

<b>Institution: Liverpool Hope University</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: History</b>
<b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b>

## Introduction

History at Hope is located in the Subject Area (previously Department) of History and Politics within the School of Humanities, one of nine schools in the university, which each comprise a number of allied subject areas.

As a subject in itself, History is half of History and Politics and thus one of the UK's smallest History submissions to REF: with just 6.2 FTE eligible staff. It is a small and dedicated subject team comprising modernists Bryce Evans, Stephen Kelly, Danny Evans, and Jody Crutchley and early modernists Fiona Pogson (0.8), John Appleby (0.4), and Ruth Canning.

The study of history and historical topics spans multiple areas of interest at the University, including in Theology, Politics, International Relations, Education Studies, and Media and Communication, which are included in other units of assessment. This means that History, as a subject area, works with many 'outlying' historians from different subject areas and schools on an interdisciplinary basis including the organisation of conferences, mentoring, and supervision. History, therefore, is at the heart of research activity within the university.

## Research Focus

The foci of historical research at Hope are, broadly, the themes of:

- 1) nationalism, and
- 2) transnationalism

As part of the REF 2014 exercise - in which History at Liverpool Hope made its first submission - we identified our core strategic goal as: developing an international reputation for History appropriate to a developing liberal arts institution. In pursuing this goal, the following strategic areas for development were identified: Maximising public engagement; Developing a postgraduate research culture; and Generating greater external research income.

In the assessment period, these research goals have evolved as the context and makeup of the unit have shifted, leading to the development of the following evolved research objectives:

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### Research Objectives

- 1) An integrated and inclusive research culture
- 2) The enabling of excellent research in specific areas

These objectives were formulated after the 2014 exercise through a series of focused and inclusive meetings which addressed how to better develop research culture and areas of expertise against a backdrop of considerable teaching and administrative loads. These twin objectives are now discussed in greater detail.

- 1) An integrated and inclusive research culture

The first objective was undertaken - in line with the design of impact strategy - to widen engagement with non-academic actors. It also sought to develop a research culture inclusive of those outside the immediate History teaching team, including PhD students, postdoctoral scholars, colleagues researching history in other departments, non-academic partners, and members of the public. In terms of the 6.2 members of the History team itself, this objective sought to bring together early career researchers and more senior, or longer established, academics.

This has been pursued through several new measures focused on professional development. First, the introduction of an interdisciplinary mentoring system has seen historians work with early career researchers in the university's Education faculty; for example, Stephen Kelly's mentorship of one ECR, Jody Crutchley, has led to her providing research-informed teaching on core History modules where, alongside another ECR, Danny Evans, she has spearheaded a 'decolonising' / transnational approach.

Next, PhD students – whose recruitment was integral to the unit's previous goals – have presented their research at a regular History seminar series at which newly recruited non-academics from the Museums sector (for example David Fleming, former Director of National Museums Liverpool) have also presented. Due to his public-facing role in leading public history provision across eight different venues in the city region, Fleming was integrated into the History team in 2018 in line with the pursuit of a more integrated and inclusive research culture, in this case with the goal of helping staff communicate research beyond the academy.

In line with this broad objective, there has also been a marked expansion in public lectures and events and public engagement with the media (for example Bryce Evans' lectures on food history across the country to those at risk of food poverty and his national and international exposure via media organs such as BBC News, NBC, The Guardian, Telemundo, and The Washington Post).

In pursuit of a research culture inclusive of diverse social groups, Sonja Tiernan's research around LGBTQ+ and women's history has led to recognition from the President of Ireland who called her 'perhaps one of our most valuable historians' for her work in this field.

In terms of inclusivity *within* the university, our early career researchers have been supported in founding and shaping an interdisciplinary 'Transnational History Research Group' (THRG), which meets fortnightly. In pursuing a research culture better integrated with other disciplines in the university, Hope's historians have been active participants in events and research initiatives hosted by the university-wide Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for Peace and Conflict.

## 2) The enabling of excellent research in specific areas

The second objective reflects the changing nature of the History team at Hope and the evolution of research strengths based on new strands of the two main specialisms: national history and transnational history.

