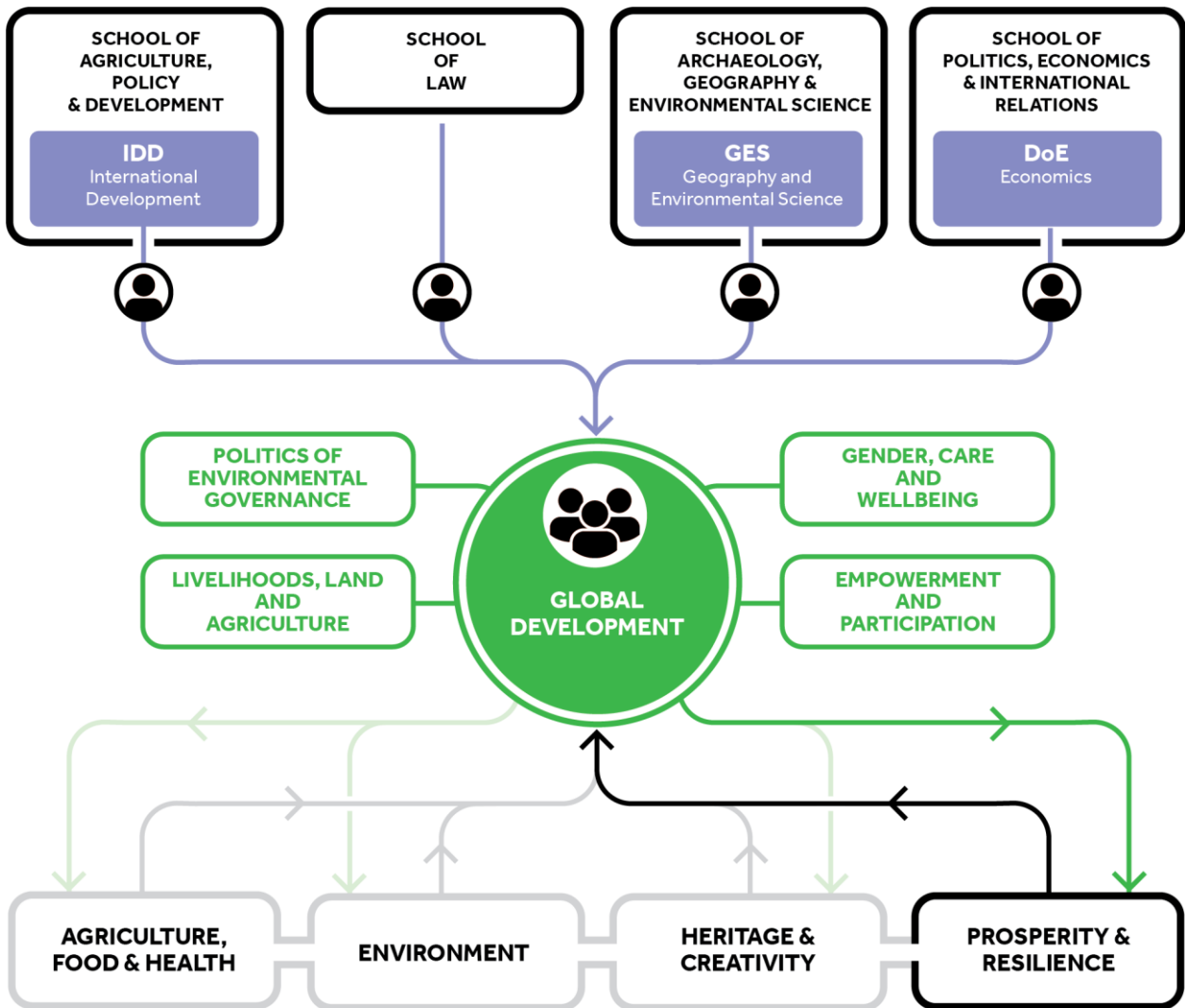


Institution: University of Reading
Unit of Assessment: UOA22 – Anthropology and Development Studies
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>The Global Development Research Division at the University of Reading is committed to producing socially engaged research to address the multi-scaled and multi-causal development challenges that confront contemporary societies in both the Majority and Minority worlds. Comprised of an interdisciplinary group of 19 FTE academic staff, post-doctoral researchers and doctoral students, the Division has created a vibrant and distinctive environment for addressing these challenges by: (1) producing world-leading research that is analytically diverse, theoretically novel and empirically grounded and makes evidence-based policy contributions at local, national and regional scales; (2) supporting and amplifying stakeholder challenges to current development structures and societal conditions through participatory and co-produced research; (3) linking theory to development practice through applied interventions and doctoral training using analytical approaches rooted in the social sciences and humanities; and (4) fostering sustained and open inter- and cross-disciplinarity through internal and external collaborations, public engagement and on-the-ground livelihood impacts.</p> <p>Strategy and structures</p> <p>Following REF2014, the University restructured its research activity around Research Divisions, under four broad and interacting Research Themes (see Institutional Environment Statement section 2). This restructuring considered the changing contours of an unequal, interconnected world, the shifting disciplinary outlines of development studies, and Reading's long-standing international reputation for research, teaching and training in rural development and agricultural extension across Africa, Asia and South America. Research on development has long been carried out in the International Development Department (IDD, within the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development), with allied research on geopolitics and development geography in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science (GES, within the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science, SAGES) and research on development economics in the Department of Economics (within the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations, SPEIR). Human rights law and the governance of development through international institutions has recently been strengthened in the School of Law. Thus the Division was formed in 2015, drawing together researchers from international development, rural development and agriculture, human and development geography, development economics and human rights law to build on our strong, existing intellectual roots and consolidate multi- and trans-disciplinary research on global development (see Figure 1).</p> <p>Since its formation, the Division has been situated at the core of the University's research strategy to support the interdisciplinarity required to solve complex global challenges and to strengthen the University's leadership position in challenge-driven research (IES, section 1). Global Development sits alongside other social science Research Divisions in the Prosperity & Resilience Research Theme (P&R), although our work spans the other Themes of Environment; Agriculture, Food & Health; and Heritage & Creativity. Each Division has a Research Division Lead (RDL) and each Theme is led by a Research Dean. These structures facilitate networking, demonstrated in our relationships with other academics across a host of disciplines – including Meteorology, Politics and International Relations, Literature and Languages, and Henley Business School – based on research collaborations, joint degrees and doctoral supervision.</p>

Figure 1. Structure and institutional context of Global Development Research Division



Over the assessment period, our vision, strategic research aims and supporting structures have undergone a reflective evolutionary process, through a series of scoping exercises facilitated by the Division Leadership Group, so that our research culture is as inclusive and cohesive as it is comprehensive, robust and flexible. This is maintained through a lively seminar series and practice-focused workshops and demonstrated in our co-produced research projects and joint outputs.

