

Institution: Leeds Beckett University
Unit of Assessment: 28: History
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Overview and context</p> <p>The History subject group is represented by 11 staff in the School of Cultural Studies and Humanities (SCSH) at Leeds Beckett University (LBU), and two former colleagues. Our intellectual background ranges across temporal and geographical fields and falls under the broad umbrella of modern (post-1700) social and cultural history. As interdisciplinary researchers, our mission is to be outward looking both in terms of actively contributing to the current and future direction of research within the discipline as well as in having a positive impact on the world beyond the university through the application of historical research to real-world issues. We take our cue from the viewpoint that history is an evolving dialogue between past and present, and we have a collective responsibility through our research to make a useful contribution to society.</p> <p>History works closely with colleagues in English and Media. All colleagues are also members of the Centre for Culture and the Arts (CCA), which coordinates the School's support for our research. Established in 2013 to strengthen our research environment and public engagement, the CCA organises its work around 5 interdisciplinary research strands, which are led by at least two colleagues from different disciplinary backgrounds to encourage the cross-fertilisation of ideas. The strands are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultures of the Body, Gender and Sexuality • Cultures of Environment, Space and Place • Colonial and Postcolonial Cultures • Cultures of Stigma, Deviance and Dissent • Practices of Writing. <p>These strands, which were developed in consultation with colleagues across the three units in the School, are concerned with modes of representation related to equality and diversity in past and present society.</p> <p>The School is led by its Dean supported by the School Leadership Team (SLT), which comprises the Director of Research (DoR), the CCA Director and three heads of subject for our key domains in History (Morgan), English and Media. The leadership team has fostered an ethos where research is a central element of the School's activity.</p> <p>Since 2014 History research at LBU has been led by Shore and Ewen, who have worked closely with the Readers and Professors Group to ensure that our strategy harmonises with that of the SLT and the CCA.</p> <p>An environment of collaborative colleagues</p> <p>History is submitting to REF2021 as an independent unit for the first time. Previous exercises have seen history research submitted in UoA 36 (2014) and UoA 66 (2008). Our work is strong enough to stand alone – and feedback from both previous exercises supports this belief. In establishing our strategy for History, we have focused on developing a research environment tailored to History scholars and its closely linked sister units (27 and 34). The result of this restructuring is that the three units have developed a research environment that explicitly promotes a unifying ethos of collaborative colleagues who have a desire to work across disciplinary and organisational boundaries. History's home in the SCSH and the CCA has resonance for the work that we do, not least that much of the current submission is located within the sub fields of social and cultural history.</p>

Our research strategy

Our research strategy, originally developed in 2014, has been refined through regular consultation amongst the History subject group and with colleagues at SCSH away days. It has been focused on the following aims:

- **Recruitment of highly-qualified** full-time staff to strengthen our expertise in social and cultural history, environmental history and public history, and to develop our capacity to supervise postgraduate research in this area.
- The implementation of a supportive **mentoring system** for all staff to encourage colleagues in their ambitions to publish high-quality research, to enter the bidding arena for grants, and to build this new unit's impact capacity.
- A combined staff/postgraduate student **programme of professional and academic development** to create a wide community of researchers – the students are the future of the subject and are crucial to our strategic development.
- **Continued development of the CCA** to manage the achievement of quality research and publication outcomes, to provide a focus for research impact and engagement activity and external partnerships, and to provide an internal architecture for the management and dissemination of research in History, English and Media.

Our institutional research strategy provides the context for these priorities. This strategy is focused on three areas of strength in our university, namely Culture, Health and Well-Being, and Technology and Society. The strategy presumes that there are intersections between these key priorities. While History research sits firmly in the Culture section, its reach extends to the impact of technology on society and on health and well-being as evidenced in our list of submitted outputs.

The LBU strategy is also concerned with reaching different publics with our research, and with engagement with our local, national and international communities. The development of the CCA strands directly respond to LBU's strategic priorities. To ensure that our research faces outwards, we have undertaken a range of training across History to reach different groups (including media training), and colleagues are encouraged to organise and lead events which the general public and other stakeholders might attend, and to invite that population into our space too. We have used RCUK income and Quality Research (QR) funds to support a range of public-facing activity. Examples include: a series of workshops from 2015-19 to engage local and family historians in researching their criminal ancestry (see Impact Case Study 1), pin parties in 2015-16 to create a crowd-sourced map of LGBTQ+ heritage sites (see Impact Case Study 2), a 2019 conference on heroism at Leeds Beckett, which included the delivery of emergency first-aid training by the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's Trauma Department to academic and non-academic participants, and our participation in the Being Human Festival in 2017, which engaged with local populations and school children around the theme of 'Urban Dreams and Nightmares' and incorporated historically-themed walking tours around Leeds.

