

<b>Institution: University of Oxford</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 28 History</b>
<b>Section 1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Oxford History in numbers</b>  Research staff FTE: 172.75  Total postdoctoral researchers, 2014-20: 33 (18.4%)  Average doctoral cohort p.a.: 74 students  Average annual research income p.a.: GBP291,877.57 (internal); GBP3,853,348.43 (external)  Impact Case Studies: 10  Volume of Research Outputs: 98 books; 26 edited volumes; 108 Open Access articles; 114</p> </div> <p><b><u>1.1 Mission</u></b></p> <p>Oxford History aims to promote research of the highest quality into all aspects of human experience in the past. Our core mission is to maintain and enrich our provision of original and rigorous scholarship across the full chronological, geographical and thematic range of the discipline. The exceptional size and diversity of the unit explains its distinctive character, but also underpins our outstanding record in interdisciplinary innovation, grant capture and collaboration with scholars in many other countries. Since REF2014, the major development has been the embedding of global history in all periods from late antiquity to the contemporary world. Our emerging priorities for the next assessment period are (1) <b>to bring insights from high-quality historical research to address urgent global problems</b>, including the environment, disease, modern slavery, and migration; (2) <b>to foster an inclusive research culture, through the study of women and other groups formerly marginalised</b> in the study of History; (3) <b>to develop a substantial programme of community history</b> by working closely with local groups and organisations in and beyond Oxford; (4) <b>to enhance our resilience</b> in the face of the challenges created by the UK's departure from the EU and by the Coronavirus pandemic, so that we remain a dynamic centre for the production of research and the training of doctoral and postdoctoral scholars; and (5) <b>to strengthen our doctoral and postdoctoral training</b> to ensure that the next generation of scholars are equipped with the skills necessary to make successful careers in and beyond academia.</p> <p>Supported by the vision articulated in the University's 2018-23 Strategic Plan, the achievement of these five priorities will require the unit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• foster an inclusive environment based on our commitment to academic freedom, and collegiality;</li> <li>• nurture a rich and diverse research culture using both traditional and virtual formats that compares favourably with other world-leading universities, and that enhances Oxford's place as a global centre for the doctoral training of the next generation of historians;</li> <li>• ensure that the number of posts is maintained and if possible increased through support from within and outside the University;</li> <li>• sustain long-term research excellence by attracting and supporting the best UK and international graduate students and early-career researchers;</li> <li>• secure substantial external funding for research projects that serve our academic priorities;</li> </ul>

- provide response-led funding and administrative support for research activities (workshops, conferences, archival work etc) for all sectors of our research community and users.

## 1.2 Overview of UoA

Oxford hosts the largest grouping of historians in the UK, and one of the largest in the world. Its research extends across 3 departments, 22 colleges and 4 institutes, in addition to world-class museums and libraries. The organisational structure of the unit is presented in Figure 1 (overleaf).

The central focus is the Faculty of History, which hosts 117.1 FTE researchers or 68% of the History unit. In addition, our return includes 22.5 FTE teaching and research staff employed elsewhere in the University, comprising 4.3 FTE in other faculties; 8.2 FTE in the Ashmolean Museum, the History of Science Museum, and Bodleian Libraries, all of which form part of the University's Division of Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM); 2 FTE in the Rothermere American Institute (RAI); and 8 FTE in the Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE). In addition, it includes 33.15 FTE who are salaried college-only employees distributed across 21 colleges. The Department of the History of Art (HoA) is a sub-unit (6 FTE) that benefits from separate premises and day-to-day autonomy in teaching but is fully integrated into the Faculty's research structure. HoA also manages the Faculty's Visual Resources Centre.

The History Faculty is the largest of the nine academic units within the Humanities Division. Its research is supported by an administrative team of 8.6 FTE working in liaison with the Divisional administration. GLAM, OUDCE, and the RAI have their own support staff and report to central university authorities. Historians co-operate across these sub-units in many ways, by co-supervising doctoral students and serving on appointment panels. Some joint appointments exist across two or even three sub-units; several straddle the Divisions of Humanities and Social Sciences. The dispersed presence of historians contributes to a culture of interdisciplinarity, but does not exclude a collective intellectual identity. This is reinforced by our rich culture of research seminars, graduate workshops, and work-in-progress forums. The Faculty hosts an average of more than fifty regular weekly or fortnightly term-time seminars. In response to the suspension of in-person activities in the spring of 2020, nearly all of these seminars moved successfully on-line (with valuable support from our IT staff). In addition, members of the UoA participate in the leadership and research activities of centres across the university, including the Besterman Centre for the Enlightenment (Humanities Division); the Centre for Early Modern Studies (English Faculty); the Centre for the History of the Book (Bodleian Library); the Changing Character of War Centre (Department of Politics and International Relations), and the University of Oxford China Centre.

There are twelve Research Centres within the History Faculty, all of which are open to researchers of all career stages. Their core purpose is to provide a focus for research activities, including organising conferences and colloquia, hosting international visitors and study groups, and attracting research-grant funding. In addition, the UoA participates in the activities of The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), which has developed in recent years as a prominent site of inter-disciplinary research and an incubator for new ideas and collaborations within and beyond academia. Interdisciplinary work also takes place between historians and colleagues from other disciplines in the Oxford Martin School. Its purpose is to develop solution-focused approaches to problems of global significance, such as the Programme on Women's Equality and Inequality, co-led by Selina **Todd** and Senia **Paseta**.

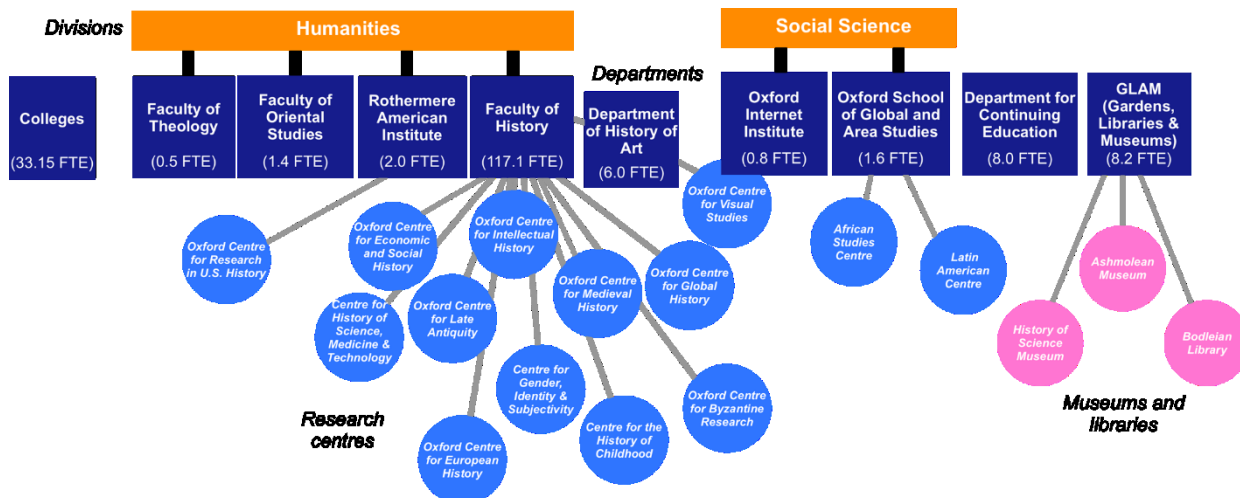


Figure 1. Structure of UoA

The historians of the UoA therefore operate within a larger culture of research and intellectual exchange. The distinctive culture of our UoA reflects the way that the devolved structures of Oxford have encouraged independent research initiatives and synergies to develop. Space and the freedom to develop new themes are qualities that we value highly. We wish to maintain that collective ethos by making enhanced resources available to encourage it. But we have also set a series of measurable objectives for our research activities which are developed through this statement.

### **1.3 Review of the research and impact plans articulated in 2014**

Whereas the Environment Statement submitted in 2014 mapped closely onto the History Faculty and articulated its own vision, the History Faculty only constitutes 70% of the present UoA. This review thus pertains primarily to the three objectives the Faculty committed itself to in 2014:

**1. Giving new force to our research profile through more efficient use of postholders' time and generating more fully-funded doctoral scholarships.** We have used our alumni fundraising (often undertaken in partnership with Colleges) to develop a series of internally-funded doctoral scholarships. By 2019-20 there were six donor-funded studentships, as well as various forms of part-funding; and, along with our share of the University's Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), and other scholarship schemes, this has resulted in an average of 56% of the students admitted to the doctoral programme receiving packages of support. This major investment has helped us to attract the strongest doctoral students from around the world to Oxford. The Faculty has also reviewed and reconfigured its provision at Masters level, by reducing the number of separate programmes and enhancing the level of technical training available for Masters and early doctoral students in research skills. At the same time, we have embedded a major reform of our undergraduate curriculum, intended to bring undergraduates closer to our research and also to create synergies between teaching and research. This project is generally regarded as having been a considerable success (notably in terms of globalising our undergraduate curriculum), but the work involved in the implementation of a new curriculum has created pressure points for some colleagues, which the Faculty's officers have sought to address with targeted assistance.

**2. Globalising our research profile** by expanding our expertise in African and Asian History, while ensuring that our established strengths in British, European and American history are fully

integrated with the study of the wider world. Senior appointments in African History and Global & Imperial History have been reinforced with the appointment of Associate Professors in early medieval Eurasian history, Byzantine history, Eastern Christianities, Byzantine Archaeology and Visual Culture, early modern global Iberian history, South Asian intellectual history, modern Chinese history, and the History of East Asian Art (see Section 2 below).

External recognition of Oxford's importance as a hub of research with global span and significance has come in two forms. First, external endowment has funded the post in the History of East Asian Art and a post-doctoral teaching and research post in Mexican history. Second, a very successful record of applications for funding in Global History has deepened research on the Middle East, Eurasia, and Africa. Notable successes are two European Research Council project grants, one in Near Eastern History (John-Paul **Ghobrial**) and the other in sub-Saharan African History (Miles **Larmer**). The AHRC has awarded funding for projects on global religions and the First World War (Adrian **Gregory**) and global socialism (Paul **Betts**); while the Leverhulme Trust has supported Stephen **Tuck**'s work on the segregation-era civil-rights activist Francis Grimké, Rana **Mitter**'s work on post-WW2 East Asia, and James **Belich**'s exploration of macro- and micro-histories of globalisation. Finally, the Wellcome Trust funded the research of Shinjini **Das** on public health in British India. We are especially proud of our cohort of ECRs who have won highly competitive funding to take our globalised agenda to new intellectual frontiers, including Lucy **Parker** tracking the persistence of late antique saints' cults under Muslim rule in the Middle East; Jonathan **Krause** revealing the tumult caused by the First World War in French and German colonies; and Abhijit **Sarkar** investigating the history of earthquakes and earthquake-relief in the Indian subcontinent.

The Centre for Global History, based in the History Faculty, provides a focus for these activities, but equally importantly this 'global turn' has also led us to globalise the study of phenomena, which formerly have been approached through a primarily European lens. This has been evident in Natalia **Nowakowska**'s international conference on 'What is Dynasty' (2015) and our major project over the period 2014-18 on Globalising the First World War. Conversely, our extra-European historians take account of European phenomena in their research. A notable example is Alan **Strathern**'s important monograph *Unearthly Powers*, which enriches his focus on Asia by drawing on medieval and early modern European examples.