A rich, creative and open research environment has been developed, enabling cross-disciplinary multi-level research and knowledge exchange that aims to deliver enduring solutions to the major economic, environmental and social challenges that face marginalised communities around the world. The achievements of this research environment are demonstrated in the success of the participatory research projects we have co-designed with research partners ensuring their voices and priorities underpin our research and drive engagement and dissemination. Given this, the Division’s transformative research has produced measurable and far-reaching impacts on research praxis, on the grounded practices of development, and in improved quality of people’s livelihoods, particularly in relation to climate resilience, food security and community empowerment. This interdisciplinary, participatory and collaborative approach is reflected in our output profile and is at the core of our two submitted impact case studies (**Dorward, Freedman**).

Through our collective actions and guiding vision, we have capitalised and lead on collaborative relationships with stakeholders in international institutions, government departments and agencies in the UK and throughout the Majority world, charities and the non-profit sector (see sections 3 and 4). The University's investment in the Division, its composition and strategy to support vibrant, novel, open research and meaningful impact is evidenced in the number and range of funded projects – **£4.18m in total (£220k per FTE)** over the reporting period – and our strong networks of research and engagement partnerships, co-created and co-designed for 'real life', on-the-ground impacts in stakeholders' lives and livelihoods.

Four distinctive and inter-related **research strands** have coalesced in service of our vision and strategic aims.

1) Politics of environmental governance: This strand builds on our work on climate governance in the Majority world to broaden our research into more comprehensive, inclusive and global accounting of environmental governance across middle and high-income countries. This contributes directly into the overarching institutional priority on sustainability (University Strategy, 2020-26).

Capitalising on his Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship and further funding (Horizon 2020), **Menga** has developed the innovative theoretical lens of 'hydropolitics' to understand the relationships of dams to different forms of power and counter-movements in the control of water resources and mega-development in Ethiopia and the post-Soviet states of Central Asia. Menga's leadership was acknowledged through a SCOPUS Early Career Researcher of the Year Award in 2018. Water resource governance is also a focus for **Osbah**'s NERC-DFID-funded research which has enabled smallholder farmers to access groundwater in northern Ghana and Burkina Faso through research on gendered vulnerability and opportunities for horticultural commercialisation. Engagement was developed through extension service training in Ghana and production of a practical manual for the online rainfall platform RAINWATCH.

One of this strand's most active areas of research is on the local-scale politics and practices of climate change mitigation, resilience and adaptation. **Dorward** and **Osbah** have focused on the local level to show how historical climate data used by NGO-intermediaries in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda can inform participatory stakeholder planning and applied development schemes to support local communities in adaptations to climate change. Working with the CGIAR's research programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), **Fisher** developed a framework for how issues of social equity and distribution can be analysed within farming populations to inform climate risk management initiatives. **Arnall** has led investigation into environmental change, climate dynamics and their impacts on daily life in small-island states, with funding from the Research Council of Norway, ESRC-DFID Joint Fund and Australian Research Council.

2) Livelihoods, land and agriculture contributes to critical analysis of the relationships between the growing and eating of food, climate and environmental dynamics, and the processes of food security across diverse geographical contexts and scales. The development of the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach, led by **Dorward** and **Clarkson**, provides one of our two impact case studies. PICSA facilitates local, evidence-based planning and decision-making by smallholder farmers through co-produced analysis of livelihoods, farming systems and climate information and the exploration of management options suited to the local climate and farmers' circumstances, working, for example, with the Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture project which received the Climate Smart Agriculture Project of the Year award (2018). Adopted as official extension practice in Malawi and Rwanda, PICSA has empowered communities and led to greater agency of farmers to address the challenges of climate variability and change. Complimentary research was undertaken by **Fisher**, who has focused on cash transfers as a form of social protection through an analysis of the livelihood impacts of these transfers in Sub-Saharan Africa, working with the FAO and six African governments.

Critical analysis of conflict and contestation over livelihoods at the local, city and national scales forms another core theme. **Arnall** has explored livelihood conflicts arising from large land acquisitions in Mozambique; **Goodman** and **Feola** used urban political ecology to analyse conflicts over peri-urban landscapes in Colombia; **Ainslie** analysed the politics of indigenous knowledge in livestock management in post-Apartheid South Africa; and **Lovo** has critiqued land tenure conflict and its impacts on soil conservation in Malawi. **Grisaffi**, through ethnographic study, investigated local and national conflicts over coca production in Bolivia and the impacts of eradication and poverty alleviation schemes on livelihoods and local economies.

Other research has focused on the interconnectedness of global development and its implications for local environmental and social governance (e.g. **Goodman, Menga**). **Fisher's** Horizon2020/NORFACE/Belmont Forum research analysed the solidarity networks of fairly traded gold in east Africa that reach across continents to the places of gold consumption. Working with partners across Africa, South America and Europe, this transdisciplinary research deploys a 'new materialist', more-than-human lens to develop transformative approaches to the livelihood sustainability of artisanal gold miners.

Ainslie leads work on climate-resilience infrastructures and livelihoods in some of the world's most vulnerable regions, within the **Walker Institute** (directed by Cornforth, returned to UOA7), one of the University's ten interdisciplinary research centres. The Walker Institute uses evidence-synthesis generated through fieldwork and stakeholder engagement to translate research into evidence to inform decision-making. As a Co-I on Walker's DFID/NERC-funded HyCRISTAL project, Ainslie has engaged with local and national government in Uganda on climate adaptation and local-level water management under conditions of heat stress.

