

Institution: Birkbeck University of London
Unit of Assessment: 28 (History)
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>1.1 Context and structure</p> <p>The Department of History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA) seeks to be a world-leading centre for the study of the human past, from prehistoric burials to late twentieth-century politics. A multidisciplinary unit including 34 historians, 5 classicists/ancient historians, and 6 archaeologists, we are by our very nature committed to interdisciplinary research. One of our most distinctive features is that we specialise in different disciplines yet teach and research together in one Department. We hold our title, HCA, as an intellectual banner: by collaborating in research strands intersecting all our specialisms we aim not just to range across, but also to rethink the disciplinary, geographical and chronological boundaries that have long ordered the study of the past.</p> <p>HCA is the largest department in Birkbeck's School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy (SSHP). We have research collaborations with all other departments including on urban studies and GIS/digital humanities (with Geography); politics and contemporary history (Politics); intellectual history (Philosophy); mental health (Psychosocial Studies). Beyond SSHP, we work with Birkbeck's School of Law on sexual violence, and with the School of Arts (History of Art, and English, Theatre & Creative Writing departments), with which we established the Architecture Space & Society Centre (ASSC) in 2015 and the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Worlds (MEMW) in 2019. We co-founded and actively participate in the interdisciplinary Birkbeck-wide Gender and Sexuality research forum (BiGS).</p> <p>We draw strength from three main Centres that directly feed into our research strands. The Raphael Samuel History Centre (RSHC) is an outreach and research centre supported in partnership with QMUL and <i>History Workshop Journal</i>, administratively located in HCA, and co-directed by HCA colleagues since 2009; it explores interdisciplinary and experimental history and encourages the widest possible public participation in historical study. The Pears Institute (founded 2010) is a world-renowned centre of study and teaching on antisemitism, racialization and religious intolerance, and an outstanding platform for public discourse. The Centre for the Study of Internationalism (CSI, founded 2016) supports research and knowledge exchange in global history and internationalist thinking and now includes some 60 affiliate members worldwide.</p> <p>We have long combined research excellence with inclusivity. We were ranked 70% overall 3-4* in RAE2008 and 85% in REF2014, with 94% staff submitted. We have grown further in this cycle. We expanded from 37 researchers (35.63FTE) to 45 (41.63FTE), including 8 new permanent appointments. REF4b data from REF 2014 and REF2021 shows our expenditure on external grants has increased from £2.5M to nearly £8.3M. This supported 13 major team projects, 67 other projects, 39 mostly ECR postdocs (including 14 independently-funded fellows and 22 in teams), and a thriving body of PhD students. We are a profoundly international department, with 22/45 colleagues coming from twelve countries across five continents and all colleagues participating in a rich range of international collaborations described throughout this document.</p> <p>1.2 Research strategy</p> <p>We set ourselves three objectives in 2014.</p>

- A. Sustaining staff in challenging times (retirements, departures, new full-time leadership roles): in response we developed a long-term strategy, described in section 2, of **rethinking appointments not as replacements but as establishing bridges between areas**.
- B. Achieving a long-term growth in external income in order to sustain large-scale projects and teams: this has been **abundantly exceeded through strategies described in section 3**.
- C. Communicating our research: we have achieved this **through high-profile activities**:
- **Conferences**, including the 2014 *History after Hobsbawm* which attracted 300+ participants, produced a landmark OUP reference work on history-writing in the 21st century, and inaugurated an annual lecture series by invited professors of global standing.
 - **Publications**: 37 books (up from 18 in the previous cycle), winning 12 national and international prizes; 151 articles in peer-reviewed journals (from 99); 55 edited volumes, journal special issues and collections of sources (from 51); and 183 book-chapters (from 169), in 23 languages. Even considering this cycle's longer duration, growth is substantial.
 - **Outreach activities**: described throughout this document, including those organised through major funded projects and Research Centres (including three created in-cycle, i.e. ASSC, MEMW; CSI).

Our overall strategy is to combine diversity and collaboration in a spirit of genuine collegiality. We support all colleagues in their individual plans and aspirations, welcoming methodological pluralism without prescribing narrow themes. Collectively, we benefit from this range and encourage exchange across time and space as vital to innovation. Interdisciplinarity is fundamental and intrinsic to the very nature of HCA. We all share an interest in methods and theories straddling individual specialisms. For this reason, since 2014 we have been working along seven coordinated interdisciplinary, cross-chronological and cross-spatial strands. Every colleague participates in at least one, and most in more than one. Strands are sustained by funded projects and/or Centres and in turn nourish grant applications, organise research events, and attract visiting fellows/students; they also offer joint PGR supervision and reading groups. As explained in section 2, strands also drive staffing choices and, by integrating colleagues at all career levels, facilitate staff development.

Our interdisciplinary research strands are:

- **Conflict & Violence** brings together cultural historians of violence with those working on institutional and state practices. Outcomes include: **Wachsmann's** history of Nazi concentration camps (Wolfson Prize), **Hide's** Wellcome-funded project on violence in institutions of care, **Swann's** *Exile, Imprisonment or Death* (Society for French Studies' Gapper Prize), and **Breithoff's** UKRI Future Leader Fellowship on the comparative archaeology of dictatorships in South America and SE Asia.
- **Material Worlds** integrates archaeologists and historians, notably to discuss what constitutes archives beyond texts, with **de Vivo's** ERC-funded investigation on the materiality of records engaging with **Baird's** and **McFadyen's** work, which in turn generated the *Archaeology and Photography* volume as well as conferences on archaeological archives at the European Association of Archaeologists and Royal Anthropological Institute. A notable outcome is **Trentmann's** prize-winning *Empire of Things*. Funded projects include **Barron** on fake epigraphies, **Laube** on sound, Trentmann's *Material Cultures of Energy*, and McFadyen's *Lost Landscapes of Neolithic Life*. Birkbeck-wide Research Centres ASSC and MEMW facilitate engagement with architects and art historians.
- **Mind, Body, Sexuality & Gender** has unusually strong expertise evidenced by **Bourke's** major team project on sexual violence, medicine, and psychiatry, and **Pick's** on the history of brainwashing in the Cold War (both Wellcome-funded). The strand attracted **Jeffries's** British Academy-funded research on sexuality and social movements in late twentieth-century USA. **Harding** and **Henderson** provide medieval/early modern

perspectives. In 2014 modernists **Cook, Laite** and **Brady** founded a new History of Sexuality seminar at the Institute of Historical Research together with medievalist Katharine Harvey, then Wellcome and now Honorary Fellow. BiGS offers further interdisciplinary opportunities Birkbeck-wide. Having secured a UKRI Future Leader Fellowship, **Marks** is now leading on establishing a Birkbeck Centre for Interdisciplinary Mental Health Research (initial SSHP funding already secured).