3. **Nurturing other research clusters** was our third stated objective. We have allowed some of our research centres to wane, where the demand for collective activity was less pronounced. But most have flourished, and we have created a new structure of funding which has enabled us to direct enhanced support to new initiatives. Two areas of expansion are particularly striking. The new Centre for Economic and Social History owes much to the appointment in 2017 of Catherine **Schenk**, an authority on banking and financial history, and to a new partnership with the Said Business School, that has enabled us to create a Centre for the Global History of Capitalism. This has led to a range of doctoral and postdoctoral funding streams that have benefited our doctoral students and ECRs. The second is the new energy evident in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (HSMT). The appointment of Robert **Iliffe** to the Chair in the History of Science has brought new endowment and externally-funded research income into this field. This has enabled the creation of a fully-endowed post in the modern History of Science. The significance of HSMT for transcending both academic disciplines and internal institutional distinctions is further evidenced by the appointment of **Mark Harrison**, Professor of the History of Medicine, as Co-Director of the Wellcome Centre for Ethics and the Humanities. Based at the University's Big Data Institute, this Centre was founded in 2017 to lead debate about the ethical constraints on scientific research and technological innovation.

Members of the UoA have also addressed the global crises of the twenty-first century. Concern for the climate and the environment energise the work of Amanda **Power** in her Leverhulme-funded research on medieval histories of the Anthropocene. Catherine **Schenk** is a consultant to the International Monetary Fund on the ongoing challenges posed by the global financial crisis, while [text removed for publication].

**The facilitation of Impact** was not among the designated strategic priorities in 2014, but the UoA has, nevertheless, undergone a welcome paradigm shift between 2014 and 2020. The History Faculty formally launched its Impact Strategy in 2019, which sets objectives for what we want to achieve over the coming years; and we have charged the Deputy Director of Research with overall responsibility for accelerating Impact. Particularly important in the Oxford context is the opportunity to bring our museums and libraries into closer working relationships with researchers (at all career stages) in academic departments. This has provided opportunities for a wide range of formats of KE, PER, and Impact, as demonstrated by the Ashmolean Faculty Fellowship scheme and the training opportunities afforded to ECRs in the museum. This has formed part of a broader cultural change among members of the UoA. Historians have been quick to take advantage of the specialist resources now available across the University for impact, and colleagues have become much more accustomed to working with non-academic partners. In order to showcase our research and foster its dissemination we appointed our first Communications and Alumni Relations Officer (1.0FTE) in 2015. Staffing of the communication office rose in 2020 to 1.6FTE. From 2016/17 to 2019/20 the Research section of our website has seen a 60% increase in the time spent on it, coupled with a significantly larger increase in use of individual researcher pages over the same period (149% increase in page views, which lasted on average 44% longer). Further details of our support for Impact are provided below.

### **Responding to Coronavirus**

The Unit has responded nimbly to the 2020 global crisis caused by Covid-19 with targeted support for individual postholders (especially those with caring responsibilities) as well as measures to help ECRs whose research programmes have been knocked off course. In broader terms, the History Faculty recognised that the emergency is exacerbating existing inequalities, especially those deriving from race, across the world. It issued a strong public statement signalling its commitment to acknowledging these problems and working constructively to address them. It can be found at <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/statement-values>. Two colleagues, in particular, have redirected their research efforts in response. [text removed for publication] Erica **Charters** used her expertise in the History of Medicine combined with her international networks to guest-edit an OA *Centaurus* Spotlight issue: ***Histories of Epidemics in the Time of COVID-19***. Its fifteen contributors show how epidemics need to be studied within their broader cultural, political, and geographic contexts, and reflect on how history can contribute to a better understanding of the world's current predicament.

## **1.4 Research objectives in and beyond 2020**

The research priorities of the Unit over the coming period fall into three closely-related categories: reinforcing institutional resilience; developing four research themes; and deepening our Impact agenda.

### **(1) Institutional Resilience**

An essential consideration in the next few years will be ensuring the resilience of History at Oxford. We already assist our many post-doctoral and doctoral researchers with grant applications, writing research proposals, and providing workshops for younger scholars to test

out their ideas; but we aim to target training events and peer-to-peer support more effectively. Since 2014 we have obtained funding from a number of alumni for outreach, early-career and community history initiatives, but we intend to do more. Our 'Development Panel' (of alumni), set up in 2019, has already yielded GBP40,000 in donations, but has the potential to generate further resource. We will also strengthen administrative support structures for PIs running major projects, which is an aspect of our activities that has developed in recent years in a rather ad hoc manner. The new premises planned for the Faculty in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities (scheduled for completion 2024/5) will enable us to participate fully in the Centre's programmes of public-facing cultural events and exhibitions. The larger goal is to use this new physical environment to achieve a step change in the tangible sense of collegiality among the exceptionally rich range of scholars of the past in Oxford.

## **(2) Research Themes**

We have identified four priorities to shape our research over the coming years: community, gender and sexuality, science and technology, and Europe.

**Community** is a priority that has emerged out of the enthusiasm of many of our staff for work with audiences beyond the conventional frontiers of academia. Examples have been the project of Kathryn **Gleadle** on the history of children's stories in Orkney, and the work of Miles **Larmer** and Sloan **Mahone** with African villagers on the impact of diseases and economic change. We shall reinforce the local benefits of our research through OUDCE in everything from PGR supervision to public engagement and impact, and by seizing the new opportunities provided by the Schwarzman Centre. Following a highly successful Community and Public History event in 2019, we have used our strategic funding allocation to create a Community History Seed Fund; we have appointed our first annual Community History Fellow in 2020; we are developing projects with Oxford's African-Caribbean and South Asian communities; and we will create a Public History space within the Schwarzman Centre.

**Women, Gender and Sexuality**. Our considerable expertise in this field is evident in the distinguished work of the Regius Professor, Lyndal **Roper**, but also in a cluster of historians working on aspects of Modern Britain and Ireland (notably Selina **Todd**, Siân **Pooley**, and Senia **Paseta**) complemented by colleagues (Dan **Healey**, Conrad **Leyser**), who work on masculinity. Over recent years, we have organised research activities and workshops during LGBTQ History Month, and have established a Centre for Gender, Identity and Subjectivity (CGIS) to encourage research initiatives relating to sexuality and identity. In 2020, our new externally-funded Chair in Women's History was established. The arrival in 2021 of the first holder, Brenda Stevenson, will enable us to develop funded doctoral places, workshops and conferences.

**Science and Technology** reflects the cultural change that has taken place within many of Oxford's Science and Medical departments, which has made them much more aware of the benefits of working with Humanities scholars on interdisciplinary projects. This has already generated real benefits for our faculty, but we intend to reinforce these possibilities over the coming years. Rob **Iliffe**, Professor of the History of Science, has also developed close links with the Oxford-based science and technology cluster of companies. This will undoubtedly be one of the enduring legacies of the current pandemic, and we will prioritise research initiatives in this field.

**Europe** expresses our determination to maintain the largest cluster of Europeanists in the country, but also research about Europe: its identity, its evolving frontiers, and changing position in the world. Oxford Historians working on Europe have long demonstrated the deep complexity of European history, by exploring diverse themes from the Late Antique period to the post-1989 era. That remains an important task, both politically and intellectually, but much of our more recent research has been on the edges of Europe. This ranges from the work of Fanny **Bessard** and Marek **Jankowiak** on early medieval Eurasia, to Alexander **Morrison** on Russian Central Asia in the nineteenth century, and James **McDougall** on colonial Algeria. Other colleagues investigate the larger interchanges between Europe and the world, such as Andrew **Thompson's** work on global humanitarianism, and the work of Patricia **Clavin** and Catherine

**Schenk** on modern economic and financial history. In this way, Europe remains a major focus of our scholarly endeavour, but also an interface with wider agendas.

### **(3) Impact beyond 2020**

We will develop further our forms of support for early and mid-career academics in knowledge exchange, co-production of research, and achieving impact, using our 2019 Impact Strategy document. This includes highlighting opportunities for knowledge exchange through the targeted dissemination of requests for expert advice in public consultations on UK government policy, brokering contacts between academics and curators/media producers and directors who are seeking research-based knowledge to enhance their cultural productions, as well as maximising the online presence of our activities. The UoA sits in this respect in a particularly favourable institutional context: on the one hand, there are the external partnerships we have established with external institutions, such as the National Trust; while on the other there are the wealth of more local opportunities and expertise provided by the museums and galleries of GLAM to generate public engagement with research (PER). The third leg of this process is our investment in Community history which we think can do much more to embed our practice of History with diverse communities, locally and more internationally.

## **1.5 Research principles**

Our research is conducted in accordance with certain principles:

### **(1) Interdisciplinary Research**

The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) provides an important opportunity for historians at all career stages to collaborate with researchers from other disciplines; to develop partnerships with public and private institutions; and to bring together academic research, the creative industries, and the performing arts. Historians have been prominent in the diverse programmes of TORCH, and from 2013, Stephen **Tuck** served as its founding Director. More recently, Julia **Smith** helped launch TORCH's international schemes aimed at broadening the global reach of Oxford Humanities research and bringing diverse and underrepresented voices to Oxford. We report on the income derived from TORCH in Section 3, but its broader impact has been evident in the energy it has given to interdisciplinary activities. Two awards exemplify historians' pursuit of innovative interdisciplinarity. TORCH awarded a grant to ECR Lisandra **Costiner** to establish a network on '(En)coding Heritage' which connects scholars from the humanities, social sciences and applied sciences interested in harnessing the power of 3D mapping, photogrammetry and virtual environments in the study of historical records, material objects and cultural sites; while Amanda **Power**'s cross-university partnership on 'Climate Crisis Thinking in the Humanities and Social Sciences' aims to challenge debates and methodologies driven by the hard sciences.

### **(2) Open Scholarship**

Both the University and UoA are committed to the principles of open research and open access. Oxford historians have taken a lead within the University and at the national level in responding to resolve the challenges posed by open access for the practice of publishing in the humanities. In his role as Bodley's Librarian, Richard **Ovenden** leads the implementation of the University's open scholarship strategic priority and contributes widely to national and international consultations in support of a sustainable open research culture. On behalf of HEFCE, Chris **Wickham** (retired 2016) undertook an evidence-based assessment of the impact of OA on journals in Humanities and the Social Sciences (HSS), leading to his 2014 co-authored report, *Open access journals in Humanities and Social Science*. (London: British Academy, 2014; (<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/publications/open-access-journals-humanities-and-social-science/>)). This informed the formulation of the rules for REF2021. Many other colleagues have also been heavily involved in the formulation of policy via their roles on the editorial boards of journals and learned societies.

All UKRI grantees operate a Researchfish account, and project databases are hosted on public access free-to-user websites managed by the Faculty and/or Bodleian Libraries. A good example is the substantial Newton Project, which provides free-to-access digital editions of Newton's publications: <http://www.newtonproject.ox.ac.uk>. In addition, members of the UoA participate prominently in the innovative Cabinet open-access platform launched by Oxford: <https://www.cabinet.ox.ac.uk>. The University funds Gold-route OA publications when required by funding agencies. But, in addition, all members of the UoA are strongly encouraged to deposit manuscripts of journal articles and conference papers in the Oxford Research Archive (ORA), and our research officers monitor compliance. Doctoral students deposit their theses into ORA, and are supported with issues of copyright and publication in an 'open' world. The Bodleian librarians have initiated an ambitious programme of open-scholarship training and advocacy events including Open Access Oxford Week in which UoA members are to the fore.

