

Institution: University of Lincoln
Unit of Assessment: 34 Communications, Cultural and Media Studies.
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>1.1 Context and Structure</p> <p>The Communication, Cultural and Media Studies Unit of Assessment comprises staff from the Schools of Film and Media Studies (LSFM) and English and Journalism (LSEJ), two of six schools in the College of Arts. The UoA has expanded significantly from 7 to 16 FTE in the current REF cycle with a concurrent growth in PGR enrolment and grant income. New appointments have diversified the range of research during this cycle. The Unit is now characterized by its commitment to curiosity-driven, innovative, interdisciplinary research in a variety of thematic areas united by a concern for questions of power, inequalities and justice: Media Histories (Chapman, Winston), Screen Studies (Donald, Elliott, Gergely, Jackson, Palmieri, Charlesworth), Media Ecologies and Digital Cultures (Sutherland, Coley, Lockwood), Sound Studies (Wilczek), Environmentalism and Photography (Scott), and Diasporic, Investigative and Comparative Journalism (Ogunyemi, Sahin, Henkel).</p> <p>1.2 Achievement of Research Strategy</p> <p>The Unit's overarching ambition for the 2015-2020 cycle was to maintain momentum within the research environment via the targeted recruitment of ECRs, career beginners and senior researchers and through strategic investment in the development of researchers already in post. This ambition was successfully realized as evidenced by the facts that staff who were ECRs in 2014 and the 7 early career appointments since the previous submission account for half of our submitted research outputs. Two professorial appointments were made to support our early career colleagues and provide leadership for the Unit. The strategic recruitment of ECRs has substantially expanded the scope of emerging research themes in Journalism, Media Theory and Film and Television Studies.</p> <p>The Unit has undergone significant changes in the cycle, thus some of the aims identified in 2014 have been adapted in alignment with the extent and direction of the Unit's expansion.</p> <p>We stated that we would develop the Unit's research as practice portfolio. While Scott's appointment was an important step towards that aim, the prolificacy of new Film Studies and Media Theory researchers presented an opportunity to focus on Screen Studies in this cycle.</p> <p>We stated that we would build on our 'strong cohort of junior and early career researchers', and as part of the University's 'Thinking Ahead' strategy, we have supported our researchers and encouraged scholarly curiosity among our ECRs across the Unit. Staff recruited in the period have progressed in their emerging careers as witnessed by a marked increase in bidding activity. Successful bids were made by Elliott, Sahin, Thompson and Sutherland, the latter two as PIs. External income totalling £1.39m (see: Research Income, below) indicates the successful achievement of key research aims stated in 2014.</p> <p>In line with the institutional strategic plan, and outperforming the institution's 58 per cent rise in PGR registrations, we grew the Unit's PGR community to 19, a more than twofold rise in enrolments during the period. Completions rose to 11, a sharp 57 per cent rise compared to the previous cycle, which demonstrates that the expansion was achieved while maintaining appropriately high standards. This reflects the vitality and sustainability of the research environment.</p> <p>The Unit implemented the strategic aim to produce impactful research which benefits local and regional publics by establishing productive partnerships with local cultural institutions (Mansions of the Future, St Mary le Wigford Church, Frequency Festival, Lincolnshire County and Lincoln City Councils). These connections enabled public-facing collaborative and cross-disciplinary work, which emerged from Donald's Justice, Arts and Migration network, Elliott's project on</p>

Crowd-Curated History in partnership with Lincoln Cathedral, and the work of the Extra Sonic Practice Research Group, established by Thompson.

A further aim for the 2015-2020 cycle was to continue to develop and expand the scope of Screen Studies and European Cultural Studies. Indeed, as noted, the Unit's strengths in Film Studies increased sharply, accounting for close to a quarter of submitted outputs. While our long association with the *European Journal of Cultural Studies* ended on the retirement and relocation of two senior members of staff during the census period, the strategic recruitment of new staff enabled the Unit to refocus its interest in Europe and its culture around critical approaches to diaspora, migrations and transnational media. The resulting change of scope has been successful, as evidenced by timely and varied interventions represented by **Donald's** work on refugee film, **Henkel's** work in comparative journalism, **Sahin** and **Ogunyemi's** work on diaspora journalism, and **Gergely's** work on nationalism and popular media in Europe.

1.3 Achievement of Impact Strategy

The institution's approach to impact is integrated with its 'local to global' strategy by embedding impact development in research units and maintaining widespread local engagement, supplemented by individual staff development and activity. During the census period we have enhanced individual academic impact activity through the targeted support of PEARL and LILI (see institutional environment statement). In the UoA this has shaped a number of high-impact activities. **Donald's** Justice, Arts and Migration project moved from a focus on the immediate community of Lincolnshire to a broader, diasporic engagement with migration. The project's impact events ranged from a local workshop to a series of online public-facing activities with participants from India, the Middle East and Australia, and forms one of our impact case studies. **Elliott's** work on crowd-curated histories has engaged community networks in hard-to-reach areas of the city in initiatives such as the hyperlocal 'Bricks and Bones' project including community archaeology events, multigenerational coffee-mornings, and a project involving the National Trust and other heritage organisations.

1.4 Research Strategy for next five years

Key to our research strategy for the next REF cycle is the ambition to build the local, national and global reputation of the Unit's research environment. This ambition will be achieved through three strategic interventions.

