

Institution: Robert Gordon University		
Unit of Assessment: UoA34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management		
Title of case study: Suffrage and the Scottish provincial press.		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2000-2019		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Pedersen, SW.	Professor	1995 - present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2016-2019		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? NO		
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words) <p>Research undertaken over two decades has developed an evidence-base around women's engagement with the media as part of the suffrage campaign in Scotland between 1900-1918. The historical research, drawing on archive media sources and other under-explored archival collections, has led to a wider societal understanding of the significance of the suffrage movement in particular and women's voices in general, alongside ensuring greater civic engagement, commemoration and memorialisation of important figures. It reveals the story of women's politics, social activism, and media representation. The body of work also demonstrates resonance in connection with women's participation in contemporary political discourses.</p>		
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words) <p>The underpinning research originally stems from Pedersen's doctoral thesis, <i>'Within their sphere? Women correspondents to Aberdeen daily newspapers 1900–1918'</i>, which brought together a range of facets, Edwardian women, the Scottish suffrage movement, and newspaper archives.</p> <p>This media history research has been generated from extensive archival work, drawing heavily on both women's representation in, and correspondence to, the two Aberdeen daily newspapers (1900-18) the <i>Aberdeen Daily Journal</i> and the <i>Aberdeen Free Press</i>, as well as from other (often overlooked) historical archive collections such as the papers of Caroline Phillips (herself a journalist) held by Aberdeen Art Gallery. The research on Phillips is particularly important in highlighting tensions between the national leadership of suffrage campaigns and local branches.</p> <p>Analysis of women's correspondence to the two newspapers forms the cornerstone of the research in UR01 and UR02 which examined the subjects about which women engaged with the printed media in the years up to the Great War and also how women's politics in general and the suffrage question in particular was addressed. Beyond this, UR03 explores again through largely overlooked archival materials, what contributions women made during the Great War period by focusing not on the well-covered work of younger unmarried women but on the activities of older, often-married, women.</p> <p>The article <i>Suffragettes and the Scottish press during the First World War</i> (UR04) analyses the coverage of the suffrage movement in Scottish newspapers during the First World War, also drawing on historical media archive collections. It assesses the press coverage of women's war work, the ambiguities and contradictions of the term 'suffragette' in reporting and the connections</p>		

– manifest in editorials – between women's contribution to the war and the achievement of the vote.

The monograph *The Scottish Suffragettes and the Press* (UR05) considers the campaign for Scottish women's suffrage through the lens of the popular press, investigating how suffragettes were portrayed in press and how the press engaged with their movement as well as how suffragettes attempted to use the press to get their message into the public sphere. The Scottish press showed a particular interest in suffragette activities and this monograph tilts the balance away from the (often-witnessed) focus towards London and its national leadership.

The interactive Aberdeen Women's Suffrage Campaign website (UR06) has mapped out locations throughout Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire of suffragist and suffragette activity between 1900-1918, and has also drawn extensively on historical and archival research (both new material and that identified in UR01, UR02 and UR05). In doing so, it has further shone light on hidden stories, further building the historical narratives around suffrage in north-east Scotland. The project was created and funded as a pilot for a larger project, mapping suffrage activities more widely, throughout Scotland.

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

UR01 – Pedersen, S. (2002). 'Within their sphere? Women correspondents to Aberdeen daily newspapers 1900-1914', *Northern Scotland*, 159-166.

UR02 – Pedersen, S. (2002). 'Women's Politics in the Correspondence Pages of Aberdeen Newspapers 1900-14', *Women's History Review*, 11(4), 657-674.

UR03 – Pedersen, S. (2015). Ladies 'doing their bit' for the war effort in the north-east of Scotland. *Women's History: The Journal of the Women's History Network*, Vol. 2(2), pp. 16-20.

UR04 – Pedersen, S. (2017). Suffragettes and the Scottish press during the First World War. *Women's History Review* 17, 1-17.

UR05 – Pedersen, S. (2017) *The Scottish Suffragettes and the Press*, Palgrave Macmillan.

UR06 – The Aberdeen Women's Suffrage Campaign [available at] <https://suffrageaberdeen.co.uk/>

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

This research, which represents work over a twenty-year period, generated significant impacts including the creation of the *Aberdeen Women's Suffrage Campaign* digital map which recognises and highlights the importance of suffragette activity across the north-east and was commended by a motion in the Scottish Parliament (CE01). The research has provided clear and sustained evidence of the importance of uncovering significant historical narratives on both the suffrage movement in Scotland, and the suffrage movement's engagement and interaction with the press. The research has resulted in a further understanding and deeper knowledge of the role newspapers (particularly provincial press) in the suffrage movement and social activism.

