

Institution: University of Exeter
Unit of Assessment: UoA 21 Sociology
<p>Section 1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p><u>1.1 Overview</u></p> <p>UoA21 is principally homed in the Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology (SPA). Our research exemplifies the inclusive character of Sociology, as well as the potential for sociological approaches to combine with other disciplines. We preserve the insights of disciplinary ways of knowing – and promote these through our research-led teaching programmes - yet our innovative Research Centres and cross-cutting Research Clusters exemplify how we have established an intellectual domain with permeable boundaries. Since REF2014 we have continued our work with traditionally aligned HASS disciplines. Beyond this from of link, deriving from the Science and Technology Studies (STS) expertise of many staff, we have intensified our collaborations with those in STEM. Core to our vision has been the conviction that working at and across disciplinary edges provides a fertile ground for renewing scholarship within individual disciplines. Our approach ensures we address the complexity of major societal challenges associated with a wide diversity of topics including, artificial intelligence, evidence-based policing and agricultural policy.</p> <p>Key highlights in achieving the Unit’s REF2014 goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of high-quality staff experienced in working across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Our UoA has increased from 25.4 FTE (REF2014 was 100% submission of eligible staff) to 49.6 FTE. • The achievement of a gender balance in staffing, especially in our senior ranks (see 2.1). We currently have a negative gender pay gap. • The establishment of a new stream of research on sociologically-led Criminology. Underpinning appointments include Boyd, Dymond, Massoumi and Schwartz-Marin. Boyd and Rappert have led establishment of a highly innovative Policing Lab that includes over 50 academics from across the University as well as local, national and international officers and staff. • The diversification in external income success, including through industrial collaborations (e.g. Molyneux-Hodgson) • The development of extensive international links (see Section 4, including Thomas’ collaboration with WHO). • Publishing extensively. 46 books (sole or joint authored/edited), 551 journal articles and 172 book chapters have been published by UoA members over this REF cycle. • Furthering support for the career development of our ECRs. This has led to a number of successes in our ECR community including former PhD student and now Senior Lecturer,

Dymond. She won the 2018 *ESRC* Impact Prize for Outstanding Early Career Impact and also serves as the ECR representative to the *ESRC* Strategic Advisory Network.

1.2 Background

SPA is one of five departments within the College of Social Sciences and International Studies (SSIS) at Exeter, which itself is one of six Colleges at the University. In terms of managerial structure, the Department uses a Unit Consultative Group (UCG) consisting of the professoriate, Academic Leads (see 3.6 Institutional-Level Environment Statement (ILES)) and key representatives as the first line of discussion on departmental matters. Core administrative roles, including Director of Research (DoR) and Director of Impact (DoI), sit on College level committees and act as conduits for information exchange between Department and University structures.

The Unit submission includes 5 staff (4 of them research-only) based outside SPA but linked closely through their research focus, senior SPA mentors and/or their involvement in our Research Clusters. Three of the 5 are members of the Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health (**WCCEH** – see below).

1.3 Research and Impact Strategy

The strategic aims laid out for post-REF2014 were operationalised through the following objectives:

1) Reconstituting 2014REF Research Groupings into Research Clusters

All researchers in the Department (staff, research fellows, post-docs, doctoral students) are members of a Research Cluster. As further elaborated below, the Clusters serve as forums for discussing new projects and publications, aiding the DoR with peer review of grant applications and outputs, and supporting ECR development. Each Cluster has staff from our three core disciplines and in some cases includes participation from disciplines beyond our Unit. Many staff participate in the activities of more than one Cluster.

Table 1: Research Clusters

Name and Lead	Areas of Inquiry
Science, Technology, Knowledge & Power (SCIENCE) Lead: Michael	Researchers critically and creatively investigate scientific and traditional knowledge practices. Particular attention is paid to the intersections of responsibility, sustainability, expertise and power as they are mediated by cultural, social and material processes. Environments & Livelihoods and Philosophy of Biology are sub-groups.
Health & (well)Being (HEALTH) Lead: Schillmeier	Focuses on diverse aspects of human and environmental health, wellbeing, care and animal welfare; examining issues such as dis/ability, the meaning of life, chronic illness, loneliness, and the measurement of wellbeing. Sub-groups include Life Courses and Multispecies Interaction.
Mind & Materiality (MIND) Lead: Colombetti	Situating 'the mind' in its broadest cultural context including intersubjective interactions, sociocultural practices, and material culture is a key concern. Researchers share interests across questions about

	the nature of the mind, consciousness, embodiment, emotion, perception, memory, addiction and mental health.
Culture & Ethics (CULTURE) Lead: Tyler	Members examine culture in action, production of differences and otherness, and everyday ethics. Foci include conviviality and racism, the life-worlds of local, national and European belonging as well as critical analysis of forms of cultural production (such as art, food, music/sound and literature).
Inequalities, Marginality & Resistance (INEQUALITIES) Lead: Masquelier	Researchers deploy a range of theoretical and empirical approaches to the analysis of social relations and the production of inequalities and forms of resistance. Topics such as educational disparities and social movement alternatives are investigated using quantitative tools, ethnographies of humans and non-humans, and social and moral critique.
Crime, Violence & Policing (CRIME) Lead: Dymond	Focuses on practices of violence, including how it is defined, enacted and re-produced. The intersection of violence and accountability is key: how violence is rendered (in)visible, how violence and counter-violence interventions are evidenced, and how redress and justice can be promoted.

All of our Clusters are underpinned by an ethos that promotes **research ethics and research integrity**, and by processes in line with the University's commitment to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (ILES 2.9). Our departmental Ethics Officer is a member of the College Ethics Committee. This Committee has the support of a university Research Ethics Officer. We are not only committed to furthering Open Access to our publications (3.2), staff in SPA have provided internal, national and international efforts to foster Open Science more broadly. For instance, **Leonelli** has played a prominent international role in promoting Open Science: acting as group leader within the European Commission's Open Science Policy Platform (2016-2019); chairing Working Groups on FAIR Data, OS Skills and Education, and Future of Publishing; leading the Working Group on Open Science for the Global Young Academy (2012-2017); and serving on the Philosophy of Science Association's Ad Hoc Committee for Open Access Monograph Publishing (2018-2020), among other activity. **Leonelli** also chairs the Research Data Management task force at the University, facilitating Open Science practices and ensuring our Unit is at the centre of supporting research culture. Our UoA is 100% ORCID registered.

2) *Fostering growth in centres of excellence*

SPA hosts two major University designated 'Research Centres' that are composed of core and affiliated academics across a range of disciplines.

- a) Originating in the *ESRC* Genomics and Society initiative from 2002, the Exeter Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences (**Egenis**) continues with internationally recognised systematic research into the ideas, practices and socio-political implications of modern biosciences – including the cognitive, biomedical, environmental and agricultural sciences. Egenis is Directed by **Dupré** and **Leonelli**, both of whom held 5-year *ERC* awards during this REF cycle. ECR appointments (e.g., **Currie**, **Walsh**, **Wilkinson**) have ensured sustainability of Egenis in cutting edge topics. Interdisciplinary engagements on topics from SCIENCE, HEALTH, MIND and INEQUALITIES clusters are evidenced by associated

outputs, staff involvement in STEM-facing Institutes at Exeter (3.2) and the range of collaborative activities undertaken by Egenis members (4.2).