- **Cities & Urban Spaces** constitutes a strong tradition in HCA, bringing together archaeologists and historians working from antiquity to the present. The strand encourages comparison through histories of religion, public health and communication (e.g., in ancient Greece, **Constantakopoulou**; Renaissance Italy, **Henderson**; and 15-20th century London, **Harding, White**). The strand was reinforced by **Davies**, director of the *Layers of London* project, and produced an EU-funded Marie Curie fellowship on the death industry in Naples and London and a successful application to host the Belgian embassy's History Chair to study immigrants in medieval London.
- **Difference, Race & Inequality** unites colleagues researching race, racialisation and its intersections with other forms of difference and othering. Research encompasses inequalities from the medieval period (e.g. **Franklin**) to the modern (e.g. **Feldman**), and those between and within the global north and south (e.g. **Anscombe, Breithoff**). **Sapire's** research on Africa, empire and Apartheid is particularly inspiring for all. Indeed, this is the largest strand, and its focus on race overlaps fruitfully with others, including projects on sexuality, migration and conflict. Substantial support comes from the Pears Institute, which brings together medieval and modern specialists on antisemitism and explores connections and disconnections between diverse forms of othering.
- **Mobility & Migration** recently expanded and includes: **Gray**, a classicist specialising in migration and political ideas of refugees from Hellenism to twentieth-century Germany; **Franklin**, an archaeologist of mobility and crossroads on the medieval silk-routes; and **Viscomi**, a historian and anthropologist of modern Mediterranean migrations. **Laite** is completing an AHRC-funded project on the history of trafficking and illicit migration 1870-2000. **Hill** and **Feldman** are about to start funded projects on migration discussed below. Colleagues collaborate around comparative themes, methodological approaches, and the present-day implications of their research for society, culture and policy.
- **Global History & Internationalism** brings together colleagues working on the relationship between Asian, African, American and European histories and the global pre-modern. The strand is anchored by the Centre for the Study of Internationalism. Recent/current projects include: **Lovell's** global history of Maoism (Cundill Prize); **Darley's** history of the Indian Ocean in the middle ages (BA-Wolfson); **Rueger's** book on the Anglo-German relationship (Wolfson Prize shortlist); **Sengoopta's** on post- and anti-colonial Indian culture; and **Reinisch's** Wellcome- and HERA-funded projects on the histories of internationalism and the international scientific conference.

Strands also reinforce our **international collaborations**. For example, *Mobility & Migration* established a partnership with the universities of Aix-Marseilles and Naples, leading to a one-year incoming postdoctoral fellowship and paving the way for a SSHP-wide interdisciplinary Mediterranean Studies Group. *Global History* successfully applied for a Leverhulme Visiting Professorship for distinguished global and Chinese historian Jeff Wasserstrom (postponed due to Covid). *Mind, Body, Sexuality & Gender* colleagues collaborate internationally, e.g. on the board of the 'New Psychology of War' research project (Copenhagen) and the Center for the History of Violence (Newcastle, Australia). *Difference, Race & Inequality* participate in extensive networks for example through Pears, which among other things co-founded the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism. Colleagues lead or participate in thriving international projects and exchanges, discussed in section 4, and in this cycle we increased our non-UK external research income four-fold, to more than £2M. We run eleven regular exchange programmes for staff and students, and every year host a dozen visiting international fellows, from PhDs to professors. Described in section 4.3, a central plank in our international strategy is collaborating with colleagues in the Global South as part of a strategic commitment to engaging with non-Western perspectives and expanding global access to research resources.

1.3 Research objectives 2020-25

Recognising that the Covid-19 pandemic will have significant repercussions, we will focus on maintaining a sustainable and vibrant research environment which fosters and develops our aspirations. Our primary objectives will be:

- Maintaining our range and interdisciplinarity to continue producing world-leading synchronic and diachronic interdisciplinary research of the highest level;
- Sustaining and, where possible, increasing research income levels to support large-scale international collaboration and teamwork including through digital platforms;
- Further diversifying our research on global history and the history of race;
- Attracting BAME researchers through new posts and PhD recruitment.

These objectives are realistic:

- Greater institutional IT investment is increasing colleagues' access to digital research resources; all our major projects have been devoting funds to enhancing platforms for online collaboration; HCA and SSHP together invested £10k in digital subscriptions in 2020.
- We have already obtained grants for large international teams starting in 2021, e.g. in the *Mobility & Migration* strand, Feldman's AHRC-funded project on the East End and Jewish migration, and Hill's 4-year Leverhulme Research Leadership grant for a long-term history of religious diasporas in Eastern Europe and the Americas. In *Mind, Body, Sexuality & Gender*, Marks recently started a 5-year Wellcome-funded collaboration on post-WWII Socialism, medicine and global health in Britain, Eastern Europe and Africa with the universities of Exeter, Oslo, Mexico City, Ghana, and Hong Kong.
- We have been consolidating long-term international links with EU and non-EU partners, including 11 formal exchanges, up from 3 pre-2014 (listed section 4.1).
- We have two new post-doctoral fellows in African history (Wellcome- and Leverhulme-funded) and a PhD student funded by Birkbeck's new Diversity100 scheme supporting BAME PGRs, all starting in September 2020. The *Difference, Race & Inequality* strand spearheaded a UKRI Future Leader bid in the history of racialisation, also submitted in 2020. With Pears, RSHC and CSI, we are planning an annual public lecture series on race and inequalities.

1.4 Impact strategy

In 2014 we identified four areas where we aimed to achieve tangible impact. To realise this we collaborated with the dedicated SSHP Impact Officer and Birkbeck's Public Engagement team, targeted follow-on external funding, and worked with our Research Centres. Our case studies and other examples demonstrate the success of this strategy:

- **Public and mental health.** As shown in his case-study, Pick's research directly inspired the work of artist Elizabeth Burns, whose Anti-boredom Campaign and company led to widespread changes in tackling chronic boredom in hospital patients. He and others in strand *Mind, Body, Sexuality & Gender* (Bourke, Hide, Marks) engage with psychological and mental health professionals to help shape debate about treatment and care; they have organised/participated in more than 30 events with clinical practitioners and medical institutions, e.g. the Maudsley and Tavistock hospitals, British Psychoanalytical Society, International Psychoanalytical Association, Royal College of Psychiatrists, and the WHO.
- **Heritage sector.** Cook's case-study 'Re-shaping Approaches to LGBT+ History' primarily focuses on museums and archives resulting for example in the National Trust's *Prejudice and Pride* programme, which attracted over 350,000 visitors nationwide. Feldman organized two exhibitions in the Jewish Museum: *Blood* attracted 11,000 visitors then travelled to Warsaw's Museum of the History of Polish Jews (45,000 visitors); *Jews, Money, Myth* (21,000 visitors) had to be extended due to demand and won the Museums Association's

Museums Change Lives award. Many colleagues advise museums in redesigning and fund-raising (section 4.2).

- **Schools.** Reinisch's Reluctant Internationalists project, which directly fed into curricula in partnership with the Historical Association and led to the production of an illustrated book for KS1-2 children (see section 4.2).
- **Race, minorities, identity.** Pears is the only centre in the UK dedicated to promoting teaching and debate on antisemitism, racialization and religious intolerance, through events, exhibitions, media interventions and a programme of public talks/events drawing more than 1,000 people every year.