### **(3) Research Integrity**

Oxford's historians conduct research activities involving human participants and personal data in a way which respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of participants, and minimises risk to researchers, and third parties. The University requires that all such research is subject to ethical review, in advance of the research being undertaken. Scrutiny is overseen by the Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC, <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics>). Historians' applications are handled by the Social Sciences and Humanities Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee, generally via procedures for expedited "light-touch" low-risk research. Research Ethics training sessions provided by the Humanities Division are supplemented by online training resources. Training is mandatory for PGTs and PGRs; and all relevant ECRs, visiting researchers, and staff colleagues – notably those conducting oral-history research and/or working on private archives – are also required to undergo training.

## **2. People**

Oxford historians are individually and collectively diverse. They work in different units of the University and operate within a variety of structures. But these different contexts are united by an emphasis on career-length development, fostering synergies, and cultivating the curiosity-driven research that we regard as central to our ethos. These people-oriented policies are also geared to fulfilling the strategic aims articulated in Section 1, notably strengthening global history, nurturing research clusters, promoting diversity, and expanding the number of funded doctoral places. Colleges too play an important role in achieving this goal, through maintaining the emphasis on research-led teaching and providing support for doctoral scholarships and post-doctoral research. Libraries and Museums contribute through their appointment of research staff who work closely with UoA staff on research projects. The UoA is also fortunate to possess a long-established core of staff in OUDCE whose remit is not simply to teach diverse audiences, but to provide pathways to participation in research, notably through part-time degrees. All parts of the unit therefore have frameworks to support staff across the researcher lifecycle; and this is reflected in the structure of this section which traces the successive career stages from doctoral students to senior staff.

### **2.1 Research Students (PGRs)**

The Faculty contains one of the largest communities of research students in the world, with on average 74 admissions per annum. Entry is highly competitive: in 2019-20, the Faculty received 326 applications for a doctoral place, of which 25 were for a part-time degree. The proportion of funded doctoral students has held reasonably steady around 56% (a low of 52% in 2019/20, but a high of 61% in 2018/19). Of these, an average of 32% each year are AHRC-funded, with a smaller number supported by ESRC. The Faculty has worked hard to diversify the doctoral



cohort, notably by guaranteeing an equal gender balance in awards and through initiatives such as the sponsorship of a PGT scholarship for UK BAME applicants in 2020, and the Stuart Hall doctoral scholarship, offered in partnership with Merton College. The proportion of women in the doctoral cohort has grown steadily from 44% in 2014 to 48% in 2019. Many of our Masters students have the ambition to progress to a DPhil with us, which underscores the importance of ensuring provision at Masters level acts as a gateway to diversity in doctoral research. This motivated the decision to create the very successful Masters in Global and Imperial History. Similarly, our MSt in History will contain a strand on 'Women's, Gender and Queer History' from the autumn of 2021, and another on 'Race and Resistance' is in preparation. The geographical diversity of our doctoral students is also important. In 2019-20, 33% of our intake of doctoral students came from outside Europe. The numbers from Latin America, Africa and Asia are small, but we succeeded in endowing a research fellowship in contemporary Mexican history; we are looking at developing a similar programme with AfOx, the Africa-Oxford Initiative; and are launching a fund-raising initiative in India in honour of the historian of Nehru, Sarvepalli Gopal. We have also consolidated part-time doctoral provision, both through the Faculty itself, and the doctoral programmes of OUDCE. The Libraries and Museums host a number of research students, and the Oxford University Museums-AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (2016 onwards) enables the development of research in concert with its partners in the museum sector. Oxford's young historians have benefited from collaborative doctoral awards through the award-winning National Trust partnership. An important element of this partnership is the way it broadens the scope and relevance of doctoral training. While the majority of doctoral research is geared towards academic teaching and research careers, the increased emphasis on more practice-oriented and public-oriented history within the unit opens up a wider range of career choices. Similarly, the participation of part-time and later career doctoral students embeds doctoral training in more diverse life patterns.

Doctoral training proceeds along three axes, designed to integrate research students in the practice of academic history:

- First of all, there is centrally-provided training in auxiliary skills – languages, bibliography, quantitative skills, etc. – and a rich programme of researcher development, with modules in 'Career Confidence' and 'Preparation for Academic Practice', as well as four priority areas: Digital Humanities; Business and Entrepreneurship; Heritage; and the Creative Industries. This training is provided by [1] the Faculty, which employs some specialised staff in these areas, such as the Professor of Diplomatic (Richard **Sharpe**; deceased 2020), the Lyell Career Development Fellow in Latin Palaeography (Stewart **Brookes**), and the University Research Lecturer in Latin (Ida **Toth**); [2] the Faculty Library, which coordinates a gathered field of web-based training platforms; [3] the AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership (Oxford only until 2019, now Open-Oxford-Cambridge) and the ESRC DTP (Oxford only until 2019, now Grand Union – including Open and Brunel); and [4] a multitude of research skills courses provided by the Bodleian and interdisciplinary workshops in the Ashmolean. In addition, there are opportunities to gain skills across the University – in mapping, or codicology, via the Bodleian; in handling material objects, via the Ashmolean or Pitt-Rivers; in European and world languages via the Language Centre and Oriental Studies. Each doctoral student is entitled to claim up to GBP1500 for specialised language tuition.
- Second, there is the University's 'progression' structure, which requires incoming DPhil students to 'transfer status' in their first year and 'confirm status' in their third year. For Transfer, students have to present a short lecture on their research, an initial piece of writing, and a plan of what the thesis will cover and how it will be researched and delivered in a timely way. For Confirmation, they must present a thesis chapter of submittable quality. These procedures involve colleagues in commenting and advising on students' work, while introducing students to the challenges of communicating their ideas to a wider audience. Doctoral students receive four formal reports a year from their supervisors, but importantly the Graduate Supervision Reporting system has been redesigned to enable students also to report on their own progress.
- Third, there is extensive provision of opportunities for self-directed development. In the Faculty, these include: [1] our substantial programme of seminars and workshops, many

of them run by students and early-career scholars; [2] our twelve research centres, which provide opportunities for students to network with senior and junior academics within and outside Oxford, and to gain experience at directing workshops; [3] the support we are able to provide to doctoral students from the Arnold, Bryce, Read Fund (up to GBP250 a year for students studying the UK or the extra-European world), the Clark Fund (up to GBP250 a year for students working on Europe) and the Rattray Fund (up to GBP500 a year for students working on architectural history), as well as funds held within colleges; [4] participation in a range of doctoral workshops organised with other universities, such as the 'Global Dome' partnership, led by the University of Notre Dame. These opportunities are matched by parallel provision by other organisations in the unit, such as the Bodleian's Centre for the Study of the Book; the Ashmolean seminars which introduce historians to handling material objects; and the seminars and workshops on local history and architectural history run by Mark **Smith** and Paul **Barnwell** in OUDCE.

Peer-to-peer support and advice is also important in the development of our students. The Oxford History Graduate Network brings PGRs together to share skills, runs 'Work in Progress' sessions, and convenes a greatly valued bi-weekly 'Shut Up and Write Group'. Its officers sit on Faculty and Divisional committees, including the Faculty Board, while the termly Graduate Joint Consultative Committee provides a forum for wider consultation. We recognise that the lives of research students can present emotional challenges. To that end, all students are affiliated to a college where they meet regularly with a designated Graduate Adviser who is the primary point of pastoral contact and advice. In addition to support available from college welfare teams and the University Counselling Service, the History Faculty maintains a network of trained Equality and Diversity – including Harassment – officers to whom students can turn confidentially.

The goal of cultivating independent and well-integrated early career scholars appears to be being realised through our doctoral programmes. Completion rates are respectable, with 70% submitting within the four-year period that the University allows. The proportion of doctoral students progressing to an academic career is high. Survey data suggests around 71% entering academic employment, which compares favourably to sector norms.

## **2.2 Early Career Researchers (ECRs)**

In our UoA, as elsewhere in the UK, the major demographic change in recent years has been a rapid expansion in the ranks of ECRs, many of whom are employed on collaborative externally-funded projects. 52.85 FTE (30.6%) in this UoA are fixed-term postdoctoral ECRs, divided almost equally between men and women. They account for 25.75% of our outputs and are made up of two groups:

- the holders of a range of Post-Doctoral Fellowships, including British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships, Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships, Wellcome Trust Research Fellowships, Newton International Fellows, research grant-funded postdoctoral researchers, college-based Junior Research Fellowships, and research fellowships in the Museums and/or Bodleian Libraries.
- fixed-term Departmental Lecturers (temporary early-career posts, replacing colleagues on leave or secondment). The UoA appointed 32 of these over the period of the REF, all of whom were research-active staff.

Developing structures to support and develop these ECRs has been a major element of our work on staffing. On arrival, ECRs are integrated into our research culture via dedicated induction sessions which provide orientation in the research structures of the Faculty led by Regius Professor Lyndal **Roper** who is the ECR Champion. All Departmental Lecturers (DLs) have the same entitlement to apply for funding from the Faculty Research Committee as permanent postholders; those based in colleges also have access to college research funds. Many also obtain additional funding from the university's John Fell Fund (supported by an annual transfer from the university press) and/or TORCH networks. In 2019-20 the Unit opened its fund for Monograph Workshops to ECRs, enabling them to organise a workshop to receive feedback on their manuscript before seeking a publication contract. In addition, the Faculty's

Research officers prioritise support for the ECR community via 'research surgery' meetings for advice and guidance, scheme-specific grant-writing workshops, and help with revision of funding applications and associated costings. Around a tenth of applications for research funding supported by the Faculty are made by ECRs. A similar emphasis on supporting ECR research exists in the Pitt Rivers Museum, which aims to put forward two research-grant applications from ECRs each year. An elected ECR representative sits on almost every Faculty Committee, including the Research Committee and the Faculty Board. All ECRs receive a mentor who has responsibility for helping their integration into Oxford and their career development.

All of our DLs are employed on at least 12-month contracts to sustain their research outside of active teaching periods, and the Faculty is normally able to arrange college associations for them. All ECRs are entitled to extend their associate membership of the Faculty for a year beyond their employment with us, ensuring they retain visibility, library access and an Oxford association while they may be completing research and applying for jobs. The Regius Professor was prominent in a successful campaign to ensure that full maternity benefits would be available for temporary staff (<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/summary-of-maternity-leave-and-pay>).

The Humanities Division offers an extensive programme of training and development for postgraduates and early career researchers through TORCH: <https://www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/researcher-development>. The Faculty also offers opportunities to design and lead activity through its research centres and its seminars, as well as two specific forms of career development:

- Within their specific contractual terms, ECRs are encouraged to develop their teaching profile to enhance their employability. Central to the 2017 restructuring of the PGT programme (MSt/MPhil in History) was enabling ECRs to co-teach Master's courses in Theory and Methods; Sources and Historiography; and topic-specific Options. Many undertake supervision of undergraduate theses, and co-supervise masters and doctoral dissertations as appropriate.
- We also offer career-development openings to ECRs. We have involved them in the identification and development of REF Impact Case Studies, through which they gained experience in teamworking and communication with colleagues, as well as new contacts with internal and external partners. ECRs have also gained experience through helping to run research centres. For example, Rebecca **Orr** and Andrew **Edwards** have benefited from fully mentored roles in the Global History of Capitalism project, as part of their career development fellowships there.

The Museums and Libraries also offer training opportunities to ECRs, and these are integrated with the Faculty and other organisations in the unit. For instance, Federica **Gigante**, who is a trainee curator with the Ashmolean, has been able to gain curatorial experience with the History of the Museum of Science, while developing her research in the history of global exchange through her membership of the Faculty's Centre for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology.