- b) The Centre for Rural Policy Research (**CRPR**) joined SPA (from Politics) in 2017 to extend our competences in rural and environmental sociology. CRPR consists of a multi-disciplinary team of social scientists that contribute to SCIENCE, HEALTH, and CULTURE clusters. Staff focus on agri-environmental management and associated policy development and evaluation (**Lobley** and **Winter**), historical and contemporary agricultural change and restructuring (**Lobley** and **Winter**), knowledge controversies (**Cassidy**), livelihoods in food and agriculture (**West** and **Lobley**), artisan foods and cultural heritage (**West**) and land and sea spaces (**Gustavsson**). Alongside an extensive research portfolio (3.1), CPPR staff play an active role in the development of rural, agricultural and food policy (4.2).

SPA shares leadership in two other major University designated and interdisciplinary 'Research Centres'.

- a) The University **Q-Step** Centre is a collaboration with the Department of Politics. It was established in 2013 as one of the original *Nuffield/ESRC/HEFCE* funded initiatives to improve the quantitative skills base for social sciences. Exeter Q-Step recently gained partner status in the extended *ESRC* investment of £2.8m in the NCRM (2020-2024) and in that role will promote open access to methods training as well as training in the principles of reproducibility, transparency and data stewardship for PhD researchers. SPA staff are advancing topical work and methodological standards in relation to INEQUALITIES (**Bessudnov** in ethnicity, **Playford** in education), CULTURE (**Elliott** and **Peri-Rotem** in relation to Life Courses) and CRIME (**Boyd** and **Dymond** in relation to policing).
- b) **WCCEH** produces transformative and engaged health research. The Centre Director (**Green**), two of the three Co-Directors (**Fitzgerald**, **Thomas**), a Centre academic (**Dolezal**) and 2 research fellows (**Jones**, **Poleykett**) are associated with SPA. WCCEH provides a hub for post-docs (with 11 Research Fellows) and a vital basis for activities in the SCIENCE, HEALTH, MIND and INEQUALITIES clusters. Aligned to this, in 2016 the Exeter WHO Collaborating Centre for Culture and Health was launched (**Thomas** is co-director). In November 2020, WCCEH received an extension to funding (£1.4 million) to take forward a new research programme to include:
- collaboration with Egenis to establish the *Exploring Society with COVID* platform, based on existing strengths and the range of activity prompted from March 2020 onwards;
 - a research programme on the Healing City (**Fitzgerald**, **Green**);
 - sustaining research in ageing and dying, and health across the life course (**Elliott**, **Kavedžija**) to link to a new University strategic theme.

After REF2014, we invested in additional expertise in human-animal relations to build capacity in 'more than human' relations and with a view to developing this as a future centre of excellence. New research in consumption (**Dugnoille**) and inter-species politics (**Cassidy**) furthers the

CULTURE, SCIENCE, INEQUALITIES and HEALTH clusters. Alongside this, **Hurn** leads the Exeter Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (**EASE**) group, founded in 2016 using a philanthropic donation of £750k to establish a research and postgraduate hub on human-animal interaction. **West** and **Cassidy** are in the University Centre for Human-Animal-Environment Bioarchaeology (HumAnE), with **Cassidy** now Co-I on a large interdisciplinary and multi-organisation Wellcome Collaborative Award as a result (2020-24, £1.4m).

3) Promoting interdisciplinary interactions

While reorganisation into Clusters has underpinned the practical and subject focused support for research activity, multi-disciplinary collaboration is promoted through Centres (as above) and through selected thematics, such as our cross-cutting expertise in **Data Studies**. Our success in this area is exemplified by a series of successful funded initiatives across SCIENCE, HEALTH and CRIME, including by **Michael** (*Australian Research Council*, 2019-21), **Leonelli** (*Alan Turing Institute*: 2019-22; *ERC* 2014-19), **Schwartz-Marin** (*ESRC* 2018-20) and **Wilson-Kovacs** (*ESRC* 2018-21). Data in all its forms is of interest including, for example, the data generated and managed in other disciplines (e.g., **Currie**'s work with Archaeology). The (re)analysis of existing data sets (**Green, Elliott**), qualitative comparative analysis (**Masquelier**) and new approaches to mixing qualitative and quantitative data (**Elliott**) are each emerging areas of strength. **Tempini**'s appointment in 2019 is affiliated with the University Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (*IDSAI*) and will facilitate cross-University collaborations. Monday mornings normally figure the weekly breakfast meeting titled 'Data Crunch', which brings together SPA and University-wide colleagues (including from Maths, Computer Science, Business School) to discuss research and build links for medium and longer term grant opportunities. This informal group also enables PGRs and ECRs to discuss their work openly across disciplines.

Discussion (and lively debate!) of topics is supported through a base of reading groups and seminar programmes that are aligned to our Research Clusters and Research Centres. *Cognition and Culture* (MIND), *Science & Technology Studies* (SCIENCE), *Health and Wellbeing/Sociology of Covid* (HEALTH), and the *Egenis Research Exchange* (SCIENCE) are the main reading groups and are usually coordinated by doctoral students as a professional development experience. The SPA *Work-in-Progress* meetings, *Egenis Seminar Series* (SCIENCE, INEQUALITIES), *Q-Step Seminar* (CRIME, INEQUALITIES), *CRPR seminar* (CULTURE, SCIENCE) and *WCCEH seminar and workshop programme* (HEALTH, SCIENCE) are the means through which internal and external speakers present and engage with Unit members. Both reading groups and seminars involve engagement across career stages and include devices to promote inclusion (e.g., PGR-first Q&A, PGR presentations).

We tackle innovative approaches to methods using the triple disciplinary makeup of the Unit and the research thematics that go across staff's work, inside and beyond our Department and College. Thus, we pursue new knowledge in, for example, quantitative methods, ontologies, co-creation, and mixed methods, in tandem with substantive interests (e.g., **Tyler**'s £750k *ESRC* project combining ethnographic and quantitative media analysis of identity and Brexit). There is also an emphasis on praxis: we research on methodological matters and actively seek to engage in practices that exemplify them (e.g., process-oriented methods (**Schillmeier**); speculative design (**Michael**); 'extreme' collaborations (**Molyneux-Hodgson**); appraisal, evaluation and policy development (**Winter**); and philosophy in practice (**Leonelli**)). Researchers actively contribute to academic debates about the meaning of disciplinarity. This is evident in publications such as

Rethinking Interdisciplinarity across the Social Sciences and Neurosciences (**Fitzgerald**), *Routledge Handbook of Interdisciplinary Methodology* (**Michael**, co-editor), *The Matrix of Stem Cell Research* (**Hauskeller**) as well as journal editorial work (e.g., *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* - **Molyneux-Hodgson**).

4) Supporting early career staff

Since REF2014, 20 staff have joined the Unit as new Lecturers. Under a revised University promotional framework (3.3 ILES), the initial probation period for Lecturers has been shortened from 5 to 3 years, with all staff supported to Senior Lecturer within 5 years. As with academic staff in general, early career staff are mentored by a senior academic (Academic Lead, AL) in relation to their publications and funding strategies. This mentorship is underpinned by University-wide procedures and training for ensuring research integrity (2.9 ILES).

We support a thriving environment for ECRs through promoting intellectual exchange. Egenis, for instance, normally hosts 9 postdoctoral fellows at any one time and around 16 Visiting Associates per year. Egenis co-organises two biennial international summer schools (European Summer School for the Philosophy of Biology and the Ischia Summer School for the History of Biology). The Q-Step Centre runs a research seminar & training programme to allow non-Q-Step ECRs researchers to upskill in mixed and quantitative techniques.

