

Institution: Liverpool John Moores University
Unit of Assessment: History (28)
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Since 2014, the History department at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) has strategically expanded its membership to strengthen the research culture and base. It has recruited eight new staff at ECR level and broadened its areas of research strength (see 2i). It comprises 17 FTE researchers in nineteenth- and twentieth-century history. The department is based within the School of Humanities and Social Science (HSS), and serves as the locus for the LJMU wing of the co-institutional Centre for Port & Maritime History (CPMH; a partnership between the University of Liverpool, LJMU and Merseyside Maritime Museum [MMM]).</p> <p>Growth in staffing to a 'critical mass' has facilitated the establishment of two broad research clusters within the department: 'Social and cultural identities and representations', led by Matthews-Jones, and 'Politics, economics and ideas in international history', led by Crossland and Keil. The clusters provide effective peer support amongst researchers for producing outputs and funding bids, and reflect departmental strengths in cultural and international history. There are 14-15 members of each cluster, including full-time and non-permanent colleagues, and PGRs. Several colleagues belong to both clusters, facilitating the cross-fertilisation of ideas.</p> <p>Our research strategy focuses on the production of excellent historical research rooted in local, national and international contexts. Equally, the department encourages all staff to consider the potential for their research to generate impact beyond the academy, both by developing partnerships with external non-academic collaborators, and by encouraging public engagement and dissemination. Staff are encouraged to apply for QR funding at Faculty level to support both research and impact (worth c. £60K during this REF cycle).</p> <p><i>i. Strategic priorities from REF 2014</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Expand production of high-quality outputs 2) Increase the success rate of funding bids to support research, particularly with external partners <p>There has been a step-change in staff ambition, leading to a 50% increase in monographs and 72% rise in journal articles submitted, compared to REF2014, and the winning of external research grants (£330K compared to £6K). These achievements reflect a sustainable, internally-driven growth strategy. Interlocking with curriculum development, we have prioritised research profile and potential for new appointments. We have further supported staff by department-level workshops on grant development and maximising output quality, facilitated by external academic speakers.</p> <p>Several grants have been captured via collaborative applications, notably Vaughan's BA/Leverhulme (£9,914) and AHRC projects (£239,404) on East African regionalism with co-investigators from the Universities of Edinburgh, York, Utrecht and UCLA. Vickers' Arts Council award, <i>Dry Your Eyes Princess</i> (£14,800) was in partnership with a photographic artist, Stephen King. White's Heritage Lottery and Elder Dempster Pensioners Association funded <i>Homeward Bound</i> (£10,500), was facilitated through CPMH. Enhanced Faculty-level support for grant application development has also contributed to these successes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Expand the PGR community <p>Our PhD community has grown during the current cycle, with students supported by external and internal funding awards. Through financial support for research trips, conference attendance and organisation, and professional development opportunities, our students have benefitted from a</p>

supportive and energising research environment. The result has been a healthy total of eight PhD completions during the current cycle (compared to one for REF2014).

- 4) Continue and develop interdisciplinary networking, seminar, conference and publishing activity

LJMU History staff play a leading role in sustaining the inter-institutional and interdisciplinary CPMH. Two CPMH workshops have resulted in interdisciplinary collections co-edited by **White** (*Shipping and Globalization in the Postwar Era* [2019]; *Singapore – Two Hundred Years of the Lion City* [2019]). **Clampin** played a leading role in CHARM (Conference on Historical Analysis & Research in Marketing), hosting its 2017 international conference at LJMU.

Department staff have also pursued a range of major research and publication projects of an interdisciplinary nature. Notable here is **Vaughan's** AHRC-funded project on Regionalism in East Africa (2020-2022) which includes the employment of a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Politics.

- 5) Establish a Research Centre

This has been revised in light of the 79% FTE staff increase in the History Department, and the expansion of research areas. The department has opted to develop two broadly defined key research clusters rather than a single research centre, ensuring both viability and inclusivity. The clusters recognise and regularise existing patterns of interaction, providing peer review for draft outputs and grant proposals. Clusters also nominate external speakers for the departmental seminar series, thus encouraging wider networking and collaboration. The inclusion of non-permanent staff and PGRs in the clusters contributes to the career development of early-stage researchers.

ii. Future strategic aims

- 1) Maintain and develop mentoring and support structures for existing and new staff in order to sustain and expand our base of high-quality outputs and grant applications

The success of the current REF strategy, particularly in supporting the career development of ECRs, evidenced in 2iv below, has resulted in a healthy pipeline of high-profile projects contracted for publication for the next REF cycle. The department will now work to ensure the development of researchers moving into their mid-career stage. The Head of Department (HoD) and Research Coordinator (RC) will take a key role in driving this continued mentoring, and the clusters will provide a structured environment for developing research projects and funding applications. Staff will be invited to make presentations to their clusters in a planned and well-timed manner (3-6 months ahead of grant applications). Targeted advice on funding opportunities by career stage will be developed in co-operation with the Faculty Funding Support Officer. A welcome consequence of bid success, the addition of five PDRAs to the staff base entails new responsibilities in embedding a postdoctoral culture and facilitating the transition to ECR status. Overseen by the HoD and RC, PIs will lead in the development of post-doctoral skills, working with institutional staff development programmes.

- 2) Development of research clusters into research centres

The department will aim to continue to develop the institutional strength of the research cluster system, with the objective of attaining LJMU recognition of at least one cluster as a designated research centre within the next REF cycle. The clusters will continue to select guest speakers, enhancing networking and collaborative opportunities. Centre/institute status will permit the department greater strategic control over the allocation of QR funding, and also attract and support larger numbers of PGRs.