History staff have given public talks and delivered public events for a number of local, regional and national external partners (see section 4). We have also worked extensively with national policymaking bodies such as heritage practitioners (Oram with Historic England and the National Trust) and trade unions (Ewen with the Fire Brigades Union for its centenary celebrations in 2018). Our scholarly networks are evident in the fact that four staff (Ewen, Irving, Mosley, Shore) are active participants in History & Policy, the national network that brings together historians, journalists and politicians to help produce more historically reflective policymaking. Most recently, Ewen and Irving were joint authors, with colleagues elsewhere, of an article on 'The Real Lessons of the Blitz for Covid-19', the most viewed policy paper on the History & Policy website from 23 March-20 May 2020.

The sustainability of research in our institutional context requires us to be flexible rather than dogmatic in our priorities. Nonetheless, History at LBU proceeds from the following shared intellectual principles:

- We are committed to applied history in order to deepen our understanding of the most pressing issues in the contemporary world including environmental crises, social injustice, emergency preparedness and identity politics.
- The study of modern and contemporary history from the eighteenth century to the present in a range of local, national and transnational contexts.
- Our thematic strengths are in (i) social and cultural history, including gender, sexuality, crime and deviance, and celebrity; (ii) urban and environmental history; (iii) the history of life writing, biography, and cultures of communication, and (iv) public history.
- Collaborative research across a range of disciplines and methodologies, in an institutional context provided by the SCSH and the CCA.
- Working with a variety of primary sources in novel ways.
- Working with a variety of stakeholders to communicate our research and maximise its impact beyond academia.

Strategic objectives - Results

We have created a research culture that is bearing fruit and provides the foundation for future successes. This reflects our ambition to create a vibrant research culture within the University and the wider historical discipline. In particular, our **research and impact strategy** has focused on enabling staff to meet the following objectives:

- to grow the research culture of the School through external research leadership and high-quality publications. In the current REF period 12.5 colleagues have produced 53 academic outputs, including 5 double-weighted research monographs, 1 survey book, 1 special edition, and 22 articles published in internationally leading peer-reviewed journals. We also undertake key roles in influencing the future direction of our field as editors of journals, members of editorial boards, board members of national and international scholarly societies, conference organisers, peer reviewers and assessors on research council panels.
- to secure external funding to sustain and broaden our research and its reach. Since 2014, History staff have had considerable success with external RCUK grant income applications, raising over £600,000 across 10 different projects, compared to £22,485 during the 2008-14 REF period.
- to enable the beneficial impact of this research beyond academia by sustained engagement with communities and with other external partners and stakeholders. In the current REF period, we developed a number of lasting relationships with external partners, as well as a sustained input into the community. Examples include a 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between LBU and Leeds Museums and Art Galleries, Ewen's membership of the Steering Committee of the Leeds Arts Health and Wellbeing Network (LAHWN) and a series of urban history skills workshops delivered to members of the public at Leeds City Museum, Leeds Central Library and The Leeds Library (2015-17). We have delivered 14 public lectures in the Cultural Conservations series of the CCA on topics of public interest ranging from the global history of asbestos (van Horssen) to nineteenth-century touring guidebooks of Yorkshire (Goodwin). Four historians (Andrews, Irving, Rich, van Horssen) have also given interviews about their research for the Beckett Talks 'Culture in Covid' podcast series launched in September 2019 to enable the CCA to continue its public engagement during the pandemic.
- to encourage the further development of postgraduate research students and early career scholars who can develop their research for the future growth of the discipline and the subject group. We have expanded our postgraduate community via our participation in the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Heritage Consortium (HC) and the North of England Consortium for Arts and Humanities (NECAH). Our PhD students add critical mass to the School's research culture by participating in our regular History seminar series, organising and speaking at conferences and workshops, and in publishing journal articles. Our RCUK funded research has also enabled us to appoint highly skilled

postdoctoral researchers who make a valuable contribution to the university's research culture.

Processes to support our strategy

Since 2014, History has grown and diversified to become a vibrant research community. Decisions around staffing, funding and research mentoring have been made in order to ensure that we can deliver our agreed aims and mission. The successes we have so far enjoyed have been underpinned by the following actions, investments and processes, designed to construct a supportive research environment:

- History has **appointed highly qualified researchers** to strengthen our research expertise in social and cultural history, environmental history and public history. Since REF2014 we have appointed 3 permanent members of staff (van Horssen, Irving, Wright) and 4 postdoctoral researchers on fixed-term contracts (Andrews, Bengry, Crymble, Fox). Two of have since gone on to secure full-time permanent lecturing posts at other HEIs.
- To support staff development we instituted twice-yearly **research mentoring** by senior research staff to enable all History colleagues to discuss their research and future plans in a supportive environment. The mentoring scheme has been a location for discussions about **research-led promotions**, including advice about the meanings of the criteria and the means by which they might be met. In this REF period, three colleagues have been promoted, one to Reader (2014) and then to Professor (2017, Shore) and two to Reader (Ewen, 2017, Rich, 2020).
- To support research development in History, the School and the University has made available regular **opportunities to apply for research funding** on a competitive basis. To **enhance research grant capture**, History has instituted **specific mentoring by 'critical friends' throughout the bidding process** for both local funds and for external grants, which has been used to great effect in the History team.
- The School runs periodic **whole-school away days** where research is discussed, combined with regular History team meetings, where we consider the same issues from our subject point of view.
- As part of our impact aims, **CCA provides a public face** to help us to engage the public with research: its archive of filmed events is a means for other researchers and other interested parties to find us. One example is Shore's work on the Borstal system, where members of the public sought her out to give their testimonies of their experiences as a direct result of viewing her 2019 lecture on the CCA's YouTube platform.