In sum, the contribution of ECRs to the UoA's research culture is immense. Through their participation alongside PGRs in our international doctoral research workshops, they model the next career stage and contribute informal mentoring. Recent conferences and networks organised by postdoctoral researchers include 'New Critical Approaches to the Byzantine World', led by two ECRs and a former PGR, and 'Managing Airs and Climates', led by an ECR and a PGR, both of which have led to significant publications in this submission. Their achievements in Oxford translate into career success: although we do not keep comprehensive records, at least 33 ECRs have been appointed to permanent posts in research-intensive universities within this period, and at least a further 7 have been appointed to other postdoctoral posts; 8 have made their career overseas, from Australia to Italy, while 32 have remained in the UK, including 3 appointed in both Manchester and UCL, and 2 in each of Birmingham, UEA, Glasgow, Cambridge, KCL, and QMUL. We are proud to have been able to make such a major contribution to ensuring the resilience of the profession in the coming decades.

### **2.3 Permanent Staff**

Permanent staff account for 69% of the UoA. The large majority (82%) are employed by the History Faculty, with a further 7% employed by the Department of Continuing Education (OUDCE) on very similar terms. Almost all the other permanent staff in the unit are employed either by Museums and Libraries, or by colleges, where they are generally teaching or research fellows.

In the History Faculty, there are only two grades of permanent academic staff: the vast majority are associate professors (APs), constituting 93 individuals (91.5 FTE), and there are 13 statutory professors who hold senior positions. APs are normally employed jointly by the Faculty and by colleges; some do more lecturing and class-teaching for the Faculty (APTF-U) and some do more tutorial teaching for the colleges (APTF-C). A third group have no undergraduate teaching obligations but teach and supervise graduates (APNTF). All these staff are required to undertake research as part of their contract of employment. Most OUDCE colleagues are also APs, and a number are also members of Kellogg College, which provides a collegiate home for part-time students and a good number of full-time History graduate students.

#### **The Faculty**

The relatively non-hierarchical employment structure of the Faculty lies at the heart of our distinctive research culture. As almost all postholders are also fellows of colleges, they retain a certain independence from the Faculty, which fosters an ethos of voluntary participation in its activities. Responses to the University's 2018 Staff Experience Questionnaire and to the consultations associated with our Athena SWAN application in 2019 demonstrate that staff appreciate the relative autonomy created by this framework, and regard it as positive for their development as researchers.

The Faculty seeks to support and encourage research and impact at every stage of postholders' careers, from recruitment to retirement. Its strategies are outlined here:

Recruitment: During this assessment period, the Faculty has substantially reformed its recruitment practices, with the intention of encouraging a more diverse range of applicants and appointees, and to signal the importance of research and knowledge-exchange to our common life. Job descriptions provide more detailed information about research activity in the sphere of each position; the Faculty follows best practice by inviting shortlisted candidates for both associate professor and professorial positions to make presentations to Faculty colleagues and PGRs, at which candidates' capacity to explain their research to broad audiences can be assessed. These events are well attended and demonstrate to candidates and colleagues alike the importance and liveliness of the Faculty's research culture. Recruitment committees receive guidance on bias in references; and since 2019, their members are required to take unconscious bias training. Each year's recruitment patterns are analysed at Faculty Board level and lessons learned. Since 2018, we have been asking for written work before references, and in 2019 we considered the introduction of online long-list interviews, in both cases with a view to diversifying the fields of interviewees. During the assessment period, we have recruited 27 new permanent members of staff, 19 at AP level and 8 at professorial level. Of these, 14 have been men and 13 women, replacing 17 men and seven women (three are new posts, all now held by women). All but one of these appointees were external candidates, though five had previously studied or worked in Oxford. We have interview data for 12 of these posts, and they show that, of 66 people interviewed, 38 were women and 61 were external to Oxford. Although data on ethnicity is incomplete, the proportion of appointees from minority ethnic backgrounds was nonetheless above the norm for UK History departments (which was 6.3% in 2018); 10 of the appointees are from outside the UK, 5 of whom were working at non-UK institutions at the time of appointment.

Recruitment patterns have advanced our research strategy. A series of British and European posts have been re-purposed to strengthen the Faculty's non-European or global coverage (**Marcocci** replacing Maddicott; **Larmer** part-replacing Service, to bring us an extra post in

Africa; **Morrison** replacing Harris; **Zaman** replacing Innes; **Bessard** replacing Ward-Perkins; **Park** a new appointment in Chinese art). Other posts have addressed other agendas. In 2016 we replaced a post in nineteenth-century US History (**Sexton**) with one in North American women's history (held by a Caribbean and Atlantic historian, with interests in sexuality, gender and disease, **Paugh**); in 2019, we were able to create a new post in the history of science, to expand the activity of that cluster and to strengthen links with colleagues in the hard sciences (**Jackson**, a historian of nineteenth-century chemistry). Development efforts have been turned towards the same strategic ends. In 2020, we have been able to recruit to what we think is the world's first statutory chair in women's history (Brenda Stevenson, who will take up her post in 2021), with the intention that the postholder will lead initiatives to support women's history and gender history. We have also initiated a fund-raising campaign to support a new post in LGBTQ history.

Recent professorial appointments have also been made with an eye on research leadership: **Iliffe** has transformed the History of Science, Medicine and Technology group, through his efforts in fund-raising, and by building research collaborations with colleagues in the Science and Maths departments. **Wilson** has energetically expanded the programme in the History of War and won an ERC Advanced Grant. **Smith** has built on the achievements of **Wickham** as Chichele Professor of Medieval History, notably by acting as the Faculty's Director of Research in a period of rapid progress on impact and KE. **McBride**, succeeding Foster as the Foster Professor of Irish History, has led REF preparations. **Schenk**, replacing **Humphries** as Professor of Economic and Social History, has led on Impact, built links in financial history and been awarded an ERC Advanced Grant. Comparable to a statutory chair is the important post formerly held by **Darwin** at Nuffield College – a key element in our global history endeavour and a direct link to research in the social sciences and connections to public policy. We were delighted in 2019 to appoint Andrew **Thompson**, executive chair of AHRC (2015-20), to this position.

In those cases where new appointees have replaced postholders on a nominally 'like-for-like' basis (18 cases), we have used these appointments to open up new fields of enquiry and methodological approaches. These include **Jankowiak** (replacing Whittow) in Byzantine history but bringing expertise in Arabic and Japanese as well; **Gittos** (replacing Abrams), strengthening connections with linguistic scholars in medieval studies; **Healey** (replacing Service), adding welcome expertise in LGBTQ history to a regional specialism in Russian history; and **Altehenger** (replacing Muscolino), bringing an interest in modern Chinese material culture.

Probation: All staff below the level of statutory professors pass through an 'initial period of office' (IPO), normally of five years, in which they are given a mentor, encouraged to set aims for their research development, and assessed on their progress in research, teaching and administration on two occasions: an interim assessment, and a final assessment, at which they are typically granted contracts to the retirement age. This framework entails regular meetings with Faculty-appointed mentors as well as annual meetings with the Faculty Board Chair. Colleagues in their IPO are typically spared substantial administrative roles; and they will usually be allowed reduced teaching stint by their colleges during the first year or two of office. Colleagues are eligible to take sabbatical during their IPO period, at the normal rhythm of postholders (see below); and they are supported in applications for research awards, such as Philip Leverhulme prizes. During this period, four colleagues in the IPO have won external research grants, including one ERC consolidator – **Larmer**.

Our system enables colleagues to take on responsibilities – for organising areas of teaching, and for leading projects and initiatives – from an early stage in their careers. While this can be a challenge in terms of protecting research time, it is intellectually enriching and fosters numerous opportunities for collaboration and fresh learning. Several colleagues have been led into research through teaching: among the most distinguished is **Ghosh**, who has written major articles on five of the seven historians in the 'Tacitus to Weber' course which he convenes, including a large book on Weber's *Protestant Ethic*; equally, dialogues built through teaching and examining underlay the interdisciplinary and international **Innes-Philp-Posada-Carbo** project on

'Re-Imagining Democracy', which has led to several conferences and two publications, with a third in prospect (<https://re-imaginingdemocracy.com/>).

**Post-probation:** A familiar problem in the historical profession is the difficulty of maintaining research momentum in mid-career. We have taken a number of steps to address this issue. Besides the various forms of support provided by the Research Office (discussed below), and the stimulus offered by our Research Centres, three strategic elements are worthy of note:

- **Sabbatical Entitlement:** For every six terms of service, each postholder is entitled to a term of research leave. This entitlement can be saved up to release a whole year. In practice, when placed alongside externally funded leave, this means that 15-20% of postholders are on leave from teaching each term.
- **Career Development Reviews:** Every two years, postholders engage in peer review of one another's career trajectories, with a particular focus on research planning. Participation includes colleagues in OUDCE, and in college positions, thus helping to connect the Faculty to the wider community of historians in Oxford. From 2020, biannual reviews are supplemented by voluntary 'Career Conversations' with senior colleagues from across the Humanities Division, and five-yearly meetings with the Faculty Board Chair. These meetings enable longer-term thinking about career-planning, placing research development in a more rounded perspective.
- **Promotion structures:** Since 2014, a Recognition of Distinction system in the University bestows the title of Professor and a small salary increment to colleagues who can demonstrate an appropriate level of research productivity, leadership and/or innovation, alongside commensurate contributions to teaching and administration. A series of Professorial Merit Pay awards are available to those who hold this title of professor. Impact and KE are fully integrated into the assessment criteria, and particular care is taken to ensure that awards are made with due attention to equality and diversity, such as the effect of child-birth and child-care on many female colleagues' career trajectories. Over the period for which data is available, (2014-2018 only) all female applicants for Recognition of Distinction have been successful, whereas the success rate for men is 79%.

**Emeriti and Others:** Emeritus postholders retain their faculty membership in retirement. Many of them continue to co-supervise PGR students, contribute regularly to seminars and occupy advisory roles and board memberships nationally and internationally. Faculty membership is afforded (on application) to those other historians from outside the University who participate in research in History in Oxford, and includes access to research facilities and IT support, and an entitlement to apply to the Research Committee for research funding (see below). Additionally, Associate Membership of the History Faculty for two years (renewable) is available on a case-by-case basis for external historians who make a contribution to our research culture. This is particularly useful in encouraging the involvement of those historians from elsewhere who are undertaking research in Oxford.

### **Other Institutions in the Unit**

Staffing strategies across GLAM, OUDCE and the colleges parallel those in the Faculty. These sub-units have their own research offices to support grant applications – a Research Development Manager in OUDCE, for example, together with a fund for pump-priming projects. Most units in GLAM have their own research committee and/or strategy, all overseen by a Division-wide committee; these typically promote interdisciplinary partnerships and dialogue with colleagues in the Faculty and across the University; the strategies of the museums often have a strong emphasis on knowledge exchange, and what the Pitt Rivers attractively calls 'socially engaged research'. Staff benefit from regular seminar series within their own units – the Ashmolean Seminars on western art history, for instance – but they also participate in the Faculty's seminars and centres, so that the Ashmolean's eminent numismatists have played a full part in the Economic History Seminar (**Mayhew**) and the Byzantine History seminars (**Baker**), while Elizabeth **Gemmill** from OUDCE has co-convened the Medieval History seminar and the Medieval Economic History seminar with colleagues from the Faculty. The Museum of

the History of Science is integrated in the management of the Faculty-based Oxford Centre for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology; while the research centres of the Bodleian – notably the Centre for the Study of the Book – attract colleagues from the Faculty. Colleges too are centres for research, through the home and funding they provide for research fellows and ECRs. They also provide a basis for research projects. Notable examples are the ‘Legalism’ project hosted by St John’s College from 2012 to 2015, which brought together historians and others to produce multiple seminars and three books; and the Somerville College medievalists group, which has led to volumes on performance, polemic and temporality.