- 3) Develop further opportunities for PGR recruitment

Constraints on PGR funding for LJMU History are likely to continue into the next REF cycle, especially given that LJMU is not currently part of an AHRC consortium. Nonetheless, the department will continue to work strategically to identify and support students and projects that stand the strongest chance of success in internal funding competitions. Dovetailing with impact, we will explore avenues for collaborative doctoral funding with established external partners, thus cementing those relationships.

iii. Note on COVID-19

While the pandemic has impacted on research activities within the department, archive visits have generally been rescheduled not cancelled, while four staff have utilised LJMU's virtual retreats to support their writing. Locally-managed funds have been rolled over. For Faculty-administered QR awards, staff unable to use their funding will be prioritised in future rounds. **Vaughan's** RA has been temporarily redeployed on a teaching-only contract, with the intention of applying for a no-cost extension. We are confident, therefore, of the sustainability of our plans and the maintenance of outputs.

iv. Approach to impact

Drawing upon a long tradition of public engagement, coalescing with LJMU's Civic University identity, the department continues to enable impact arising from its research. We have a particular interest in employing historical analysis and insight to address issues of socio-economic marginalisation, discrimination and inequality, and issues of communal identity and perception. Staff have been encouraged to pursue engagement with relevant external stakeholders at local, national and international levels, and to utilise public engagement and dissemination to facilitate the reach and significance of their research impact.

During the current cycle, we have worked more closely with LJMU's Impact Officer to enhance staff understanding and achievement of impact. We have run new impact-focussed staff development events within the department, facilitated by case-study leads, one of whom, **O'Brien**, has been appointed as Impact Coordinator (IC). Staff have begun to embed impact potential at an early stage of project development (see 4i). This approach will continue in the next REF cycle through enhanced mentoring from the HoD, RC and IC, facilitated further by each cluster having at least one annual meeting dedicated to discussing impact within their sub-fields.

The two case studies submitted exemplify our approach, fulfilling our strategic aims for impact from REF2014 of consolidating and extending external collaborations outside academia and raising profile with enhanced monitoring and coordination. **Vickers'** case study, *Dry Your Eyes, Princess* focused on social marginalisation, discrimination and inequality, and communal identity and perception, through analysing sexual and gender diversity in the British Armed Forces. Vickers worked closely with external stakeholders - a photographic artist and the veterans interviewed in the underpinning research - to produce an exhibition displayed at the Museum of Liverpool (attesting to the department's local civic agenda) and also in Belfast. Vickers has pursued a wide range of dissemination activities, notably at the London Metropolitan Archives.

Similarly, **O'Brien's** study addresses issues of communal identity and perception through its focus on museums in Ireland (especially prisons), and their role in shaping wider notions of Irish history, identity and collective memory. Again, O'Brien's close partnership with the museum, heritage and tourism sector in Ireland, and especially her work as historical advisor for the development and redevelopment of three award-winning museums, reflects the department's strategy of forging impact through robust relationships with external stakeholders. Her wide-ranging dissemination across Ireland's radio and print media, as well as several contributions in the UK and USA, exemplifies the department's approach to generating impact with significant reach - locally, nationally and internationally.

Moving forward, the department has identified key areas of research impact that have the potential for broad reach and/or deep significance for users/beneficiaries, and will pro-actively support the

development of these areas of impact in the next cycle. In particular, the IC will provide leadership in liaising with the University impact and research team in order to obtain resources and supportive expertise to underpin the development of these key areas. The work of **Matthews-Jones** with Toynbee Hall (using research to design workshops and creative clinics with disadvantaged young people), **Clampin** with the National Trust (using research to inform NT's public engagement), and **Vaughan** in East Africa (using research to develop HE curricula and to inform a major policy report on regional integration) are all areas of strength, exemplifying our strategy of building external collaborations with the heritage and education sectors (locally, nationally and internationally). **Grant** will submit a further Wellcome bid to support the impact of her ageing in the USSR project through the production of a series of short films (disseminating research to a wide audience in health studies, gerontology and the history of the USSR).

Furthermore, the impact of COVID-19, whilst impeding in-person impact-building activities, has alerted us to opportunities for reaching wider audiences for research dissemination. Notably, **Craig** participated in a significant online public history initiative: Reddit AskHistorians 2020 digital conference (September 2020) (<https://www.askhistorians.com/2020-digital-conference>), which, at 24 September 2020, achieved 10,000 cumulative views on YouTube. Moving forward, the IC will maintain a focus on opportunities for using digital means of dissemination and public engagement to broaden our research impact.

v. *Open Research Environment*

Impact and public engagement activities interlock with our promotion of an open-research environment. Developing open-access resources, as well as capturing funding streams to facilitate this, were strategic aims for impact activity from REF2014. **Benbough-Jackson's**, **McDonough's** and **Vickers's** AHRC-funded *Merseyside at War*, supported also by the office of the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, is an online archive of Merseyside's experience of the First World War (harvested at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20181109031326/http://www.merseyside-at-war.org/> and also available for consultation at the British Library's Reading Rooms).

White's Heritage Lottery and Elder Dempster Pensioners' Association funded online archive is of equal distinction. Hosted at LJMU, the Elder Dempster website makes publicly available a series of interviews with former seafarers (and other Elders-related personnel) as well as digitised archival material (<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/microsites/elder-dempster>). Like *Merseyside at War*, the Elder Dempster project epitomises the Civic University approach through building community and institutional links on Merseyside to bolster the research environment in the region and beyond, broadening public accessibility to research materials.