Our case studies have grown organically out of a rich environment in which we all share a sense of responsibility to making a difference in the world. Social commitment drove many of us to **co-produce impact with communities**. A notable example is the *North Kensington Archive and Heritage Project*. Following the Grenfell Tower fire, Laite worked with community groups to raise £100,000 Heritage Lottery funds to train/coordinate volunteers and provide equipment to create an archive of the community's response to the fire, to be housed in Bishopsgate Institute and online. The two-year project built capacity in the community to continue to document, preserve, and interpret their culture, art and heritage in all its diversity for generations to come.

We worked with our research centres as conduits for cultivating partnerships, knowledge exchange and public debate with non-academic stakeholders. In addition to **Pears**, the **RSHC** is a driving force in widening participation in historical study through educational initiatives and public events, including major festivals, in partnership with museums, libraries, schools, and other organizations. **CSI** advises organisations to inform policy and engages with teachers to shape school curricula; in 2013-17, CSI-director Reinisch joined the Humanitarian Policy steering group of the Overseas Development Institute, the UK's leading thinktank on international development and humanitarian issues.

We cultivate impact and public engagement through funded research projects. Even when impact is not a criterion, our internal grant peer-reviewing encourages applicants to discuss the difference their work makes – we see this as one of the reasons for our success rate. A notable example is Trentmann's **Material Cultures of Energy** (2014–17, funded by the AHRC under the 'Care For the Future' scheme, which worked in partnership with 20 organisations, including the World Energy Council, EDF, DEFRA and the Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies (Potsdam). Impacts included the 2015 annual Carlowitz lecture to the German government's Council for Sustainability; the project also obtained follow-on funding for a joint initiative with curators and artists about future ways of communicating/displaying energy topics leading to a 2018 [Science Museum publication](#). Bourke, Laite, Pick, Reinisch, Wachsmann obtained impact- or engagement-oriented follow-on grants for their projects.

1.5 Impact objectives 2020-25

We face challenging circumstances accelerated by the Covid-19 crisis. Nevertheless, we aim to maintain high levels of impact over the long term through adaptability, new technologies and collaborative creativity. We will consolidate impact training to benefit scholars at all levels and will continue to invest in our Research Centres. In particular we will focus on the following areas and have already developed sustainable projects to:

- **Extend collaborations with digital humanities.** Funded by a £1.03M HLF grant, *Layers of London* already coordinates schools, community groups, individuals and partners such as the British Library, London Metropolitan Archives, Historic England, TNA, MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) to crowd-source content for a geo-tagging resource mapping London history from the Romans to the present for the widest possible use.

- **Maintain our commitment to making an impact beyond Europe.** Darley's project on the Western Indian Ocean in Late Antiquity has already obtained BA-Wolfson support to prepare and translate a schoolbook in the languages of the areas she researches, including Chinese, Hindi, Urdu, Amharic, Arabic and Turkish. Wellcome already awarded Bourke's SHaME project additional engagement funds to run public festivals of activism against sexual violence in Brazil with WOW/Women of the World Foundation.
- **Continue to work with museums and heritage organizations to inform their policies and contribute to wider cultural life.** Lovell has already secured AHRC backing to co-curate a major 2023 British Museum exhibition on *Cultural Creativity in Qing China* with a rich programme of public events.

1.6 Open environment and integrity

HCA is committed to maintaining the highest possible **standards of research integrity**. PGRs and staff are required to consider the ethical implications of their research and submit an application for review for all projects involving human participants, human remains or culturally sensitive objects and sources. Our Departmental Research Ethics Officer offers one-to-one consultations with students and staff on how best to navigate sensitivities, risk, data management/security, and informed consent, in both research and grant applications. The SSHP Ethics Committee reviews and approves ethics applications; proactively organises an annual training programme; and provides tailored guidance on methodology and approaches for 'non-routine' projects. Field-specific ethical standards are maintained through adherence to codes of conducts (e.g. ESRC, Oral History Society) and participation in accredited programmes (e.g. Institute of Field Archaeologists).

Our archaeologists were instrumental in preparing SSHP policy requiring all students and staff researching **objects of antiquity**, whatever their discipline, to understand their provenance and avoid contributing to the presentation, publication or valorization of unprovenanced material in line with UNESCO's Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The policy prohibits scholarly work on objects where there is insufficient information to establish licit provenance.

Special training has been put in place for **oral history** research and the *Mind, Body, Sexuality & Gender* strand, with an AHRC-CHASE funded 3-day residential doctoral training programme in Ethics, Reflexivity and the Medical Humanities featuring external facilitators and practical workshops.

We debate and address pressing ethical issues together. For example, in 2019 Hanley, Hide and Marks coordinated 4 cross-disciplinary seminars on working with **sensitive sources** and in potentially emotionally challenging subject areas (e.g. sexual violence, child abuse, racism, genocide). The seminars were attended by colleagues and PGRs from across SSHP and beyond. They discussed the ethics of working with sensitive material and vulnerable people in different periods, jurisdictions and regions, and discussed how researchers and institutions can fulfil their responsibilities to provide a duty of care to both research subjects and researchers. An intensive workshop on 'Supporting Researchers Working on Sensitive Histories' followed in January 2020 funded by Birkbeck's Institute for Social Research.

Birkbeck has solid institution-wide **misconduct procedures** described in the website's research page with a named contact point (Innes until 2019).

Open access. We make systematic use of Birkbeck's outputs/data repositories (BIROn/BIRD and their eprints platforms). The vast majority of our outputs are green OA, and we are working towards complying with the Plan S principles. Many of us choose to publish on OA journals and platforms (including monographs, e.g. Breithoff). Reinisch advises CUP on OA strategies. Others have contributed to OA debates, e.g. Darley co-authored with Daniel Reynolds and Chris Wickham the [2014 British Academy Report on Open Access Publishing in the Humanities and](#)

[Social Sciences](#) which informed debate on enabling researchers to contribute non-OA publications to REF when this is critical to their participation in specific research communities. The report also called for greater recognition of the costs (monetary and otherwise) of academic publishing, without which enhanced OA risks increasing inequalities between institutions, disciplines and researchers at different career stages.

All Wellcome-funded projects have built-in expectations and resources for OA. Others have made it one of their outcomes to publish large collections of sources online for free access, e.g. on concentration camps (Wachsmann) and early modern petitions (Waddell). We use OA to foster knowledge exchange with targeted groups, e.g.: De Vivo's *ARCHives* project published the largest anthology of sources relating to the history of Italian archives, distributed to all public archives and libraries in Italy by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage (also [published OA on the Ministry's website](#)). Reinisch edited a collection of essays and resources distributed to every member of the Historical Association and published OA, '[Exploring and teaching twentieth-century history](#)'. The Pears website is a major go-to resource for free podcasts and other material for the study of antisemitism.

2. People

2.1 Staffing strategy and staff development

Our overall strategy is to appoint the best scholars from the largest possible pools, and to help colleagues at all career levels to develop and pursue their research ambitions by providing time, training, resources, assistance and guidance.