3) Gender, care and wellbeing examines everyday gender relations, human rights, questions of work and how care for others and the environment intersect with global development. **Freedman's** research has resulted in significant changes to how the UN manages vulnerable populations in conflict situations. This research, which underpins our second impact case study, has brought about changes across the UN's theatres of operation through the development of new, far-reaching rules of engagement and reporting mechanisms. It was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education 'Research Project of the Year' award in 2019.

Division members work on a number of gender-related topics at the household scale. **Dubuc** leads a multidisciplinary ESRC-funded project on son preference and sex-selection in the UK, and her work on fertility and educational attainment in British Asian women brings an intersectional account of differential family strategies to social mobility. **Kambhampati** has analysed the different cultural factors and gendered attitudes that influence women's work choices in Kenya and the ways that the gendered agency of household decision-makers affects educational expenditures. **Rawlings** has analysed the impacts of gender and race on income in malarial areas of Brazil. Gendered and intergenerational household struggles over resources and the sustainability of environmental capital feature in **Evans'** research on land inheritance practices in Senegal. In Ghana, she found that as cashew cash-crop plantations expanded men's control over land, women and young people's abilities to access land to grow crops for household food and income security diminished.

Other research within this strand focuses on death, grief and care through **Evans'** work leading a Leverhulme Trust-funded research project on responses to family death and youth wellbeing in urban Senegal. Parallel research includes **Maddrell's** innovative theorisations of the spatialities of grief, mourning and remembrance. She leads a Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA) research project on cemeteries and crematoria as diverse public spaces of belonging for minorities and migrants in Europe.

4) Empowerment and participation produces on-the-ground impacts through co-produced research processes and methodological innovation. This research is supported by the Participation Lab lead by **Evans**, a networked innovation space dedicated to supporting community research participation in the Minority and Majority worlds. Empowering and

participatory research is core to our approach (e.g. Ainslie, Arnall, Clarkson, Dorward, Evans, Fisher, Geoghegan, Grisaffi, Lloyd-Evans, Maddrell, Osbahr) and the Division is a centre of excellence for participatory research theory, practice, innovation and communication.

The principles of co-production and empowerment drive **Dorward** and **Clarkson's** PICSA approach and its bottom-up engagement with small-scale farmers across, to date, 23 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. **Osbahr** has extended this focus through Freirean-inspired research for Zero Budget Natural Farming co-developed with farmers across Africa and India. Through this research, 600,000 farmers in Andhra Pradesh have adopted new soil management initiatives. At the same time it has challenged gendered roles and led to empowerment of women's self-help groups through improved nutrition, horticulture sales and knowledge co-creation.

Geoghegan has produced far-reaching research into the theory, practice and application of citizen science involving members of the public in all stages of the research process. Developed through an ESRC Early Career Fellowship, Geoghegan analysed the motivations and impacts of amateur naturalists on the collection and processing of data in the context of the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan. This project received NERC funding for a follow-on project focusing on developing a more-than-human approach that 'entangles' the relationships of tree and human development at the centre of the scientific study of ecological diseases.

Participatory approaches are widely used by **Lloyd-Evans**, the University Fellow for Public Engagement with Community Research, who is an important 'opt-in' Teaching-Intensive member of our Global Development community. Lloyd-Evans uses co-developed research to address social and economic inequalities in the UK. Working in Whitley, a neighbourhood close to the University, she has trained secondary school students and undergraduates as field researchers to co-produce research, facilitating community cohesion and empowerment.

Future strategy

Our future research strategy builds on our extensive experience of on-the-ground research and our desire to solidify existing partnerships and develop new relationships at the international, regional, national and local scales. We will continue to develop existing projects and expertise, building on grassroots and multi-directional approaches to working with local communities who can directly benefit from our work. From this, we will apply our multidisciplinary lens to issues in both the Majority and Minority worlds to research the shifting conditions and processes of global environmental and social change, focusing in particular on solutions to current and future development challenges.

First, we will use new funding to apply these approaches to new areas of work and new locations, in particular around the nexus of climate, food and sustainable livelihoods. Research recently funded includes:

- Interdisciplinary and co-produced research to reduce microplastic pollution in soil and water in China, Egypt, India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam to support sustainable farming practices and livelihoods (**Osbahr**, NERC-GCRF funding with Bangor University, £460k to Reading)
- We are partners in new work on food security, gender, poverty and nutritional health in Reading and other UK communities through co-designed, empowerment projects as part of UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund work across southern England in response to the hardships brought by COVID-19 (£3.6m to Reading, PI Wagstaff in Food & Nutritional Sciences)
- **Goodman's** involvement in the GCRF/AHRC project on the historical development and current impacts of Peru's food systems (£199k to Reading) and pilot work on the potential of plant-based proteins for reducing the climate change impacts of livestock in the Australian food system (£11k).

Second, we will expand our partnership ways of working to create research networks that cross multiple scales and are based in community development that involves local research

organisations and engages with national and international agencies. Thus we will develop solutions that are driven by local knowledge and experience, augmented by wider contextual and theoretical analysis. Examples of research already working in this way include **Grisaffi's** work with coca growers and policy networks in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru; **Evans'** work with migrant communities in Reading, incorporating learning with Reading Borough Council into European networks (ESRC: £420k to Reading); and **Arnall's** work with small-island communities linking to national policymakers and international agencies.

Third, recent focus on the implications of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter has positioned the Division at the forefront of methodological innovation and co-produced research to support socially just and grounded responses to the wider issues of inequality brought to the fore by such global events. Nascent participatory research along these lines includes **Goodman** and **Lloyd-Evans** on the impacts of the pandemic lockdown on food systems and education in Reading, **Kambhampati** on global supply chains and development, and **Maddrell's** focus on the impacts of COVID-19 on the processes of burial, grieving and the geographies of migration across Europe. This will allow us to build on and extend our Majority and Minority world multi-directional learning, research and innovative approaches, in particular new digital methodologies and tools for consultation, capacity-building and communication.

Impact strategy

Engagement and impact are embedded in our research ethos through our focus on participatory methods, co-development and working with networks and community organisations. As described in the IES (section 2.2), the Division is supported by a Theme-level Impact Development Manager for Prosperity & Resilience.