Impact Strategy

One of the fundamental ways in which research in humanities subjects can achieve impact is to develop the relationships which enable people and organisations to engage with the research, to be shaped by its findings, and to maintain relationships that make co-creation possible. Our impact strategy in History is founded on the following principles:

- To engage with publics that academic publishing does not reach by taking our research to those publics and inviting them to our spaces. (The Cultural Conversations are just one element of this strategy, alongside collaborative working with local and national partners including local authorities, libraries, museums and heritage policymakers, fire and rescue services, charities and social enterprises.)
- To build relationships which provide lasting benefit to our communities, evidenced by the sustained co-working that has led to our two impact case studies, but also by other relationships detailed in Section 4.
- To discuss with local communities what they need from us as part of our mission as a Civic University anchored in the wider city region.
- To train ourselves to do this work – by learning to use social and traditional media more effectively, and being open to approaches from outside our discipline.

- To build impact into all of our activities and make benefit to our communities as integral to our research design.

History's Future

Our aspiration beyond REF2021 is to continue to develop a reputation for high quality applied historical research. We will build upon existing partnerships and form new ones, in the light of the evolution of our research interests and our community's needs. We are working with a variety of cultural organisations and groups – Leeds Central Library, the Leeds Arts Health and Wellbeing Network, Space2, Zero Waste Leeds, amongst others – as well as companies such as Price Waterhouse Cooper, through which we have developed a strong knowledge exchange partnership in recent years with student research placements.

Staff have a number of publications and other research outputs already in the pipeline from our RCUK funded projects, including five research monographs and at least four journal articles either under peer review or in preparation. This shows how History is already looking towards building upon the groundwork laid between 2014-21.

Our future strategy is concerned with supporting the further development of high-quality and innovative research. Our single biggest practical aspiration is to be in a position to institute a consistent research leave scheme so that major projects can be supported in a planned and sustained way. We will do this by recalibrating our QR spending, to tilt in this direction, while continuing to support doctoral study. Projects we support will require external bidding activity to take place alongside any internal bid for leave, or will be required to show collaboration and co-creation as elements of the research design.

We seek to bring on future research leaders as early career scholars and postgraduate research students. We also aspire to continue providing research leadership locally, through internal promotion to Reader and Professor, as well as in the wider historical community, where we seek to set the pace for future research in our sub-fields at the national and international levels.

2. People

History consists of 11 FTE (Headcount 11) Category A staff in the School of Cultural Studies and Humanities. Two category B staff were professors before the retirement of one (Oram) and the departure of a second to another institution (Shore). Shore, Rich and Ewen were all internal promotions during this REF period. There is 1 Postdoctoral Research Fellow currently based in the School (Andrews) as well as 1 Postdoctoral Research Associate (Crymble, replaced by Fox). All remaining staff in History are Senior Lecturers, except for Morgan who is Head of Subject.

Our strategy over this REF period has been to grow the complement of staff, to strengthen our existing clusters of expertise in environmental history, the history of life writing and biography, and public history. Since 2014 staff numbers in History grew from 10 to 13, though they have recently dropped to 11 following 2 recent departures which have not yet been replaced in the context of the Pandemic. We are seeking to strengthen our research leadership with internal promotions to both Professor and Reader levels through the University's annual promotions round.

We have recruited two postdoctoral research fellows (Andrews, 2018-21 and Bengry, 2015-16) and two postdoctoral research associates (Fox and Crymble), on fixed term contracts, who are active in the research culture of History as well as the SCSH/CCA. In 2014 History had no postdoctoral researchers so we are growing our capacity for supporting the sustainability of the historical discipline. Our University is a signatory of the **Concordat for Fixed-Term Researchers** (2019), and has retained its **HR Excellence in Research award**, partly on the basis of its proven commitment to the career development of colleagues on fixed-term contracts. The unit is fully compliant with the expectations of the Concordat.

Our commitment to equality and diversity

As the ethos of the CCA implies, and as the published records of History demonstrate, equality and diversity are central to our activities and core to our beliefs. We act proactively and reflectively to live the equality policies of our institution, through all the elements of a research career.