- We will appoint a new professor in screen cultures for the Unit to oversee research, mentor research staff at all levels and consolidate our growing research expertise in non-western film and media, contemporary media studies, diasporas and archiving/historical studies.
- We will further sharpen our commitment to practice as research: the Unit will aim to increase our returned staff by 50 per cent to 22 FTE, with 6 researchers submitting practice outputs. Central to this aim is a professorial appointment in Media Practice as Research to enhance the Unit's work in this area. We also have an ambition to work collaboratively with other universities to exchange best practice and clarify excellence. **Gergely's** nomination to the subject association BAFTSS executive committee serves, in part, the aim of plugging the Unit into the broader effort to foreground practice as a key site for research in the entangled fields of Media and Communications.
- As a result of our focus on new research strengths, we aim to increase our PGR recruitment to 25, double the 2014 benchmark. This 33 per cent increase from the current cycle is aligned with the institutional aim in this regard, and will be achieved by boosting the number of MA by Research students (targeting international recruitment and publicising subject-specific expertise of our research staff), and where appropriate building in PhD bursaries to new EIG bids.

The above strategy is motivated by a central cohort of researchers in the Unit entering a mid-career phase. We will enhance the distinctiveness of the research environment, achieve more visible public outreach and embark on more ambitious projects built around external income

generation by threading individual staff plans through a considered overall strategy. Central to this strategy, which we sketch below, are two related but distinct targets: the retention of researchers entering mid-career phase, and the recruitment and considered development of postgraduate and early career scholars. The retention of researchers hinges on the unit's ability to give room for their ambitions and support their further development via opportunities for taking on leadership and mentorship responsibilities. The success of this strategy will be particularly measured by our ability to retain and support colleagues in the Unit with protected characteristics, and will be embedded into our strategy by our attainment of Athena Swan Bronze awards in both Schools.

The considered expansion in key areas will be crucial to meeting the Unit's aims. School and College level support for all researchers, and in particular for PGR students through to completion, and further developing practice as research as a key component of the Unit will be crucial. In this vein four aims are set:

1. We will continue to work to increase research income to £2.4m and diversify sources of income generation.
2. We will establish, develop and maintain relationships with non-HEI partners, e.g. Media Archives for Central England, Film Archives UK, Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, and effectively facilitate the design and delivery of public engagement activities with impact in mind.
3. We will implement a remodelled appraisal, mentorship and peer-review process which involves the Impact Case Study Lead in all new bids to embed impact from the planning stages.
4. We will diversify our research methods, expanding especially in research as practice in the areas of Photography and Sound Studies, and consequently, expand our dissemination activities by embracing forms of output that will bring our research to a broader audience, such as videos, documentaries, podcasts, and interactive media.

1.5 Impact Strategy for the next five years

Over the next period the Unit will make a significant contribution to the University's commitment to producing 'purposeful research with impact'. Impact will be 'designed in' to all research projects and will flow in particular from **Sahin** and **Ogunyemi's** ongoing work around crisis/peace journalism and journalists' trauma, **Elliott's** AHRC-funded project on community history which works with the National Trust, **Sutherland's** AHRC-funded project on media pedagogy, and **Gergely's** work on the racialization of migrant communities via archival practices. Institutional facilitation of research organized around key themes will foster impactful practice-based research in Sound Studies, emanating from the Extra Sonic Practice Research Group, supported by the Lincoln Institute of Advanced Studies' Research Group and Network Leads Peer Group, which will be expanded via the selective recruitment of research staff.

Our approach to impact is promoted through three general categories of public engagement:

1. Encouraging professional/industry participation and public engagement in our research, as well as engaging with a wide range of non-academic publics;
2. Capitalizing on our growing reputation in media research reflected through growing esteem factors;
3. Building strong interdisciplinary networks across the university and on a national and international level to ensure regular and consistent contributions to the broader research base are designed into our way of working.

These strategic aims for research and impact cohere with the broader institutional goals to foster and promote ground-up processes in research and to increase staff, PGR, income and impact so as to effectively address issues of changing social fabric and cultural life, develop intellectual and practical solutions to identified challenges (Communities, Wellbeing and Networks, in line with the institutional priorities) and to bed in open data and accessibility into our work. Meeting these aims will enable us to build on the momentum of the current cycle to enhance our

reputation for research in the next, and in the process to increase numbers of staff and high-quality outputs in the Unit.

1.6 Approach to Interdisciplinary Research

As a Communications, Cultural and Media Studies Unit we are characterized by interdisciplinarity and methodological hybridity in our research, deploying quantitative, qualitative, archival and practice methods in the interlinked fields of Communication, Journalism, Screen and Sound Studies, Media Histories and Media Theory. We are also committed to transdisciplinarity and have forged links with researchers in other Schools and Colleges across the institution and nationally and internationally. We pick out just two examples here, which, like all research in the Unit, demonstrate our methodological hybridity and transdisciplinarity: in addition to collaborations with colleagues in the Unit and with artists, via the Justice Arts and Migration project, **Donald** has worked with researchers in the Schools of Architecture and Law; and **Gergely** has collaborated with staff in the School of Music and Drama via the Extra Sonic Research Group, and his Europe in Hungary project includes Human Geography and Archive Studies strands in the UK and Hungary.