Our four research strands described above are united by a common approach, which has evolved over many years, and involves (a) working at the local level to bring community knowledge and experience to bear on questions of sustainable development; (b) embedding participatory approaches to research, communications and outreach; (c) capacity-building of research partners and community stakeholders to generate evidence, and of government administration and policymakers to use evidence-based approaches to policy formulation; and (d) working with networks and alliances to ensure dissemination and uptake of community-led approaches. This approach continues to form the core of our impact strategy.

Our impact capacity will be sustained and further developed through our long-standing projects which have developed relationships of trust and influence with key local and global organisations. This includes **PICSA** and its ongoing innovation and intervention work with the UN's food organisations and national extension services; **Osbah's** work on agricultural innovation to address climate change in South-East Asia, working with FAO and local organisations; and **Freedman's** advisory role at the UN Secretariat and its international missions and with the FCDO and UK Parliament. Second, we will continue to build our community-focused research to extend our partnerships and reach, e.g. **Arnall's** work on environmental change in small-island states; **Grisaffi's** work on coca production in the Andes; **Maddrell's** and **Evans'** work on migration and cultural norms; and work by **Goodman** and **Lloyd-Evans** on food security in the UK.

Third, we will continue to apply learning from the Majority world to emerging 'whole-world' issues, as part of our commitment to multi-directional learning and impact – e.g. **Evans** newly funded research on how family care practices are negotiated between and within migrant families in France, Spain, Sweden and the UK as the COVID-19 crisis unfolds. Knowledge and reflexive learning will be harnessed and shared through our wider networks and alliances to expand the power and influence of our co-designed research and grounded impacts. For example, the University's Knowledge Transfer Centre is currently working with **Lloyd-Evans**, in her role as University Fellow for Public Engagement with Community Research, to develop ways that these participatory approaches can be captured and replicated with other communities, extending their reach and impact.

Open research

We strive and work to maintain an open research environment, supported by the University's policies and structures (IES, section 2.2) and those set out by the funding bodies. We make extensive use of grant funding, institutional arrangements and internal funding to support Gold Open Access publications, with author fees for 19 journal articles paid from internal funds since 2016. In addition, the University maintains a Research Data Archive, supported by a Research Data Manager, to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to data (in cases where national data archives cannot be used), transparency and replicability.

Research ethics and integrity

The ethics and integrity of our research, especially important given the challenging locations and circumstances of our work, is rigorously managed and monitored to conform to University and professional and funding body requirements. First, all research proposals are discussed and approved by the Research Ethics Committees in each of the Division's respective Schools, with more complex cases referred to the University's Research Ethics Committee. Ensuring that no harm comes to the communities we work with is paramount. The University provides training on research ethics, following the stringent guideline of doing no harm. The Division is supported by the University's Research Data Manager who provides training and supports the production of data management plans to ensure its security and appropriate ethical use. Second, Schools require careful risk assessments and mitigation plans, particularly for overseas travel, that are assessed and approved by the respective School Health and Safety Committees following guidance from the University's health and safety codes of practice and from the FCDO.

2. People**Staffing**

The Division has undergone important changes to its profile since REF2014. With a current composition of Professors (37%), Associate Professors (26%), Lecturers (26%), and Research Fellows (11%), the Division has grown substantially through the investment in additional permanent staff (**Freedman, Grisaffi, Maddrell**), and Research Fellows (**Clarkson, Hui**). These changes have been driven by new strategic research initiatives and investment, such as those related to human rights, environmental and social movements, and participatory action research. This consolidation and expansion has led to a significant rise in research income, the publication of high-quality outputs and our investment in collaborations.

Over the reporting period, four members moved to other institutions (Boyd, Feola, Okereke, Siddique) balanced by strategic replacements and early- or mid-career hires (**Dubuc, Lovo, Menga, Pham**), with the majority of these being female. Investment was also made in one new female Professorial appointment (**Freedman**). Since 2014, 12 of the 19 REF-eligible staff have been promoted: 7 to Associate Professor (3 female and 4 male) and 5 to Professor (4 female and 1 male) as well as one promotion to Grade 8 Research Fellow (male). Such progress within the career pipeline is reflected in an increase in grant funding and in the employment of 9 post-doctoral researchers over the period (currently Parsons, Poskitt, van Hulst, Walker).

Staff support structures

The Division actively follows University-wide inclusive, equitable and transparent policies in relation to staffing (IES, section 3). In addition, each School has dedicated HR professionals to provide guidance and advice for staff recruitment, management, and support.

All research-active staff participate in our annual Performance and Development Review (PDR) process with their line manager, with mandatory training for reviewers. All staff develop an annual Personal Research Plan (PRP), covering research development, research communication and impact, engagement with the wider discipline and funding. These plans are discussed with the Research Division Lead and Head of Department and feed into Research Division Operational Plans which are reviewed and developed annually.

Peer mentoring is available to all staff (e.g., at career transition points such as promotion planning, preparing for a role change or career-break returnees). There are regular calls for mentors who receive appropriate training, and the mentoring pool includes visiting/emeritus staff who have often taken diverse career paths.

All academic staff hold individual Staff Development Accounts (SDAs) that enable discretionary spending on conferences, travel, books and short-term staff funding (e.g. for research assistants). A set fraction of research overhead income is allocated to SDAs annually; part is allocated equally to all academic staff (to reflect that overhead-earning opportunities vary with career stage and other commitments); part is allocated in proportion to overheads earned by individuals. Non-professorial staff can apply for University Research Travel Grants for support of conference attendance, archive visits, and other research-related activities. Further internal schemes to support research are available, particularly seed-funding from the Research Deans or regular open calls for small project funding (IES, section 4.3).

All Departments operate similar workload models which are used to monitor research commitments, teaching, administration, engagement, mentoring and academic citizenship. Staff see their colleagues' load profiles (in anonymised form) for transparency. Newly appointed academics, including ECRs, start with a reduced administrative and teaching load and build up gradually over a two- to three-year period.

All Staff can request flexible working arrangements (including remote working, time for child-care) and staff wellbeing is monitored and supported through annual University and School surveys (as well as PDRs). In addition, all members of the Division are awarded one term of research leave every three years (irrespective of periods of parental or other leave) and can apply for special cases of leave based on ongoing and awarded research funding.

Support to ECRs

All new research staff participate in a structured induction programme, including orientation and policies and procedures (health and safety, finance, etc.). In line with the University policy and the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, all ECRs are paired with a senior academic as mentor, meeting them regularly to provide feedback on progression, draft outputs and funding proposals, as well as career planning.