As a Unit we recognise that the appointment, mentoring and promotion of open and fixed term contract staff is of fundamental importance to ensuring the sustainability of our research environment. As with other academic staff, ECRs complete an induction process that signposts to information on HR policies and benefits, such as flexible working provisions, parental leave, and Equality and Diversity (see 3.4, 3.15-16 ILES). Academic Leads are appointed automatically and annual development reviews undertaken. Our Department's structured support for ECRs has been underpinned by the University's adoption of the 1996, 2008 and 2019 Concordats to support the career development of researchers (3.8 ILES).

See Section 2.2 for a further elaboration of people development as it pertains to ECRs.

5) Collaborating with non-academic partners

As part of our ethos of seeking to address societal challenges through research that spans disciplines (see Section 4), Unit staff have developed extensive collaborations with non-academic partners. As detailed in this statement, staff such as **Leonelli**, **Molyneux-Hodgson**, **Rappert**, **Thomas** and **Winter** are immersed research projects with non-academics. As appropriate, collaboration is facilitated by a departmental DoI (currently **Lobley**). The DoI liaises with a College-level DoI (also currently based in SPA (**Elliott**)), support services in our College and in the University as whole (3.2) in order to support staff activities. Our impact strategy has been to support long-standing collaborations associated with senior staff, to encourage junior staff to develop their own non-academic links, and through supporting joint activities between junior and senior colleagues. Evidence for the last of these points is demonstrated by two of our ICSs led by a junior colleague (**Dymond**) but supported by senior ones.

1.4 Strategy for Next REF Period

Unit strategy is developed through discussion at UCG, annual review of individual research plans, SPA awaydays and participation in College-wide activity. From this, and building on our efforts to consolidate and selectively expand our research strengths, our triple overarching aims for the coming period are:

- To advance cross-cutting expertise that underpins our Research Clusters. More specifically, we have identified Data Studies, Infrastructures, and the Environment as areas to develop. The topics are both open to study from our constituent disciplines but also able to foster interdisciplinary connections between them. These areas of expertise will mean we are well placed to deepen our links with major science and engineering-led University research Institutes (3.2);
- To progress novel research practice by developing larger, cross-discipline, social science led research programmes with disciplines across our University and beyond. The 2020 appointment of **Molyneux-Hodgson** to College Associate Dean for Research will further support SPA's engagement with future institutional and external priorities;
- To sustain and renew our Research Centres in order to meet shifting societal challenges and a changing research funding context.

We will achieve our aims through the following specific objectives:

- Maintain levels of individual and team funding applications across all levels (ECR to Senior) and improve quality through structured support and collegiate peer review;
- Expand our efforts to lead on internal, national and international efforts to promote Open Access, Open Data and Open Science;
- Make new appointments aligned with our strategy to foster cross-cutting expertise;
- Further diversify our funding sources through increasing collaboration with other disciplines and with external partners;
- Increase research activity at a global level, aided by a new role of Director for Global Engagement (**Hauskeller**) and working with the University's Global Partnership team (4.11 ILES).

Further integration of impact activity throughout the research lifecycle will be achieved, through increased engagement with communities, pursuing strategic partnerships, and via a new Policy@Exeter initiative.

To support our future research strategy, we are active in the development of a new R&I Strategy for the University, aiming to increase the visibility of our involvement in large institutional and cross-institutional research programmes.

Section 2. People

2.1 People and Recruitment Strategy

Aided by institutional support for growth (25.4 to 49.6 FTE), our strategy has been to expand the number of staff in a targeted manner: a) to ensure resilience in our core research strengths; b) to reach into cognate fields and topics to enable growth in areas of interest; and c) to strengthen cross-disciplinary forms of working that feed off our constituent disciplines. The last of these was a continuation of the strategy emerging from REF2008 that had identified growth in capacity and strengthening cross-discipline links as priorities.

Our growth has been rooted in an attention to equality and diversity concerns. For instance, the REF2014 included one full Professor that identified as female (**DeNora**) whereas this submission includes 8 Cat A female full Professors (**Colombetti, DeNora, Elliott, Green, Hauskeller, Kelly, Leonelli, Molyneux-Hodgson**). Table 2 provides an FTE breakdown of the 49.6 staff in our UoA by grade and sex. Half of our UoA (n=25) have non-British nationalities (including American, Russian, Mexican, and Israeli).

Table 2: UoA Staffing

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Ratio of UoA Staff</i>	<i>Female to Male Comparisons</i>
Professor	15.1 : 49.6	7.6 : 7.5
Associate Professor	4.5 : 49.6	3 : 0.5
Senior Lecturer	16 : 49.6	5 : 11
Lecturer	10 : 49.6	5 : 5
Research Fellow	4 : 49.6	4 : 0

Strategic appointments at both Lecturer and Professorial levels enabled a reformulation of our Research Clusters to promote sustainability. Alongside, there have been some significant staff departures and retirements during the REF cycle (**A. Kelly; Pickering; King; Inglis; M. Hauskeller; Müller-Wille**). With some of these exits we have strengthened our research links to other leading Centres (e.g., HPS at Cambridge via Müller-Wille). We anticipate a small number of retirements in the short-term future and have succession plans in place.

New appointments specifically enhanced sociological capacity in STS in 2016 (**Molyneux-Hodgson, Michael**) to take this research focus in new directions. A set of 3 appointments in Philosophy in 2018 has sustained capacity and strengthened specific foci across disciplines (i.e., **Walsh** with history; **Currie** with archaeology; **Wilkinson** with psychiatry). Further appointments in sociology and anthropology enabled the strengthening of existing foci on food (**West, Gustavsson, Dugnoille**), wellbeing (**Elliott, Kavedžija**), and culture and conflict (**Hughes**). Our HEALTH cluster has been greatly enhanced by the addition of **Dolezal, Green, Fitzgerald, Jones, Poleykett, Thomas and Wilkinson**, linking sociology and philosophy approaches to health and medicine.

The number of research-only staff has grown since REF2014, with 10 in 2014 and gradually moving up to 19 in 2019 (with 17 at Nov. 2020) in part reflecting success with independent fellowship competitions.

Only 3 of our Cat A submitted staff are on fixed-term contracts: **Gustavsson, Jones and Poleykett**, with each being mentored toward an open contract.

2.2 People Development

Activity in the Department that supports staff's intellectual and career development is comprehensive and includes: organised training; an all-Department seminar series; Research Cluster meetings; topic-focussed reading groups; internal peer review of grant applications and draft research papers; formal and informal mentoring schemes and workload monitoring and action (e.g. cross-annual teaching compensation). The following points in this sub-section should be read alongside the financial and infrastructure support outlined in 3.2.

At the Department level, the leadership team operate a range of support mechanisms. For example, the DoR conducts regular meetups with individual members of staff, supports induction processes for new staff, and provides on-demand advice to staff at all levels of career. The DoR hosts termly Research Away Days that both focus on a specific theme (e.g., writing cross-discipline bids) and provide a whole-department opportunity to discuss and embed research culture (e.g. recent news, emerging international collaborations, sharing stories). Away Days are also used to support research strategy development, ensuring all staff can take part in understanding how Unit level goals can be set and to input to priority setting. Developmental sessions for first-timer Principal Investigators provide a combination of advice, problem-solving, peer mentoring support and a social occasion (sessions take place in the form of an after-work 'wine and whine'). The DoR coordinates peer review of grants and papers on an as needed basis and is responsible for holding discussions with individuals applying for specified funding schemes that require internal demand management. The aim is to provide a 'wraparound' support context.