Research seminars run within the Unit are scheduled so as not to coincide with other parallel seminars (e.g. in History & Heritage and English & Journalism) and all advertisements go out to all members of the College, facilitating inter- and transdisciplinary connections and collaborations, exemplified by **Scott's** membership of the transdisciplinary Lincoln Centre for Environmental Justice, the work of the Extra Sonic Practice Research Group whose members [e.g. **Gergely**, Thompson] have given papers at various research seminars within and outside the College of Arts, and by **Elliott's** collaboration with Ward (returned in UoA 27) as co-editors of the peer-reviewed journal *Arthuriana*, and his workshops on digital gaming and medieval history with Wood (returned in UoA 28).

1.7 Progress towards Open Research Environment

The Unit is committed to the policy of Open Access and the University is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (see Institutional Environment Statement for University policies and procedures). Through the University's repository, all members of staff have access to a site for open publication. In this, staff are supported by a dedicated member of the Research and Enterprise (RE) team, and training and advice sessions are provided at University level. PGR students also receive training from the Doctoral School on open access, and the University's PhDs are freely available to download. The university's Open Data lead, Professor Graham Law, has supported the Unit in identifying opportunities for expanding Open Datasets.

1.8 Support for Research Integrity

The Unit's approach is governed by the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, the University's Code of Practice for Research and the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (see IES). The University is an institutional member of ORCID and all staff possess an ORCID ID. A new ethical approval procedure was introduced in 2018, overseen by the University's Research Ethics Committee. All projects undertaken by staff or PGR students must receive acknowledgement of a Project Registration Form, or a favourable opinion from a University or external ethical review committee. Staff and students receive advice and support from Ethics Champions in both Schools who receive specific training in the approval of ethics proposals. The School Directors of Research (DoR) and the RE team ensure that all grant applications from members of the Unit are in line with the legal and ethical requirements of the award-making body, including proper governance and transparency. PGR students and their supervisors review ethical aspects of students' research every year as part of an annual monitoring review. Staff have access to University-wide training in issues connected to research misconduct, which is governed by the University's application of the UKRIO Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct of Research. The University publishes an annual Misconduct Statement.

2. People

2.1 Staffing Strategy

Significant investment has been made in the assessment period to recruit two professors (Boothroyd, **Donald**) and a cohort of researchers taking up full-time permanent positions for the first time (Bandinelli, **Gergely**, **Henkel**, Ruffino, **Scott**, **Sutherland**, Thompson), reflecting the Unit's current ambition to build the reputation of its research environment, as well as cementing its future through the development of ECR and mid-career staff.

The number of FTE staff returned has more than doubled from 7 in the 2014 submission to 16 (15.2 FTE), underscoring institutional commitment to Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, and thereby achieving a growing reputation for research in the Unit. College Research leadership has provided support for successful grant development and bid writing [e.g. Cowman (UoA 28) mentored Thompson, **Winston** mentored **Elliott**, Boothroyd mentored **Gergely**]. The appointment of Boothroyd and **Donald** served to maintain the team's level of seniority. They, together with professors **Chapman** and **Winston** offer advice and mentorship to staff across the unit.

2.2 Staff Development

Efforts to support and develop the Unit's cohort of ECR and PGR researchers have been supported by internal mentoring and appraisal processes [Academic Development Appraisal (ADA), Individual Research Planning (IRP)], internal funding opportunities [Research Resource Allocation Fund (RRAF), Research Investment Fund (RIF)], and targeted recruitment in relation to the Unit's emerging and established areas of research expertise (including Film Studies, Media Histories, Media Theory and Sound Studies). These measures enable scholars to identify their research needs and to draw on feedback received on their plans for research and impact. The process also enables informed, effective, ground-up planning for the Unit's collective research activities and broader research strategy.

Strategic planning of individual research programmes (ADA/IRP) has been effective in enabling staff to develop rounded research profiles, in alignment with the institutional and Unit-level research strategies. **Ogunyemi** is founding editor of the refereed journal *Global Diaspora and Media* (2019-) and leads the Media of Diaspora Research Group. **Sahin** has expanded the scope of their research since 2014 and, supported via RRAF and RIF funding and research leave allocation, has developed 3 outputs from a project on diaspora, conflict and journalism in the context of Cyprus, going on to win a £4,790 grant from the BA. **Elliott**, **Gergely**, **Henkel**, **Sutherland** and Thompson, all similarly benefited from strategic mentorship and support which led to their securing external funding (totalling £394,000) and 49 significant publications in their fields, of which we are returning one in four.

The pairing of researchers with mentors is considered and strategic, aligned with EDI principles. In this vein, Boothroyd, **Chapman**, **Donald** and **Winston** have provided mentorship for the continued professional development of staff with whose research their expertise aligns. Under such considered mentorship, for instance, **Lockwood** and **Coley** have continued to develop radical, innovative work aligned with the institution's commitment to uphold academic freedom to pursue curiosity-driven research. As women coming to research via non-traditional routes involving career change, **Charlesworth**, **Palmieri** and **Wilczek** have successfully developed new research priorities under the careful mentorship of **Donald**.