ECRs are supported by Research and Enterprise Services (RES) which provides training for grant-writing and writing retreats, particularly to help with their first or major external funding bids as PI or Co-PI. University policy provides ECRs with a 3-year probation period and expectations and specific probation targets are discussed and agreed with the Head of Department to ensure they can establish themselves as independent researchers. The effectiveness of this support is demonstrated throughout the Division's submission and specifically in the contributions of colleagues at the rank of Lecturer and Associate Professor, the promotion of ECR and mid-career colleagues, and substantial grant capture by ECRs.

Equality and diversity (E&D)

The University promotes, actively invests in, and supports equality and diversity across the range of protected characteristics, with respect to staff and student profiles, the working environment and reward and promotion (IES, section 3.2). The University's diversity and inclusion consultations and action plans are led by a Dean for Diversity & Inclusion and supported through Athena Swan Charter action plans, Race Equality Charter action plans and an internal race equality review in 2020, and annual Diversity and Inclusion consultations and action plans. Each School has a Wellbeing, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, and all have Wellbeing, Equality and Diversity committees that meet to discuss staff concerns, implement action plans and collect data on progress.

The University has an Athena SWAN Award at Silver level, as does SAGES, with SAPD holding a Bronze-level award. Female staff (63% of Division staff), are supported through flexible working policies, support for return to work after maternity leave, and a transparent and pro-

active promotions system. Training to facilitate leadership development, particularly for female colleagues, has been an important priority and investment in direct response to the Action Plans of our Athena Swan awards. This is demonstrated by female Division members in past or present leadership roles including **Freedman** (RDL, 2016-19), **Kambhampati** (Head of School, SPEIR), **Osbah** (Head of IDD). **Rawlings** led on the ESRC-funded South East Network for Social Sciences DTC (SeNSS) for the Division (2015-19), while **Dubuc** is the current lead. **Lloyd-Evans** has taken up a leadership position as the University's Public Engagement with Community Research Fellow. All female staff in the Division have participated in, or had the opportunity for, specific leadership training such as Springboard or the Aurora Women's Development Leadership Programme.

Equality and diversity in REF submission

Equality and diversity considerations have been at the centre of the crafting of the Division's submission. Unconscious bias training was provided for the UOA Lead and RDL to support the initial output selection and the submission was subject to the University's interim Equality Impact Assessment (2021) and bias analysis (2021) to detect any bias and allow us to take action with respect to output selection and impact case studies. This analysis, which showed no statistically significant differences for staff with protected characteristics, was followed by critical reflection by the UOA Lead and RDL.

Training and supervision of PGR students

Our vibrant community of PhD students makes important contributions to the intellectual culture of the Division. It is a diverse community with 76% non-UK nationals (from 30 countries) in 2019/20; 86% of our non-UK and 33% of UK students are from a BAME background; 37% of the current cohort are mature students and 56% are female. Over the assessment period, we supervised 70 students to completion (3.66 per FTE). Financial support came from the University (30%), self-funding (30%), overseas (15%), research councils through the SeNSS DTC (10%) and other sources (15%).

Students receive supervision from two academics, including a number of collaborative supervisions across Departments in the Division and across the wider University (e.g. Leverhulme Trust Doctoral Programme in Climate Justice). Supervisor committees include two supervisors and an independent monitor who coordinate progress meetings and reports every six months. Students engage in an 'upgrade' event at the end of their first year and receive feedback from Department and Division members. They are encouraged to present initial findings in Departmental and Division seminars and events. PhD students are provided funding to present their work at conferences and to hold Reading-based workshops. Given these structures of support, a number of current and past PGR students (e.g. Imburgia, Nolan, Otu, Poskitt, Singh) have published papers in top disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals during their enrolment at Reading.

The University's Graduate School coordinates a comprehensive Researcher Development Programme covering study skills, communication and public engagement, publication strategies, preparing to teach, funding and grant applications and careers advice. The Graduate School offers study space, social and networking events and organises an Annual Doctoral Conference. Students are offered opportunities to teach, many leading seminars on first-year undergraduate modules, and receive mentoring on teaching and seminar practice as well as assessment from module convenors and the University's Preparing to Teach programme. Others contribute as research assistants or act as mentors for undergraduate classwork and assessments.

Doctoral students are supported to take leadership roles, for example organising and leading Departmental seminars, attending funding-body training events and workshops, or on Staff-Student committees. Examples of PGR-led workshops include a symposium focusing on land struggles of the twenty-first century (2017, organised by Talhada, Nkobou and De Maria). In two notable examples, Nkobou serves on the University-wide committee on Diversity and Inclusion and a group of PGR students have led on efforts to 'decolonise' the curriculum and been at the

forefront of extending the Division’s engagements with post- and de-colonial theory and methodologies. These opportunities are an essential part of the PhD training.

Another feature of our research culture is the involvement of students in staff research projects through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP). During funded summer placements, students have worked on, for example, the mapping of foodscapes and educational opportunities in the local neighbourhood of Whitley, or on loneliness and social isolation in Reading for the Borough Council.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

We have received over **£4.18m** in funding over the assessment period (**£220k per FTE**). While a substantial proportion of funding comes from UKRI (AHRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC), we also receive funding from the UN (FAO, IFAD, UNDP, WFP), collaborative grants with CGIAR institutions and programmes (CCAFS, CIAT, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, ILRI), international and national NGOs, EU and other national governments, trusts and industry-related or professional bodies. Other sources of funding include UK national and local government (DFID, Reading Borough Council), UK-based charities and professional bodies such as the Arts Council, British Council, Landscape Research Group, Leverhulme, Nuffield, and Royal Geographical Society as well as not-for-profits (Bees for Development, Send a Cow). We have also captured significant funding through the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT Food).