Meanwhile, **Beaumont's** *Fellow Travellers* monograph (2019) and **White's** *Shipping & Globalization* were published Open Access. A commitment to Open Access publishing and dissemination is further evidenced in **Matthews-Jones's** instrumental role in the development of the *Journal of Victorian Culture Online*, the digital supplement of the *Journal of Victorian Culture*. Publishing shorter, less-formal content via blogs, the supplement promotes and widens access to main journal content. It makes specialist academic research more accessible to a wider readership. Two workshops (Cork [2018]; Dublin [2019]) led by **O'Brien** on heritage sites, museums and exhibitions are also noteworthy here. They brought together academics, museum and heritage professionals and additionally resulted in the publication of two Open Access reports.

vi. *Research integrity and standards*

Our commitment here is illustrated by oral history projects whereby **Vickers's** and **White's** projects (*Dry Your Eyes Princess*; *Homeward Bound*) have been conducted according to Oral History Society guidelines approved by LJMU's Research Ethics Committee. The oral testimony aspect of **Clampin's** National Trust Formby project and **Vaughan's** AHRC award also went through full ethics approval (and the latter also encompassed data management and protection).

There have been no allegations of research misconduct (made by staff or PGR students) within the REF cycle. The rigour with which research is conducted accords with the standards set-out in the University's Code of Practice for Research.

2. People

i. Staffing strategy

The period has seen a significant growth in staff numbers from 9.5 to 17 FTE. Through internal promotion and new appointments, our strategy continues to be to recruit a balanced portfolio of staff in terms of specific expertise (aligned to research clusters and objectives, facilitating growth of new areas) and experience (established and early-career).

New appointments in the review period at ECR level (at the point of employment) have been: **Vaughan** (May 2014); **Crossland** (September 2014); **Beaumont** (September 2015); **Grant** (September 2015); **Craig** (September 2016); **Saunders** (September 2016); **Livesey** (September 2018); **Keil** (February 2019), expanding the range of expertise thematically to include the history of international communism, international humanitarianism, nuclear proliferation, colonialism, healthcare, civil liberties and activism, slavery and sexual violence; while, geographically, European and wider-world coverage (Africa, Latin America, Russia, US) has been enhanced. Furthermore, personnel expansion has consciously maintained a chronological research focus in the post-1800 era, sustaining and expanding existing strengths. Growth in staffing in both international and cultural history has fed into the development of the two research clusters now in existence.

All new appointments are included in REF output submissions for 2021, underscoring the effectiveness of our strategies for new and established staff equally. All Category A staff are submitted in this round compared to 74% in 2014. The success of staffing strategy is reflected in Readership promotions – **O'Brien** (2015), **Grant** (2018, within three years of appointment at ECR level), **Crossland** (2019, within five years of appointment at ECR level). The current demographic profile is three Professors, one Principal Lecturer, three Readers, 11 Senior Lecturers/Lecturers. This balanced staffing profile allows for effective management of research activity, mentoring and succession planning. For instance, **McDonough's** retirement was planned for through **Keil's** appointment. All Category A staff are permanent. Fixed-term (teaching only) contracts (of which there have been six semester-long over the cycle) are only used to replace existing staff undertaking externally-funded research projects or experiencing long-term illness.

ii. Staff development

Staff development is a key priority for the department. All staff are assigned a mentor. Overseen by line managers, there is a probation period of 12 months for new recruits (plus those promoted to Reader and Professor). Annual appraisal identifies research, impact and related career development as distinct elements. Additionally, at a department-specific level, a REF internal assessment scheme for outputs includes an annual feedback and planning meeting for all staff with the HoD and RC (and in the case of the HoD and RC with the Director of School). Brown bag seminars, the research cluster system, and the Perspectives Research Seminar Series facilitate regular research discussion opportunities for staff.

Department-specific research training is provided to all staff, related to publication, impact and grant applications, drawing on institutional (Impact Officer) and external expertise and participation. More specific outside assistance has been provided for particular projects. The Oral History Society, for example, provided training for both the PI and the RA on *Homeward Bound*. The LJMU staff development programme includes training courses on publishing, grant applications, impact and media engagement.

iii. Departmental support for staff research

An in-house competitive sabbatical scheme, since 2018/19, has been open to all permanent staff – there have been 4 recipients at various stages of their career development (one Professor, one Reader, two SL [one ECR]), permitting a semester free of teaching and administrative responsibilities to work on a major research output or impact case study.

Exchanges with external bodies are encouraged, reflecting the University's research partnership and external engagement agenda. Between 2016 and 2018, **White** spent 15 weeks at PNB Research Institute, Kuala Lumpur as an integral part of the research and writing of *In Trust* (2018). Other productive exchanges have included **Matthews-Jones** with Toynbee Hall (see 4i below).

The department recognises the achievements of staff in research and impact through a dynamic approach to workload allocation. The HoD annually undertakes detailed modelling which makes specific reference to annual appraisals and individual staff development. Where particularly significant research or impact-related projects are in prospect or underway, teaching load is appropriately adjusted (**O'Brien** and **Vickers**, for example, had reductions to concentrate on Impact Case Studies). The department also recognises research achievements through developing the roles of individuals at a wider level within the University. For example, **Vaughan**, sits on the Arts, Professional and Social Studies (APSS) Faculty Degrees Committee (a role also factored into workload calculations).

As well as locally-managed workload adjustments and sabbaticals, Faculty QR funding is specifically available for the development of impact, where this may lead to the generation of a case study. The department has received £12,785 from central (Research & Innovation Services) funds to support impact activities – notably, this supported **O'Brien's** workshops in Éire.

iv. Support for ECRs and PDRAs

Considerable departmental, faculty and central support is channelled specifically to ECRs. **Beaumont**, **Crossland**, **Grant**, **Matthews-Jones** and **Vaughan** have drawn on this support during their transition from early- to mid-career stage. Teaching timetables for new appointments are kept deliberately low for at least 12 months from appointment. University-level ACTivator training programmes and faculty/departmental funding are available for all levels but have proved particularly beneficial for the skills enhancement of ECRs.