As a result of the strategic support outlined above, staff identified as ECRs in the previous REF and career beginners recruited in the cycle have produced nearly half of the outputs returned in this submission (17 out of 38) attesting to their centrality to our research environment. ECRs recruited prior to 2014 have been supported to develop their careers via research leadership opportunities within the Unit: **Elliott** (appointed 2010) is now Director of Research within the School of Film and Media, where he sits alongside **Lockwood** as PGR Lead. Others appointed at ECR stage now with significant research-related responsibilities include Thompson (appointed 2014) as Impact Case Study Lead, **Gergely** (appointed 2015) who is now UoA REF Co-

ordinator, and **Scott** (appointed 2015) and **Sutherland** (appointed 2016) who are both standing members of the Film and Media Research Committee.

College and Institutional support for research has enabled prolific research outputs within the Unit. Aided via RRAF funding **Elliott**, **Gergely** and **Sutherland** contribute 7 items to the submission, attesting to their prolificacy. **Henkel**, who began actively producing research upon her appointment in 2015, has developed a significant profile for their career stage: they have won funding internally at College (RRAF) and Institutional (Lincoln Institute for Advanced Studies, or LIAS) level to support presentations at peer-reviewed international conferences (which led to a number of publications) and secured a €515 Erasmus+ staff mobility award to support an international teaching and research exchange. Ruffino and Bandinelli took up their first permanent full-time positions at Lincoln and developed their research profiles during their period of employment here. They published 9 peer-reviewed items while in post and developed projects under the mentorship of more established colleagues (notably Boothroyd and **Lockwood**). While we are not returning any of their outputs, placing instead our emphasis on staff currently in post, these achievements speak to the research environment's capacity to support ECRs.

All staff receive a guaranteed workload allocation for research: FTE researchers within the Unit are entitled to a minimum of 1 research day per week, and additional allocation is available to ECRs in the first year of appointment. Further allocation is available for work on manuscripts, bid development and other significant additional research activities such as journal editorship, peer review activities, and grant panel membership. Staff in the Unit also benefit from the College's process of research leave allocation, under which Barrow, **Charlesworth**, **Coley**, **Gergely**, **Lockwood**, **Jackson**, **Sahin**, **Sutherland** and Thompson were offered a period of leave of one semester. **Winston** and **Scott** were awarded tailored research leave, demonstrating the scheme's flexibility, with research making up 50 per cent of their total workload allocation spread across two semesters to enable them to focus on major projects.

There are robust avenues of support that help the Unit to continue to increase and diversify sources of income. These include workload allowances of 60 hours per year for the development and submission of substantial funding bids, guidance from dedicated staff in the College Research Office, and the possibility of doubling research allocation for members of staff with regular funding bid submission and/or one or more book contracts (see below). Further targeted support can be allocated through our existing research leave system, which is open to all staff. Peer-reviewing, mentoring and feedback on external bid writing from more experienced colleagues is standard practice and is required for bids in excess of £10,000. Research Office staff identify and circulate funding opportunities, as well as information from other research funding agencies and sources. Researchers across the College have been trained to identify diverse sources of grant monies from smaller funding bodies focused on specific types or themes of research via, for instance, a Research Professional workshop.

2.3 Support for PGR Students

The Unit's strategic commitment to training and Continual Professional Development is visible in our growing Postgraduate Research community. In alignment with the Institution's broader research strategy to increase PGR numbers and completion rates, 7 PhD candidates have completed doctorates in the assessment period, and currently 9 PGR students are pursuing PhDs. Part of that growth has been driven by the introduction in 2014 of 32 competitive RIF PhD studentships covering fees and maintenance, of which the Unit won two. All PGRs are eligible for support from RRAF to attend conferences and archives as part of their research, and we also host PGR Showcase events and local doctoral conferences to enhance presentation skills and competitiveness. PGR students are expected to attend the Open Seminar and Journalism Research Seminar series, at which they are also invited to present papers. The Unit has also hosted 3 international visiting PhD students from France, Chile and Norway, taking advantage of external funding mechanisms including bursaries from the Universities of Toulouse and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

PGR students are supported by the University's Doctoral School, which provides postgraduate researchers with training, networking opportunities and specialist support, and the Unit's research students also have access to a PGR common room, which is intended to promote collaborative working, networking and peer support. Schools in the Unit accept Masters by Research applicants so as to retain and attract exceptional graduates and provide a direct training route for PhD entry. Currently 7 students are enrolled on the MA by Research programme, supported by researchers in the Unit with relevant expertise, including supervisory teams to facilitate cross-disciplinary projects. Research topics focus on race, gender and sexuality, as well as historical representations in film and television, participatory media and community engagement.

All staff new to PGR supervision are given mentorship and support through the Doctoral School's training programmes, and for those new to the process there is the opportunity to gain experience as members of teams led by more experienced colleagues. All supervisors, including those working across interdisciplinary teams spanning Colleges and Schools such as Thompson, **Elliott** and **Winston**, receive appropriate workload allocation.

2.4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

EDI is supported via work of the Eleanor Glanville Centre, launched as the University's Centre for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in 2017 (see Institutional Environment Statement). The EGC runs monthly meetings to support Schools preparing Gender Equality Charter and Race Equality Charter applications. Both Schools are currently preparing applications for an Athena Swan Bronze Award. LSEJ is due for submission in November 2021, and LSFM the following year.