Figure 2. Income growth and sources of funding

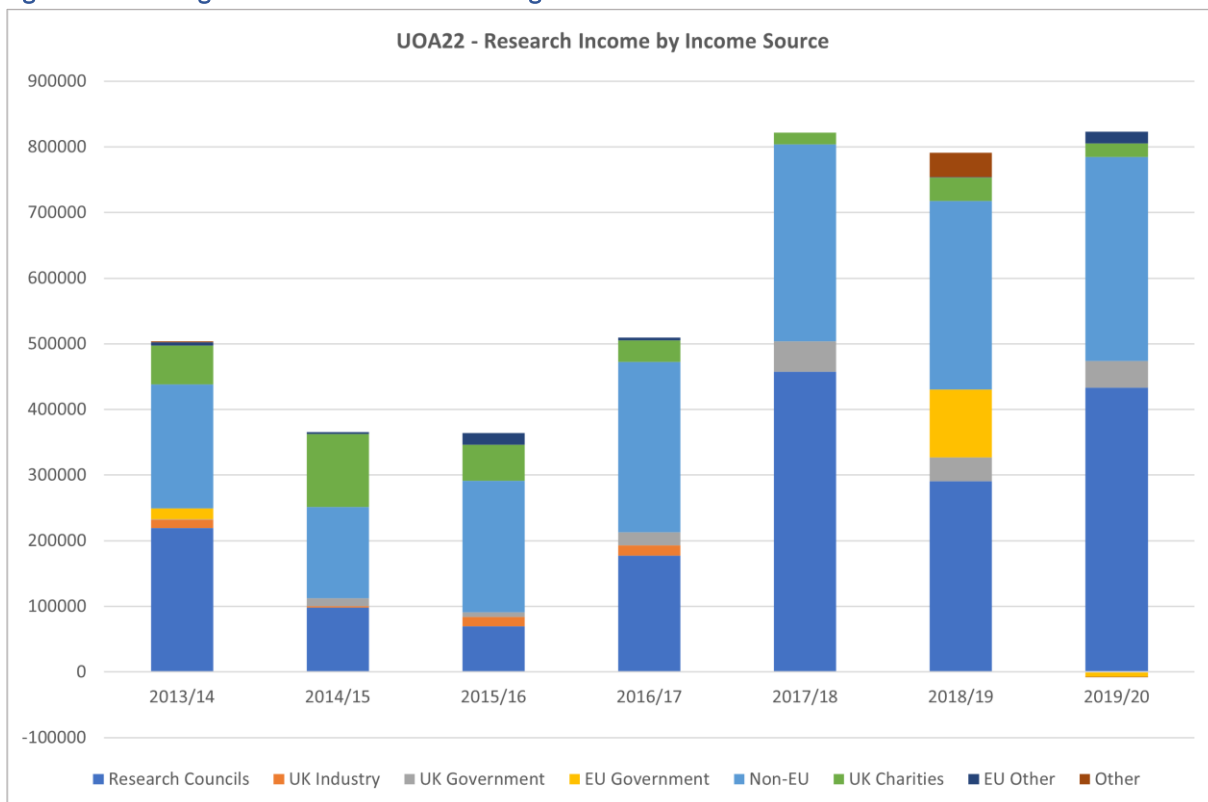


Figure 2 shows the steady rise in income and increasing diversification of sources. CGIAR and UN funding shows the desire and ability to work with international development institutions to realise real-world, grounded change. Smaller-scale funding through charitable bodies and NGOs demonstrate our commitment to working with stakeholders to challenge ‘business as usual’ development in global, national, regional and local contexts. Funding through UKRI and GCRF demonstrates not just research excellence but our focus on research tailored to UK aid priorities.

Key projects during the assessment period include:

- PICSA which has brought in a total of c.£870k from UKRI, UN and other funding streams (**Dorward, Clarkson**)
- The NERC Community for Engaging Environments platform (PI **Geoghegan**, £1.3m total; £456k to Reading)
- ESRC-funded research on son preference and sex selection in the UK (**Dubuc**, £440k)
- Leverhulme-funded work on bereavement, care and families in Senegal (**Evans**, £130k)
- AHRC-funded research on deathscapes and diversity (**Madrell**, £262k)
- NERC-funded research on enthusiasm, citizen science and ecosystem health (**Geoghegan**, £120k).

Staff have also been involved as Co-Investigators on projects led by colleagues in other Departments and Divisions and as part of external partnerships. For example:

- **Ainslie** is Co-I on HyCRISTAL, a DFID-NERC-funded project led by the Walker Institute (£635k)
- **Fisher** is Co-I on a GCRF/ESRC project on green growth in Africa (£146k)
- **Arnall** is PI on a DFID-ESRC-funded partnership on environmental change in the Maldives (total £98k; £67k to Reading), follow-up to an earlier DFID-ESRC-funded project led by Manchester (£276k; with £55k to Reading)
- **Fisher** is PI of an international consortium on fairly traded gold (Horizon 2020/Belmont Forum/NORFACE award of £1.3m, with £280k from ESRC to Reading)
- **Maddrell** is Co-I on the £1m HERA project (£168k to Reading).

We have also secured smaller grants with potentially large societal impacts, e.g.:

- **Osbah**'s funding from NERC (£39k, £37k and £33k) and DFID (£36k) to support small African farmers' soil and water management in the face of climate change
- **Freedman**'s funding from AHRC (£40k) and British Academy (£36k) for work on safeguarding children and vulnerable populations across the UN's theatre of operations
- **Lloyd-Evans**' awards from the Arts Council UK (£60k) and Oxford Brookes University (£50k) to support projects on mobility, financial exclusion, youth aspiration and school-family relationships in Reading.

Internal funding is available from the University's Global Development Steering Group which oversees the GCRF (QR) allocation received from Research England since 2017. The funding of £1.9m over 3 years has been prioritised for rapid response projects and partnership-building, with £320k to members of the Division, including awards to **Clarkson** (£28k for development of a PICSA extension toolkit); **Freedman** (£82k for a UN safeguarding toolkit) and **Grisaffi** (£160k for a partnership on crop control in the Andes).

Support for research proposals

Backed by strong support from Research Development Managers in RES, including specialist support for EU and GCRF funding streams (IES, section 4.1 and 4.2), staff are regularly alerted to funding opportunities and are provided with proactive support in developing proposals including financing, outreach and collaborative arrangements. Specialist finance and research contracts staff support the disbursement of successful funding and development of external research contracts and financial arrangements.