- **Staffing and recruitment**

Eight colleagues left or retired, and we made eight new permanent appointments, all advertised internationally to recruit candidates with the greatest potential to become leaders in their fields. We regard new appointments not as a way of filling gaps, but as an opportunity for building bridges between research strands, expanding our overall strength, and opening new strategic areas. All new permanent colleagues work across national boundaries and specialisms.

The vitality of our departmental culture has also been supported by 13 fixed-term colleagues covering for those on funded leave. Our policy is to appoint replacements to a full year so as to protect ECR time, and 4 were appointed for 2-4 years. Many have proceeded to permanent positions, here or elsewhere.

Finally, we involve in our activities Research Fellows visiting from abroad and a small number of distinguished long-term Honorary Professors: Jane Caplan, Richard Evans, Michael Hunter, and Pat Thane. They all give lectures, staff seminars, PhD masterclasses, and exchange advice with colleagues at all levels.

- **Staff development**

Birkbeck has the HR Excellence in Research Award, which shows our compliance with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, from PhD to Professor. Accordingly, HCA is committed to mentoring all research-active staff, whatever their career level. Each colleague has a **research mentor** with whom they meet informally at least once a year. Publications and research plans are also monitored by the Unit's Research Director and reviewed with the Head of Department in an annual appraisal process (which also takes account of teaching and other areas). Alongside this, we run an **annual research review** where every colleague is invited to present their outputs, environment and impact activities. First introduced in 2014 to collect data for REF, this has developed into a positive exercise for self-reflection and, if necessary, assistance via follow-up meetings with the Research Director. In turn, the form is adjusted year after year on the basis of colleagues' feedback.

All staff, visiting colleagues, and postdocs **come together to discuss and support** each other's research in a fortnightly lunchtime seminar, PGRs may also participate. We long had a staff seminar for individual presentations, but in this cycle turned it into a key platform for integrating the community intellectually by including joint sessions by strands or project teams. Bringing together researchers at all career levels, the seminar fosters development and the sharing of good practice with sessions on training, international partnerships, refereeing, supervising, publishing, building impact into research and research into teaching. Co-ordinated by two organisers rotating every year, the seminar meets every other Wednesday. Covid slowed us down briefly, but we were soon back to schedule online, and now every other session discusses specific Covid repercussions so colleagues can share experiences and identify support.

Probation is mandatory for all new staff members for three years. All probationary staff take the PGCE:HE programme if they have not already. In addition to the mentor, they have a probation supervisor with whom they meet at least once a term to discuss workload, challenges, and balance of research plans with other tasks.

- **Early Career Researchers**

ECRs are a vital part of our community and help renew ideas, approaches and practices. 7 colleagues submitted to REF are ECRs (17%) and 6/8 new permanent colleagues were ECRs on appointment. We have deliberately targeted ECR-funding schemes such as Leverhulme Early-Career and British Academy Post-Doctoral fellowships (14 altogether, up from 5 in the previous cycle). In addition, we supported 22 other researchers/assistants as part of large team projects with contracts ranging between one and four years. We have been improving our support for ECRs, providing a more structured development programme in all groups (permanent, fixed-term and post-doctoral). Academic ECRs have reduced administrative loads to enable them to familiarise themselves with the institution and develop their skills at a crucial but difficult time in their careers. Our in-house training includes career development, research funding, supervising, writing references, assessing PhDs, grant management. Institutional funding prioritises ECR applicants at both SSHP- (Additional funding) and HEI-level (Birkbeck Institutional Strategic Support Fund and Covid-mitigation funds). Birkbeck's Research Innovation Fund has development grants for ECRs and staff returning from career breaks. The excellence of our ECR support is recognised by the number of awards we gained. In 2019 we were the only department to be awarded two UKRI Future Leadership Fellowships. Today, 80% of ECRs who held fixed-term appointments or post-doc fellowships in HCA have permanent or long-term posts and/or their own funded projects here or elsewhere. Of Pears' own-funded ECR fellows, one secured a lecturer post, and the others won further funding.

- **Support and promotion**

All members of staff are entitled to one term's sabbatical after nine terms served. Sabbaticals are intentionally not tied to publication or external-income targets so as to help long-term thinking and give opportunities regardless of personal circumstances. We routinely support funding applications to all mainstream funders (including those providing no financial contribution to academic staff time). We proactively work to reduce the teaching and admin burden on grant-holders, over and above any duties within the grant's terms. We help colleagues take additional time for research by rolling sabbaticals onto the end of grants to ensure that the grant's outputs are of the highest possible standard.

Every staff member (permanent, fixed-term, postdocs, part- and full-time) has an annual research allowance, which we increased in 2015 from £500 to £700. They can all apply for additional expenses up to £2000 from SSHP (which prioritises ECRs); 5-10 colleagues obtain this annually. HCA has special Research Incentive Funds (RIF) to cover other expenses for research events organised by staff and PGRs.

HCA follows Birkbeck procedures for promotion, allowances, and probation. Annual processes are open to all. Research is one of the promotion criteria (the others are teaching, engagement

and management). The Head of Department and SSHP Dean also conduct systematic reviews to encourage applications. Promotions in 2013-20 prove the effectiveness of our procedures: 7 were promoted Senior Lecturers; 8, Readers; 9, Professors. As this shows, advancement can be rapid for exceptional achievement. We play a leading role in Birkbeck: Innes is Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Swann, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research; and Davies, Dean of SSHP.

- **Covid provisions**

In the last five months of the cycle, we developed Covid-support measures alongside the Birkbeck-wide provision covered in the institutional statement. HCA invested £5k and attracted further £5k from SSHP for additional digital resources. HCA supported and advised colleagues requesting grant extensions in line with funders' policies. SSHP gave one extra year for spending internally awarded funds and released an additional application round to support changed needs, with greater flexibility on eligible costs. SSHP also organized a workshop for PIs to share best practice on adjusting/re-writing grants.

2.2 Research students

We have maintained a vibrant community of 80-90 students at any given time, similar to the previous cycle but with an increase in FT ratio in the last few years, from 27/86 in 2013 to 40/84 in 2020. Altogether, 112 students enrolled on our PGR programmes in this cycle. In addition, we introduced a new MRes research-degree in 2014, which enrolls on average 7-8 students annually.

- **Recruitment**

We advertise and recruit nationally and internationally, and c.20% of our students come from abroad. Having long had a socially and professionally diverse PGR body (with a higher-than-average PT rate and 66% PGRs older than 30), we have developed an admission process that is highly selective while recognising different types of experience and non-standard qualifications; we place great emphasis on the interview, by a panel comprising the potential supervisor(s), a colleague in a related field, and a member of the Research Degrees Committee. Many PhD candidates come from our MA programmes (recruiting 120-150 students annually) and in 2014 we established the Hobsbawm Fund which supported 19 of our best MA students with a total £125,650; of the 17 who completed by 2020, 6 progressed to PhD.