EDI considerations inform all decision-making and forward planning in alignment with Athena Swan principles. All staff undergo mandatory unconscious bias and EDI training, and further training is mandated for reviewers and those in mentorship and leadership positions to promote inclusivity in decision-making. In this same spirit, PGR supervisors, recruitment panels, and PhD transfer and viva panel members and chairs all undergo compulsory periodical EDI training. Decisions around workload modelling and research leave are public and transparent to ensure parity. All staff, regardless of seniority, participate in IRP and ADA reviews, aimed at identifying research priorities and available institutional support and external income opportunities. The pairing of ADA and IRP reviewers and reviewees is periodically rotated to guard against unconscious bias. The construction of the Unit's submission, including the selection of outputs, has been governed by the University's REF Code of Practice, which places EDI at the heart of this process. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) occurred annually 2018-20 on the University's REF procedures, in order to identify potential EDI issues, including any disparities identified in the inclusion of outputs from staff with protected characteristics. All members of staff involved in creating the Unit's submission received specific EDI and unconscious bias training around these procedures. The selection of staff outputs for inclusion was based on a rigorous process that involved an internal panel with an independent Chair (from another School), and external assessment. Staff were encouraged to declare individual circumstances that might affect their submission through a confidential procedure.

The University's Multifaith Chaplaincy is a key plank in the University's One Community initiative to combat racism and ethnic and religious intolerance. It offers a number of specific facilities for researchers (see Institutional Environment Statement). The Unit plays an important role in the Chaplaincy's work via **Winston**, who acts as its Jewish Faith Advisor.

Since the last REF the unit has actively recruited researchers from underrepresented communities. As a consequence, of 16 members of staff returned, 7 are women, 2 are BAME and our professoriate is 50 per cent female, compared to 30 per cent institutionally, and 25 per cent sector-wide. Attesting to institutional commitment to supporting a diverse research community, staff are entitled to enhanced maternity/paternity leave under the new and expectant family policy (see Institutional Environment Statement) and can also request reduced FTE due to caring commitments, with one member of staff taking advantage of both of these support mechanisms in the cycle. The University's flexible attitude towards retirement as detailed in the

Institutional Environment Statement has enabled the Unit to benefit from the ongoing input of senior colleagues as it grows.

Our research and public engagement activities demonstrate our growing commitment to EDI. For example, **Gergely** joined with O'Rourke (submitted in UoA 28) for a series of public screenings and research-based talks for LGBTQ+ History month while Thompson's AHRC project investigates how the arts might help to enrich understanding of Tinnitus and the impact of this debilitating condition. In order to enhance our diverse research community in the next cycle, we are prioritising appointments in the field of feminist &/or queer sound theory and feminist digital programming. These planned appointments are in line with Athena Swan priorities and underscore the Unit's commitment to increasing the diversity of its membership.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1 Research Income

We have more than doubled our research income from £608,000 in REF 2014 to £1.39m. Research Council and EU funding schemes accounted for half of all bids in the census period. Securing research funding from a range of UKRI and non-UKRI sources has enhanced the development of high-quality, collaborative and impactful research within the Unit.

Our major research grant successes in the period were:

Barrow and **Elliott** Arts Council England, 2017-18 'Magna Carta 800-1215 Today', £395,000.

Boothroyd ESRC/AHRC/EPSRC/Dstl/CPNI, 2014-17 'A Shared Space and Space for Sharing', £1.13M; ESRC/AHRC/EPSRC/Dstl/CPNI 'Cybernetic Subjects and the Mediation of Trust and Empathy', £2,280.

Chapman AHRC, 2015-16 'World War 1 Prisoners of War', £15,965; AHRC 2016-17, 'Non-Europeans and the Great War', £15,875; AHRC 'Everyday Lives in War', £27,800.

Elliott AHRC, 2020-2023, 'Invisible Worlds: Place-Making, Augmented Reality, and Alderley Edge', £240,000.

Sahin British Academy Small Grants, 'Journalism in Conflict Societies', £4,790.

Sutherland AHRC, 2020-2022, 'Pause for Thought' £29,000.

Thompson AHRC, 2020-2022 'Tinnitus, Auditory Knowledge and the Arts', £125,282.

Moreover, in keeping with our 2014 strategic aims, the Unit has been successful in diversifying its sources of income for research and impact activities. Researchers in the Unit were encouraged to think strategically about bidding activities and to target monies available for specific research interests. This was achieved via active interventions by the Schools' Directors of Research, the College Research Officers, targeted Research Professional alerts, and opportunities identified in annual Individual Research Planning reviews. Through these interventions, funding was secured from Arts Council England (Thompson, £3,500), Community Links (**Donald**, £1,500 Outreach Grant), Feminist Review Trust (Thompson, £750, Small Grant), Foyle Foundation (Barrow, £1,000), Lincoln City Council (Barrow and **Elliott**, £40,000) and the Association for Journalism Education (**Ogunyemi**, £800). These smaller pots were targeted by all within the Unit from Professor to PGR level. As an example of the latter, £500 was secured from the Chalke Valley History Festival by one of our PhD students, John Sandy-Hindmarch, to run focus groups.

3.2 Infrastructure and Facilities

The University of Lincoln continues to invest in support infrastructure for researchers and research students. In the period of assessment, the University has established the LIAS, which has enhanced the research environment by helping to nurture interdisciplinary and collaborative research activities. The Unit has good support for enhancing external income generation. Researchers within the Unit receive personalized career support: Directors of Research at School and College level provide mentorship via the annual IRP review and support staff in developing grant applications. Indeed, ECRs mentored by senior colleagues accounted for 20 per cent of total research income. Bid success rate in the period was 69 per cent, compared to the College average of 56 per cent, with successes bunched in 2017-2019, demonstrating the effectiveness of research infrastructure in conjunction with strategic recruitment and targeted support. The University's Research and Enterprise Office work with colleagues and research students in understanding and tracking the impact of projects. In doing so, they enable us to build a coherent 'map' of networks and partnerships.