Irish national history remains a key specialism, as reflected in the research interests of Stephen Kelly, Sonja Tiernan, Fiona Pogson, Bryce Evans and Ruth Canning. Kelly's expertise is Northern Ireland, Evans's twentieth century Ireland, and Tiernan's Irish women's history, while Canning and Pogson research early modern Ireland. Since the last submission, the unit has been characterised by the retirement of more senior colleagues and the elevation – through the university's inclusive promotions policy – of newer colleagues. Recruitment strategy is based upon attracting researchers whose ethos fits that of the unit and in growing the research specialisms therein. Modern Irish history, then, remains an overall unit strength, and the census period has witnessed the growth of excellent research in key areas of this subject, for example Stephen Kelly's publications on British-Irish relations during Margaret Thatcher's premiership and Ruth Canning's publications on the 'Old English' in early modern Ireland as well as Bryce Evans' publications on Ireland during the Second World War and Irish diplomacy.

This national focus, in this case Irish national history, has been enabled through the university's facilitation and financial support of newer and more specialised 'bottom-up' research groups given vitality by early career researchers such as the Early Modern Research Group (created by Fiona Pogson and Ruth Canning as an interdisciplinary endeavour in 2018) which function alongside more well-established research groups housed within the department such as the Irish Studies Research Group. Similarly, Kelly and Evans' jointly co-edited biography of Irish statesman Frank Aiken (2014) was the fruit of a conference funded and hosted by the university at which chapter contributors' travel and accommodation expenses were covered in full.

Such initiatives are supported within an atmosphere of collegiality and community. A measure of this is the trust placed in newer colleagues to develop their own collaborative research initiatives, and these have coalesced around transnational approaches to the discipline. In this vein, Danny Evans (recruited 2019) formed an interdisciplinary 'Transnational History Research Group' (THRG), stemming from his research interest in the international anarchist movement and the Spanish Civil War.

The THRG now thrives as a cross-disciplinary platform for discussing common research interests, reflecting on teaching practice, and drawing in researchers from other institutions and reflects the emerging specialism in transnational history within History at Hope. In 2019 the teaching commitments of Jody Crutchley (a specialist in the transnational history of empire and education) were rearranged so that she was co-situated between History and Education.

Similarly, Bryce Evans' research focus has evolved from Irish political history to the transnational history of food and (exemplified in his 2020 transnational history of food and aviation); although a more senior colleague than Jody Crutchley or Danny Evans, his new research focus has been informed and enriched by exposure to the weekly THRG reading groups hosted by them. In this way, the first objective of achieving a more integrated research culture has bled into the second objective of honing research in specific areas.

### **Impact Strategy**

This changing complexion of the small body of research and researchers at Hope has also led to an enhanced impact strategy.

Strategy at the time of the last exercise was based around the development two areas of impact reflected in the case studies: maritime history and Irish history. In bringing these specialisms to a wider audience, the unit sought to strategically target: hard-to-reach social groups, and the wider public around policy themes. This focus on public engagement particularly looked to build on the important work of former colleague Suzanne Schwartz (a specialist on the slave trade) around the role of museums in informing people about modern slavery in collaboration with Liverpool's International Slavery Museum, and the work of Sonja Tiernan in bringing LGBTQ+ history to a wider audience.

As overall strategy has evolved around staffing changes, a new impact strategy has emerged, informed by the last exercise but based around fulfilling the following new strategic goals:

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- 1) Reaching the wider public and the hard-to-reach through 'outreach' initiatives
- 2) Using research to inform opinion around contemporary policy issues

In addressing the first of these goals, the anniversary of significant events has proved a spur to reaching the wider public. For instance, Bryce Evans' Wellcome Trust and AHRC-funded project 'Egalitarian Eating in the First World War' – shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's Public History Prize 2018 - went 'beyond the museum' by feeding the general public and selected elderly groups nationwide and en masse in recreation of British communal dining schemes 1917-1919, in doing so exhibiting history through displays, film, lectures, music, dancing and eating itself. In the process, the project shone a light on contemporary food poverty issues and was featured across radio, television and digital media as well as earning Evans two invitations to the UK Parliament to discuss how past approaches to food poverty could illuminate current policy around healthy eating and emergency food provision (both 2015). Bryce Evans also documented the progress of the project through a research blog, providing photos, videos and historical commentary on events.