Matthews-Jones and **Vaughan** both received LJMU ECR fellowships – a scheme to specifically foster collaborative research and mentoring via other HEIs, as well as provide for research expenses. These fellowships – coupled with institutional training - provided a foundation for top-tier publications (**Matthews-Jones**, *Victorian Studies* [2017] and **Vaughan**, *Historical Journal* [2018]) and larger collaborative grant applications with external academic partners (**Vaughan**, British-Academy small grant as PI, awarded 2016; AHRC project grant as PI, awarded 2019; **Matthews-Jones** AHRC project grant as Co-I, submitted 2019).

ECRs are rapidly integrated into the research culture of the department by presenting a paper to the department's Perspectives Research Seminar Series within six months of appointment. ECRs have played a key role in leading the research environment via the organisation of Perspectives and Work-in-Progress seminars (**Vaughan**, **Beaumont**, **Grant**). A department-level Research Team to support the RC also involved ECRs (**Vaughan** and **Crossland**) to develop their integration into the local research culture, and enrich their transition to mid-career.

ECRs are involved at an early stage in PhD supervision. Teams of three supervisory staff per student give individuals at the beginning of their research careers maximum experience of supervision alongside an experienced lead supervisor. This builds future capacity, and, simultaneously, those without previous experience of PhD examination undergo LJMU Doctoral

Academy training. **Vaughan**, **Crossland**, and **Matthews-Jones** have co-supervised doctoral students within the current cycle as ECRs.

PDRAs can access staff development opportunities as per Category A staff, including courses in establishing a research profile, public engagement, getting published and writing grant applications. The department has hosted five PDRAs funded by research projects led by department members since 2014. Postdoctoral researchers are provided with dedicated office space, and undergo appraisal from their line managers, and are assigned a mentor. They are invited to department-level research seminars and cluster activities. Furthermore, **Grant** is a member of the University's Researcher Development Concordat Steering Group, overseeing implementation of the Concordat principles.

v. Research students

History plays a leading role within HSS with regards to the professional development of PGRs. **Vaughan** and **Crossland** are PGR Development Coordinators for HSS, with responsibility for organising events to support PGR professional development, and also for allocating internal funding to support PGR research which tops up Faculty-level provision. Since 2016-17, School-level PGR development events organised by History staff, and drawing on interdisciplinary academic and non-academic staff expertise, have strengthened the PGR skill base around getting published, impact, job applications and interviews, and postdoctoral funding. In 2020 Vaughan was appointed APSS Faculty lead for PGR professional development.

Within the department, a small but growing high-quality and sustainable community of doctoral research students has been recruited (with an M-level or equivalent qualification as a minimum requirement). Five of these students transitioned from our vibrant MRes degree into doctoral study. In terms of protected characteristics, four PhD students studied on a part-time basis.

Sheldon's AHRC CDA supported one of the department's PhD completions. Other enrolments and completions have been facilitated by competitive local funding initiatives – one VC full scholarship; one full Faculty GTA scholarship; two School-based part-time fees bursaries. Moreover, the department's research students have been highly successful in winning grants from competitive external funding schemes for archival research and conference attendance, encouraged and guided by supervisors – for example, LJMU History PhD students have received 6 RHS conference/travel grants and one was joint winner of the RHS Martin Lynn Scholarship in African History (2016), allowing them to visit South African archives.

PGR students are supervised by three History (or related-discipline staff) with detailed knowledge of the project area. In three cases, these teams have included an additional external adviser. Regular supervision meetings – at least one per month – have been supplemented by the student writing a 3000-word registration document in the first three months of enrolment, focused on the historiographical and primary source underpinnings of the project plus an Annual Monitoring Report (both documents being subsequently approved by the Faculty Research Degrees Committee). MPhil to PhD transfer within 12 months of FTE registration is achieved through the writing of a 5000-word paper, examined and approved by an internal viva. History staff have also participated in interdisciplinary supervisions based in English, Media, Sociology, Engineering and Journalism.

History PGRs have particularly benefited from School and Faculty funding for archival visits (including overseas) and conference attendance (where this involves presentation of a paper). They have also taken full advantage of further training provided by LJMU's Doctoral Academy whose Researcher Development Programme (RDP) supports PGRs throughout the doctoral journey, fully mapped to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework. Skills workshops, writing days and 'thesis boot camps' have proved particularly valuable for our students.

Funding for conference attendance (both international and UK) is additionally provided through RDP. These awards are small in value (£175-£350) but they can make a major contribution to

timely thesis completion and wider career development. As one student commented, their attendance at a conference in Denver 'significantly helped me complete two chapters in my thesis... provid[ing] me with the opportunity to pick the brains of established experts... Moreover, it provided me with potential questions for postdoc research and papers, one of which has recently been published'.

PGRs have been provided with teaching opportunities within the Department supported always by mentoring and peer review locally as well as mandatory completion of the University's '3Is' (Information, Ideas and Insight) training programme. For fees-only bursary students, teaching provides an important income stream to sustain their studies and ensure timely completion. In terms of outreach, through RDP, two History PhD students trained with The Brilliant Club to work as Scholars Programme tutors in state schools in the North-West.