The HoD holds weekly drop-in sessions for staff and draws on an ECR Advisory group for specific issues as they arise. The HoD, DoR and Director of Education (DoE) work together to ensure that Department activity can be co-ordinated across areas of work (e.g., teaching loads, for example, are managed annually in response to individual progression requirements, research buy-out, and study leave). Workload management entails a rolling review of loads (averaged over 3 years) and can include reduction of teaching and/or administrative duties to ensure parity and facilitate research.

Academic Leads (ALs) are responsible for conducting the annual development review (PDR) for individual staff. This process reflects on an individual's past year goals and sets new aims for the year and medium term timescales. Following finalisation of the annual PDR cycle, the UCG (which includes ALs) convenes to discuss common themes and issues across the staff body and identifies any measures to be taken at department level or beyond (e.g., actions for the University professional development team).

The organisation of department level support for people development operates alongside a set of structures, policies and resources provision at College and University levels. All new appointees undergo University and College level induction processes (3.6 ILES), dealing with governance, institutional decision-making, career progression routes and development support provision across various support services. The training and progression provision mobilises across all career stages, for example:

- Early career academics have time allocated in the workload model to participate in the University Professional Development Programme (PDP) that supports new lecturers throughout their probation period. For new academics, the PDP structure provides guidance and targets and this segues into the PDR following confirmation of successful probation. This staff group are concurrently enrolled in the Academic Professional (AP) programme designed to lead to Fellowship of the HEA. Annual review and training contribute to a progression structure that is supported in the Department by the AL and wider leadership team.
- Established academics have access to a range of leadership and development provision provided by the University (e.g., The Leadership Difference; Purposeful Leaders).

Support structures for research staff on fixed term contracts mirror those for permanent staff. Postdoctoral researchers are allocated a mentoring AL to provide guidance and conduct annual reflections, with wider career support being recognised as crucial. Postdoctoral staff are supported through Cluster meetings, formal mentoring, internal peer review and systematic processes for bid applications to facilitate progress towards research independence underpinned by research integrity. Similar developmental support is available to doctoral researchers and a good example of our environment is illustrated by our PGR cohort winning funding from GW4 Universities in 2019 for workshops on *Writing Ethnographically*.

The dedicated central university training and development programme for ECRs, which includes bespoke training support and Careers Coaching, is mapped against Concordat for Researcher Development and evidenced by HR Excellence awards (3.8 ILES). Researchers can access financial support for conference attendance, networking and external training. Where appropriate to career goals, researchers are encouraged to develop skills in workshop and conference organisation, social media management and other transferable skills. Researchers pursuing Fellowship positions (e.g., *ESRC* PDFs, *BA/Leverhulme*, etc.) receive support from their ALs, DoR, Research Services and the Innovation, Impact and Business Directorate (IIB – 3.2). College level provisions include hustings events and grant writing workshops. Where a researcher is aiming for an academic career, teaching opportunities are provided including student seminar leadership and lecturing. Researchers in SPA were central to the establishment of the HASS ECR Network in the university, bringing together a supportive network. ECRs also feed into the University-wide ECR Liaison Forums, via which they have formal representation and a governance role in the University.

The structures and resources described above ensure that people's development can be realised across different levels of support and intervention. We create an environment in which development opportunities are made available to everyone and aim to be responsive to needs as they emerge (e.g., grant management advice for first-time PIs was identified as one area in need of investment and the DoR constituted a support mechanism in response (3.2)).

2.3 Research Students

We have a vibrant and diverse community of PGR students who are integral to the research culture of the Department - we currently host 81 PGR students and this number has grown year by year. A total of 54 PGR students have successfully completed since 2013/14 compared with 42.9 in the REF2014 period. In addition to the UK, our students come from over thirty different countries. All

have allocated desk spaces in close proximity to academic staff and in all of the buildings in which Unit staff are housed.

PGR recruitment is overseen by the Director of Doctoral Studies for Admissions (**Colombetti**) with responsibility for ensuring the quality and academic standards of the students recruited. Research students need a good first degree (a 2:1 or above), and a Masters level qualification in a relevant discipline (or evidence of comparable relevant expertise). Applicants need to submit a high quality research proposal, which together with indicators of past performance and an informal interview with potential supervisors, constitutes the main basis for the admission decision. Our recruitment benefits from the department being part of the ESRC South West DTP (SWDTP), the AHRC South West and Wales DTP (SWWDTP) and the UKRI Environmental Intelligence: Data Science & AI for Sustainable Futures DTC. Further funding options which the Department has secured include competitive University-level scholarships, such as the Global Excellence Scholarship.

1) Training, support and collaboration

SPA and University training for research students is extensive. Each student's training needs are assessed by their supervisor(s) at the beginning of each year. Students are then directed to Masters modules and other courses they need to attend. The multi-disciplinary nature of the Department facilitates access to a wide range of different Masters modules. All PGR students have two supervisors, selected to complement substantive, theoretical and methodological expertise. This also facilitates staff collaboration. PGR students also have an independent academic mentor. An electronic system, *MyPGR*, introduced University-wide in 2010, is a shared record-keeping space. This is now a well-established tool and has enhanced the efficiency of supervision processes. PGR activity more broadly is led within the unit by the Director of Doctoral Studies (DDS) (**Elliott**). This includes regular PGR seminars where students present their work and gain feedback from peers. A staff and student postgraduate research conference organised through the SWDTP is held annually, run by the graduate students with support from their supervisors. In addition, each summer our SPA PGR students hold a two-day internal PGR conference, with funding support from the Doctoral College and the Department. This provides opportunities for students to present their work to a wide audience and brings in leading external experts to provide keynotes specific to the conference themes that the students have chosen. Additionally, students are empowered to develop their own responses to development needs. For example, in 2018 students established a series of varied disciplinary encounters (SPA responses to films addressing contemporary concerns), and in 2019 PGR students set up an anthropology reading group. PGR students are integral to Departmental research seminars and reading groups organised by Centres and Research Clusters. Indeed, our Sociology of Covid reading group, established in April 2020 is led by a PGR student (**Buckler**). Our Cognition and Culture reading group is jointly hosted by an academic and a PGR student (**Colombetti** and **Sims**) as is the Egenis Research Exchange (**Leonelli** and **Jones**).

In line with ESRC/AHRC policy, our aim is to maintain an inclusive research culture, so that individual students feel part of a community of learning. The establishment of a Doctoral College across the University in 2015 has enabled significant enhancement of support mechanisms for doctoral scholars, alongside a series of campaigns and expansion of wellbeing services, and significant increases in training opportunities through a university-wide Researcher Development Programme.

All students have access to library and ICT facilities. The unit provides equipment for data-collection and specialist software for quantitative and qualitative data-analysis (e.g., NVivo). The established Q-Step Centre and the new MSc in Policy Analytics (2017-) has increased the range of quantitative software and training available for students (including R and Python). There is dedicated desk space for students in Byrne House and Lazenby House, where Egenis and CRPR are located. These include social spaces for meeting and networking. The Forum Library was extended in 2012 as part of a £50m programme of building and refurbishment of student facilities, offering high quality study space to PGRs 24/7.