## 2.4 Equality and Diversity

A concern with issues of equality and diversity is threaded through everything the unit does. The UoA demonstrates a composition in gender terms familiar to many History departments, of equality at the junior levels, and an under-representation of women in more senior roles. This is demonstrated in Figure 2.

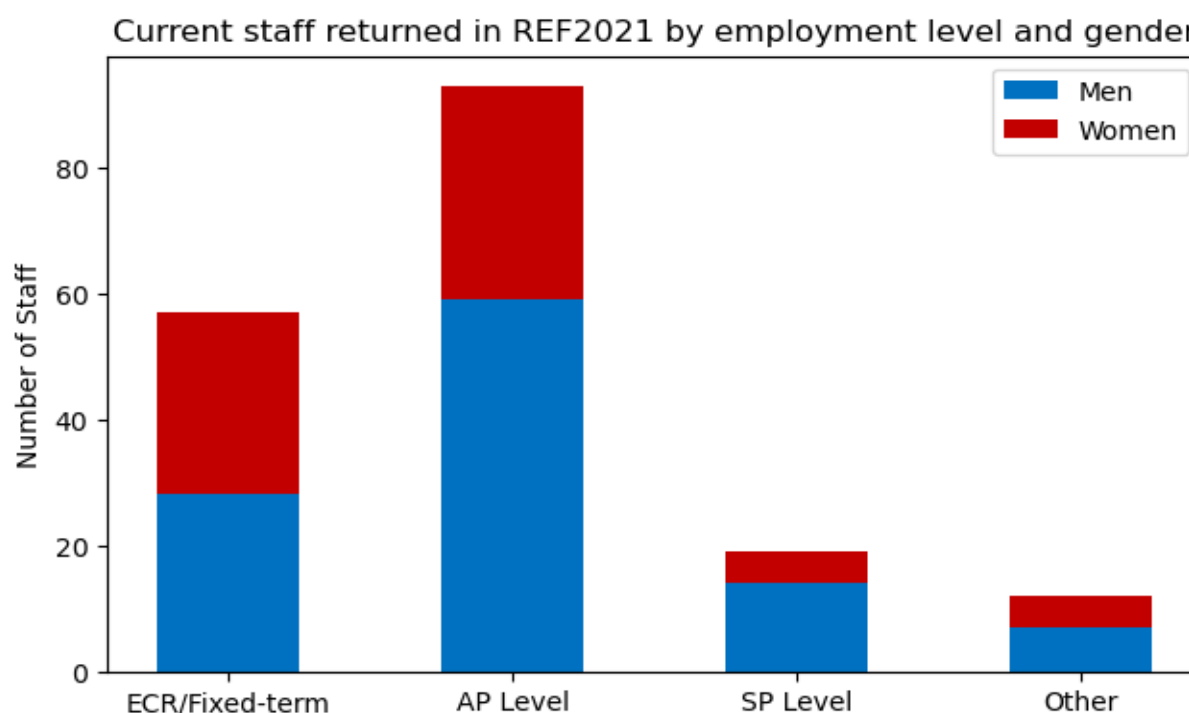


Figure 2. Current staff returned in REF 2021 by employment level and gender

### Structures

Equalities legislation is fully integrated in the Faculty’s decision-making; every large committee has a diversity representative, and the E&D implications of decisions are routinely, but carefully, evaluated. The Faculty has an Equality and Diversity Committee, the members of which are drawn from Faculty colleagues including professional staff and an ECR representative. Importantly, it receives reports from three ‘working groups’ at which staff, researchers and students are represented: focusing on Gender Equality, Race Equality, and Disability. These groups commission projects – notably on gender differentials in undergraduate examinations – but they also address concerns among the student body, such as (in 2019) how to improve the integration of trans people and trans methodologies in the Faculty; how to address neurodiversity and advance inclusive teaching; and (in 2020) how the Faculty should respond to the killing of George Floyd. Research culture is as much a concern of these groups and committees as other facets of the Faculty’s activities, and – together with the Faculty’s Athena SWAN co-ordinators (Ian **Forrest**, 2018-19, Hannah **Skoda**, 2019-) – they have ensured that

E&D considerations are central to Faculty policy, notably in campaigning for improved maternity rights for ECRs (2017-18), leading Research Committee to analyse grant capture by gender (2020), pushing for investment in Black History at PGR, ECR and postholder level, and promoting community history as a way of progressing knowledge exchange in a properly equal and collaborative manner. The Faculty also benefits from the University's provisions for Equality and Diversity, most notably its relatively generous maternity provision; its 'returning carers' fund; its counselling and occupational health facilities; its provisions for tackling unconscious bias in appointments; its harassment procedures; and its staff-experience surveys. In addition, the Faculty funds a compensatory extension to the salary of permanent staff holding research grants who take maternity or adoption leave, while researchers with childcare responsibilities whose research requires them to work away from home (such as during a visit to an archive) are encouraged to apply to the Research Committee for a contribution to the costs of childcare. Finally, the Faculty's redesigned web-site combines core E&D activity with research via our 'values' pages, which illustrate welfare and campaign activities alongside historical research on gender, race, and disability.

### Initiatives

In September 2019, the Faculty was awarded the first Athena SWAN bronze award in the Humanities Division, after 18 months of preparation. This direct focus on gender inequalities and disparities in the Faculty has had a galvanising effect on the Faculty's environment and led to significant advances. It has also served as an inspiration for our Race Equality Action Plan, beginning in 2020, which is a two-year long project, underwritten by strategic funds, to understand and address racial inequalities within the Faculty: we shall draw on external advice from more diverse departments across the UK and the US, with the intention of effecting a real transformation in this area. The Royal Historical Society's Reports on gender inequality, race and ethnicity, and most recently LGBT+ have been considered by the Faculty's committees, and recommendations have been implemented – notably the campaign for a chair in women's history (2018-20), the launch of a campaign to fund a post in LGBT+ history (2019-20), and the funding of a full PGT scholarship for a UK BAME applicant in 2019, an action which helped to push the University to invest in a range of targeted scholarships for BAME students. The foundation of a research centre in Gender, Identity and Subjectivity has been a huge stimulus to students, researchers and academic colleagues working in these fields by providing workshops, lectures, and networking opportunities; its interactions with the Division's 'Women in the Humanities' organisation have given it a campaigning edge and its support for LGBT+ History Month has underpinned a growing body of queer and trans research within the Faculty. Our Disability Working Group has held teach-ins about disability history and, in 2018, set up a network in disability history research. Our Centre for the History of Childhood, and Siân **Pooley** and Lucy Bowes's project on 'Changing Lives', has promoted interdisciplinary work with colleagues in Psychology and ensured that attention to the life-cycle is a prominent feature of our research, especially in modern British history. In 2020, we appointed the first of a three-year cycle of 'Community History Fellows', funded by external donations, to co-ordinate and advance our interactions with local community organisations such as the Afrikan Caribbean Kultural Heritage Initiative, Everyday Muslim and Oxford Jewish Heritage; some of these projects are already underway, and we expect them to become an important feature of our research and teaching. Finally, our introduction of a part-time route for our PGT programme in 2015 and our continuing promotion of a part-time PGR route have opened up graduate study to mature students.

### Outcomes

The available data indicates an encouraging trend within the UoA. Over the REF period, the proportion of female PGRs in the Faculty has grown from 38% (2016 intake) to 46% (2019 intake), and now reflects the gender ratio of applications. Among ECRs and fixed-term staff employed by the Faculty, the proportion of women slightly exceeds men (29/28: see Figure 2). Among Faculty postholders, the proportion of women has grown strongly: at Associate Professor level from 35 to 42%, and at Statutory Professor level from 10% to 36%. We do not collect pay-gap data at Faculty level, but the data for the Division shows steady progress towards parity. In addition, we can also identify examples of the ways in which a commitment to equality and diversity has contributed to research. Maria **Misra** was chosen for an AHRC pre-pilot Public



Engagement Fellowship in Equality and Diversity to engage audiences in the media, business, government and the cultural and arts world on how humanities research can help us understand and challenge sexism in all of its contemporary forms. Siân **Pooley** used funding from the University's Social Sciences Impact Accelerator for Public Engagement with Research to co-lead an interdisciplinary network of academic and practice-led experts researching children's experiences of adversity and maltreatment, and Dan **Healey** obtained funding from the John Fell Fund to pump-prime a major project on Homophobic Politics and LGBT Activism in Eurasia.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

#### Research income overview

Total external research income: GBP26,973,438 (in 2014: GBP13,879,664)

Annual research income in 2019/20: GBP3,328,948 (in 2013/14: GBP3,030,132)

Research income per FTE: GBP156,141 (in 2014: GBP106,726)

Since 2014 the UoA has further increased its average annual income, improved grant capture per FTE, and diversified the range of its funding applications. This is a collective achievement: by postholders, support staff, and specialist research facilitation teams. Preparation of grant applications requires a variety of skills, and the UoA has developed a healthy culture of collective working, including peer-review of draft texts and, where appropriate, mock interviews. It also requires adaptability to a changing context: more than 50% of the funding agencies reported in the current review period were not present in our 2014 portfolio. Consequently, our internal grant income of approximately GBP2.2million has leveraged over GBP26.9million in externally generated research income. The rate of return of GBP12 for every GBP1 invested is more than 25% higher than the average for Oxford University as a whole.

#### 3.1 Seed-funding

Internal seed-funding and proof-of-concept funding are often decisive in the development of high-quality applications. In this category, we achieved GBP2,189,552 of funding, drawn from a number of sources. By far the most important was the John Fell Fund, which focuses on pilot projects, pump-priming, and interdisciplinary collaborations. For example, an award of GBP46,967 to Peter **Wilson** in 2016-17 supported the proof-of-concept research which won him an ERC Advanced Grant in 2018 on the Fiscal-Military System in Europe 1580-1850. Selina **Todd**'s Impact Case Study on Feminism, Culture and Women's Lives in Britain, c.1945-c.2015 is based on several tranches of John Fell funding, totalling GBP149,567. In total, the Fell Fund has contributed 80.26% of our internal funding by value (151 awards, GBP1,757,357).

The other sources of internal funding are illustrated in Figure 3 (overleaf). Prominent among these are a variety of small funds dedicated to the areas of Knowledge Exchange, and Public Engagement with Research.