- **Funding and support**

We maintained numbers despite lacking access to AHRC DTP funding in 2014-18. HCA and SSHP compensated by raising 13 studentships internally or through donors; Pears funded 1, and together we secured funding from the Bonnart Trust and the Mercers' Company for 4 more studentships. This represents over £1million investment, and the Bonnart has already agreed to £395,000 studentship funding for the next five years. Five more HCA applicants competed successfully for Wellcome studentships. We held 2 Bloomsbury studentships in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and SOAS. Since 2016 we participate in the ESRC UCL, Bloomsbury and East London (UBEL) DTP and have taken advantage of the new DTP2 stream in socio-economic history with 5 studentships so far. Since 2014 we have participated in the AHRC Consortium of the Humanities and Arts South East England (CHASE) DTP. We started as associate members, giving our PGRs access to training opportunities and specific funding. In 2019 we became full members. HCA applicants have been notably successful, securing 6/56 and 4/56 of the consortium total in 2019 and 2020. We also run collaborative doctoral programmes with the British Museum (since 2014), Oxford Museums (2018) and National Maritime Museum (2020). In addition, externally funded projects have included a total of 8 PhD studentships. Overall, 43/112 PhD students enrolled in this cycle received studentships.

HCA's Research Incentive Fund supports each PhD student with £600 research expenses over the course of their programme. Additionally, since 2014 26 students have received competitive extra funds from the Hobsbawm Fund for a total £28,394. Finally, in 2015 SSHP established a competitive Postgraduate Support Fund to cover training, fieldwork or conferences up to £500 per student p.a. (in 2015-20 HCA PGRs made 24 applications, 22 successful).

- **Monitoring progress**

Progression is overseen by the Research Degrees Committee (RDC), which includes colleagues at all career levels, and the Senior Tutor for doctoral students responsible for training and support. We have substantially improved our completion rates. A drop towards the end of the period arises from fewer FT enrolments in 2014-18 (due to lack of DTP funding) and from Covid-related breaks-in-studies. Nevertheless, annual average completions have risen from 8.4 in the previous cycle to 10.5 in this one (the totals are 42 in 2008-13 and 73.5 in 2013-20). This was achieved through a number of strategic decisions taken by the RDC since 2014. We reinforced the progression process through our principal means of monitoring, the annual report: requiring detailed descriptions of objectives (including training needs) and achievements; including additional input from both second supervisor and mentor; identifying needs for support. A robust mentoring system for all students provides neutral support and guidance on pastoral and professional matters. Students are expected to meet supervisors at least three times a term (twice if PT). We tightened procedures around supervision, requiring a brief report from students and supervisors after each meeting. A representative of the RDC participates in the Upgrade for progression to full PhD registration, held at the end of the first year (FT) or in the course of the second (PT). This includes the submission and discussion of a substantive research-based chapter, an introduction, an outline of the thesis, and a critical bibliography of both primary and secondary sources. Students are also required to have given an oral presentation at a research seminar.

- **Training**

HCA's extensive training programme includes a regular writing workshop, an annual series of Methodological Masterclasses by senior scholars including honorary fellows and visiting professors, courses on palaeography, archival skills, non-textual sources, and digital tools from GIS to bibliography. We organise professional development workshops on: giving a paper; writing and placing reviews; publishing; finishing the thesis; preparing for the Viva; applying for jobs. As well as offering Latin and ancient Greek, we have arrangements with the Cultures & Languages Department for German and Italian. Speakers of English as a foreign language can access basic courses of academic writing.

All students can access an extensive range of further training opportunities (many available online) through the CHASE Essentials programme, as well as workshops covering e.g. social media skills and themed series, such as Material Witness. CHASE-funded students may apply for placements at e.g. the British Library. Birkbeck Talent also arranges paid placements for students at all levels and from all departments. The ESRC UBEL DTP provides training including quantitative methods. PGRs are invited to audit MA modules if beneficial. The Birkbeck Graduate Research School (BGRS) is a crucial component of students' experience and provides training opportunities for both students and supervisors, such as workshops on Research Data management. BGRS funds have supported student-organised conferences on themes such as 'Irish Militancy in Transnational Perspective' and 'Testing Toleration in Britain's Imperial and Post-Imperial World'.

Every term PGRs organise a day-long Graduate Research Symposium with advice from the Senior Tutor, logistical support from the Department, and three (rotating) colleagues chairing panels. These student-led events offer a relaxed, supportive environment to discuss research. Students can participate in the lunchtime staff seminar. They also liaise with staff through Student Reps and in regular reading groups organised by research strands (continued online during Covid).

Students also regularly give papers to seminars convened at the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) and the Institute of Classical Studies (ICS), and participate in the many training programmes offered by the School of Advanced Study. Through our networks we expanded these opportunities, e.g. a resident studentship with the Medici Archive Project in Florence. In 2013-2016 we co-hosted a Marie-Curie funded doctoral training programme on [Power in Medieval Islam and Christendom](#) including wide-ranging training activities and job placements.

A higher-than-usual proportion of Birkbeck PhDs are undertaken by part-time mature students not seeking academic careers, but many of our PGRs have secured academic posts including: postdocs at Sheffield, Hamburg, LSHTM, and the IHR; and lectureships at KCL, Essex, Malmö, and Northumbria. All substantially contributed to scholarship through their publications, including in 2014-20: 18 monographs and 58 journal articles/book chapters. Prizes include the 2018 Curriers' Company London History Essay Prize (Aaron Columbus) and 2019 Business Archives Council Wadsworth Prize (Brian O'Sullivan).

- **Covid provisions**

From the beginning of the first lockdown, supervisors have been in regular touch with PGR students to offer support and advice in the face of challenges such as the closure of archives and libraries. Supervisions now take place online, as do progression Upgrades and Viva examinations (the latter with an independent chair responsible for monitoring technical disruptions and adherence to College regulations). Research events, reading groups and training events such as the Graduate Research Symposium continue online. To overcome students' isolation, we also organise online socialising events for students and staff by areas. Birkbeck offers extensions to internally-funded studentships in parallel with those offered for UKRI-funded studentships. Self-funded students whose work has been significantly disrupted received fee remissions, and all students may apply for extended submission deadlines.

2.3 Equality and diversity

We have strived to **balance** gender numbers and seniority profiles. Of 45 colleagues, 23 are women. Women play a leading role in research: 7 out of our 13 large team projects have been led by women, and women contributed nearly 60% of submitted outputs. Women comprise 50% of the UoA Panel driving our selection. We have exact gender parity among our PGRs. In terms of seniority, promotion figures show we have redressed historic imbalances. Women are now a majority of Lecturers, SL and Readers. We are keen to redress the imbalance at professorial level. Five colleagues have been on Advance HE's Aurora leadership development initiatives addressing the under-representation of women in leadership positions in the sector. Women colleagues Sapire and McFadyen are respectively Departmental Officer and School Assistant Dean for Equalities.