2) Progress monitoring

The establishment of the Doctoral College prompted an overhaul of the upgrade system (shifting from 18 months to 12 months) to assist in faster and more effective completions. All research students aiming for a PhD are now admitted as MPhil/PhD students: in order to have their PhD status confirmed, students submit a portfolio of work for feedback and assessment by a panel of two (non-supervising) academics. This portfolio is discussed in an 'Upgrade Viva' before completion of the first year of study. There is an Annual Monitoring Review system, so as to better capture the student experience and any difficulties or training needs which students may encounter. Towards the end of the study period, mock vivas are provided; notices of fellowship opportunities, follow-on funding, etc. are circulated, and SPA staff allocated to support applications.

3) Outcomes

Of the 54 PhD students completing during the review period, the majority have gone on to university posts. We have information about the destinations of 48 doctoral students, and of these 34 remain in academia (6 in lecturing posts in the UK and 7 in lecturing posts internationally). A further 21 former students are now working as research fellows. Of those who have departed academia, five are working for NGOs, and six are in other professional roles including Social Scientist, at SCK-CEN, Belgian National Nuclear Laboratory (**Hietala**) and Senior Commissioning Editor at Wiley (Medical Education, Nursing, and Allied Health) (**Watson**).

2.4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Our commitment to EDI is manifold.

The University was awarded a Silver Athena Swan award in 2018. In terms of staff recruitment, we actively implement university-wide policies and processes designed to promote inclusivity and diversity (3.14-3.16 ILES). For instance, our academic recruitment panels are led by the HoD and other senior academics (such as DoR), but we actively incorporate ECRs to diversify perspectives and ensure appropriate gender balance.

As noted previously, representation of women at the Full Professor level has dramatically increased since REF2014, with 4 of the new Professors promoted internally and 3 externally recruited. Leadership of research clusters (3 Female: 3 Male) and the team of Academic Leads (6 Female: 5 Male) – the main route for staff mentoring and annual review – are evenly distributed by gender.

In terms of pay, across the SPA payroll, female staff are paid more hourly than males (6.5% mean, 7.6% median).

SPA is committed to improving its policies and practices with regard to other dimensions of EDI. **Leonelli** and **Tyler** play central roles in the Department, College and University Equality and Diversity structures, including the new University EDI strategy to cover 2019-2025. As part of this, they sit on the College's EDI committee which is committed to analysing and addressing barriers to access/ inequalities across all aspects of the University. This Committee (which reports into the College Executive Group) meets monthly to progress the EDI agenda and ensure the College and the UoAs within it are achieving their EDI objectives in both teaching and research. From 2019/20 the department meets to develop a strategy to decolonialise our research and teaching, including the exchange of useful resources and establishment of common guidelines.

Dugnoille is a University *Speak Out* champion, to counteract harassment and discriminatory practices. **Rappert** has served as the UCU College representative for all but one year in the full REF cycle.

In her new role as College ADR, **Molyneux-Hodgson** is leading on an anti-racism action plan and heading a cross-College working group to analyse and act on inequities in grant applications and awards across the entire University. This includes leading an institutional task and finish group to develop a stronger understanding of application behaviour by under-represented groups (and particularly how this has been impacted by Covid-19). The expectation is that this quantitative and qualitative analysis will ensure that support structures can be refined to ensure that they are accessible for all. The ideas and actions identified by the task and finish group will shape the research planning activity for the UoA going forward.

SPA staff have also played a role in EDI within professional associations. **Leonelli** served as the Senior Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus of the European Philosophy of Science Association (2015-19). In that role she introduced childcare at biennial conferences and inaugurated a keynote series specifically dedicated to EDI issues in philosophy of science at the 2016 EPSA conference. **Massoumi** is co-convenor of the British Sociological Association Race and Ethnicity Study group. In this role, she reviews proposals and makes funding decisions. She also runs a mentorship scheme for race and ethnicity scholars where support is provided to early career researchers through allocating senior academic mentors.

SPA and the university as a whole (2.8 ILES) also regard Open Access to research publications, and Open Science more broadly, as important dimensions of inclusion and integrity associated with the academy (1.3).

Section 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1 Income, diversity of sources and income generating strategy

To cultivate a strong research environment and support our research community, we have sought to both grow and diversify our research income. Even with Department expansion, 73% of staff have held external awards at our University during the REF period, across all career stages. The AL system, the nourishing research environment of reading groups, workshops and seminar

programmes, the Cluster structure and peer-to-peer support all contribute towards a productive approach to income generation.

For REF2014, the ESRC Egenis Centre funding served as the prime source of Unit income. With that funding ceasing in 2012, we engaged in a deliberate strategy to a) sustain but evolve Egenis as an intellectual centre and to b) diversify UK and non-UK income sources for Egenis and the wider Unit.

In Egenis, **Dupré's** *ERC* Advanced grant (2013-2017 - €2m) and **Leonelli's** *ERC* Starting grant (2014-2019 - €1m) have provided foundational support for Egenis and its activities. Additional funding sources indicate the ability of staff to collaborate with the life and physical sciences, for example:

- **Dupré's** 'Representing Biology as Process' *AHRC* grant (2017-2020) has Exeter biologist James Wakefield as Co-I
- **Molyneux-Hodgson** is Co-I on an *EPSRC* Advanced Fellowship on nuclear engineering hosted by University of Sheffield (2016-2021)
- **Hauskeller** was a co-PI in a team with 20 cardiologists from across Europe and 2 SMEs, on a €6 Million academic clinical trial (*EU FP 7*)
- **Leonelli** holds a £400k *Alan Turing Project* award (2019-2021) and is a Co-I to the *UKRI* Centre for Doctoral Training in Environmental Intelligence: Data Science & AI for Sustainable Futures (with the College of Engineering).

The addition of a 'responsible innovation' strand to Egenis work has allowed external partner links to expand to include collaboration with academic lab spaces and the biotech industry (e.g., **Molyneux-Hodgson**, Co-I DETOX (BBSRC: 2016 – 2021)). Such cutting-edge *responsible innovation in practice* projects produce impact across the sociological-technical divide (e.g., the ReAlChem project worked directly with a biotech SME (£285k, iUK: 2017-209). We are expanding work that reaches into novel or neglected spaces that require sociological (re)interrogation e.g., the Nuclear Societies programme (**Molyneux-Hodgson**) *ESRC*, *EPSRC*, *RWM*, *BGS*: 2014 – 2021.

CRPR has sought grants and philanthropic funds from a diverse range of funding sources in order to ensure its long term viability. These include:

- *DEFRA* (e.g., the Sustainable Intensification Platform Project 'Opportunities and risks for farming and the environment at landscape scales' (2014-17, £2m))
- *Wellcome Trust* (e.g., 'From 'Feed the Birds' to 'Do Not Feed the Animals' (2020-24, £1.4m))
- *John Oldacre Foundation* (The threats, challenges and opportunities for UK agriculture (£1million))
- *EU InterReg* (e.g., Biocultural Heritage Tourism (2018-21, £307k))

Other sources of funding for CRPR include *Natural England*, *EPSRC*, *NERC*, and the *Prince's Countryside Fund*.

In line with our strategy to drive support for our ECRs, we have seen an outstanding pipeline of early career academics who have secured notable funding awards, e.g., **Gustavsson** (*ESRC New*

Investigator Award), **Dymond** (*ESRC Future Research Leaders*) and **Massoumi** (*British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow*). As mentioned in Section 1, SPA staff now lead WCCEH and it recently received a funded extension for a new exciting programme of research.