Top ten internal funding sources August 2013-2020 (excluding £1,757,357.31 (80.26%) from John Fell Fund)

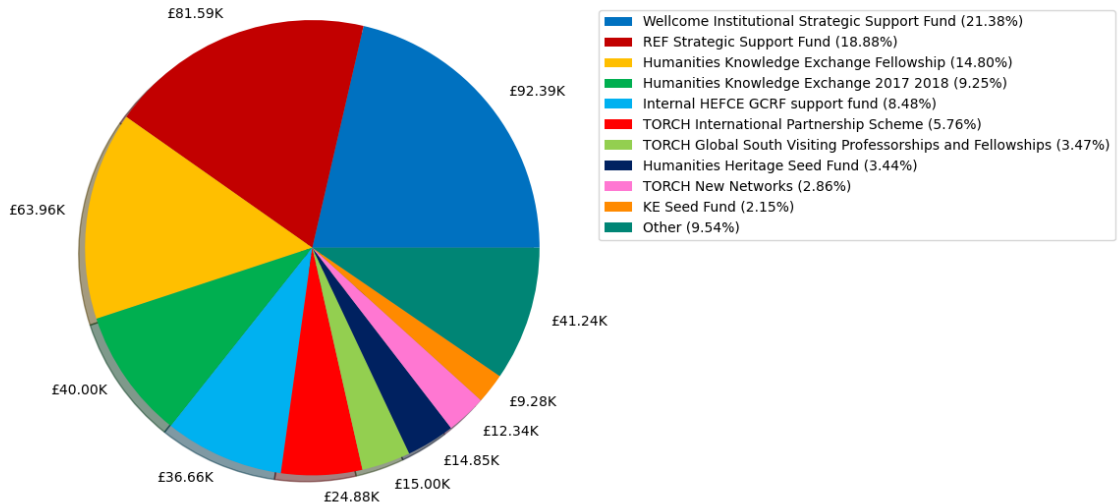


Figure 3. Top ten internal funding sources, excluding John Fell Fund, August 2013-2020

The final source are funds derived from Research England’s Higher Education Innovation Fund, the Global Challenges Research Fund, the UKRI Impact Acceleration funds, and the Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund. A notable example of success here is Abigail **Green**, who extended her current AHRC-funded project (and Impact Case Study) on Jewish country houses via Knowledge Exchange Fellowships in 2017-18 and again 2018-19, supplemented by eight small grants from the Humanities Division Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund, the Heritage Seed Fund, and the Creative Industries Seed Fund, making a total of almost GBP35,000 in internal funding. At a more junior level, Emma **Turnbull**, an AHRC-funded doctoral student, held a KE Fellowship to explore the activism of royalist women during the British Civil Wars. The diverse benefits of internal funding are evident in Figure 4, and we are particularly proud of the success of our ECR cohort, who have obtained 17.60% of the total awarded.

Internal funding award categories August 2013-2020

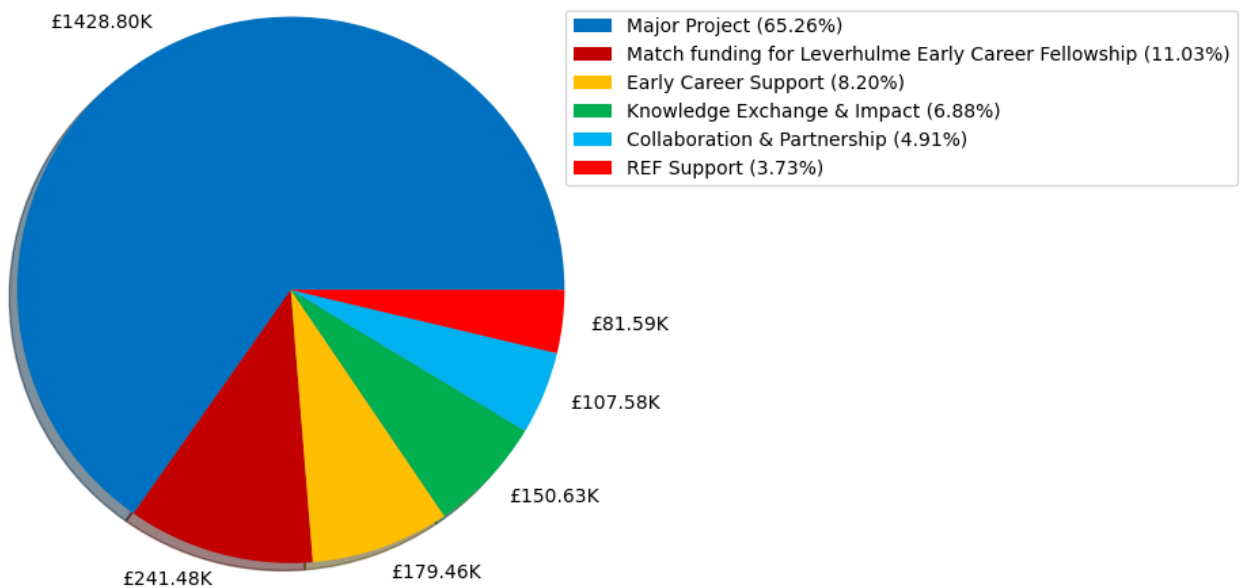


Figure 4. Internal funding award categories Aug 2013-2020

**3.2 External funding**

In the current review period, the Unit has been awarded a total of GBP26,973,438 in external research funding. Figure 5 shows the overall breakdown by HESA category.

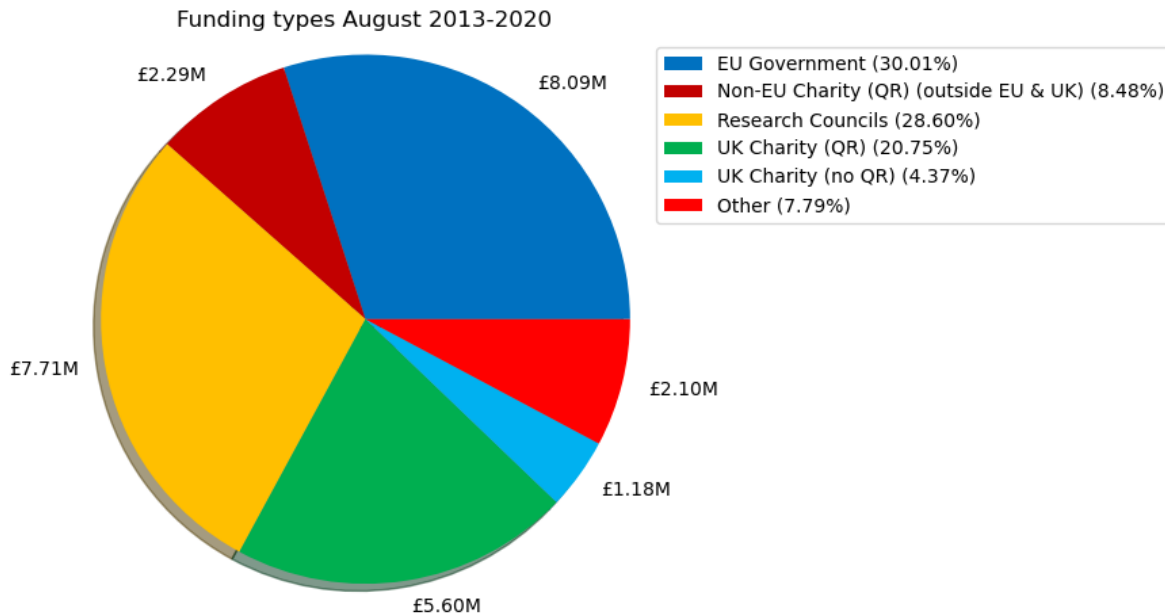


Figure 5. Funding types August 2013-2020

Within these broad categories, the main funding sources by value are indicated in Figure 6:

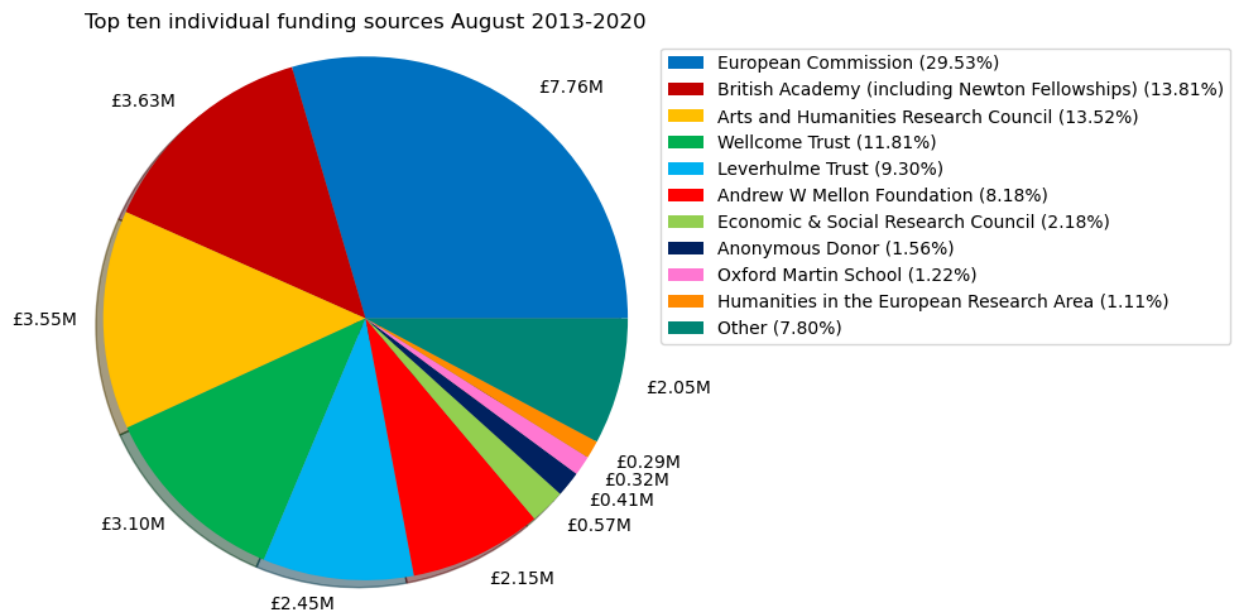


Figure 6. Top ten individual funding sources August 2013-2020

This external funding encompasses a balanced portfolio of six primary funders. The largest share is taken by the EU Commission, overwhelmingly through our successful applications to the European Research Council. In this period, we held nine ERC awards (including one which is starting in 2021; and one shared 50% with Area Studies). The prominence of the AHRC (12 awards), Leverhulme (25 awards, including 4 Major Research Fellowships), and the British Academy also reflects our success in their individual research competitions; but the funding from Wellcome and Mellon, as well as a wide range of smaller funders, were often for collective projects.

None of this happens by accident, and the greatest single change in the research culture of the UoA over this period has been the normalization of grant applications in the working life of a broad range of colleagues. This cannot be a matter of obligation, and the Faculty has been concerned to emphasise the diversity of funding routes, reflecting the different working practices of historians. For some, funding which enables a visit to an archive in a vacation is as important as the aspiration of others to construct teams of researchers. What matters is that external funding should be accessible and relevant to all.

A notable feature of the last few years has been that applications for research funding have become much more prevalent among doctoral students. This has been particularly so of the interdisciplinary funding facilitated by TORCH. In most years since 2013 one of the Divisional Knowledge Exchange Fellowships has been awarded to an ECR in History. A former doctoral student, **Oliver Cox**, won one of the first KE Fellowships, and is now the University's Humanities Innovation Champion, in addition to co-leading the Oxford University Heritage Network; **Hanna Smyth** drew on her background in Museum Studies to obtain funding from the Humanities Heritage Seed Fund to redesign the Museum of Oxford gallery on World War I. She is now one of the University's Public Engagement with Research professional staff. ECRs are a significant proportion of our holders of external as well as internal research funds, and we rightly regard our lively group of British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellows, Leverhulme Early Career Fellows, Wellcome Trust Research Fellowships, and Newton International Fellows as the future of the profession.

### **3.3 Operational and Scholarly Infrastructure for Research and Impact**

#### Scholarly infrastructure

Face-to-face advice is an essential element of effective research support. Within the History Faculty, academic leadership is provided by a senior postholder as Research Director (currently Ian **McBride**) and a mid-career Deputy Director of Research (currently Natalia **Nowakowska**); the remit of the latter includes explicit responsibility for Impact and Knowledge Exchange. Both provide research surgeries for colleagues to review plans and objectives, and develop funding applications. The Research Director chairs termly meetings of the Faculty Research Committee which sets research policy, and allocates funds via two funding streams. An annual allocation from the Faculty supports conferences, PGR workshops, and personal research expenses (up to GBP800 for permanent postholders and fixed-term Departmental Lecturers). In addition, a philanthropic donation (the Sanderson Fund) supports projects designed to improve the Faculty's research environment, notably but not exclusively the work of its Research Centres, and pump-primes the development of new research projects. Since 2018, the Faculty has disbursed a total of GBP38,865, of which 60.1% derived from the Faculty's general budget, and 39.9% from the Sanderson Fund. 71 colleagues have benefitted.