Other support available (IES, section 4.3) includes funds from the University's Research Endowment Trust Fund (RETF) via the Research Dean for Prosperity & Resilience who has provided over £14,300 in seed-funding and pump-priming for grant development and other collaboration activities. The P&R Theme runs writing workshops and has a Grants Development College, which peer reviews all major bids in development. Colleagues in the Division have also received pump-priming support from the Deans of other research themes, e.g. **Goodman**'s project on digital food influencers funded by the Food research theme (£2k). **Dubuc** was awarded £32k from the RETF Open Fund for work on prenatal sex-selection and son preference in India and China.

Departments and Schools provide pump-priming and review proposals through the School Management Board, chaired by the Head of School, which meet termly and involves Heads of Department, Research Division Leads and post-doctoral representatives as well as the Research Development Manager and Impact Development Manager from RES.

Other professional services support

The Division benefits from involvement in the University's Impact Support Programme (BOISP, see IES, section 2.3), which provides a structured approach for identifying the potential impact of research as well as pump-priming for impact activity (small-scale activities, workshops, meetings, and short-term funding of staff). Seven projects received funding, totalling £55k since 2018. BOISP includes a formal mechanism for reviewing progress and suggesting ways to broaden impact. It is coordinated by the Impact Team in RES, working with the Research Communications Team and Knowledge Transfer Centre.

The normative convictions of the Division ensure we have positioned communication at the centre of our research process and the core of our identity. Supported by the Research Communications and Press teams, we have developed a range of communication outputs including reports and summaries for different audiences, a Division website and several project websites, themed public lectures and other public-facing events. Our work is regularly recognised in the University's annual Research Engagement and Impact Awards (**Lloyd-Evans** 2017, 2018; **Freedman**, 2019; **Geoghegan** 2019; **Arnall** 2020; PDRA Walker 2020). In her new role as the University's Public Engagement with Community Research Fellow, **Lloyd-Evans** works closely with the University's Community Relations Manager and Research Communications team to deepen and strengthen local engagement, particularly via participatory research on themes of inequality and inclusion.

Infrastructure and facilities

The newly renovated and refurbished University Library (IES, section 4.3) supports our research with a dedicated Librarian, access to thousands of physical and electronic books, journals and other research materials as well as databases, video libraries and archives. University investment in technological infrastructure includes cloud and locally secure data storage and file transfer, plus 'Apps anywhere' which provides data analysis, video editing and transcription software. Recent investment has been made in fieldwork equipment for the behavioural and social sciences (the BESS Lab) in the form of a suite of bookable laptops, digital voice recorders, video cameras, whiteboards and other equipment required for co-produced and participatory research.

Recent investment in Microsoft Teams has been critical during the pandemic lock-down period to support leadership meetings and our regular research workshops, teaching provision and, in many cases, our existing and current research with communities and partners we have been unable to meet face-to-face. COVID-19 has impacted on the work related to almost all current projects. International research travel has been postponed, shifted to include more digital forms of data collection by reallocating of resources and increasing capacity to support the greater role of in-country research partners. For example, **Maddrell's** HERA project on cemeteries and crematoria has moved some of the primary data collection online, while **Dorward** and **Clarkson** adapted PICSAs resources to online activities and training to build capacity and expand partners' role in data collection, analysis and output production. University support at all scales has sought to facilitate the continuation of research through the careful disbursement of strategic funding, resources to free up staff research time through teaching support, and a recognition of the difficult circumstances staff find themselves in to conduct research during a global pandemic.

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

Pursuing the strategic aims of the Division requires transdisciplinary and trans-sectoral collaborations that extend research beyond the academy.

Government and intergovernmental agencies

We engage widely with government officials and agencies, intergovernmental organisations and multiple UN agencies to facilitate change in institutional governance, practices and policy.

- **Fisher** has acted as a specialist advisor to the FAO and the governments of Malawi and Kenya to improve social protection for the chronically poor.
- **Grisaffi** has worked with the governments of Peru and Bolivia, the UK's National Audit Office and the UN's Commission on Narcotic Drugs on coca production, the cocaine trade, democracy and small farmers' livelihoods.
- **Menga** was co-author on two policy papers commissioned by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for a regional consultation about sustainable solutions for managing water and reducing disaster risks in Central Asia and Caucasus.
- **Lloyd-Evans** gave evidence to the Education Select Committee in Parliament on methodologies and research designed to support social mobility through educational attainment in deprived areas in the UK.
- **Dorward** and **Clarkson**, through PICSA, have directly engaged with multiple UN organisations. UNDP and WFP have adopted the PICSA approach and continue to develop individual and multi-country programmes using PICSA in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
- **Freedman** has served as a specialist adviser to the UK Government's International Development Select Committee since the international safeguarding crisis in 2018 and has helped enhance DFID policies on delivering aid in ways that protect the most vulnerable.
- Both **Lloyd-Evans** and **Evans** have worked with Reading Borough Council to, respectively, support community development in Whitley and conduct research on loneliness and social isolation among vulnerable groups.

Non-governmental and community organisations

We have cultivated strong relationships with numerous NGOs, third-sector organisations and community groups across global, national and local scales. These include:

- **Lovo's** partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on food systems transformation.
- **Evans'** consultancy with the Consortium for Street Children and Oak Foundation on street children at risk of sexual abuse in Ecuador, Nepal and Uganda.
- **Lloyd-Evans'** close work with the education charity Study Higher and the housing charity Affinity on educational attainment in Reading.
- **Grisaffi's** collaboration with the Andean Information Network and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru to develop regional solutions to small-scale coca growing and livelihood improvements.

Interdisciplinary collaboration and co-design

Another aspect of our approach is our co-design of research with academics from other fields of study (e.g. ecology, meteorology, climate science, agricultural science, linguistics, urban planning, sociology, media and cultural studies) as seen through:

- **Dorward** and **Clarkson's** PICSA-related collaborations with meteorologists, statisticians and participatory development social scientists.
- **Fisher's** research work with mining engineers, anthropologists and artists.
- **Geoghegan's** citizen science projects collaborating with ecological and environmental scientists.
- **Ainslie's** work with HyCRISTAL which brought together an interdisciplinary grouping from the Walker Institute and scholars from African institutions, NGOs and government organisations to analyse the future impacts of climate change on water supplies in rural and urban settings.
- **Arnall's** research, designed to give a distinctive voice to justice-based claims 'from below' in the context of climate displacement and resettlement, which brought together collaborators from agriculture, law and politics and international relations.