We were successful in winning three *UKRI Covid-19 rapid response* grants during the Spring 2020 lockdown: **Winter** and **Lobley** are addressing how the pandemic has affected food systems; **Tyler** leads a mixed methods award on 'Identity, Inequality, and the Media in Brexit-COVID-19-Britain'; **Dolezal** leads the *AHRC rapid response* award 'Scenes of Shame and Stigma in COVID-19' that will complement her new £1.46m *Wellcome Collaborative Award* (2020-2025).

This overview of income sources and grant portfolio evidences the robust and supportive environment we have created for staff to succeed in pursuing their research questions.

3.2 Infrastructure, funding and facilities

SPA has multifaceted procedures and policies underpinning support for research activity. The DoR (including **Kelly**, **Molyneux-Hodgson** and **Rappert** in this cycle) manages the application process and structures support as needed. All applications undergo internal peer-review prior to submission. With particular emphasis on ECRs, the ALs and Research Cluster Leads serve as key sources of support for the review process as well as support for any subsequent steps of the award lifecycle (e.g., responding to peer review comments). These Leads also serve as important sources of assessment for internal demand management.

For administrative support, we draw on the expertise of professional services staff in two University directorates (see 4.5 ILES). One is Research Services whose staff directly support our funding goals through providing advice and support in relation to proposal development, costings, funder criteria and other considerations. They provide intelligence on opportunities through devices such as the Research Toolkit (see 4.7 ILES) and monthly newsletters. They organise training for bid development, grant interviews, research impact and other aspects associated with grant applications through internal and external (e.g., Institute of Government) speakers. We also draw on the IIB directorate. It supports our external relationship building and non-academic research engagement activity. Each directorate provides a single point of contact for our Department. Both support teams contribute to post-award grant management (e.g., through financial reporting requirements and 'impact acceleration' provisions). Alongside the direct input from professional services teams, institutional structures to aid research activity are found at multiple scales within the university (see Section 4 ILES). For instance, the Funder Advisory Networks provides advice, training and review tailored to specific major funders.

As part of our overall aim to promote joint inquiry with sciences, members of our UoA actively participate in major University research Institutes (1.3 ILES). For instance, **Cassidy** is a member of the *Global Systems Institute (GSI)*; **Dymond**, **Boyd** and **Peri-Rotem** collaborate with the *Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (IDSAI)*; **Dupré** had an embedded researcher based in the *Living Systems Institute (LSI)* building. SPA interactions with *GSI* are co-ordinated by **Schwartz-Marin**, who is the ECR rep on the *GSI* Management Board. **Leonelli** is Theme Lead for the "Data Governance, Algorithms and Values" foci of the *IDSAI*, and plays an active role in Institute management. She is also Co-I of the *Wellcome Trust* Institutional Strategic Support Fund (supporting the Exeter Translational Knowledge Exchange, 2016-21) based at the *LSI*.

Numerous opportunities are provided to staff to assist new research ventures and to establish research networks within and beyond the UK, including:

University-level provisions

EU Facilitation Fund - to enable interactions with European partners and facilitate opportunities to join or lead EU calls for proposals. For instance, **Molyneux-Hodgson's** facilitation grant underpinned a successful H2020/EURATOM project on medical applications of ionising radiation (2020-2023).

GCRF Facilitation Fund – **Rappert** chaired the University-wide GCRF Strategy Group (2017-2019) that oversee this fund.

Global Partnerships – funds are available for inbound and outbound academic travel to develop and expand relationships with world-class partner universities globally. SPA staff received 13 awards since 2015 to visit, and bring in, overseas researchers across Asia, North America, Europe and Australasia.

ESRC IAA - staff have led 20 successful impact orientated projects with an overall total of £649k (featuring over £270k of ESRC funding). For instance, **Boyd** and **Rappert** secured a series of awards, including an IAA Strategic Award, to enable the University and Devon and Cornwall Police to establish and co-manage a fund that has supported six collaborative research projects between the two organisations.

GW4 - Collaboration between leading research-intensive universities in the South West (Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter) are supported via the GW4 research alliance. **Kruger, Glackin, Roberts, Fitzgerald** and **Rappert** each been funded under GW4.

Open Innovation Fund - Six SPA members have received awards totalling £16k to support research translation.

College-level Provisions

Research Centre Funds - Centres annually apply to College for devolved funds to support activity in a flexible way. For example, Egenis funds have supported speakers at the seminars series and group away days, as well as hosting 1-month Fellowships for ECRs from Eastern and Central Europe.

Associate Dean Research Fund - Seedcorn funding to support the development of new research projects and collaborations that further the aims of College and Department research strategies are awarded competitively. In this REF cycle, **Boyd, Currie, Dupré, Skidelsky, Hauskeller** and **Leonelli** have won ADR awards.

Individual Allowances – College allocates individual research allowances annually, usually around £1k for academic staff and £500 for post-doc researchers. Conference attendance, training events, professional fees, specialist publications and licenses, and travel to partners are common activities funded.

Research Leave: Since 2014, Study Leave may be applied for every 3-4 years and this paid leave is normally for a period of 6 months. Periods of up to 1 year can be applied for on an unpaid basis. Applications for leave are reviewed annually following a call for interest and coordinated across the Department to ensure leave can be awarded in a fair and equitable way. At a strategic level, study leave is used to enhance the career development of colleagues, support expansion of research income, and cultivate the wider research environment. Staff whose leave coincided with the onset of Covid-19 restrictions experienced varying levels of impact on their anticipated leave plans. Difficulties were acknowledged within College and an analysis of study leave reports is being undertaken to clarify whether impacts were uneven from an EDI perspective.

Department-level provision

Head of Department Fund - The HoD fund supports developmental initiatives (e.g., ECR writing workshops) and other one-off, urgent requirements (fieldtrips, transcription, equipment costs).

Director Funds - The DoR and Director for Global Engagement have small amounts of devolved funds for Departmental level activity (e.g., Away Days).

The breadth of financial support gives a secure base on which research excellence can be built and where individual researchers know there are ways in which their work can be supported to grow. Although in most cases the funds on offer are small, the range of provision ensures that activity identified at the ground level can be supported alongside the larger scale activities that have been targeted by University strategic priorities.

Complementing the funding support, the dissemination of Unit research is facilitated by dedicated Library and Open Research teams. The teams provide staff with regular updates and with face-to-face and virtual training. The Green Open Access institutional repository - Open Research Exeter (ORE) – is managed by the teams and provides research data management services and access to three OA funds: the UKRI OA block grant, Charity Open Access Fund and the Institutional Open Access Fund. University memberships and 'offsetting' agreements (for journal subscriptions) allow Exeter authors to publish at reduced or no cost in selected journal outlets. Staff benefit from appropriately targeted support for outputs that have no other funding to pay for Gold open access. A 'Request a Copy' feature was introduced to ORE in late 2018 to facilitate requests from individuals without institutional access to papers. Our College has the highest volume of such requests (37% of total) across the University. In 2019, SPA had 17% of requests in the College.