The process of staff recruitment is mindful of the need to foster equality in all our practices. Shortlists and appointments are monitored for equality data and we are accountable for any anomalies. We are Disability Positive employers, hold institutional Athena Swan accreditation, have received Stonewall Top 100 employer status, and are members of the pilot group of universities for the Race Equality Charter Mark. We sought departmental Athena Swan accreditation in 2018, and the process of preparing that application was fundamental to developing unit ideals, and hugely beneficial to our thinking across the unit. We were not successful in our application but the Athena Swan action plan remains part of our School's research plan, and we plan to resubmit. The current History team has an even gender balance amongst its permanent staff (5 female, 5 male). Of the senior staff, 2 are male (head of subject and 1 reader) and two are female (2 course directors one of whom is also a reader), suggesting that the pathways to advancement are open to both genders equally.

We have sought to be inclusive in this submission. All History colleagues declared that they were independent researchers as part of the protocol defined by our institutional **Code of Practice** (CoP), all were accepted as independent researchers, and have been included in this submission. The CoP asked colleagues to self-identify as independent researchers whose work profile also demonstrated that they had significant responsibility for research. Declarations were considered by a panel of senior academics. During the current REF cycle, three colleagues have taken maternity leave; one male colleague took shared parental leave; and other colleagues have had other periods of leave for health reasons – all have been included because they have been supported to continue their research pathways. We have made a positive selection to reflect both the quality of publications as well as the range and breadth of temporal, geographical and thematic expertise within History.

LBU's staffing strategy is concerned with enabling all colleagues to achieve the best they can for themselves and for our university. This founding principle has been at the heart of our local activity to support colleagues. In addition to LBU's People Strategy, at local level across the unit, we undertake the following activities specifically related to research. The overarching aim of these activities is to foster a collegial environment in which research can flourish, and be sustained, to make the measures of success as transparent as possible, and to learn from success as a team.

Research mentoring to support staff research activities and profiles

All History staff participate in twice-yearly formal research mentoring, where agreement is reached on research objectives, publication plans, impact and engagement activity and objectives for applications for external income. Agreed objectives feed into the annual PDR and are recorded on the University's PDR system and signed off by a senior manager. While this may sound like a bureaucratic process, the ethos of delivery is far more thoughtful and supportive. We recognise that humanities research can be organic and iterative, which means that objectives can – and sometimes should – change across the course of a project. Our mentoring system is alive to those possibilities and can adapt to altered perspectives which derive from encounters with new thoughts, materials or issues.

Develop research via Internal and external research funding support

Several different opportunities are offered for staff to apply, on a competitive basis, for funding from the University as well as externally for their research. History staff have taken full advantage of these opportunities during this REF period:

- To promote quality grant application submissions History supports staff through a combination of internal peer review by the University's Research Service, as well as local research mentoring at School level, including critical friends' reading of applications by senior researchers. Since 2014 these processes have produced results, with external RCUK grant income awards exceeding £600,000.
- Our success with external grant income applications has followed on from initial researcher success with internal funding streams, which demonstrates the institution's investment in career development. Between 2014-16 the University Research Service offered an annual round of research cluster, early-career and mid-career funding opportunities. Irving (Early Career Researcher Development Scheme), Ewen (Mid-Career Researcher) and Rich (Mid-Career Researcher) benefitted from this investment, and all of these colleagues have subsequently achieved external grant success. The CCA has also supported staff research time and costs via its own funding scheme: Ewen and Rich have both benefited from this initiative, winning time to develop successful external funding bids.
- With an eye to future sustainability of our discipline, we have encouraged colleagues, where appropriate, to include provision for early career researchers in their projects. This has benefits for History staff as well, who develop experience in line management and research mentorship. Since 2014, 4 postdoctoral researchers have been appointed to work on the following projects: Dampier's Hobhouse Letters; Oram's Pride of Place and Queer Beyond London; Ewen's Forged by Fire; and Rich's European Cuisine.
- History colleagues are encouraged to develop their research in a supportive research culture through their participation in a regular research seminar programme, annual History lecture, a programme of 'Top Tips' sessions organized by the CCA, and other ad hoc activities such as writing retreats. Early career researchers and postgraduate students are actively encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to develop their research.

Recruitment of research students

Research students are the future of our discipline. In History we have worked hard to create a **community of scholars** who are seen as integral to the research environment as a whole. The numbers of staff and students in each of the School's subject groups are relatively small, so elements of our activity have been constructed at School level so that all students have a peer group for mutual support. Our work with students also supplements the work of our central service, the Graduate School.

Since 2014 we have recruited 11 research students (10 PhD, 1 MRes) studying in History, including 6 full-time students funded via the AHRC Heritage Consortium (HC) and North of England Consortium for the Arts and Humanities (NECAH - see below for details) from a base of 0 in 2013. Two of our MA graduates have gone on to secure AHRC Heritage Consortium funding. We also work hard to ensure that equality and inclusion are our ethos when students apply and enrol.