Researchers in the Unit (e.g. **Donald**) have benefitted from the Institute's Networking Grants, while others have been recipients of the LIAS Mobility Award (e.g. **Henkel**) and Barrow (relocated) won a Santander scholarship, which enabled vital field work in Peru. Institutional support for dissemination and to undertake primary research has directly resulted in the development, writing and publication of internationally recognized scholarship. Internal funding for research activities is awarded on a competitive basis at College level from two funds: the Research Resources Allocation Fund (for conferences, archival visits and interim support of bidding activity) and the Research investment Fund (a University-wide scheme for longer term strategic investment). A separate stream exists to nurture PGR research, including a ring-fenced RRAF budget for conferences and archival visits in support of doctoral work. The Unit also won two RIF-supported PhD studentships in 2013. These awards, which cover fees and offer a stipend in line with RCUK doctoral grants, were secured in Historical Games and Media Studies, two of the Unit's emerging research specialisms. Further RIF monies amounting to £63,000 were made available to researchers in the Unit (**Scott, Elliott, Sahin**) and a further £26,055 through the College of Arts Research Resource Allocation Fund. Bids for internal and external funding for research activities are supported by an internal review process, with School Directors of Research offering feedback and advice on applications. All of the RIF funding and 60 per cent of RRAF monies were awarded to ECRs, while 43 per cent of the latter went to women researchers. The money was used to attend international conferences such as SCMS, ECREA, MeCCSA, NECS and BAFTSS, and to facilitate archival research, bid writing activity and workshop attendance.

The development of potentially impactful research is supported via a Unit of Assessment Impact Lead, a College impact administrator with a brief to help develop impact evidence, and at institutional level, through the UKRI-funded Public Engagement for All with Research at Lincoln (PEARL) project, which provides training and awards funding (via an annual call for applications) for public engagement activities. Institutional support to develop impact is provided via the Lincoln Impact Literacy Institute, a dedicated Director of Research Impact Development and specialist impact development co-ordinators. These colleagues and support mechanisms help to consolidate our existing Public Engagement activities and to capture impact evidence in a more systematic and accessible format, such as Barrow and **Elliott's** art workshops (2015-18), **Elliott's** work with Lincoln City Council's Bricks and Bones project and community heritage events, **Donald's** public lectures at the Mansions of the Future (2018-20), and Thompson and the Extra Sonic Practice Research Group's public-facing music workshops in St Mary-le-Wigford church (2018).

Support for Research and the application of research beyond an immediate academic context comes from a variety of sources, including the College Business Development Manager, the University Research and Industrial Partnerships Team and the College Arts Development Officer. A number of projects have developed from this route including the highly successful Arts Council England-funded biennial Frequency event, a multi-platform festival of digital cultures with additional funding by Rampton KTP. Frequency, which includes city-wide digital takeovers

in non-traditional exhibition spaces, including exhibitions of site-specific work, live performances, world-premieres, and interactive experiences has helped researchers in the unit reach a wide public audience. It has hosted over 450 local, national and international artists including four groups working with 1215 Today in 2017, exhibiting their work to over 60,000 visitors across four festival editions from 2013 to 2019.

Investment has continued in the Unit's facilities. The Schools of Film & Media and English & Journalism's extensive media facilities – which include two industry-standard television studios, a suite of dedicated newsrooms, three radio studios, state-of-the-art audio-visual editing equipment, photography studios, digital design and VR suites, a dubbing studio, specialist listening rooms and a 4k screening theatre – help to support the development of practice-led research (our strategic priority for the next cycle). The Schools' facilities have also been used to host symposia, workshops and public-facing talks (e.g. Cybernetic Subjects and the Mediation of Trust and Empathy, Boothroyd; As Above/So Below, **Coley** and **Lockwood**; Sonic Cyberfeminisms, Thompson; MeCCSA's Practice as Research symposium, **Winston**; Heritage Dot, **Elliott**).

Since 2011 the University has housed the Media Archive of Central England (MACE), located in the same building as researchers from the Unit. The archive is accessible to students and staff across the university and plays a key role in supporting historical media research: Film History colleagues O'Rourke and Grandy (returned in UoA 28) have drawn on the MACE collection in their research, and the archives support research-led teaching and provide opportunities for PGR students to gain experience in archiving and pursue research. MACE is a key collaborator in **Gergely's** archival research project.

The University also hosts the John Pilger archive and the Lincolnshire Echo archive, which help support research in Journalism.

The University's Library employs dedicated specialist subject support librarians, and has invested extensively in media scholarship via electronic journal subscriptions, and purchasing e-books, where possible, to improve accessibility and facilitate remote working. The Library is a long-standing subscriber to Box of Broadcasts, and has made significant investment in physical and online AV holdings in the cycle. In addition to acquiring film and television titles on Kanopy, the Library has expanded its collections by acquiring, among others, a full set of the Masters of Cinema BluRay series. Moreover, the Library routinely acquires titles released on the BFI's own label. Researchers are further supported through access to unlimited inter-library loans.