A noteworthy initiative, facilitated by QR and additional School funding (worth c. £1000 p.a.), has been the annual International History and Diplomacy of the Twentieth Century conference since 2016 organised by three LJMU History PGRs and attracting external PGRs, ECRs and established scholars as presenters. With 14 scholars presenting at 'The Global South during the Cold War' conference in the summer of 2019, for example, these events (three at LJMU and one at Oxford) have provided invaluable networking and organisational experience (<https://ihd.news/>).

Publication by PGRs has also been encouraged and mentored – notable successes being journal articles by LJMU PGRs in *International History Review* (x2), *Journal of Imperial & Commonwealth History* and *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*. History PGRs also attend departmental seminars and research-cluster meetings.

The department supports successful doctoral candidates to continue their academic career. Dan **Feather** (a product of both our MRes and PhD programmes, and a recipient of an HSS fees-bursary) was appointed as a part-time and then full-time permanent Lecturer in Humanities at LJMU. Juliet **Carroll**, the recipient of **Sheldon's** CDA, is Lecturer in History of Art & Museum Studies in the Liverpool School of Art. Simon **Hill's** appointment as a Visiting Research Fellow, as well as further teaching, has allowed him to work up his thesis into a monograph (with Palgrave).

The PGR environment has been significantly enhanced by **Sheldon's** role as Dean of LJMU's Doctoral Academy from 2015 (having also served as Associate Dean [Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Transfer] for APSS [2014-17]), and as executive and trustee of the UK Council for Graduate Education since 2018.

vi. Equality & Diversity

History plays a leading role on Equality and Diversity issues within HSS. **Matthews-Jones** leads the School's Athena Swan Working Group, which has also included **Livesey**, **Vickers** and **Vaughan**. Vickers was the Faculty Equality and Diversity lead from 2018-2020 and consequently sat on the steering committee for the Respect Always campaign, concerned with creating an inclusive and respectful environment for the LJMU community.

Given that much of the department's research and impact work is concerned with historic marginalisation, discrimination and exploitation of underrepresented groups, equality and diversity are high priorities in the department's staffing and PGR strategies. The History Department was exclusively male as late as 2012 but the gender balance is now 7 female and 9 male staff. The department's staff profile is inclusive of individuals of BAME groups, LGBT and those with a disability.

Applications for new posts are judged entirely on merit in relation to the Job Specification without reference to age, gender orientation, ethnicity, religion, sexuality or nationality. Staff are encouraged to flag EDI issues in their applications for funding or other research-related support

and rewards. Two female members of staff (**O'Brien** and **Grant**) have been promoted to Reader in the review period.

With teaching relief, the department also encouraged **Matthews-Jones** and **Vickers** to follow Advance HE's Aurora leadership development initiative for women and those who identify as female, thus taking positive action to address the under-representation of women in leadership positions. For **Vickers**, this was especially important in equipping her for the role of Programme Leader for the School's Arts & Humanities L3 provision.

Both **Harbord** and **Matthews-Jones** were among the first cohort at LJMU to be selected competitively to attend the disabled leaders course Calibre. Harbord and Matthews-Jones sit on the staff disability network, and, emphasising the department's wide public engagement with diverse communities, Matthews-Jones ran events in 2019 and 2020 for Disability History Month. Indeed, Matthews-Jones is a visible role model for disabled academics nationally: she was interviewed in 2017 by NUworld, a dyslexia organisation, on working in academia with dyslexia.

Locally and nationally, LJMU History staff have made significant contributions on equality and diversity issues with regards to race and LGBT+. Through her role as the Equality and Diversity Representative for British American Nineteenth Century Historians (BrANCH) since October 2018, **Livesey** fed into the RHS Race Report. Through RHS funding, she established an annual BrANCH BAME essay prize from 2019. Reflecting RHS recommendations, inter alia, the department's first Black History Month talk (2019) took place out of the University space at the Kuumba Imaani Centre, Toxteth. In summer 2020, **Livesey** joined LJMU's BAME outreach network. **Vickers**, meanwhile, was consulted on (and contributed to) the RHS LGBT+ report. This will form the basis of future departmental discussions and interventions as per our race-related initiatives.

The PGR community exemplifies equality and diversity in terms of gender, sexual orientation, full- and part-time modes of study, age range and social background. PGRs have been empowered through support to attend conferences and run events. Billie-Gina **Thomason's** PhD project on male-to-female transgender individuals in Victorian Britain is an exemplar in terms of topic and personnel with a team of three female supervisors. Thomason's exceptional public engagement activities, assisted by University PGR Events funding, were recognised through the award of LJMU's PGR Outstanding Communicator in 2020.

Flexible and remote working is facilitated by Off Campus IT access, allowing staff to work at home and to juggle family and carer responsibilities. Wherever possible, teaching timetables and departmental meetings are arranged at times of the day to permit flexible working, while also giving staff undisturbed space and time for the writing of extended research outputs. During the COVID-19 crisis, staff were provided with laptops and AV equipment to ensure access to online research resources.

Demonstrating our commitment to flexible working, one member of staff has recently moved to 0.6FTE. Fixed-term teaching staff meet regularly with the HoD and receive research support and guidance from the RC as well. They have the same access to resources as permanent staff, including department-level funding to visit archives and attend conferences.

Staff returning from parental leave or long-term illness are given a reduced teaching load for the first year, and comprehensive support including regular meetings with their line manager in order to best effect that transition.

Support for staff with protected characteristics has included the funding of a copy editor and the provision of a home-use printer for a member of staff with dyslexia. Adjustments have been made to workspace and facilities for another with a physical disability.

Staff feel that their wellbeing has been significantly improved by an enhanced communications strategy, including regularised team meetings at which research strategy is a standing item and

staff development days dedicated to research/impact. Staff also value the greater attention to individual workloads to facilitate research/impact.