Although nearly half of our staff come from non-UK backgrounds 13% of our PGR students are BAME, a higher-than-national-average rate. In line with the sector, we are sorely aware that we need to reflect society more closely as well as continuing to increase the diversity of our student body. **We are diversifying** our research by expanding study at the crossroads of global history and the history of race. Since 2017 we have rethought our teaching curriculum to make all our introductory courses explicitly global, inclusive, and questioning of Western-centred narratives. We conducted seminar sessions open to all PGRs in response to the 2018 RHistS *Race, Ethnicity & Equality* report, authored among others by our then-PGR John Siblon. In 2019-20 we produced reports on the attainment gap of BAME students and have been revising our assessment methods accordingly. We have already attracted two post-doctoral fellowships on African history starting in 2020. We have a new PhD student working on Black bohemia, funded by Birkbeck's new Diversity100 scheme, established to expand the proportion of BAME PGRs. As mentioned, we are supporting a UKRI Future Leader application in histories of race/racialisation and are planning an annual public lecture series on race and inequalities.

Policies. Led by the Birkbeck and SSHP Equality and Diversity Committees, we maintain the same balance of teaching, research and admin for all colleagues, whatever their FTE, and however difficult it is to fractionalise some tasks. We try to include everybody in the department's collective work while also protecting individual research time and reducing loads for ECRs. We strive to stimulate equalities and diversity in line with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. All staff involved in recruitment and promotions decisions receive training in equality & diversity and unconscious bias. Birkbeck recently renewed its institutional Athena SWAN award at Bronze level, and the Unit will participate in SSHP's application in November 2021. We participate in Birkbeck's staff disability network. **Our own research** feeds back into our commitment to greater diversity, especially (but not only) in research strands *Mind, Body, Sexuality & Gender; Difference, Race & Inequality; Mobility & Migration; and Global History*. This is also the driving commitment of both Pears and the RSHC. HCA is a leading centre in LGBT+ history, with notable impact as evidenced in one of our case studies, and we have a solid reputation for research exploring the multiple dimensions of subjectivity.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1. Research income

In REF2014 we reported a growth in research grant expenditure from c.£400k to £700k income p.a., or a total of £2.6M. One of our objectives was to consolidate growth in externally-funded research. In fact, in 2013-20 we more than doubled **expenditure** to an average c.£1.18M p.a. or a total £8,275,197. Non-UK research grants expenditure grew from c. £550k to £2,031,909. Our **awards** grew from £5.1M in 2008-13 to £9,111,445 in 2013-20, a 27.6% pro-rata increase.

Led by the Research Director and Research Committee, our **strategy** consisted in diversifying the schemes we targeted, encouraging a proactive culture of fundraising among all colleagues, scaling peer-to-peer and institutional support in the application process, and bidding for institutional backing. Our staff seminar helps share good practice with dedicated sessions where grant holders discuss their experience, and prospective applicants workshop proposals. Research strands act as informal sounding boards for projects, and our internal peer-reviewing also involves non-specialists from different strands. This works. We set no income targets, yet all colleagues applied for external grants; more than 85% received at least one; and we calculate our success rate at nearly 40% (184 applications, 70 successful). In short, more people apply more successfully to more kinds of grants.

We received grants from the following **funding bodies**:

UK	Wellcome Trust	3,251,516
	AHRC	1,668,223
	Leverhulme Trust	1,601,166
	British Academy	967,620
	UKRI Future Leader Fellowships	752,019
	ISRF/Independent Social Research Foundation	48,000
	Rothschild Foundation	65,000
	EPSRC	28,827
	Others	12,315
EU	Swedish Research Council	225,331
	HERA/ Humanities in the European Research Area	206,999
	ERC–Marie Curie Fellowship	150,350
	Foundation Remembrance Responsibility and Future	131,162
Canada	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	2,917
Total		9,111,445

Grants are best described by the **kind of projects they enable**.

Large grants for 10 major team projects (total £5,198,042, not including 3 Wellcome- and ERC-funded projects continuing from previous cycle) sustaining large-scale research and networks, employing post-docs and/or PGRs, and resulting in multi-faceted programmes of events, publications, collaborations and, in some cases, impact-generating activities. Most are described elsewhere in this document, but other notable examples range from *Sexual Violence, Medicine, and Psychiatry* (PI Bourke, Wellcome Trust, 2018-2023, £1,237,585, an interdisciplinary project with 3 postdocs which studies the role of medical professionals in understanding and dealing with sexual violence in the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand, early 19th century-the present) to *The Power of Petitioning* (PI Waddell, AHRC, 2019-21, £163,511, one postdoc, in partnership with UCL the first project to examine petitioning systematically at all levels of English government over the seventeenth century).

One-to-three year-long individual fellowships (total £3,274,534): 14 incoming post-doctoral fellowships (not including 3 commenced before 2013); and 9 fellowships enabling permanent or fixed-term colleagues to take leave while launching or completing major projects/monographs (not including 2 Leverhulme Major Research Fellowships running from the previous cycle until 2014-15).

It is worth noting our success in obtaining large grants aimed at ECRs and future leaders.

A Wellcome New Investigator Award (£752,995 awarded in 2013 and so not included in the above table but entirely active in this cycle) enabled Reinisch to build a large team of post-doctoral fellows/RAs and PhD students to study the history of public health and international organisations, movements and experts in twentieth-century Europe. Breithoff and Marks secured UKRI Future Leader Awards, respectively £403,238 and £346,781. Darley's BA-Wolfson (£129,439), and Hill's Leverhulme Future Leadership Award (£959,953), were awarded in 2020 to start in the new cycle.

Finally, 26 smaller grants totalling £122,571 offered vital support with aspects of individual projects, especially but not only archaeological fieldwork.

3.2. Organisational infrastructure

Birkbeck commits resources through new appointments, logistical support and effective research administration. The Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities (BIH) and Birkbeck Institute for Social Research (BISR) provide logistical and financial support for interdisciplinary collaborations inside and outside the institution. The BGRS supports our PGRs, oversees examinations and provides studentships and training opportunities as described in section 2.

SSHP supports visiting/research fellowships, offers PhD studentships and infrastructure, and facilitates joint projects and collaboration. In **HCA**, the Research Director and the Research Committee, including the Head of Department and rotating representatives of research strands, engage inclusively with all colleagues to identify our research strategy, then coordinate and facilitate it. The staff seminar provides the backbone of our coordination and also acts as a discussion point for our research strategy (including successive drafts of this statement).

SSHP gives logistical and financial support to our Research Centres including toward salary and administrative costs (in-cycle contributions: £106,500 to RSHC and £632,536 to Pears). In turn they fundraise to organise research activities involving many colleagues. **RSHC** has helped coordinate successful grant applications totalling £522,266 and supporting two post-doctoral fellows; it has organised nearly 200 workshops, talks, discussions, and other events, including biennial month-long public history festivals with substantial Birkbeck backing (e.g. AIDS Cultures and Histories; London at War). The **CSI** received initial support from a Wellcome-funded project and has gone on to raise more funds for ECRs and senior colleagues totalling £343,762, including follow-on engagement funding instrumental in bringing internationalism to schools; it has organised 19 workshops, conferences, presentations and internationalist walking tours.