The University continues to invest in IT infrastructure and supports provision that enables those in Q-Step, CRPR and elsewhere in SPA to work with large data sets. University and College are investing £870,000 to refurbish and extend a campus building to include a new Computational Social Science Lab (CSSL). CSSL will contain 30 new high-performance computers to enable Q-Step to run advance training workshops, a speaker series and provide dedicated space for PhD researchers. A dedicated Linux server managed by Research IT has been configured to allow for several private and public-facing models and datasets to be developed and viewed, securely and independently. Additional investment has then allowed staff and PhD researchers to process data remotely on the server. College was successful in a bid to be part of the ESRC funded SafePod Network (a resource worth £25,000) and has invested an additional £100,000 to enable research with sensitive or confidential datasets.

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

The multiple disciplinary expertise of staff in the Unit has ensured that we are well placed to deliver outstanding contributions to economy and society both nationally and internationally. Our activities are enabled, in part, through our mentoring structures and workload citizenship allocation model (10% of staff time is dedicated to citizenship).

This section outlines our key roles in major research networks and scientific organisations, our engagement with research users and audiences, and our contributions to the research base.

4.1 A collaborative approach

Collaboration is fundamental to our Unit's research vision that our constituent disciplines support challenge lead initiatives that work across HASS and STEM disciplinary edges. As part of our collaboration strategy, SPA staff actively engage with many of the flagship university STEM-facing Centres (1.3 ILES). For example, **Leonelli** leads the Values and Governance theme of *IDSAI* and **Schwartz-Marin** sits on the Management Board of *GSi*. We are supported in external collaboration through our IIB Directorate (3.2) which includes staff who broker partnerships with 11 sectors. Alongside, Policy@Exeter is a new initiative to create a cross-university network to promote non-academic collaboration. SPA staff are actively engaged in these developments. By growing experience and expertise in cross-cutting areas (such as Data Studies – 1.3), we will set the foundations for further collaborations within and outside of our University.

Selected examples of our collaborations are:

Internal: **West** recently set up the Food Studies Network. Consisting of over 100 members from across disciplines, the network highlights the range of food-related interests at the University and raises visibility both within and beyond the University through seminars, workshops, teaching and joint research activities. The Network is open to academic support staff, post-docs, PhDs, PGTs and undergraduate students in any department/college on any of Exeter's four campuses.

Local: Following on from a £250k *HEFEC/Home Office* project, **Boyd** and **Rappert** secured agreement in 2017 with *Devon and Cornwall Police (DCP)* to house an embedded university Research Fellow (Dr. Dreolin Fleischer) at its headquarters in order to advance evidence-based policing and facilitate academic-police research partnerships. DCP has supported this work through over £50k of direct funding. **Boyd** and **Rappert** have worked together on several *ESRC* and internally funded projects to further support the collaboration.

National: Public policy influence is exemplified by CRPR staff. **Lobley** is a member of *Defra's* rural academic group and of the *Defra/Natural England's* social science expert panel on Environmental Land Management schemes. The latter is also chaired by **Winter**, who plays a significant role in the policy landscape with Board memberships that include that of Natural England (a Secretary of State appointment), the *UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee*, *Defra Nutrient Management Expert Group*, *Uplands Alliance Steering Group* (Chair 2014-16) and *Rothamsted Research* (2015-). He was a Member of *Defra's* Bovine TB Policy Review in 2018 (a Secretary of State appointment) and Visiting Wilton Park Programme Director of Food Security for the *Foreign Office* (2010-15).

International: Members of SPA have engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders (see also our ICS). For instance, **Thomas** is Co-Director of the *World Health Organisation (WHO)* Collaborating Centre for Culture and Health (CCH - since 2016). In this role, she co-led the production of the *WHO* policy brief (2019) on cultural responses to anti-bacterial resistance and has since led policy and practice-facing workshops and reports in 2019 and 2020 on the cultural context of mental health reform in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2017, **Thomas** drew on her body of research on culture and health to co-author CCH policy briefs. Much of the work developed by the CCH programme, with WHO guidance and input, is now being replicated in the US through a collaboration between WHO, the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation* and a US-based colleague

on the CCH expert advisory group (Ted Fischer). Building on her work on lay understandings of ill health and transnational health-seeking, **Thomas** was invited by WHO Europe Regional Coordinator for Public Health and Migration to produce a toolkit on *Intercultural Competence and Diversity Sensitivity* for public health officials and practitioners. She delivered training in the use of the toolkit at the Migration Knowledge Hub summer schools run by WHO in three consecutive years (2017 – 2019), each attended by over a 100 international practitioners and policymakers. The toolkit has since been developed as a WHO MOOC.

Staff have held many visiting and honorary academic roles that have facilitated international collaborations, at times supported through internal funds (3.2). A non-exhaustive listing includes: **Colombetti**: Visiting Professor, National University of Singapore (2015), Visiting Professor, University of Southern Denmark (2018-2020), Visiting Professor, Centre for the Foundations of Science, University of Sydney (2014); **DeNora**: Visiting Professor University of Bergen (2018-); **Dupré**: Distinguished Visiting Scholar, University of South Florida (2015); **Green**: Visiting Professor, O'Brien Institute of Public Health (2018), Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW (2019); **Hauskeller**: Visiting Professor Centre for Biomedical Ethics National University Singapore (2015), Visiting Fellow Hanse-Wissenschafts-Kolleg (2015), Visiting Professor, Tsinghua University (2014), Brocher Fellowship (2019); **Krueger**: Invited Research Fellow, Macquarie University (2018), University of Copenhagen (2017); **Leonelli**: Research Associate of the Info-Metrics Institute, Honorary Associate Professor University of Adelaide (2016-2019), Adjunct Professor, University of Adelaide (2019-2021), External Faculty of the Konrad Lorenz Institute (2019-), Visiting professor, University of Ghent (2018); **Michael**: Honorary Professor, University of Sydney (2017-); **Rappert**: Visiting Professor, National University of Singapore (2015), Visiting Professor, Linköping University (2018), Honorary Fellow, Institute for Security Studies in South Africa (2014-); and **Winter**: Visiting Researcher, The University of British Columbia (2018).

4.2 Contributions to research, economy and society

The Unit has sought to influence disciplinary and interdisciplinary research agendas. For example, staff take lead roles in editorial work at leading journals including: **Cassidy**, Reviews Editor for *Public Understanding of Science* (2009-2016); **Colombetti** and **Kreuger**, Associate Editors for *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* (2014-); **Fitzgerald**, Book Forum Editor for *BioSocieties*; **Glackin**, Associate Editor for *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (2019-); **Hughes**, Associate Editor *Journal of Legal Anthropology* (2019-); **Lobley**, Editor of the *International Journal of Agricultural Management* (2013-); **Masquelier**, Book Review Editor *European Journal of Social Theory* (2018-); **Leonelli**, Associate Editor (2014-18) and Co-Editor-in-Chief (2019-) *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*; **Michael**, Co-managing Editor *The Sociological Review* (2012-16); **Schillmeier**, Editor *Space & Culture* (2015-) and **Thorpe**, Co-editor *Cultural Sociology* (2020-).

Staff have contributed to the maintenance of academic standards and supported intellectual innovation through their varied roles. Many staff contribute to grant assessment panels, including as Chairs, with leading national (e.g., *UKRI*, *NIHR Public Health Research*) and international (*ERC*, *Health Research Board (Ireland)*, *Luxembourg National Research Fund (FRN)*, *Swiss National Science Foundation*, *Irish Research Council*) funders as well as sit as Trustees, members of funding body councils and strategy committees (e.g., *Foundation for the Sociology of Health & Illness* (**Green**, 2020-), *Luxembourg FRN* (**Elliott**, 2020-); *BBSRC Science in Society* (**Hauskeller**, 2011-17), *ESRC's Strategic Advisory Network* (**Dymond**, 2019-).