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

The Unit has continued to collaborate closely with the media and culture industries that enhance its research agenda. These links have been expanded in order to reflect changing media landscapes and ecologies and have enabled us to capitalize on public dissemination of research findings. These findings provide a means of contributing to a broader research base which extends well beyond the confines of the University and into the public domain.

4.1 Research Collaborations, Partnerships and Networks

As outlined in the related Impact Case Studies, researchers in the Unit remain committed not only to maintaining a strong public engagement element of our research, but to growing that element to embed public engagement into our research from the outset. Examples of research projects which engage extensively with public stakeholders include Everyday Lives in War (**Chapman**), the Community Storytelling project with the National Trust (**Elliott**), Rampton Hospital Radio KTP, Lincoln City Council (**Donald**, **Elliott**), and Portovesme (**Scott**). All of these projects, which exemplify the Unit's commitment to reaching non-HEI publics, embed public engagement practices according to a dedicated Impact Plan.

Institutional investment in developing practice-based research within the Unit is ongoing, and evidenced by the University's hosting the Annual MeCCSA Practice Symposium in collaboration with the *Journal of Media Practice and Education* in 2018. The Unit's various research seminars have also been important in foregrounding practice as research within the Unit, for instance via presentations by environmental photographer **Scott**, and **Henkel**, who was recruited as an ECR after a successful career as a practising journalist. Research seminars in the Unit are an important platform for developing research as practice: speakers invited as part of a considered strategy to expand practice as research in the Unit included the animator Sara Nesteruk (University of Huddersfield) and sound artists and practitioners Rebecca Collins, (Edinburgh College of Arts) and Benedict Seymour (Goldsmiths). Research groups in the Unit provide further targeted support: the Extra-Sonic Practice Research Group has provided opportunities to share interdisciplinary aspects of practice-based work in progress (ESP members returned in UoA 33 include Balosso-Bardin and Scheuregger).

The Open Seminar and Journalism Research Seminar Series are open to the public. They feature research seminars offered by internal speakers and renowned international scholars, bringing diverse research of international and global significance to a local audience. Research seminars run alongside regular film events and open lectures such as the Holocaust Memorial Day screening with a critical introduction and Q+A (**Gergely**), the annual LGBTQ+ Week screenings of films with attached lectures (co-hosted by O'Rourke, returned in UoA 28, with contributions by researchers in the Unit including **Gergely**). The Unit also hosts open talks about research and industry by Visiting Professors and invited industry leaders such as David Cooke, the former Director of the BBFC, Chris Packham (BBC Presenter), Alex Graham (Wall to Wall Productions), Andrew Graham-Dixon (BBC Presenter), Rick Senat (former European Head of Legal and Business Affairs at Warner Bros and Senior Independent Director of Cineworld), Jason Bradbury (BBC Broadcaster), Justin Hardy (Television Director), and Phil Clapp (UK Cinema Association CEO).

The Open Seminar series and the Journalism Research Seminar series allow PGR students to engage with researchers from other institutions, to receive feedback on new ideas as well as enabling staff within the Unit to present and discuss works-in-progress. Since the disruptions of the Covid pandemic, the Open Seminar series has moved online in order to preserve continuity as much as possible under difficult circumstances. Online talks, for example by PGR Sandy-Hindmarch on historical re-enactments in the East Midlands, have attracted good numbers across the institution as well as non-HEI attendees.

4.2 Users, Beneficiaries and Audiences Several research projects are designed to be responsive to non-HEI stakeholder needs. This key strength is exemplified by projects built around public stakeholders such as **Chapman's** work on cartoons, **Donald's** work as part of the Justice Arts and Migration project, as well as Bricks and Bones (**Elliott**), a community heritage project led by the City of Lincoln and Lincolnshire County Councils. This latter partnership sprang from an earlier £45,000 cross-disciplinary project with Lincoln Cathedral, in which community heritage and crowd-curated history scholarship was applied to the creation of an interactive Augmented Reality app. These projects marked a fruitful partnership between the Unit's researchers and local government, involving the Lincoln Business Investment Group's work at Sincil Bank, an economically depressed area of Lincoln which had been identified as a priority for the city's redevelopment plan. This impactful work evidences our commitment to pursuing local to global research themes (see Institutional Environment Statement) aligned to institutional research themes (Wellbeing, Communities and Ruralities) and has since seeded **Elliott's** 'Invisible Worlds' AHRC project.

The Unit's intellectual contributions to the city include regular research-led events at Mansions of the Future, an Arts Council-supported Arts and Cultural Hub located on the edge of the recently-redeveloped Cornhill quarter of Lincoln offering free events to the public. Researchers associated with the Unit and its research groups have organised and presented events at the hub (**Donald**, ESP Research Group), as well as other locations around the city including nearby St Mary-le-Wigford church and Frequency Festival sites. The 1215 Today project (Barrow and

Elliott) submitted 4 outputs to 2017's Frequency Festival, alongside public initiatives including an event at London's South Bank Centre, a TEDx Youth event in November 2017 and an award-winning short film, *The Empty Throne*, commissioned as part of the project and screened publicly at Lincoln Castle.