Pears has grown steadily in funding and facilities. It employs a core team of 4 permanent members of staff and one research fellow, and 22 other research fellows/associates in the UK and Europe. In 2013-2020 it hosted 14 research fellows including 2 externally-funded and 3

institute-funded postdocs, and 2 British Academy Visiting Fellowships; it helped raise £825,988 of our awards, as well as £1.7M from a funder providing philanthropic support for the institute's research and knowledge exchange (not included in REF4b); it has already raised £800,000 for the next three years. In 2013-20 Pears hosted 73 public talks/events, (attended by more than 1,000 people each year), 27 seminars, 21 workshops and 7 conferences. It also co-organized 2 major events abroad. The international conference *Boycotts – Past and Present* brought together 64 scholars from the Humanities, Social Sciences, International Relations and Law, resulting in an interdisciplinary volume. The Pears core team have published 3 monographs, 3 edited volumes, 5 journal special issues, 4 public-policy reports and, since 2019, the new series 'Palgrave Critical Studies of Antisemitism and Racism' (3 books so far).

3.3. Operational and scholarly infrastructure

We are housed in Russell Square together with our administrative team. All FT colleagues have their own office. PGR students have a shared space equipped with computers. The building houses the Dreyfus Room, over which we have priority access and where we hold our staff seminar, and a room for Visiting & Honorary Fellows. In the same building we have strong ties with the Wiener Library, Britain's largest collection of original archival material on the Holocaust. We are in the same block as Senate House Library, the IHR and ICS, and in walking distance of research facilities on a scale unparalleled anywhere else in the UK if not the world, including the British Library, British Museum, Warburg Institute, and Wellcome Collection.

Birkbeck provides managerial, financial and logistical support. Birkbeck's Research Office has pre- and post-award support for SSHP grant development, submission and management. Birkbeck provides matched funding in internal competitions to support Leverhulme Early Career fellowships (c.£400,000 this cycle). In 2013-20 HCA disbursed c. £35,000 Research Incentive Funds to support research activities and events organised by staff and PGRs, including c.£14,000 for IHR/ICS seminars. SSHP competitively awarded c.£240,000 in additional research funding (£64,207 for HCA individual or team-projects). Colleagues (individually and in groups) can also apply for additional support from Birkbeck's competitively allocated grants, including the Global Challenges Research QR Fund and Wellcome-supported Institutional Strategic Support Fund. GCRF QR funded three projects discussed below (section 4.3). ISSF funded our projects with £225,050, including two postdoctoral fellowships (Hide went on to bid successfully for her own Wellcome-funding). Since 2018 Birkbeck encouraged public engagement through £500 awards; seven colleagues won in three years. SSHP employs an Impact Officer who provides regular training and individual guidance to help enhance opportunities for impact, develop links with stakeholders, and devise strategies for capturing evidence; the post became permanent and was increased 0.5 to 1FT in-cycle.

The Birkbeck Library provides crucial access to all principal online research resources, Library facilities have recently been upgraded thanks to £1.3M investment. The Clore Centre and Lecture Theatre provide capacity for large audiences and receptions. The Birkbeck Cinema and the Derek Jarman Lab host events co-organized with colleagues in the School of Arts.

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

4.1 Support for research collaboration

Vital to the very nature of HCA, interdisciplinary research collaboration, national and international, is supported through our Research Centres (all of them inherently interdisciplinary), funded projects, and the Birkbeck-wide institutes BIH and BISR.

- **International exchanges.** Through collaborations, we have hosted 35 non-UK Honorary/Associate Research Fellows visiting for 3-12 months from 17 countries, as well as 12 Fellows in association with BIH/BISR from 11 countries. Exchange programmes led to tangible outcomes, e.g. Feldman organised a workshop with NYU colleagues to prepare the *Jews, Money, Myth* exhibition, and Henderson edits the Monash/Prato-sponsored *Body in*

the City Routledge series. Every year c5-10 colleagues hold visiting positions abroad, ranging from a couple of weeks to several months.

- **PGR training.** Our many international collaborations enable PhD students to spend time abroad; conversely, we attract an average of 4-5 visiting PGRs every year, who participate in and enrich our own students' activities. Twelve colleagues have co-supervised students in other universities in the UK and abroad, from Stanford to Paris. In 2013-16 a Marie Curie Initial Training Network supported a collaborative training programme with seven other HEIs across the EU for PGRs working on the comparative study of power and institutions in medieval Islam and Christendom. We also established interdisciplinary doctoral partnerships with curators and anthropologists in the British Museum, Oxford Museums and the National Maritime Museum.
- **International/interdisciplinary collaborations.** Our major team projects sustain intense international networks, including two ERC-funded projects with SE Asia and Italy (funded outside cycle but active until 2015-16). Another notable example is Reinisch's HERA-funded history of the scientific conference (£206,999) with medical humanities scholars in Uppsala, Maastricht and the Centre Alexandre Koyré (EHESS, Paris). Team projects enable interdisciplinary collaboration. Particularly active partnerships with psychiatrists and medical professionals arise from the Mind & Body strand, especially via the Wellcome-funded projects SHaME, Hidden Persuaders and Socialism and Global Health. An outstanding example in another field is Trentmann's Material Cultures of Energy (funded by both AHRC and the EPSRC), a team of four historians and a geographer investigating how energy transformed daily life in twentieth-century Britain, Germany, North America and Japan. Their *Scarcity in the Modern World* (Bloomsbury, 2019) brought together historians, economists, geographers, political scientists, and anthropologists to study concerns about resource scarcity from the 18th to the 21st century and to challenge previous scholarship which separated scientific and cultural issues.

4.2 Engagement with users, beneficiaries, audiences; impact not covered in case studies.

- **We collaborate with teachers and schools, to inform curricula, offer resources, and provide training.** We have run over 20 workshops in schools on migration, protest, online psychological manipulation, energy consumption, religious radicalism, and archaeological artefacts. In 2016 we set up the Birkbeck History Teachers Network for secondary school teachers who study/studied in HCA from the Greater London area to build networks and share resources with each other and with academics. A notable example of educational impact is Reinisch. With Wellcome public-engagement funding, she developed a series of activities aimed at engaging young people in the history of internationalism by influencing how history is taught in schools. This included a three-month teacher fellowship programme entitled 'The Cold War in the Classroom', run in conjunction with the Historical Association. She then edited an open-access collection of essays and resources distributed in 2019 to every member of the HA on ['Exploring and teaching twentieth-century history'](#). Uniquely, her Reluctant Internationalists team also worked with/for primary schools. They supported children's illustrator Francesca Sanna with a fellowship and directly informed her book, *Me and My Fear* (Flying Eye, 2018), which encourages children to think about migration, war, and empathy. Together, they workshopped material for the book with over 260 Years 1-2 pupils and their teachers.
- **We partner with museum and heritage institutions in the UK and abroad to inform exhibitions and advise on strategies.** Hidden Persuaders organised the Wunderblock exhibition at the Freud Museum (7870 visitors March-May 2019) and contributed the centrepiece of the California's Wende Museum 'War of Nerves' exhibition (2018, 5,500 visitors).