Other public engagement media activities were undertaken by team members around the First World War anniversary, notably Jody Crutchley, who acted as a historical consultant for the BBC Radio 4 historical drama Home Front, a twelve-minute, daily programme that is set exactly 100 years before the date of broadcast and based on events that occurred during the First World War from the perspective of those who lived in Britain during the time.

In keeping with the second strategic goal (on contemporary policy) was the relevance of Stephen Kelly's and Sonja Tiernan's research to policy questions arising from Brexit and recent referenda in Ireland. In 2018 Tiernan addressed the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly on the role of women in British and Irish democracy and was commissioned to write the history of the 'Repeal the Eighth' campaign which culminated in Ireland's decision to remove its constitutional ban on abortion. Kelly has likewise contributed several opinion pieces to Irish media (Irish Times, RTE) on the question of the Irish border and Brexit. Evans' research, too, speaks directly to contemporary policy issues, specifically UK food poverty / food insecurity.

**Future Goals**

The future strategy will retain our commitment to integration and inclusivity, and to the spirit of reciprocity mentioned above. Mindful of our limitations as a small team but bold in our aspirations, it will build on the team's core strengths and the progress made in this census period.

In line with this, future strategy aims to continue an 'outreach' and policy focused deliberately towards early career researchers. We will continue to trust our ECRs to 'organically' develop their

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research, but at the same time we will support and prioritise this growth. We are also conscious of the wider societal context within which History functions as an academic endeavour and some of the broader changes in direction evident within the discipline over the course of the last census period. Therefore, we will strategically focus support towards the development of our early career colleagues' Transnational History Research Group (THRG) by the following approaches:

- 1) Dedicated assistance to writing THRG research bids around 'outreach'
- 2) Fostering links between THRG members and non-academic actors
- 3) Linking THRG members to dissemination channels such as 'History and Policy'

<b>2. People</b>
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During the census period, History at Hope has undergone major staffing transitions and the period since the 2014 REF has been one of significant personnel change. Four senior staff have retired, which has had especially serious effects considering the smallness of the subject team. Given this context, our approach to appointments and the allocation of responsibilities has reflected a need to create synergies of research, thus lessening dependence on single staff members. Rather than a reactive approach of 'plugging gaps' where they appear, the objective has been to embed sustainability and coherence when it comes to both teaching and research, while further seeking to enhance equal opportunities within the team.

Strategy has thus been geared towards the promotion of existing colleagues. Despite natural staff turnover, the unit maintains its commitment to a dynamic body of research active colleagues. For example, Bryce Evans and Sonja Tiernan were recruited in 2011 as Lecturer and Postdoctoral Research Fellow, respectively; by 2017 both had achieved the rank of Associate Professor. In line with the university's work towards increasing the number of women in positions of leadership, Tiernan assumed the headship of the subject area in 2017. Similarly illustrating the capacity for junior colleagues to 'rise through the ranks' relatively swiftly, Stephen Kelly, recruited in 2012 as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, was in 2019 appointed Head of the History and Politics subject area. Inclusivity and dialogue are integral to our research culture.

Social backgrounds differ widely and diversity is important, but the majority of Hope's historians are first-generation university goers in our family. Every member of staff is research active and make crucial contributions to the unit's research strategy and none has been excluded from the REF submission. Similarly, subject seminars are deliberately inclusive of all staff research. All members of the team participate in equality training, and decision-making structures are devolved to the team level as much as possible to ensure a plurality of voices. The development of research

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strategy and the REF submission have reflected the inclusivity and plurality of our approach: an area in which our small size, enabling fuller communication, has proven beneficial.

The unit adheres to the University's REF Code of Practice, which sets out clear processes to identify staff who are ineligible for submission to REF. On this occasion our developmental processes have ensured that no one has been excluded from the REF submission. There is enough flexibility in working patterns to accommodate staff with significant caring responsibilities or those absent through illness. On this note, mental health issues are addressed with the same seriousness as physical health problems, with structured routes back in place where staff have been forced to experience long term sick leave. Such planning for the reallocation of teaching actively supported the statutory right for maternity leave for one member of staff within the census period.

In light of the context outlined above, two areas of progress around people are worth highlighting:

1) fostering of early career researchers and 2) enhancing PGR.