#### Operational infrastructure

Research support is provided within each sub-unit, enabling it to be tailored to disciplinary and departmental needs. Research Facilitators ensure that staff are informed of grant schemes, as well as providing one-to-one advice. All draft applications are submitted to internal review by a pool of internal peer reviewers. For funding calls with advertised closing dates, the Director of Research brings applicants together in workshops to undertake peer-to-peer critique and share

best practice. Notable recent successes from these workshops include **Mitter's** Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship, **Parker's** British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship and **Schenk's** ERC Advanced Grant.

The **Oxford and Empire project** (<https://oxfordandempire.web.ox.ac.uk/home>)

demonstrates how small grants from the Faculty can leverage Divisional funding and rapidly upscale into significant activity. It provides a central hub and site for research on the legacies of colonialism in Oxford. Launched in April 2018 to encourage students to research the legacies of empire in Oxford's built environment for their final-year thesis, the project now includes PGRs, ECRs, and postholders in other departments, museums, and colleges, as well as local historians. This unique Oxford-wide initiative received a Public Engagement with Research Seed Fund Award in 2018 to train graduate students and ECRs to develop public tours that address and discuss the legacy of colonialism in Oxford, and again in 2019 to support the production of podcasts and further research. A TORCH Network Grant then funded its use of digital platforms to curate public-facing research projects. It has even produced its own independent spin-off, *Uncomfortable Oxford*, initiated by History PGRs, which provides walking and online tours that raise awareness of racial inequality, and the legacies of empire as manifested in the streets of Oxford (<https://www.uncomfortableoxford.co.uk/>).

The Faculty Research Office has been significantly strengthened during the period of assessment. In 2014, it had a staff of 3.3 FTE, now increased to 5.0 FTE, directed by a professional Research Facilitator (RF). Post-award management is undertaken primarily by the Finance team (1 FTE in 2014, now 2 FTE), supplemented by support from the Humanities Division. The Faculty Research Office has always worked in close liaison with the Divisional Research Support Office, which includes among others 7.6 FTE focused on Research Facilitation and 5.5 FTE focused on Impact/Knowledge Exchange. The management of multiple major research awards is a challenge for an academic unit with limited resources. In 2020, we reviewed our support structures for PIs, and decided to create a forum for those who are leading major projects.

Historians in other academic departments benefit from the Divisional team, while staff and students in OUDCE have a departmental 0.5FTE Research Development Manager. Museum research staff in GLAM have a dedicated Research and Impact Team of 1.9FTE whose staff support research and impact funding proposals from across the Oxford museum network. All of these Research Offices work in close conjunction with the University's Research Services team which provides pre-award help in complex circumstances, and negotiates on the budgeting and management of research-related contracts.

The History Faculty's research space is spread across three buildings: the main building in George Street, with outlying premises for the clusters in the History of Medicine and the History of Art. Our Research Hall in the main building provides desk space for PGRs, ECRs, visiting scholars and is much in demand among the scholars based in Oxford. It also includes the administrative office of the *English Historical Review*. Given the expansion in projects hosted in the Faculty, the Research Hall is not able to accommodate all the research project teams and ECRs. Some are provided with space within TORCH, and in one case the Weston Library. The OUDCE enjoys a very central building, Rewley House, tailored for their specific needs, and a close affiliation with Kellogg College. The intended transfer to a new building, the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, consciously built around collective team working, will do much to enhance the research culture of the Faculty, creating a more flexible space for research activities, and increased capacity for PGRs and post-doctoral staff.

This evolution of ethos is a major goal for the coming years, but it builds on much that has been achieved over the last decade.

IT is also managed within sub-units. The IT Office in the History Faculty comprises 1.6 FTE with other support available as needed. These staff maintain 36 websites, 18 servers and approximately 250 PCs, laptops and tablets across the Faculty. Equally importantly, they advise on equipment specifications for grant costings and, in conjunction with the University IT Services, on the design, hosting and preservation of data-sets. The Visual Resources Assistant runs the Visual Resources Centre, which is so essential to the History of Art unit. It also supports members of the UoA in sourcing images for research purposes, and gives guidance on copyright issues. The central element of support for research is, however, the History Faculty Library (HFL), embedded within the Bodleian libraries. The UoA has been exceptionally fortunate in the quality and commitment of its HFL librarians. A team of four librarians (1.96 FTE) are responsible for acquisitions, skills training, and guidance on research resources for historians across the History Faculty Library, as well as the Vere Harmsworth Library in the RAI, specialised in North American History; and the History of Medicine Library. At the last count, the HFL contained 93,328 volumes, additional to the copyright collection of the Bodleian. A real strength of recent years has been the way that librarians have become in effect research associates, sourcing and developing resources (material and online), and receiving deserved thanks in the Acknowledgements of the authors of many theses, articles, and monographs.

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

##### **4.1 Research collaborations, networks and partnerships support**

The UoA is now embedded in a range of externally facing collaborations and joint projects. This reflects a change of mind-set and ethos on the part of our staff, who see such engagement as integral to the conduct of effective and impactful research. It has also benefited from the incentivisation of such work through the provision of resources by the University. Our use of seed funding has enabled us to expand informal relationships into durable partnerships and collaborations. An exemplary case is the University's strategic Partnership with the National Trust, initiated by an Innovate UK KTP award granted to William **Whyte**. Since its inception in 2015, 'Trusted Source' has engaged more than 60 researchers at ten universities and has secured more than GBP1.7 million in funding. In Oxford the partnership has created internships for 86 students, 4 Knowledge Exchange Fellowships, 4 collaborative PhD projects funded via the AHRC, and it has brought in the National Trust as Oxford's Cultural Partner in the Open – Oxford – Cambridge AHRC DTP. Trusted Source was featured as a case study in the Mendoza Review (DCMS, 2017). It was graded 'A: Outstanding' by InnovateUK and was named Knowledge Exchange Partnership of the Year at the PraxisAuril 2019 KE Awards. The partnership provided the context for Abigail **Green**'s AHRC-funded project on Jewish Country Houses. There are also spinoff benefits for doctoral students, such as Katie McKeogh's research consultancy for the NT at Lyveden New Bield through TORCH heritage engagement and OU Innovation (2017-19), focusing on English Catholic culture in the early modern period.

The Faculty responded to the anticipated consequences of the UK's departure from the EU by creating new strategic partnerships with institutions in Berlin and Padua. A third with Paris is being finalised. Established in 2017, the Oxford-Berlin Partnership aims to stimulate research collaborations between all academic divisions, museums, and libraries at Oxford and the four Berlin partners: Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. The Partnership's seed-grant projects are headed by an Oxford PI alongside PIs from the Berlin universities, and it is envisaged that this will lead to an Oxford-Berlin Institute for Advanced Study and physical hubs in both locations. Historians have acted as the local PIs of three seed-grant groups, the highest number across all

the Humanities faculties. The History-led projects supported by the Partnership, to an overall sum of c. EUR75,000, are: 'Global Microhistory in the Early Modern World' (Oxford PI: **Roper**); 'Mobility in Historical Perspective' (Oxford PI: **Smith**); and 'The Oxford-Berlin Enlightenment Hub' (Oxford PI: **Lifschitz**). **Smith** also won John Fell fund support to bring Padua into a triangular research network with Berlin. The University of Padua has been awarded a centre of excellence ranking in Italy, and this has enabled us to build a series of doctoral and staff exchanges, as well as (to date) five workshops. A prominent theme of these partnerships, and our other links, is the involvement of early-career scholars. The UoA also participates in a range of annual doctoral student workshops in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies with Princeton, Vienna and Mainz; in Contemporary European History with Paris, Brussels, Geneva, Berlin and Padua; and in Twentieth-century History with Sciences Po. TORCH International Partnership funding has also supported individual doctoral workshops, notably on Creative Cities: Knowledge of Nature and Networks of Science (**Charters**).

#### **4.2 Relationships with key research users and audiences**

Key research users include major cultural institutions such as the British Museum (BM), Tate Britain and the Ashmolean. **Clunas**'s exhibition at the BM attracted 120,396 visitors with a notably diverse composition (30% BAME). **Whistler**'s exhibition on Raphael's Drawings (Ashmolean, June – September 2017) won the Apollo Award in November 2017 as Exhibition of the Year from an international shortlist. On a smaller scale, Faisal **Devji**'s exhibition *Art in India and Pakistan after 1947* (Ashmolean, October 2017 – March 2018) emerged from a collaboration between the History Faculty, the Oxford-India Centre for Sustainable Development, and the Courtauld Institute. Amy **Lim**, currently entering the fourth year of a collaborative AHRC Studentship with Tate Britain, was assistant curator on the exhibition *British Baroque: Power and Illusion* (February/March 2020). Lim was closely involved in the development of the exhibition, writing the captions for 30 exhibits and the catalogue essays on decorative arts and gardens. The unit's contribution to the cultural sector has been international: *Tito in Africa: Picturing Solidarity*, co-organised and researched by Paul **Betts**, opened at Belgrade's Museum of Yugoslavia, where it was the main show of 2017. The exhibition was opened by a nine-member delegation from Belgrade's African embassies and was visited by 50,000; it subsequently transferred to the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Wende museum in Los Angeles. Betts was involved in the conceptualisation and curating of the exhibition and in the devising and writing of the accompanying catalogues.

Rana **Mitter** has become one of the most prominent public commentators on China in the UK and beyond. His documentary, *China's Forgotten War* (2015) was broadcast in China, the USA, the UK and Australia. In 2019 Mitter won the ACTA award for Best Presenter for *Chinese Characters* on Radio 4, a 20-part series on Chinese history. Roy **Foster**'s rethinking of the Irish revolution in *Vivid Faces* (2014) led to his collaboration with Bob Geldof on *Fanatic Heart*, a two-part television film about W.B. Yeats's importance in the construction of Irish political and cultural independence. Nick **Stargardt**'s *The German War* (2017) led to his involvement in three different TV documentaries (for BBC4, ZDF and France 5). The two episodes of BBC4's *Lost Home Movies of Nazi Germany*, shown in December 2019 and repeated in September 2020, attracted 2.8 million viewers in total. Patricia **Clavin** was historical adviser on Bash Doran's *Traitors*, a drama broadcast on Channel 4 and Netflix in 2019.

These collaborations disseminate the research of the UoA, but they also have a creative impact on the research undertaken, encouraging colleagues to frame their research in ways that respond to the issues of the moment, from work on mining and environmental change (**Tuffnell** and **Larmer**) in the Global South to issues of social inequality and mobility in Britain today (**Todd**).

Members of our Unit have informed and influenced policy-making. An outstanding example is **Schenk**, an expert on the evolution of the international monetary system and the regulation and supervision of international banking. In 2017 she became consultant for the IMF's Impact

Evaluation Office for the review of the Fund's response to Unconventional Monetary Policy over the previous 10 years. Her critique of the Fund's attempts to promote international monetary cooperation was reviewed by the Executive Board of the Fund in June 2019, and its conclusions accepted. Schenk was invited by Christine Lagarde to take part in the Expert Advisory Panel for the IMF on reform of the Special Drawing Rights. Following her recommendation the Board chose not to implement this reform. Drawing on her research on the monetary disintegration of Malaysia and Singapore in the 1960s and 1970s, Schenk also devised the currency-monetary framework/policy for a future independent Scotland with Andrew Hughes Hallett as part of the Scottish Sustainable Growth Commission. **McBride's** workshop, 'Historians and the Stormont House Agreement', funded by the Faculty in October 2016, helped to shape the formulation of government policy on addressing the legacy of the Troubles [text removed for publication]. Historians at Oxford are also closely embedded in the local community, ranging from the local branch of the Historical Association (chaired by Steve **Gunn**), which organizes talks by Faculty members in local schools, to the UoA's involvement (with the Ashmolean) in events with the Oxford African-Caribbean community marking the 70th anniversary of the Windrush, and in the Faculty's participation in the Cowley Road Carnival.