- **We have a longstanding commitment to enhancing the public enjoyment and understanding of history** as shown by the following national/international prizes awarded for combining research and readability: Wachsmann's 2016 Wolfson Prize, Mark Lynton History Prize and Jewish Quarterly-Wingate literary prize; Trentmann's Austrian Prize for best non-fiction book of the year 2016; Rueger shortlisted 2018 Wolfson Prize; Lovell's Cundill Prize 2019. Their and other books have become publishing successes and been translated into many languages (e.g. Bourke, Figs, White). Such is our outreach that Wachsmann appeared as a character in the 2016 box-office hit *Denial* (played by the rather better-looking Max Beftor).
- **We engage audiences in diverse and creative ways.** More than half colleagues regularly present their research in the press, radio and television programmes, both national and international. Memorable examples include Harding's interviews on London history in two episodes of 'Cunk on Britain', and Pick's 'Freud For Our Times', which he researched, wrote and conducted for BBC4 (estimated 860,000 listeners). As part of programmes on Pride and gender, Cook made 8 radio appearances in the UK, Norway and EIRE. Figs worked as historical consultant for the BBC's 6-part dramatization of Tolstoy's *War and Peace* which has already been aired/sold in 25 countries worldwide. The Hidden Persuaders team produced 6 films/documentaries and 8 radio/podcasts (including 6 for the BBC and 2 for the International Psychoanalytical Association), and four more videos by high school pupils that featured at the British Film Institute's 2019 Young Voices Festival. Anscombe was script consultant for the BBC series 'Pilgrimage: The Road to Istanbul'. Lovell acts as an intermediary with Chinese culture, through her books, translations and media/festival interventions. Other remarkable cases include Bourke, who wrote 34 press articles and gave 36 radio/TV interviews, and Darley, who wrote on Telangana archaeology for The Hindu, south India's most popular English-language newspaper with a 6-million daily circulation. Most colleagues use social media regularly as part of their outreach. Waddell's [Many-Headed Monster](#), a blog discussing early modern history from new research to broader issues of representation and teaching, has received c.440K views from 240K visitors since 2013. Through the RSHC we support [History Workshop Online](#) (all editorial fellows are HCA Honorary Fellows): a site pioneering history blogging since 2008, it has published hundreds of articles and podcasts 2014-20, with 1M+ views and a large following on key social media, where it has established itself as the leading online radical history magazine.

4.3 Evidence of unit's contribution to the sustainability of the discipline

We are deeply committed to contributing to the wider health of all our disciplines through:

- **Events organisation and participation, sustaining innovation, exchange and collaborative thinking.** Without counting Pears-run events (above), we organised: 19 conferences (including one or two every year with more than 25 speakers/chairs) and 26 small-medium workshops in Birkbeck; 33 conferences/events in the UK; and 28 in a total of 15 foreign countries across four continents. Major funded projects were particularly active in developing programmes of events that helped make their respective topics central to historians' agenda, for example the Reluctant Internationalists project (2013-17, 14 events). 26 colleagues co-convene regular seminars in the IHR, ICS and other institutions in London and elsewhere, including the annual peripatetic and interdisciplinary Venetian Seminar. 41 colleagues were invited to give 276 keynotes and plenaries, the majority outside the UK. Altogether, we gave some 800 conference or seminar papers across the world.
- **Our publications (figures above, p. 2) contain a balance of new and original research but also companions, reference works and editions of sources** that will remain essential go-to texts for years. We published hundreds of book reviews, a vital form of consolidation and dissemination of ideas in our disciplines. Some of our projects have created resources that will be valuable to researchers in a variety of fields, from websites such as Layers of London, Petitions and Nazi Camps, to editions of classical sources, such as Seneca and Galen, to collections of sources that are unique in their field such as on Italian archives.

- **We invest a significant amount of time in various forms of service for our disciplines**, including peer-reviewing for more than 50 journals and 30 publishers. 13 colleagues review for national research councils in the UK and abroad, including: AHRC and UKRI Peer-review colleges; the Belgian and Dutch Research Councils (FWO and NWO); VQR (Italy's REF); British Council Cultural Protection Fund; Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Trentmann chaired the History, Archaeology and Cultural Studies panel of the Norwegian Research Council's national academic review in 2016-17. Bourke chaired the British Academy Modern History Panel in 2016-19, the AHRC Global Challenges Research Fund Advisory Board in 2016-17, and PEN's Hessel-Tiltman History Prize in 2018.
- **Of special note is our support for and partnership with colleagues in the Global South or in threatened circumstances.** Baird works with the Council for At-Risk Academics mentoring exiled Syrian archaeologists in Turkey, leading to our hosting Syrian archaeologist Adnan Al-Mohamad as Honorary Research Fellow. We obtained Birkbeck GCRF QR institutional support for: Darley, to organise a workshop series with historian Rekha Pande (Hyderabad); Baird, to develop training for Syrian archaeologists in Idlib in partnership with NGO Syrians for Heritage; and Marks, to organise a witness seminar on histories of mental health with the University of Ghana and the country's WHO office. Initiatives such as these demonstrate our commitment not just to engaging with non-Western perspectives but also to expanding global access to research resources.

4.4 Other indicators of wider influence not already mentioned

PhD examining. Members of the Unit invested substantial time in external examining for 174 PhD theses, in 38 UK and 31 foreign HEIs, in a total of 18 countries in Europe, North America, Africa and Australia.

Editorship. While at HCA, 29 colleagues have served on the editorial/advisory boards of 68 journals in the UK and abroad; 12 as editors of journals (*Classical Receptions*, *Contemporary European History*, *Early Music History*, *European History Quarterly*, *History Workshop Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*, *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, *Journal for Greek Political Thought*, *London Journal*, *Women's History Review*); and 7 as editors of book series (Continuum's *War Society and Culture*; Palgrave's *Genders and Sexualities in History and Critical Studies of Antisemitism and Racism*; Routledge's *Body in the City*; Bloomsbury's *Histories of Internationalism*). Our publications received 12 prizes/special mentions

Fellowships. Colleagues include 22 fellows of the Royal Historical Society (including Harding Honorary Vice-President) and 5 Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries. Edwards was President, Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies 2015-18. Bourke and Lovell were elected Fellows of the British Academy respectively in 2014 and 2019. All colleagues are members/fellows of one or more of 25 learned societies. Demonstrating our interdisciplinarity, these include:

- **in the UK:** African Studies Association; Association for the Study of Modern Italy; British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies; British Epigraphic Society; British Society for the History of Science; Classical Association; German History Society; Hellenic Society; Royal Numismatic Society.
- **Internationally:** American Historical Association; Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies; Council for European Studies; European Association of Social Anthropologists; Mediterranean Studies Association; Oriental Numismatic Society; Renaissance Society of America; Society for Classical Studies/American Philological Association; Society for the Anthropology of Europe; South Indian Numismatic Society; Southern African Historical Society.

Other notable awards These include Bourke's Professorship of Rhetoric, Gresham College, and Global Innovations Chair, University of Newcastle, Australia. as well as the following prestigious fellowships: Constantakopoulou's Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies fellowship, Gray's Humboldt Foundation Fellowship, Feldman's All Souls Visiting Fellowship; Trentmann's Caltech Moore Distinguished Fellowship, and Hill's fellowship at Princeton's Institute for

Advanced Study (postponed due to Covid). Laite received a British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award in 2018.