The two Consortia for doctoral programmes of which we are members are the HC and NECAH. The HC is coordinated by the University of Hull and consists of Bradford, Huddersfield, Hull, LBU, Northumbria, Sheffield Hallam and Teesside universities working in strategic partnership with 8 regional, national and international heritage organisations and networks, as well as with a wider network of over 70 partner organisations, to deliver doctoral training and to promote research in all aspects of heritage. The Consortium was established in 2013 and is supported by £1.85 million in postgraduate funding from the AHRC and £1.11 million provided by its seven member HEIs. History recruited 6 HC funded students during the 2014-21 period; 1 of whom successfully completed in 2019, and a second in 2020. History also has 1 student funded by the Heritage Consortium's sister organisation: North of England Consortium for Arts and Humanities. Funded by the same HEI partners, NECAH was established in 2014 to deliver doctoral training, widen access to doctoral education to students who came from outside traditional research-intensive universities, to build a distinctive community of scholars, and to promote research across all arts and humanities disciplines. All consortium students benefit from a tailored

research training programme delivered at Hull with support from the member institutions and from a greater cohort of students than any single institution can provide.

Development of our doctoral students

The development of doctoral students is a central priority. All colleagues with supervisory responsibility must undertake training and demonstrate via the University's Research Degree Sub-Committee that they are active researchers to be approved to supervise students. All colleagues in History are on that approved list. There are minimum expectations laid down by the University about what a doctoral student can expect from their Director of Studies – in History, those expectations are more than met in a supportive and collegial environment. We seek to include our students in the full range of academic activity. The students are well-resourced and strongly supported. They have dedicated office space, with computers and lockable storage. Their generic development needs are met by the Graduate School's training programme, by the School's 'Top Tips' programme (short development sessions which are open to students and staff), and by tailored sessions at the students' request. We have worked hard to build a research culture which is inclusive and open to their needs including the recent establishment of a postgraduate researcher forum where students can meet regularly with the Dean and Director of Research to discuss their place in the School, raise concerns or bring ideas to the table. Results from the most recent PRES survey (2019) at school level show that this work is bearing fruit, especially in the area of supervisory support for programmes (100% of our students reported excellent supervision).

Postgraduate research student supervision, mentoring and training

We have had 9 PhD completions since 2014. Our completion rates demonstrate the effectiveness and suitability of our training and supervision. Participation in a University Induction is compulsory for all candidates accepted for a place on a research award of the University. Students have a supervisory team which includes a Director of Studies (DoS) and a supervisor. Within 4-6 months of beginning their project, research students are expected to undertake Confirmation of Registration, where they discuss their project with senior members of the University and their supervisory team. Progress is also monitored by an annual progression meeting, chaired by senior colleagues from the School.

Research students are invited to participate in History research seminars and the annual History lecture. There is a Cultural Studies seminar for PGRs, a work-in-progress seminar, and a writing retreat, currently taking place online. Where required, we fund specialist training that they need as their research or their professional development. Their professional development needs, including ethics training, are addressed by the Graduate School's training programme.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

In 2018 the University took the strategic decision to disburse 66% of Quality Research (QR) funds to the areas which had earned them to enable those areas to plan their own strategic direction. This was subsequently increased to 100% of the QR funds. For History, this is a share of the REF2014 funds for Unit 36 – roughly a third of £165K held at School level. A substantial proportion of these monies is forward committed to support the doctoral students who were recruited via NECAH and match-funding for the HC, and other bursaries inherited from the past. The relative security of this income stream speaks to the University's commitment to its research strategy, and gives History the means to plan activity attached to the School and Centre priorities for the next period. As the match-funding elements run down from current levels, we plan that part of this money will be used to support a targeted research leave scheme.

In addition, History staff have had considerable success in securing Research Council UK (RCUK) and other grant income from both external and internal sources since 2014. History staff have been involved with 10 cross-institutional research bids involving nearly £1million for

REF2021, bringing in more than £600,000 in research income to the university. This income is shared amongst 6 staff, demonstrating an excellent spread of talent. Shore was Co-Investigator on the AHRC 'Our Criminal Ancestors' project in 2014-15 (£17,261.48) and which now forms one of History's impact case studies. The Historic England project, 'Pride of Place: LGBT Histories and Heritage' was led by Oram (£68395.30), and forms the basis of our second case study. Mostly recently (2019) is Rich, Co-Investigator on the British Academy project, 'European Cuisine and British Identity in the Age of Nationalism, 1760-1837', until 2021. That History's two impact case studies derive from research funded by external organizations evidences our collective commitment to devising exceptional research proposals with clearly embedded pathways to impact.

We have enjoyed particular success with the AHRC. Since 2014, History staff have participated, either as Principal or Co-Investigators, in 3 successful bids of more than £100,000. Dampier was P-I on the 3-year project (2016-19), 'The Emily Hobhouse Letters: South Africa in International Context, 1899-1926' (£337,096.59). Ewen is Co-I on the 'Forged by Fire: Burns Injury and British Identity, 1800-2000' project (£754,547, 2016-21). Oram was Co-I on the AHRC project (2016-19), 'Queer Beyond London: Sexuality and Locality in Brighton, Leeds, Manchester and Plymouth' (£108,213.08).

