowledge of dignity and menstrual health.
- young girls' collectives have formed street theatre groups to raise dignity focussed menstrual health awareness in the community through street plays. This is a direct impact of the research that deployed street theatre to collect data on perceptions of menstrual health in the villages. Over 20 performances have taken places before being halted because of the Covid-19 restrictions.
- enhanced data collection skills and monitoring - evaluation capacity of volunteers and domestic NGOs in Syria and Lebanon.
- increased organisational capacity to drive the domestic programming work research, training, and employment capacity, and understanding of HIV's resource contexts for people with HIV and NGOs in Zambia and Bahia, Brazil.
- research contributed to refocusing and expansion of IRW programmes in Malaysia and South Africa.
- nutrition support for people with HIV in South Africa.
- the lead researcher in Zambia has been appointed as the HIV ambassador for community engagement.

Research carried out by members of the CMRB and conducted in collaboration with local and national communities and partners has challenged what has become known as 'the Hostile Environment' towards migrants and refugees and influenced policy:

- The EU Funded Borderscapes research exposed the reach of the UK immigration legislation across everyday life.
- the ESRC funded Go Home Vans project challenged anti-immigration operations and identified their negative reverberations on race and ethnic relations within British society.
- the international context of our findings is informed by our work on asylum decision making using countries of origin reports.

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Members of the CNR have developed, maintained and promoted UEL's innovative refugee-centred, multimodal, and holistic 'bridging' and 'gateway' HE programmes – OLIVE (Open Learning Initiative) preparatory workshops and Foundation programmes, and Life Stories accredited short courses in France and the UK and online in Lebanon and Jordan.

This research has highlighted how broad contextual issues impact migrants' and refugees' lives, especially youths', access to services such as HE and pointed to the importance of refugees' participation in all work concerning them, and the impact of online media for refugee voices. Lounasmaa, Esin and Squire's research on Erasmus+ and UEL-funded projects acting as 'bridges' and 'gateways' for refugees into HE has shown the specific value of refugee-led approaches for refugee HE and demonstrated the value of participant-centred approaches that use personal narratives to bring people together and precipitate new forms of thinking and action.

These have led to:

- increased numbers of UK and other refugees preparing for and accessing HE.
- increased skills in other areas of education and training for refugees participating in the programmes.
- six substantial and refugee-led art and literature productions emerging from the UEL HE inclusion projects.
- significant capacity-building among academic and administrative staff and students involved – overwhelmingly as volunteers - with the UEL refugee HE programmes.
- expanded work in refugee-focused NGOs around HE.
- promotion, holistically, of other work by refugee-focused NGOs.
- awareness raising in policy for an increased focus on the value of personal narratives and multimodalities in refugee HE programmes.

This research continues to be used to resist the Hostile Environment and strengthen solidarity among migrant rights and anti-racist movements. Tamboukou's research project on migrant and refugee women's mobility patterns in Greece has contributed to empowerment projects in crisis areas, such as the notorious Moria camp in Lesbos.

A significant area of impact to local communities and more specifically in East London is achieved through numerous evaluations that the UoA performs on interventions and other projects by local authorities and charities, contributing an objective and scientific angle to the understanding the outcomes and designing further stages or interventions.