Output selection and the writing of REF5b has adhered to the LJMU code of practice. Gender imbalances have, nevertheless, been identified – notably a 7:1 male-to-female ratio for double-weighted monographs. Our sabbatical scheme - in which 75% of awardees have been female - may correct this imbalance in the next exercise. ECR inclusion is more encouraging - the four current ECRs (one-quarter of the submitted FTE) are authors of 32% of journal articles submitted.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

i. Income

Staff are encouraged to seek funding from a range of competitive external sources, as well as support from an internal Faculty-level competition that allocates up to £2K to individual projects. These smaller, pump-priming grants have supported the development of larger applications, as well as specific outputs.

Since 2014, £1.081m of external funding has been awarded to new projects involving members of the department. Awards of significance have been won from the Wellcome Trust, AHRC, BA/Leverhulme Trust, The Research Council of Norway, Arts Council UK and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The 55-fold income increase since 2014 (recorded in REF4b) has been facilitated by enhanced Faculty- and School-level peer review of grant applications, a dedicated Faculty Funding Support Officer supporting all stages of grant application from conception to application, and also by national award-winning University staff development workshops focused on grant-writing.

The largest single award was £607,931 from the Wellcome Trust for **Grant's Growing Old in the Soviet Union, 1945-1991** (2019-2023). This includes 3 PDRAs. Grant will also mentor Sergei Mokhov for his three-year project 'The Invisible Dying: Care and Incurable Illness in Late Soviet Times', funded by an Oxford Russia Fellowship (£166,800). In 2019 **Vaughan** was awarded £239,404 from the AHRC for *Regionalism in East Africa, c. 1900-present*, involving the employment of a PDRA. These major projects will both result in monograph and article outputs.

White received £70K from PNB, a Malaysian investment company, to write *In Trust*. **White** also won £7,500 from HLF and £3,000 from the Elder Dempster Pensioners Association in 2016 for *Homeward Bound*, resulting in the Elder Dempster Website. **Sheldon's** £54.5K AHRC CDA facilitated the publication of her edited collection, *The Della Robbia Pottery* (2015) including her chapter submitted for assessment.

Among other awards, **Vickers** received £14,800 from the Arts Council as a lead applicant for *Dry your Eyes Princess* which has resulted in two articles as well as numerous activities that form the basis of her impact case study. This work was further supported by £2K awarded by two leading LGBTQ arts festivals. **Saunders** received £12K as part of a larger project bid to the Research Council of Norway to pursue a project on *Mining regulation in Latin America* (from which an article is currently in progress). **Vaughan**, **Livesey** and **Crossland** have all received BA/Leverhulme Small Grants, supporting the writing of two monographs, two articles and two chapters during this cycle.

Research funding of £120.3K has been awarded to History staff through internal faculty- and university-level competitions. This support has underpinned the research and writing of one monograph, three edited collections, six journal articles, one book chapter, activities relating to the two impact case studies, and four large external grant applications. University ECR awards to **Matthews-Jones** and **Vaughan** were part of this funding, worth over £3K to each researcher and supporting their efforts to build external collaborations and funding bids.

ii. Infrastructure

The department's research clusters have a specific function as reading groups for drafts before submission to publishers, journals and funding bodies. They are also used as reading groups for the discussion of major new works in the sub-discipline, encouraging sustained research-oriented conversations. Each cluster lead arranges at least one meeting per semester, focused on a particular activity and in an informal collegiate setting, and reports back to the department. Each cluster also nominates at least one external speaker per academic year.

The department benefits from a dedicated Programme Administrator and Library and Information Officer.

LJMU Archives has expanded its collections in areas immediately relevant to the department's research – such as **Clampin** and **White** and the collection of merchant navy ephemera. There is also access to a number of digitised collections through the LJMU Library System – a notable new addition being US Newspapers Online. For *Homeward Bound*, the RA was provided with a single-occupancy office given the confidential nature of data collection plus use of digital recording and photographic equipment.

For impact activities, the facilities and expertise provided by LJMU Archives and IT staff/services was crucial in data storage and online dissemination and presentation of the *Homeward Bound* research. In addition to the PI's staff time, this infrastructure represented the major in-kind contribution. The LJMU archives and library have also provided curating, space and material for the hosting of exhibitions – for example, on Cunard (2015) and Elder Dempster (2016).

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

Networking and collaboration was a key research objective in our 2014 submission, in line with LJMU's overarching objective to grow 'global engagement, building connections and collaborations'. HSS and the department actively support staff to organise conferences at LJMU. **Craig** organised the Historians of the Twentieth Century United States (HOTCUS) conference at LJMU in 2019, receiving £1500 from HSS, while **Clampin** received £7.8K from University funds to support CHARM 2017. The ongoing collaborative activities of CPMH are supported with a dedicated match-funding stream provided by HSS, worth £3.8K across the organisation of two key workshops, leading to co-edited collections by **White**. School match-funding also facilitated the hosting in Liverpool of the British Commission for Maritime History's 'New Researchers in Maritime History' conference (2018).

Individuals have also developed and participated in a range of collaborative research projects, supported by department-level peer review. **Vaughan's** two funded collaborative projects on East African regionalism emerged from his LJMU ECR fellowship specifically designed to encourage such collaboration. The BA/Leverhulme-funded project, resulting in one *Historical Journal* article, one co-authored book chapter, and workshops in York and Nairobi, involved Dr Emma Hunter (Edinburgh) and Dr Gerard McCann (York) as CIs. Vaughan's international collaborators in the AHRC project are Dr Frank Gerits (Utrecht) and Dr Alden Young (UCLA).