Research Infrastructure and Governance

Overall responsibility for Research in our University is under the remit of the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (DVC) for Research and Enterprise. The DVC is supported by the Director of Research and Enterprise Services who leads the various research related teams (the Graduate School for PGRs, The Research Service which supports bidding activity and the development of impact, and the Enterprise Service which has oversight of the institution's academic enterprise). DoRs provide the interface between these central services and the Schools. The work of the Research and Enterprise Services is the core business of our University's Research and Enterprise Committee, which reports directly to Academic Board, and which also has oversight of the University's Postgraduate Research Degrees Sub-Committee, and the Research Ethics Committee. The Research and Enterprise Committee scrutinises policy, procedure and practice relating to research in all its guises, and makes recommendations to Academic Board for implementation. All DoRs are members of this committee. The specific policies relating to Ethics, Open Access, Research Concordance, the HR policies that attach to HR Excellence in Research, and the policies deriving from UKCGE for PGRs have all been debated and defined by this Committee structure, and implemented at Unit level by the DoR, postgraduate tutor and Local Research Ethics Co-ordinators.

Research Ethics

All research projects, whether undertaken by staff or student, must have ethical approval before they begin. All researchers are required to undertake training in ethics to ensure that they understand their obligations. Approvals for desk-based research which does not involve human subjects are approved locally, by the research supervisor for students, or the Local Research Ethics Co-ordinator (LREC) for staff. More complex cases are considered by LRECs, and where they feel that there are particular issues that arise from the project, it may be referred to the University Ethics Committee for final decision. Annual audits of research ethics compliance are undertaken to ensure that we are meeting our ethical obligations to all human participants, and to the general ethos of good governance across the whole of our activity.

Open access

One of the ethical considerations that is new for REF2021 is the obligation, where possible, to make our research accessible to the public. All the journal articles contained in this submission comply with that requirement. The university has a fully searchable open access repository, the Leeds Beckett Repository, which is an online collection of Leeds Beckett research outputs. The Open Access Research Policy can be accessed via our library's information pages. History, in line with its commitments to engage with its various publics noted above, is strongly committed to making work available wherever possible. The institutional Open Research Policy, which

encourages staff to deposit, where copyright allows, any output type, will increase the volume of other outputs openly available.

Facilities

History is housed, alongside colleagues in English and Media, on the second floor of the Broadcasting Place Humanities Building. Completed in 2009, Broadcasting Place is a modern development of open plan offices, with individual spaces, classrooms, recently refurbished social learning and collaboration space and a few individual or shared offices. The research undertaken by History colleagues is not resource-intensive in terms of facilities. Desk space, storage, up-to-date IT as well as good library services are what History colleagues need and have.

Postgraduate students also have office space in this area. This is shared, hot-desking space, though in practice, all individuals who want to use it can make a desk their own. The advantage of co-location with our student community is that we can answer their needs quickly, and have sociable discussions as well as formal supervisions. Students report they are an embedded part of the School's culture.

Research is also supported by Libraries and Learning Innovation. The School of Cultural Studies has three dedicated subject librarians who help with the Information needs of all our PGRs, both individual and training sessions. The library is open 24/7/365. Alongside its book stock, it has excellent e-resources. It subscribes to a range of specialist databases relevant for History staff and students (British Library Newspapers Online, House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, Mass Observation Online, etc.). Its own internal offer is supplemented by a partnership with the Leeds Library (one of the oldest circulating and private members' libraries in the world) which has unique historical collections, and membership of SCONUL+ with multiple other university libraries. Postgraduates and staff are permitted extensive rights via interlibrary loan.

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

We are committed to creating a vibrant outward looking research culture. We do this through our contribution to our discipline as a whole, and its constituent sub-fields, as well as by collaborating with colleagues working at other institutions and beyond academia in the public sector. Our research has a valid contribution to make to society, not least in enabling the public and stakeholders to think historically when approaching contemporary issues. Our focus on social and cultural history requires interdisciplinary working, most obviously with English and Media, but also with potential for collaboration with urban and environmental studies, and with psychology, criminology, sociology, drama, fine art and film. These are areas where we will seek to develop partnerships both inside the University and beyond.