Researchers within the Unit have regularly presented their work at leading cultural institutions, attesting to our commitment to a wide range of public engagement activities both locally and globally. **Chapman** presented work at the Chichester Festival and curated the 'Never Again' exhibition at the Cartoon Museum in 2014, alongside a range of public-facing talks and discussions of comics and popular-cultural responses in *The Conversation*. Members of the ESP Research Group have spoken at Mutek festival, Canada, Tate Liverpool, the British Library and Nottingham Contemporary. **Elliott** has given public talks at cultural and heritage sites including Leeds City Museum, Rocca di Gradara (Urbino, Italy), and an open MA Masterclass on medievalism, politics and media at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. **Scott** has presented at Rotterdam Photo Festival and his exhibition 'Vetta e Abisso' won the Landscape category of the 'Europa' European PhotoAwards. Colleagues have also contributed to public-facing publications, both online and in traditional print media. These include *The Guardian*, *The Conversation*, *The Independent*, *The Economist*, *The Verge*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Sunday Herald*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Tagesspiegel*, *Die Zeit*, and *Heti Világgazdaság*, as well as *BBC Radio*.

The unit has continued to prioritise research networks as a means of broadening our research across disciplinary boundaries and beyond the institution. Our existing collaborations, and others in early stages of development, offer examples of impactful innovative research carried out by researchers within the Unit.

Sutherland has won an AHRC Research Networking Grant of £29,000 with Scott Wark as Co-I at the University of Warwick, building on an earlier collaboration. **Scott's** work with Will Mayes of the University of Hull, helped him to expand the disciplinary reach of his RIF-funded project which involved soil sample analysis, further demonstrating the Unit's collaborative research ethos and the transdisciplinarity of our work. The expansion of this network to include work with external organisations and project partners provides clear evidence for the direct impacts of his environmental photography work beyond academia. Collaboration with Film Archives UK and establishing networks with European archives is central to impact activities designed into **Gergely's** collaborative project with Julia Havas (De Montfort University) which further targets the development of research networks with Hungarian scholars and scholars of Hungarian culture at UK and European institutions.

The Unit moreover benefits from the extensive research networks of senior researchers **Chapman**, **Donald** and **Winston** who have brought to the Unit a wealth of international collaborations with a variety of external partners, both within and outside of academia. Their work is cited in Impact Case Studies submitted by the Unit, and we list only a few headline examples here. These are: the BBC; the British Library, London; the Library of Congress, USA; the Australian War Memorial, Campbell; the Cartoon Museum, London; Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, Liverpool; University of Liverpool and the Culture for Cities/Culture for Social Innovation at York University, Toronto; British Film Institute, London; Birkenhead Sixth Form College; and Menai High School, New South Wales.

4.3 Wider Contributions to Research Base

Esteem indicators detailed in this section exemplify the development of research staff over the period of assessment and illustrate the quality of the research environment and efficacy of support available to staff in the Unit. Boothroyd, **Chapman**, **Donald** and **Winston** have been invited to present their work far and wide and have had significant impact on their respective fields and disciplines via editorial work, peer review of funding applications, manuscripts and articles and PhD examining. Mid-career staff and those appointed as ECRs who have entered a mid-career phase by the time of submission have also begun to shape their wider research and disciplinary communities.

These contributions are indicated across a range of esteem factors including:

- Invited and keynote presentations: international conferences and venues in China, Australia, Canada, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, the USA.
- Peer Review for Research Councils including the AHRC and ESRC Colleges (**Chapman**), the Canadian Research Council (**Elliott**), Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa (**Ogunyemi**).
- Editorial and peer review work: including series editors (**Elliott**, Bloomsbury); journal editorial boards (**Gergely**, **Sutherland**, Thompson); peer reviewers for journals in Film Studies (**Gergely**, **Jackson**, **Winston**), Television Studies (**Elliott**), Sound Studies (Thompson), History (**Elliott**), Journalism (**Henkel**, **Ogunyemi**, **Sahin**, **Chapman**, **Winston**), Media Studies (**Sutherland**, **Coley**, **Lockwood**, **Winston**), Architecture (Thompson), Cultural Studies (**Coley**, **Elliott**, **Winston**), Sociology (Boothroyd).
- Membership of the Executive Committee of Subject Associations: BAFTSS (**Gergely**, **Winston**); British Journalism Review (**Winston**), College of Mentors of Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa (**Ogunyemi**), Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts (**Chapman**); board member and research partner with the Forced Migration Research Network, UNSW (**Donald**).
- Awards and nominations include a Special Award at the International Press Institute Book Awards, Vienna 2014 (*Right to Offend*, **Winston**), the BAFTSS Monograph Runner-up Award 2018 (*Hungarian Film 1929-1947*, **Gergely**), the Kraszna-Krausz Book Awards 2014 (*The Documentary Film Book*, **Winston**). **Palmieri** and **Gergely** contributed to the BAFTSS Edited Collection Award 2017 winner (*Lasting Stars*).
- Visiting Professorships at University of Leeds & UNSW (**Donald**), Bowen University, Nigeria (**Ogunyemi**), Macquarie and Wolfson College, Cambridge (**Chapman**), China (**Winston**), Universidad de la Salle, Colombia (**Elliott**), University of Edinburgh (Thompson) and Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (**Sutherland**); in 2015 **Scott** was also awarded a Leverhulme Artist in Residence grant.
- External PhD Examiner for the Universities of Leeds, Helsinki, Macquarie, Canterbury Christchurch, Sheffield, Kings College London.