### **4.3 Public engagement with research**

One of our most original collaborations began when Meryem Kalayci, author of a PhD on the Armenian Genocide, arrived as a British Academy International Newton Fellow in 2018. With the poet and professor of English Literature Kate McLoughlin, she created 'Into Silence' – a series of silent performances featuring film-makers, musicians, sound-installationists, dancers, mime-artists, body percussionists and light-sculptors – supported by funding from the University's PER Fund and the British Academy. This led to the Oxford Network for Armenian Genocide Research, and a digitization project with Columbia University, the collections of which include many interviews with survivors of the destruction of Armenian communities in the first decades of the twentieth century. This example is one among many which one can provide of the interfaces of the research of the UoA with different public communities. Much of this takes place thanks to the expertise and energy provided by the museums and galleries. An outstanding example was the exhibition in the History of Science Museum, *Back from the Dead: Demystifying Antibiotics*, which was developed in collaboration with our History of Science Unit, with funding from the Wellcome Foundation.

### **Contribution to disciplinary sustainability**

An ethos of service to the profession is integral to our research culture. For many colleagues this takes the form of national policy and strategic leadership at the highest level. Andrew **Thompson** served as Executive Chair of the AHRC for five years (2015-2020), and Martin **Conway** was a member of the AHRC Advisory Board until 2020. Thompson is also Chair of the AHRC / ESRC Advisory Board for the Modern Slavery Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre. He is Chair of the Creative Industries Advisory Group, and Member of the DCMS/BEIS Creative Industries Advisory Council. He was also UKRI International Champion, responsible for international strategy for all of the UK Research Councils, including the AHRC. From 2011-15, Mark **Harrison** chaired the Wellcome Trust Medical History and Humanities Expert Review Group, and **Schenk** sat on the ESRC's Grant Assessment Panel until 2018, and now serves on the ESRC DTP Board and Selection Panel. **Ovenden** serves on the Advisory Boards of Cambridge UL, the Harvard Library, the Deutsches Literatur Archiv, and the John Rylands Research Institute. **Mitter** has recently been appointed Vice-President of the British Academy in charge of Communications and Public Engagement. In 2014 **Wickham**, then Head of Publications for the British Academy was one of their spokespeople in the early discussions over open access in the UK. David Sweeney, then head of research for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), invited him to undertake a research project for the British Academy, funded by HEFCE, to give an evidence-based assessment of the impact of OA on journals in Humanities and the Social Sciences (HSS). The resultant co-authored publication had a direct impact on the formulation of the rules for REF2021.



A) Developing the discipline

Collectively and individually, the members of the unit contribute in myriad ways to the development of the discipline, through their work and activism within professional organisations. Perhaps the most visible measure of this contribution is through the way in which two of the foremost general historical journals in the English-speaking world are based in Oxford, and have been directed by Oxford historians. *The English Historical Review* is the most long-established History journal in the world, and is housed in the History Faculty Building. Two of its most recent editors, **Conway** and **Holmes**, are members of the Faculty, and the journal plays a major role in sustaining the broader reputation of the discipline, through its articles and reviews. *Past and Present* is widely acknowledged for its quality control, its global breadth, and its reputation for innovation. Joanna **Innes** has chaired the editorial board since 2018 (replacing Wickham); Lyndal **Roper** and Steve **Smith** are vice-chairs. One of the unexpected consequences of the pandemic was that the audience for our substantial range of research seminars and workshops broadened considerably, as historians elsewhere in the UK and beyond seized the opportunity to participate virtually in our events and discussions. Along with other leading hubs of historical research in the UK, we shall be looking at the best means to make that broadcasting to the historical community more permanent over the coming years.

B) Sustaining the profession

We understand disciplinary sustainability to mean both the training and equipping of the next generation of researchers in the subject and providing leadership for a wide range of historical activities. Much of this work is relatively invisible, through work on assessment panels for funding bodies (in Britain and across the world), the reviewing of submissions for journals, and membership of the editorial boards of journals and scholarly books series. This editorial activity contributes to disciplinary sustainability in numerous ways beyond upholding high standards of scholarly publication. Importantly, it helps set the agenda for emerging new directions in the discipline and represents the perspectives of historians in the devising of priorities for funding and publication. At a time when commercial and policy pressures often work to marginalise the practice of History, this work has an evident importance; but its mentality cannot be simply defensive. Oxford History has been an advocate for high-quality historical research, through promoting innovation, new digital editions, and the development of online discussion sites. The UoA has long had a particularly close relationship with Oxford University Press. OUP is a world-leading scholarly press, overseen by Delegates, who typically include at least one historian. In the current assessment period, Joanna **Innes**, Kevin **O'Rourke**, John **Watts**, Peter **Wilson** and Chris **Wickham** have all served in this important role on behalf of the University. In addition, we are represented on the boards of a number of Oxford scholarly series, including Studies in Byzantium, and Oxford Studies in Medieval European History. The Oxford Historical Monographs series publishes a select few of the best Oxford doctoral dissertations in History, averaging six titles a year: the chair and all members of the editorial board are drawn from the Faculty.

A provisional census of the activities of members of the UoA during the assessment period, indicated that at least seventy members of this UoA have served as external examiners for approximately 180 doctoral theses throughout the UK, plus another 76 internationally, for institutions spanning the globe from Australia (University of Melbourne) and Israel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) to the USA (Notre Dame; Princeton, University of Georgia) via most countries within the EU. In a similar way, at least fourteen members of the UoA have been active in the appointment of professors to chairs and the adjudication of applications for professorial appointments in the UK, Europe, Asia, and North America (including Princeton, Columbia, the Courtauld Institute, Vienna, and Paris).

Maintaining disciplinary standards and recognising the potential for new and fruitful cutting-edge research come together in the adjudication of project grant and fellowship applications. Here too, Oxford historians are extremely active, within the UK as members of the AHRC peer review college and as assessors for the British Academy or Leverhulme Trust, but also internationally. In particular, the major EU bodies including the former ESF, HERA and the ERC, together with

the various European national research organisations (Netherlands, Flanders, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Czech Republic), have drawn on the expertise of colleagues. Institutional and programme reviews are an important way of ensuring the sustainability of the discipline. Among many other instances, Craig **Clunas** was from 2014 to 2016 a member of the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies; and **McBride** chaired the external review panel for the Keough-Naughton Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame in October 2017.

#### **4.4 Indicators of wider influence and contribution to vitality and sustainability of the research base**

Given the scale and diversity of this UoA, it is necessarily somewhat arbitrary to seize upon particular signs of the wider influence of its members. Some indicators are more visible than others. Nonetheless, between 2014 and 2020, of the fifty-four historians elected as fellows of the British Academy, seven were from Oxford: Susan Brigden, Laurence Brockliss, Patricia Clavin, Rana Mitter, Polly O'Hanlon, Eugene Rogan, and Steve Smith. Several other members of the UoA are members of foreign Academies, or have been awarded honorary degrees. In 2015, Patricia **Clavin** was awarded the British Academy Medal, which recognizes outstanding achievement that has transformed the understanding of a particular subject in any of the disciplines supported by the Academy. In 2020, Rana **Mitter** was awarded the Medlicott Medal by the Historical Association for outstanding services to History. However, alongside these indicators of esteem, the UoA is equally proud of the more diverse signs of its influence and engagement with different areas of historical life. Five somewhat random examples over the reporting period might indicate the breadth of that engagement:

In November 2016, George **Garnett**, a medievalist in the Faculty, was invited to give a lecture on 'Barking's First Golden Age', to launch the Barking Regeneration Partnership.

In 2019 David **Rechter** was appointed to the Academic Advisory Board of Gesher Galicia (Gesher is the Hebrew word for Bridge), a non-profit organization that promotes and conducts Jewish genealogical and historical research on Galicia.

Laura **Tisdall** (a recipient of Public Access to Research funding from Oxford) gave the Jacob Bronowski Award Lecture at the British Science Festival in 2019, speaking on 'When children became evil', exploring the psychological and psycho-analytical depictions of 'evil children' in post-war horror and science fiction.

In 2019, Philippa **Byrne**, an Early Career Researcher, was awarded the CARMEN (the Co-operative for the Advancement of Research through a Medieval European Network) Project Prize, to undertake her research on the soundscape of Medieval Sicily.

In 2019, Natalia **Nowakowska** was awarded the George Blazyca prize by the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies for her monograph *King Sigismund of Poland and Martin Luther*, one of four prizes which this book has been awarded.

The importance of these diverse examples is that they point to the way in which many members of the UoA – at the junior and more senior levels – are regarded as figures of scholarly authority in their fields. This is indicated by the range of prizes achieved by members of the UoA, such as those listed above to Philippa **Byrne** and Natalia **Nowakowska**, as well as the Royal Economic Society Prize awarded in 2019 to Jane **Humphries** and her co-author Jacob Weisdorf for their article on Real Wages and Economic Growth in England from 1260 to 1850. In 2020, Alan **Strathern** was awarded the Bentley Prize by the World History Association for his monograph, *Unearthly Powers: Religious and Political Change in World History* (2019); and J.P. **Park** won the Charles Rufus Morey Book Award (in Art History) for his book *A New Middle Kingdom: Painting and Cultural Politics in Late Chosŏn Korea (1700–1850)* (2018). At a senior level, this is also reflected in the award of honorary degrees, and invitations to give series of endowed lectures, such as the Birkbeck Lectures given by Julia **Smith** in Cambridge in 2018 on "Thinking with Things".

Other forms of influence – and esteem – relate more directly to service to the scholarly community. The work of Erica **Charters**, Grant **Tapsell** and Ian **Archer** as office holders within scholarly organisations within the UK (respectively the Naval History Society, the Church of England Record Society, and the Royal Historical Society), are just three examples of many such contributions that members of the UoA make to historical life in the UK and beyond. This forms part of a wider culture of engagement and activism, reflected in **Rechter**'s work (listed above) to safeguard and reconstruct the records of Jewish life in Eastern Europe. Such activities rarely attract a wider prominence, but they are part of a broader culture of diverse engagement with the preservation and enhancement of History as a discipline. With a subject as outward-facing as History, this also takes the form of the communication of historical research, in person and online, to ever wider communities. The example of **Garnett** listed above is just one among very many instances of activities of this kind, which also encompass the wide range of educational outreach activities undertaken by members of the UoA on behalf of the faculty, and the colleges of the university. A striking example of the way in which Oxford historians can reach diverse audiences is the work of Lyndal **Roper**. She gave 110 lectures and interviews in 2016 related to her best-selling *Luther*: 50 were in the UK, 21 in Germany and 12 in the USA, but she also addressed audiences in Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

In these different ways, the UoA has maintained and reinforced over this reporting period its prominence as one of the foremost centres for historical research in the UK. But, more importantly than that, at a time when historical research has an enhanced relevance for public debates within Britain and elsewhere, the historians based in Oxford have been at the heart of those debates, acting as advocates for the importance of historical research, and contributing to the making of a historically-informed public sphere.