It tilts research away from the focus on the suffrage movement's leadership and activities in London by focussing research based in a Northern Scottish context, shining a light on the women's movement outside the traditional urban centres where much of the previous research has been focused. This has significantly enhanced the cultural understanding of the suffrage phenomena, as well as contributed to the processes of commemoration and memorialisation. There was concomitant press coverage (CE02), strongly demonstrating the enhanced cultural understanding

and appreciation of the women's suffrage movement in Scotland as a result. Therefore, the Scottish context of the suffrage movement explored by Pedersen has informed the body of knowledge more widely across the whole United Kingdom.

Pedersen was appointed chair of the organising committee of the *Rise Up Quines* Festival held in November 2018 (CE03), funded by the Scottish Government and Aberdeen City Council, to mark the centenary of partial enfranchisement and to encourage women's participation in politics. It was a coalition involving the two Aberdeen universities, North-East Scotland College (FE), Aberdeen City Council, Women's Alliance, as well as trade unions, and hosted 37 different events including film screenings, talks, discussion panels with politicians, mentoring sessions for prospective women leaders, pop-up events in public spaces and an activism fair. Public engagement was extensive with over 5,000 participants at the range of events (CE04). *Rise Up Quines* also engaged with contemporary women's rights issues with Pedersen hosting an 'in conversation' event with Caroline Criado-Perez as part of the University of Aberdeen's MayFest. (CE05)

Allied to this, this research then contributed to the historical evidence to support Aberdeen Women's Alliance's successful petitions to Aberdeen City Council for the installation of civic plaques for Caroline Phillips and Dame Louisa Innes Lumsden. The two plaques (CE06) were placed in Union Street and Pedersen was the speaker at the Civic Reception to celebrate Caroline Phillips and the centenary of women's suffrage.

The research on Phillips led to further impacts in terms of civic space and public art; ceramicist Carrie Reichardt was commissioned by Amnesty International to create a suffragette-inspired installation at Aberdeen's Merchant Quarter (CE07) as part of the Nuart Festival. Although local to Aberdeen, these are important steps in redressing the gender balance in the commemoration and memorialisation of women, an ongoing debate throughout the United Kingdom.

The theme of what can be learned from the suffragettes led to many speaking engagements (Association of Scottish Businesswomen annual conference, Book Week Scotland, National Records of Scotland, Aberdeen Maritime Museum, National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Women's Institute, Soroptimists International and multiple local history groups across Scotland). The address at the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen was filmed and webcast across all other Scottish Government sites on their intranet (CE08). Further outreach and public engagement were demonstrated by the featuring of Caroline Phillip's story on BBC Radio Scotland's *Time travels* programme in June 2018 with Pedersen being a contributor (CE09).

The impact of the research has extended beyond the historical suffrage movement and activism to the contemporary theme of the empowerment of women in the political sphere with Pedersen being invited to chair a panel of experts on *'Fierce Females: From the Suffragettes to #MeToo Movement, how have females tackled inequalities and power dynamics and imbalances in society over the past century?'* as part of the 2018 Just Festival's Conversation Programme at St John's Church (CE10) which is part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

CE01 – Aberdeen and North East Map of Suffrage Activities. [available at] <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-17873&ResultsPerPage=10>

CE02 – Aberdeen's suffragette past revealed by new website [available at] <https://www.thenational.scot/news/17714481.aberdeens-suffragette-past-revealed-by-new-website/>

CE03 – *Rise up quines!* [available at] <https://www.riseupquines.com/>

CE04 – *Rise up quines* reports to funders. Copies on file (available upon request).

CE05 – Caroline Criado-Perez: in conversation with Professor Sarah Pedersen at MayFest [available at] https://www.abdn.ac.uk/mayfestival/documents/Mayfest_Brochure_2019_Web_Version.pdf

CE06 – The plaques are part of the People and Places trail on the City Council website <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/leisure-culture-and-parks/walks-and-trails-aberdeen>.

CE07 – Suffragette Spirit murals at the Nuart Festival [available at] <https://inspiringcity.com/2018/04/14/carrie-reichardt-creates-suffragette-spirit-murals-at-the-nuart-aberdeen-festival/>

CE08 – Multiple invitations and feedback on file.

CE09 – Time Travels, BBC Radio Scotland [available at] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/26LbPXch4sP63dTBz5mcSWQ/the-brutal-telegram-revealing-how-the-pankhursts-unceremoniously-dismissed-a-loyal-suffragette>

CE10 – ‘Fierce Females: From the Suffragettes to #MeToo Movement, how have females tackled inequalities and power dynamics and imbalances in society over the past century?’ [available at] <https://www.just-festival.org/2018-just-festival-programme>