### 1) Early Career Researchers

The period has included the recruitment of Danny Evans and Ruth Canning, both of whom were awarded their first tenured academic appointments as part of the History subject team. Danny Evans' research specialism is the Spanish Civil War, and Ruth Canning's early modern Ireland. Jody Crutchley, another ECR previously based in Education Studies, has joined the team on a permanent basis, bringing with her research expertise around education and the British empire.

ECRs are supported through the university's induction procedures including bid-writing workshops. At a more local collegial level, ECRs are supported through a mentoring system designed to help and support new colleagues and those aiming at first time publication. This interdisciplinary scheme has also witnessed team members mentoring colleagues in different departments and faculties who are researching historical themes but lack a publication record, and vice versa, supporting History's limited capacity; for example, Bryce Evans' long term mentoring of a colleague in the Education faculty of the university led to that individual publishing their first academic article and a monograph.

The unit also supports research groups predominately composed of early career researchers, such as the afore-mentioned Transnational History Research Group and the Early Modern Research Group. Several members of the unit are also active within the interdisciplinary Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies, and have played leading roles in organising its seminars and conferences. To ensure parity in terms of administrative burdens, committee work

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relevant to research (research ethics committee, school research committee, and university research committee) is allotted on a rotational basis.

Moreover, ECRs are prioritised in terms of the allocation of university research funding. The university's 'consolidated research time' (CRT) mechanism allows staff to apply for up to six weeks leave from teaching when undertaking periods of research and ECRs are prioritised in this allocation. CRT functions alongside funds apportioned by the School's Research Committee, which similarly target ECRs; for example Ruth Canning (recruited 2017) has received £5,000 to support research and publication in early modern Irish history over two years.

### 2) PGR

We place great value on research students and since the last REF cycle have invested in them in an effort to boost our PhD numbers and thereby create a self-sustaining research culture. A priority during this period has been developing sustainable routes from UG to PGT and to PGR within the existing research strengths of the Subject, seeking to attract students originally part of our own UG pool as well as externally.

Previously, the unit had zero PhD completions; it now has supported three PhD students to completion within the census period and two more who are nearing the completion of their studies. Two of these students were recruited via university research scholarships. All staff have undertaken PGR supervision, whether as part of supervisory teams led within the subject area or led by colleagues in other disciplines. University training in PGR supervision must first be undertaken, and renewed annually, and the allocation of staff onto supervisory teams is undertaken as per specialism and workload. This allows for the majority of staff to undertake supervisory responsibility, offering a way of building up reciprocal experience and development through mentoring.

Mentorship has continued post-submission in some cases, with Rick Blackman (PhD 2019) availing of Evans and Kelly's continuing informal supervision in producing two books based on his PhD research: *Forty Miles of Bad Road: Stars Campaign for Interracial Friendship & the 1958 Notting Hill Riots* (2018) and *Babylon's Burning: Musical Subcultures and Anti-Fascism 1958 to 2020* (2021), with the former publication featuring on a specially compiled list of key works on black British history published by the Institute of Historical Research. Funds have been made available for doctoral students to present at leading subject conferences and, in the context of Covid-19, supervisors have ensured that research monies previously allocated to PGR students for travel have been redirected to enable students to use them in alternative ways, for example the purchase of books or access to digital repositories.



In line with the strategic goals of the unit following the last exercise, the number of History research students has increased, many recruited following the completion of the subject's newly redeveloped MA programme. Whereas many MA programmes across the School of Humanities have run only periodically, the History MA has been a 'success story' in the School's PGT provision and has run every year during the census period. That programme now incorporates MRes students, two of whom were recruited following a competitive process for two scholarships around the History of Everton FC, funded externally by the football club. The development of the MA programme has been aided through infrastructure such as the university's 'Learning Lab', a teaching space with the latest wireless technology which has proved effective for intensive small-group teaching (the History MA cohort, which has been developed from scratch, has averaged at twelve students per year); MA archives 'master-classes' have also been held in the university's new archives and special collections building, which is explored in greater detail in Section 3 below.