Similarly, **Matthews-Jones** used her LJMU ECR fellowship to build collaborations with colleagues based at Queen Mary's Centre for Studies of the Home, including presenting a paper which later became a book chapter (submitted for assessment), and the organisation of a conference (July 2016). **Saunders' Mining regulation** project has entailed close cooperation with scholars at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology who led the successful funding bid ('Political Regulation of Natural Resources, 1870-1910, Global Experiences' [2016-19]).

Members of the department have led the publication of several co-edited and edited volumes. **Crossland** co-edited *The Red Cross Movement: Myths, Practices and Turning Points* (2018) with Melanie Oppenheimer (Flinders) and Neville Wylie (Stirling). **Matthews-Jones** co-edited *Material Religion in Modern Britain* (2015) with Timothy Willem-Jones (La Trobe). **Vickers** co-edited

Gender and the Second World War: Lessons of War (2016) with Corinna Peniston-Bird (Lancaster). **Grant** co-edited *Russian and Soviet Health Care from an International Perspective* (2017) and *Revisioning Stalin and Stalinism: Complexities, Contradictions, and Controversies* (2020) with James Ryan (Cardiff). **White** co-edited *Shipping & Globalization* with Niels Petersson (Sheffield Hallam) and Stig Tenold (Norwegian School of Economics) and *Singapore 200* with Anthony Webster (Northumbria).

LJMU History staff are leading members of national research networks. Notably, since 2016, **Crossland** has been a founder-member of the Humanitarian Working Histories Group (linking scholars from Liverpool, Hull, Huddersfield, Manchester, Oxford) and is a leading member of the interdisciplinary Invasion Network. **Craig** joined the 'Rewriting the Constitutional History of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty' consortium organised by the University of Southampton in February 2020 (entitling research expenses, privileged access to documents, conference attendance and dissemination beyond academia [notably at the UN]).

i. Relationships with key research users, beneficiaries and audiences

Department staff have consistently developed collaborative relationships with key research users and audiences to develop impact in a range of local, national and international contexts. These relationships have themselves fed back into the research agendas of academic staff (see especially material on **Vaughan** below) and will continue to shape the development of the department's research culture.

Building on his research on the history of marketing and the cultural history of Britain during World War Two, **Clampin** has developed an impressive range of consultancy roles for both academic and non-academic users. In 2019 he worked with the National Trust at Formby and Lyme Park on their wartime histories. At Formby, Clampin was project manager for a series of performances and, at Lyme Park, he was lead historical adviser, supporting volunteers. As exemplary practice, the latter resulted in a National Trust film. In archive development, since 2017, Clampin has been a member of the Unilever Archive and Records Management Academic Circle and a consultant for the History of Advertising Trust Education Group. He is also an adviser to a research project on consumption during World War Two (Department of Economic History, Stockholm), and 2017-19 served on the editorial board of *War, the State and Society: Britain's Home Front in World War II*, a Taylor & Francis primary-source digitisation project.

Additional to **White's** role in CPMH, and *Homeward Bound* specifically (see 1v above), departmental links to the heritage sector on Merseyside were strengthened further by **Sheldon's** CDA with the Williamson Art Gallery (which included an exhibition on the Della Robbia Pottery [2016]).

Beyond developing the impact of our research on Merseyside, **Matthews-Jones** has worked with a key charitable stakeholder, Toynbee Hall, concerned with tackling the causes and impact of poverty in East London. Having published on Toynbee Hall (*Victorian Studies*, 2017), during 2018-20 she shared her research at Toynbee through historical consultancy, a permanent exhibition, building tours, and (with disadvantaged young people) a two-day creative clinic and five workshops on visual culture. Material from the latter was passed to Toynbee's Learning Department, clearly demonstrating the reach of Matthews-Jones' research.

Alongside the relationships detailed in ICS1, **Vickers** has engaged with a range of stakeholders and communities to develop the impact of her research on the history of gender and sexuality – recognised in Vickers receiving an LJMU Vice-Chancellor's award for social and economic engagement (2017). She has acted as academic adviser for 'OUTing the Past' festival and conference since 2016, consultant for the 'Pride of Place' project (2017), co-curator of 'Uncovering April Ashley's Archive and Exploring Liverpool's Trans Lives' (April-September 2019), and steering committee member for 'Tales from the City' exhibition (Museum of Liverpool, October 2017-March 2019).

At the international level, as part of his 2016-18 project, **Vaughan** was lead organiser of a conference on East African regional integration in Nairobi (July 2017), involving academic and non-academic participants from regional civil society organisations (such as The Borders Institute, Nairobi and The Tanzanian Citizens Information Bureau). This research demand from diverse publics and communities solidified fundamental ideas and objectives for a larger project bid. Of particular significance for shaping Vaughan's ongoing research was the participation of the Director of the Institute of Regional Integration and Development at the Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA), Dr Catherine Biira. Dr Biira subsequently played a central role in drafting the AHRC bid, and was a key partner in a project fittingly funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund. Crucial impact objectives of the project have been shaped by this stakeholder participation: notably, Vaughan will work closely with CUEA in the hosting of a major conference in 2021/22 and in designing an MA module, contributing further towards regional capacity-building, education and development.

Harbord has acted as Country of Origin Information expert for Immigration Tribunals in the UK, Netherlands and Spain, on Occupied Palestinian Territories (and also stateless Palestinians residing in any nation). She provided research-based reports (500,000+ words), and expert witness testimony in court on five occasions. Harbord's representations were all upheld. Her evidence was cited within judges' reports as significant, substantial or conclusive in their rulings, demonstrating the utilisation of research expertise for life-changing impact.