Contribution to the Research Base

History staff have made a significant contribution to the research base, by publishing research outputs and in providing scholarly leadership within the discipline. Our published research has been instrumental in mapping out new and emerging areas of research, including public history, urban and environmental history and the history of the emotions. Our books have ploughed new scholarly ground in international and comparative history (e.g. van Horssen's *A Town Called Asbestos*; Wright's *Great Britain and the Unifying of Italy*); utilising new methodologies (e.g. life course studies in Shore's *Youth Criminal Lives*) and bringing new or previously inaccessible primary sources to new audiences (e.g. Hignett's use of translated Czech texts in *Women's Experiences of Repression in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe*). Others have mapped out existing sub-fields, and are cited as being an important pedagogic point of reference in their sub-fields, including Ewen's *What is Urban History?*

In addition to our scholarly outputs, History includes several research leaders in our sub-fields. Our work supports the subject base and helps to foster new research. Ewen is Co-Editor of

Urban History (since 2013), and colleagues are members of editorial boards (Oram on *Women's History Review*, Rich on *Food and History*, since 2013, and *Women's History Review*, 2013-17; Mosley on *Environment and History* since 2014, which he previously edited; Andrews on *Urban History* as Social Media Editor since 2019). All colleagues in the unit are peer reviewers for journals and academic publishers and some are research council assessors. Shore is the Co-Editor for the Royal Historical Society book series, 'New Historical Perspectives' and also serves on the Royal Historical Society's Publications Committee.

History at LBU has also contributed to the discipline outside the university in other advocacy roles. Shore was co-Convenor of History UK, the independent national body promoting and monitoring history in UK Higher Education (2015-18). Goodwin was elected onto History UK's Steering Committee in 2020 and is the blog editor for the website of the journal, *Social History*. Ewen is a member of the International Committee of the European Association of Urban History (2012-20), as well as a member of the Urban History Group's Conference Committee (since 2007); Hignett is a member of the National Committee of the British Association for Soviet, Slavonic and East European Studies; Irving is Communications Officer of the Social History Society (since 2018) and a member of the advisory board for the Institute of Historical Research's Centre for the History of People, Place and Community; Morgan was an elected member of that Society's Committee (2014-17).

Colleagues have also been invited and keynote speakers at a range of conferences and events during the current REF period. Oram gave the first annual public lecture in Queer History at the University of London (2017) and the annual Stonewall public lecture at the University of Southampton (2018); Shore gave a plenary lecture at the British Association of Victorian Studies at the University of Dundee (2019), Hignett gave the keynote lecture at the Gendered Perspectives Conference at the University of Huddersfield (2018); and Ewen gave an invited lecture at the Cambridge Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge (2018).

Collaboration

Colleagues have made a considerable contribution to the research base of our discipline and work collaboratively both within the university and in the wider discipline to enhance and grow research that makes a significant impact beyond academia. Since 2014, we have collaborated, either as Principal or Co-Investigators, on UKRI funded projects (see above) with colleagues working at other universities. Historians want to work with us because of our specialised knowledge and collegiality.

These collaborations have facilitated the extension of research's reach beyond academia at the local/regional, national and international levels. This is important to us, but also connects with LBU's identity as a 'civic university' with a mission to improve the lives of local people by working alongside communities. History does this by working with local and national stakeholders, including policymakers, service providers, industry groups, and arts and cultural organizations. Oram's work with national heritage gatekeepers such as Historic England and the National Trust through the Pride of Place project has been widely recognised by national and international media outlets. Dampier's research on the Boer War campaigner Emily Hobhouse resulted in an international touring exhibition, 'War Without Glamour: Emily Hobhouse's peace activism, 1899-1926', which started at the Free State Arts Festival in South Africa (July 2019) and ended at the Liskeard Museum in Cornwall (November/December 2019), with an accompanying display at the Old Bodleian Library (September-December 2019). Others in the team work with charities and public services in order to deliver innovative public engagement in hard-to-reach communities, for example Ewen's work in sharing local histories of unsung heroism, in collaboration with the Fire Brigades Union's Red Plaque Scheme for firefighters who have died in the line of duty, which has been covered by local and national media. This kind of engagement activity is central to our rationale as outward looking historians because it connects with wider social issues, such as the inclusion of minority groups in national heritage policymaking or the commemoration of 'everyday heroes' who otherwise get forgotten.

Making a contribution to society

Historical practice is an ongoing dialogue between the past and the present and has made, and continues to make, a useful contribution to society, through the nuanced critical reflection that historians bring to discussion. We are not recent converts to this view, having been longstanding contributors to national networks of policy-facing historians, notably History & Policy, which was founded in 2002 to connect historians, policy makers and journalists to learn from each other with the expectation that a historically-reflective approach benefits policy making and delivery. Ewen, Irving, Mosley and Shore are all active participants of the History & Policy network, having given public talks and published policy papers and opinion articles on various issues in the public domain.

Since 2014, History staff have given the following talks to invited representatives of government at the Home Office as part of its regular seminar series: Shore (2015) on young criminal lives, Ewen (2016 and 2018, the first historian to be invited back to the series) on joint service delivery between the police and fire service and the emergence of fire prevention in Britain since 1945, and Irving (2020) on the lessons of the Blitz for emergency preparedness. The Head of the Home Office's Fire Safety Unit described Ewen's 2018 lecture on '**Iconic fires and the rise of fire prevention**' as 'Extremely useful ... and directly applicable to my work as head of the Fire Safety Unit. It put my current work on the Hackitt Review and Grenfell Tower Inquiry in their proper historical perspective'. History staff have also written policy papers and opinion pieces for History & Policy, using historical research to make recommendations for government in its response to emerging issues and crises. Ewen has also written two opinion pieces (in 2016 and 2017) on fire service reform, and a policy paper, based on original research, on the historical lessons behind the Grenfell Tower fire disaster. Irving has also written an opinion article on the lessons of the Blitz for emergency preparedness, again in the aftermath of Grenfell.