Contribution to the discipline

Division members have taken leadership roles in organising conferences, workshops and other events at both Reading and other national and international institutions:

- **Goodman** organised an academic and practitioner workshop at Reading on questions of global food justice, led an international event on the communication of climate justice at Reading and collaborated with the Universities of Brighton and Bournemouth on the practice of everyday climate cultures.
- **Evans**, along with **Geoghegan**, **Lloyd-Evans** and supported by the Participation Lab, held an international workshop on the development of participatory research methods for achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- In conjunction with scholars from Meteorology, Museum Studies and Agriculture, **Freedman** has led workshops supported by the Development Studies Association on research in conflict zones.
- **Rawlings** has organised international events on domestic violence in the Majority world.

Division members have organised national and international workshops bringing together scholars, practitioners, NGOs and policymakers:

- **Fisher** and collaborators have held workshops in Ghana and Uganda on mineral sector development, social equity and inclusion in Africa. She has also held workshops in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya and the UK with stakeholders on green growth in Africa.
- With the Overseas Development Institute, **Evans** led a global policy workshop and livestreamed public event on young people's psychosocial wellbeing.
- **Freedman** organised three workshops for the UN's Gender Network at Durham, LSE and the FCDO.
- **Geoghegan**, in collaboration with and supported by the BBSRC, NERC and the British Ecological Society, has led on numerous interdisciplinary events on ecological health and citizen science across Epping Forest and Birmingham.

Public engagement and outreach

Innovative forms of public outreach are at the core of our collaborations and contributions:

- **Fisher** has worked with artists and miners to realise a community 'pop-up' photography exhibition and participatory art work in northern Ghana.
- **Fisher** and **Osbahr** have led on training to build capacity for interdisciplinary research at Crops for the Future in Malaysia bringing together ECRs from the UK and Malaysia.
- **Arnall** and the Maldivian NGO ENDEVOR curated an exhibition of islanders' images of everyday life and environmental change at the National Art Gallery in Malé and in Manchester.
- Ainslie produced an Open Online Course, [Engaging With Controversies in the Food System](#), funded by EIT-Food and Our Hungry Planet on agriculture and development as part of the University partnership with FutureLearn.
- Division members have led on contributions to EFSET (European Food Systems Education and Training), a diverse community of students studying food issues in universities across Europe (**Arnall**) and have worked closely with media organisations such as the BBC (**Dubuc**) to produce educational programming.

Journal editorships

Scholarly leadership by members of the Division is demonstrated through our roles as editors and members of editorial boards of prestigious, international journals across a number of disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields of study:

- *African Journal of Range and Forage Science* (**Ainslie**, associate editor)
- *Area* (**Geoghegan**, editor)
- *Climatic Change* (**Goodman**, associate editor)
- *Gender, Place and Culture* (**Madrell**, editor 2013-17)
- *Journal of Rural Studies* (**Fisher**, associate editor)
- *People and Nature* (**Geoghegan**, associate editor)

- *Political Geography* (**Menga**, associate editor)
- *Social and Cultural Geography* (**Madrell**, editor).

Editorial board memberships include *European Journal of Development Studies*, *Ecology and Society*, *Environmental Communication*, *Feminist Economics*, *Gender, Place and Culture*, *Geoforum*, *Geography Compass*, *Journal of Rural Studies*, *Social and Cultural Geography*, and *Future Earth's 10 New Insights in Climate Science*.

Over the reporting period, ten special issue and themed sections of leading journals have been successfully published or are in process by members of the Division. These include issues on everyday climate cultures (**Goodman**), family, care and wellbeing (**Evans**), and transforming conflicts over natural resources in the Global South (**Fisher**). **Fisher** produced an issue for the *Future Earth & Earth League series 10 New Insights in Climate Science* to support the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and inform policymakers at COP26 and beyond. **Goodman** co-edits two high-profile book series, one on critical food studies with Routledge and a second with Bloomsbury on contemporary food issues with 48 books (39 during the reporting period) currently under contract, in press or published across the two series.

Conferences and keynotes

Division members have been active in delivering invited keynotes and plenary addresses at national and international institutions and conferences. **Evans** gave a keynote on caring for the dead in Senegal at a workshop in Brussels and **Geoghegan** has delivered keynotes on enthusiasm for citizen science in Austria. **Menga** delivered a plenary talk at the Water Talk series held in Switzerland and public lectures at the University of Wageningen Water Week. **Goodman** has given four high-profile keynotes with two in Australia on the development of alternative food networks and technology and two in the USA on the celebrity-isation of climate change media and humanitarianism.

Division members have held prestigious visiting scholar positions. Examples include **Lovo's** visiting professorship at the University of Nanterre, Paris, **Grisaffi's** visiting research associate positions at LSE and UCL, **Menga** visiting professorship at the University of Trento and the University of Genoa, **Osbahr's** visiting associate professorship at Hokkaido University, Japan, and at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda, where **Fisher** is a visiting professor. **Goodman** was a visiting professor at the Centre for Research in Spatial, Environmental and Cultural Politics at the University of Brighton and, in 2019, a funded visiting professor at the Centre for Space, Place and Society at Wageningen University.

Advisory bodies and review panels

Division members help shape global development research agendas through contributions to national and international grant advisory bodies and funding review panels. For example, members serve on several UKRI grant panels (e.g. ESRC), those of charities (Leverhulme, Wellcome Trust) and other funding agencies and organisations (British Council, DEFRA, DFID/FCDO, GCRF, MRC, and the Environmental Observation Framework UKEOF), and international review boards, such as the Australian Research Council, Austrian Climate and Energy Fund, European Commission, Finnish Academy of Science, International Science Council, Humanities Research Council of Canada, National Belgium Research Council, Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Polish National Science Centre Social Science, Swiss Programme of Research on Global Issues for Development, and the US National Science Foundation. Others have leading and agenda-setting positions across a number of academic and disciplinary bodies. These include **Fisher's** role on the ESRC's Strategic Advisor Network, **Maddrell's** position on the RGS-IBG's Research and Higher Education Committee and **Kambhampati's** position as secretary and Council Member of the DSA.