We have led national foundational interdisciplinary networks (e.g., **Cassidy** chaired the Science in Public Research (2014-19), convened national study groups (e.g., **Masquelier**, BSA Social Theory Study Group (2017-20) and coordinated conference agendas (e.g., **Massoumi**, BSA Annual Meeting Race, Ethnicity and Migration Stream (2019-21)).

The expertise of staff is externally recognised through invited participation in numerous international advisory boards and steering groups. This includes European bodies, e.g., the Steering Committee for the Nordic Network for Gender Body and Health (**Dolezal**, 2015-); the Central Ethics Commission Stem Cell Research in Germany (**Hauskeller**, 2014-2022); German Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, Working group on Brain Organoids (**Hauskeller** 2019-2021), International Review Board for Australian Medical Research Future Fund 10-year Strategy (**Hauskeller** 2020); and Elected member of Governing Board for 'Science Europe' (**Elliott**, 2014-2017).

Staff also hold significant professional leadership positions. **Dupré** is Vice-President and President Elect of the global Philosophy of Science Association (President from 2021) as well as Chair of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics Working Group on Genomic Editing of Farmed Animals. **Krueger** is Vice President of the European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions; and **Leonelli** is Vice-President of the European Philosophy of Science Association (2019-2022). In 2017-18, **Molyneux-Hodgson** helped to establish, and was elected Founding President in 2019, of European Platform for social science and humanities researchers on ionising radiation (SHARE).

Staff at all career stages contribute externally. For example, while **Dymond** only started as a Lecturer in 2017, she now holds a variety of appointments: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary External Reference Group (2020-), the National Police Chiefs' Council and College of Policing's Personal Safety Strategic Committee (2019-), College of Policing's Curriculum Development group (2018-), the College of Policing's Guideline Review Committee (2016-) and she is a member of the United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement group (2017-).

Methodological and substantive expertise is shared widely in academic and non-academic circles. For instance, **Elliott** chairs the Advisory Board for the Cathie Marsh Institute at the University of Manchester (2019-) and was a member of the core group advising the *ESRC* on implementation of the Longitudinal Studies strategy (2018-19). **Peri-Rotem** is on the expert advisory panel for the Office of National Statistics' National Population Projections (2019-). **Green** is on the Scientific Advisory Board for the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Behavioural Science (2019-), served as a member of the MRC Uganda Research Unit on AIDS Scientific Advisory Committee (2015-18) and the SUSTRANS London Policy Advisory Group (2019-20), and is a member of the International Scientific Advisory Group of the O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary (2017-). **Hughes** is a member of the Publications Committee of the Royal Anthropological Institute (2019-). **Kavedzija** is a member Medical Anthropology Committee of the Royal Anthropological Institute (2018-). **Thomas** has served on WHO Europe Advisory Boards on Health (2016-19), and the Knowledge Management Committee for the Knowledge Hub on Health and Migration (2017-18). **Rice** is the Ethics Specialist on the Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (2020-). **Wilson-Kovacs** is a member of the Digital Research Working Group of the National Police Chiefs Council (2018-).

As part of our impact strategy, staff in SPA have engaged both research governance and public policy communities through directed publications. **Winter**, for example, has written *Policy into Practice* notes for Defra Sustainable Intensification Research Platform and for the Defra Demonstration Test Catchment programme. **Leonelli**, **Molyneux-Hodgson** and **Hauskeller** publish in scientific journals to reach technical audiences (e.g., outlets include *Journal of Experimental Botany*, *Nature*, *Data Science Journal*, *Nature Plants*, *The Biochemist*).

Leadership in research is acknowledged externally through the winning of prizes. For example, in 2019 **Currie** won the Fernando Gil International Prize for Philosophy of Science, the first time the biennial prize was awarded to an early career lecturer. The preceding year, **Leonelli** won the highly prestigious Lakatos Award for outstanding contributions to the philosophy of science. This followed her winning the Académie Internationale de Philosophie de la Science “Talented Young Italians” Award for Research and Innovation in 2017. Other prizes have included: **Fitzgerald**: Philip Leverhulme Prize in Sociology (2017); **Kavedzija**: Society for Humanistic Anthropology, Ethnographic poetry first prize (2019); and **Kelly**: Sociology of Health and Illness book prize, the highest award for a book prize in medical sociology in the UK (2017).

As other notable professional achievements, **DeNora** was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 2018; **Dupré** as Fellow of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences (2020); and **Elliott** received the C.B.E. in the 2020 New Year Honours for services to social sciences.

Engaging with publics

SPA staff play leading roles in public engagement and engaged research both nationally and internationally. For example, CRPR members have spoken at conferences organised by *The National Trust*, *The Wildlife Trusts*, *Farmers Weekly* and *the National Farmers Union*. **Lobley** has served as a Member of the *Heart of the South West Rural Growth Network* Management Board (2012-16), a Board member of *Devon Wildlife Trust* (2009-2018), and as a judge for the *Devon Rural Housing Awards* (2014-), demonstrating how our research is often intimately tied to our locale and its priorities. The CRPR Distinguished Public Lecture series hosts incoming talks given by policy makers, media commentators and practitioners as well as prominent academics. CRPR staff took a lead at the Exeter Festival of Southwest Food and Drink in the organization of a food film series, public talks and roundtable discussions.

As part of her *iUK*-funded collaboration with a biotech company, **Molyneux-Hodgson** organised activities at the 2019 Oxford Science Festival (based around scientific controversies for adults and a 2ft hairy microbe for children). She also participated in a 2015 Biology Week event hosted by The Royal Institution to debate synthetic life (400 members of public attended live; 21k views on YouTube).

Exeter encourages ‘engaged research’ as a form of research practice (ILES 2.5) and the Unit maintains structures to support this aim. For instance, as a way of building up research collaborations, WCCEH funds small scale ‘Research Initiation Awards’ for individual applicants and community organisations outside of academia.

One of the major sources of our innovative approach has been through our engagement with the art and museum sector. For example, **Michael** contributed to the exhibit ‘the Energy Babble’ that appeared at Miller Gallery (USA) and Griffith University Art Gallery in 2016 with the aim of

introducing publics to new design practices. In 2016, **Rappert** co-curated an exhibition titled 'Poisoned Pasts' on the Apartheid chemical and biological weapons programme that was displayed at the *Nelson Mandela Foundation* and the *Steve Biko Centre* in South Africa. Art work produced by artist Gemma Anderson, Co-I on an *AHRC* award to **Dupré**, has been displayed at *Zentrum für Kunst und Medien Karlsruhe* and *Camden Art Centre*. As part of a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Intra-European Fellowship, in 2015 **Toon** curated an exhibition titled "Scientists as cyborgs" at the University of Exeter. Staff regularly collaborate with regional institutions such as Exeter's *Royal Albert Memorial Museum*: in 2020, CRPR collaborated with the curator to put on an event to discuss food-related objects in the Museum's collection.

* * *

Overall then, our record of achievements set out in this Environment Statement illustrates how we have maintained and enhanced the vibrant and socially engaged culture set out as part of REF2014. Our ability to grow as a unit, to secure research income from diverse sources, to nurture early career researchers and to collaborate with others to shape policy developments mean we are well placed to respond to future research opportunities and challenges.