We regularly reconfigure our research to speak to contemporary issues and crises as they emerge. This flexibility is evident in our responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have adapted our research expertise for a world that is searching for lessons and ways to manage our everyday lives as we slowly return to a 'new normal'. Since the beginning of lockdown in March 2020, History staff (Irving and Ewen) have organised virtual research workshops on Zoom, published policy papers about the historical lessons that pertain to Covid-19 which have been read by senior officials in Public Health England and the Home Office, written blog posts about, amongst other things, the Blitz spirit (Irving) and food during Covid (Rich).

History staff have worked with other external organizations in order to effect change to the way that organizations tackle some of the pressing issues facing the contemporary world. We are active in addressing the growing environmental crisis of climate change. Van Horsen was part of the all-female crew that sailed around Britain in 2017 to raise awareness of plastic pollution and subsequently organised an Edinburgh Fringe event at ASCUS Labs as part of the eXXpedition Round Britain project. Mosley has given public talks, and published articles (2014, 2017), on the history of smoke pollution for the Friends of the Earth's project, 'Big Questions', as part of its Clean Air campaign. Irving has used historical analogy to raise public awareness of the issue of recycling and reusing waste through his partnership with Zero Waste Leeds, a local campaign group seeking to make Leeds a zero-waste city by 2030.

Engaging audiences

History has proactively developed local and regional collaboration in the following ways.

- A significant collaborative relationship with Leeds Museum and Galleries (LMAG) and LBU History led, in 2017, to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate collaboration in research. Events have included the 'Historians meet Curators' event at the Leeds Discovery Centre (2015), Irving and Ewen's involvement in the Being Human event at Leeds Museum (2016); and the Public History Workshop, with History Lab Plus and LMAG, at the Leeds Discovery Centre (2018).
- History colleagues contribute to the CCA's monthly series of Cultural Conversations in partnership with Leeds City Council and the publisher Palgrave, to bring our research to new publics. Since 2014, Dampier, Rich (twice), Shore (twice), Ewen, Oram, Goodwin,

Hignett, van Horssen, Irving, Morgan, Mosley have all presented their research to public audiences. Well over 2000 local people have attended these events, and the online archive of events gives them a helpful afterlife. Since the launch in September 2020 of a CCA podcast series, 'Culture and Covid-19', to showcase staff research through a conversational format, four historians (van Horssen, Irving, Andrews, Rich) have featured.

- History runs various events with current and future research leaders in the discipline. In 2017 we instituted the annual LBU History Lecture. Guest lecturers have included Professor Pamela Cox (University of Essex) and Professor Peter Mandler (University of Cambridge). We run a History Research Seminar, to which we invite external speakers, and which is well attended by staff and postgraduate and undergraduate students. In 2016 and 2017, the seminar received funding from the Royal Historical Society's Postgraduate Speakers Scheme. We also organise academic conferences, with strong student input to the organizational side, from the 'Exploring Experiences of Repression in the USSR and Communist Eastern Europe' conference (2017) to the 'Hero and Heroism: Then, Here and Now' conference (2019). Our PhD students are themselves active in organising events, locally and further afield, with the full support and guidance of their supervisory teams and the Heritage Consortium. These include two interdisciplinary Grim Up North conferences at Leeds Library (2016) and Hull University (2017), and the Difficult Heritage conference at the University of York (2018). The proceedings of the first Grim up North event were published in the *International Journal of Local and Regional History* (2018).
- History staff are attuned to the need to engage with the public through regular contributions to the mass media. Recent examples include van Horssen's interviews with the *New York Times*, the *Globe and Mail* and other international media outlets (October 2020) about the proposed name change to the town of Asbestos in Quebec. Media activity covers the full range and variety of staff expertise, which further demonstrates the reach and significance of our research: Dampier's Emily Hobouse project featured in the Afrikaans language daily newspaper *Die Volksblad*, published in Bloemfontein (2019); Ewen contributed to BBC Radio 4's *The Long View* episode on 'The Watson Street and Grenfell Tragedies' (2017), while Oram was interviewed for the BBC4 documentary on the artist Gluck, Britain's cross-dressing high society artist of the 1930s, 'Gluck – Who Did She Think He Was?' (2017). Staff have had articles published in, or been quoted by, *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, *BBC History Magazine*, *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, and we regularly contribute feature articles in the local and regional press. Examples include Mosley's interview in *The Yorkshire Post* about the lessons of history for cleaner air (2016) and Ewen's interview by the *Telegraph & Argus* in Bradford about a graphic novel art workshop with schoolchildren in Bradford (2019).