The capacity of the department's research to reach a broad public benefits from the long-standing engagement of **McDonough** with both popular and academic audiences. *Gestapo* (2015) has sold +100,000 copies with 17 foreign-language translations. Further dissemination has been achieved through McDonough's numerous world-wide media appearances, especially in television documentaries. The Netflix min-series *Hitler's Circle of Evil* (2017), for example, had over 10 million views and Discovery Channel's *The Rise of the Nazi Party* (2014) 12 million.

Other department members have engaged broadly with the media for research dissemination to a wider public. Especially prominent internationally has been **O'Brien**. Additional to wide-reaching and frequent newspaper and radio engagement (e.g. *New York Times* and National Public Radio [USA] in 2015), **O'Brien** has regularly contributed to RTÉ Brainstorm (11 articles since October 2017) using historical insight to address topical issues, especially related to Irish heritage, tourism and education. Similarly, **Craig**, **Crossland**, **O'Brien** and **Vaughan** have published with *The Conversation* (November 2016 and February 2017, December 2017, August 2018 and July 2020 respectively). Crossland has also published with *History Today* (September 2018) and Craig with *BBC World Histories* (September/October 2017). **Matthews-Jones** and **Livesey** have acted as consultants on BBC television programmes (2016 and 2017 respectively).

The department's contribution to the sustainability of the discipline is exemplified by **Matthews-Jones**' work at History UK as co-convenor (2017-2020). Inter alia, she worked with The National Archives to refresh their guide to collaboration between archivists and HE (2017), ran seven workshops nationwide (including one at LJMU) with TNA for archivists and HE professionals on developing collaboration (2019), and organised conferences on Research Grants (IHR, September 2018), Research Impact (IHR, September 2019), and Mental Health and Wellbeing (London South Bank University, October 2019). Matthews-Jones currently works with the Archives and Records Association to advise on building relationships with universities.

Department personnel have also held executive roles in a number of subject-specific associations: **Grant** (Acting Secretary of the British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies [2017]); **Livesey** at BrANCH (committee member since 2013 and Equality & Diversity Representative since October 2018); **Saunders** (executive committee of the Anglo-Bolivian Society since 2010); **Vickers** (member of the Oral History Society LGBTQ Special Interest Group since 2016); **White** at the Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire (Council Member,

Acting President [2016] and lately chair of the Grants & Prizes Committee) and the British Commission for Maritime History (Trustee since 2017).

The Universities Studying Slavery consortium with **Livesey** as the lead at the University of Bristol (2018), and LJMU (2019-present) is an outstanding example of the department's responsiveness to national and international priorities and initiatives. Livesey spoke at a UNESCO international seminar on British Universities and Slavery in March 2018 (<https://en.unesco.org/events/international-seminar-new-approaches-interpreting-and-representing-slavery-museums-and-sites>). She contributed on contemporary racial issues and legacies of slavery to BBC World Service (2019), BBC Radio Ulster (2018), US National Public Radio (2018), and, in November 2018, participated in a 'Free Thinking' discussion for BBC Radio Three. She has additionally provided commentary for national newspapers on universities and slavery (e.g. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/10/toppling-edward-colstons-statue-is-unlikely-to-be-enough-to-stop-public-anger>).

Staff have been prominent in the organisation of conferences which have contributed to the vitality of the research base nationally and internationally. Bringing together academics and humanitarian practitioners, **Crossland** co-convened a conference at The International Federation of the Red Cross in Geneva (2019). Notable in its global contribution is **Clampin's** presidency since June 2017 of CHARM, the leading international and interdisciplinary body in its field. During Clampin's term, CHARM's annual gatherings have taken place in California, Liverpool, and Ottawa, typically attracting scholars from 15 countries. Clampin's presidency followed on from his role as local arrangements chair for CHARM 2017 hosted by LJMU, serving as a prime example of how institutional support has raised profile and facilitated networking and collaborations to achieve prominence.

Likewise, on a national scale, **Craig's** role as Events Secretary for HOTCUS (2017-2020) has involved the organisation of three conferences. Craig became Vice-chair of HOTCUS in 2020. **Livesey** was lead organiser of the BrANCH conference for 2018 in Cambridge. Seventeen other subject- or project-specific conferences/workshops have been organised by department staff.

Department members have peer reviewed for a range of historical and inter-disciplinary journals and monograph publishers in this cycle. Monograph publishers include Bloomsbury, Harvard, OUP, Palgrave, Routledge. Some of the leading journals staff have reviewed for are *Journal of Contemporary History*, *Development and Change*, *English Historical Review*, *Historical Journal*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *International Security*. **White** has reviewed research accreditations and large-scale funding applications for South Africa's National Research Foundation and the Dutch Research Council and has served as external assessor for academic appointments in Imperial/Commonwealth History at Universiti Malaya since 2014.

Nine editorial board positions on journals or book series have been held by staff, most notably **Matthews-Jones** as editor of *Journal of Victorian Culture* (including managing editor of *Journal of Victorian Culture Online*). She has led the development of site themes and content and has managed the publication of c. 450 OA pieces. According to current JVC editor, Prof Jane Hamlett (Royal Holloway), **Matthews-Jones** 'has been vital to JVC's emerging reputation in the last five years as an innovative journal that has led the way in using social media and developing the digital humanities.'

Keynote addresses include **Crossland**: Humanitarianism and medicine: Past and Present Conference, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Menorca (2017); **O'Brien**: Irish Museums Association Annual Conference, Cork (2019); Annual Hibernian Lecture, University of Notre Dame, Indiana (2015).