The strategy of growing the MA has led to a small but significant boost to PhD numbers: two of those three students have come through the MA. Our small community of PhD students has also availed of institutional support of PGR, through the award of a Vice Chancellor's PhD Scholarship and Hope-Lille PhD Scholarship. PGR culture has been significantly enhanced through the involvement of PhD researchers in the History and seminar series and in speaking at and helping organise externally-funded conferences, for instance Bryce Evans' Royal Historical Society / Economic History Society funded 'Food and the First World War' conference (2014) and partaking in the university's annual Liverpool Hope Postgraduate Conference, which is co-organised by Stephen Kelly. In addition to dual supervision, each PhD student is overseen by a Director of Studies (a senior colleague with at least three PhD supervisions) who ensures that training logs, progress reports, and supervisory logs are in order and chairs progression boards as well as ensuring that teaching responsibilities undertaken by PhD students are apportioned fairly and openly. Any PhD students undertaking teaching and marking duties first go through a university training course.

### **3. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

#### **Introduction**

The unit's research strategy shapes the way in which we support our staff in availing of income and infrastructure. As the following demonstrates, this is most clearly exemplified via internal support. Nonetheless, in line with strategic priorities, external grants have also been sought and obtained and the unit has also been successful in attracting outside funding to support our strategic agenda.

## Internal Support

As well as innovative public engagement projects seeking to go 'beyond' the academy to engage the public, History at Hope has sought to expand the notion of the campus through maximising its location in the historic city of Liverpool. For example, and as mentioned above, the unit's strategic partnership with the National Museums Liverpool (NML) network of six local museums and galleries was copper-fastened in 2018 with the recruitment of David Fleming, former Director of NML, as visiting professor. NML has been used to fulfil our strategic public engagement and impact ambitions, comprising the facility of a collective of museums; its range of sites has been used by Hope historians for PGT teaching and lectures, with the effect of communicating research to the public at large. The infrastructure of NML has been utilised by our historians giving public lectures, for example Sonja Tiernan's public lecture on the first woman elected to the UK House of Commons, Constance Markiewicz, which took place in the Museum of Liverpool in October 2018.

The University has made provided resources for an expansion in the deposit, cataloguing and care of a number of special library collections specifically related to History. Since the last REF exercise, historians at Hope have also been instrumental in helping to develop the university library's archives and special collections department, a repository of over 75,000 books, manuscripts, journals, newsletters, magazines, and pamphlets which has been established within the current cycle, opening in late 2013. Developments such as a purpose-built environmentally controlled reading room have taken place following consultation with Hope's historians. December 2017 saw the official launch of the Talbot Library, deposited with archives and special collections from the Diocese of Lancaster, which includes some 50,000 books, most notably a section on Irish history and Irish Studies reflecting the significant – and continuing – contribution to the life and culture of the North West by Irish émigrés and their descendants. Hope's historians are using their research specialisms to assist in the ongoing cataloguing of the Talbot Library and Fiona Pogson has acted as an intermediary in the acquisition of a substantial new collection of uncatalogued historical material donated by her former doctoral supervisor, Brian Quintrell.

Having these collections in a usable form has meant that historians have been able to undertake primary research, and the collections have attracted other researchers, generating collaborative work. Other notable acquisitions during the census period directly related to History include the Gradwell collection (formerly at the Roman Catholic seminary at Upholland), which covers theology, philosophy and ecclesiastical history as well as a significant John Henry Newman section, including first editions of his own publications. Stephen Kelly (who authored a monograph on Newman and Irish nationalism in 2012) has worked with librarians and archivists around the Newman section. Also of note is the Radcliffe collection, an extensive holding of texts in liturgy

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(formerly held by Liverpool Anglican cathedral and St Aidan's Theological College), including early printed books, incunabula and manuscripts dating back to the 15th century, which are of use to our early modern historians in both delivering research-informed teaching and formulating their own research.

As indicated briefly above, historians at Hope play an active role in the major research centre located within the Department of History and Politics: the Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies, a large 'umbrella' centre operating a regular working paper series, to which historians have contributed, as well as manifold other research activities. However - and in line with revised objectives since the last REF around enabling research in key specific areas – more emphasis has been placed on fostering smaller, organic research groups and events. These groups do not have the status of university research centres and thus exercise a greater 'bottom up' autonomy. They meet informally, usually over a 'brown bag lunch', to share research ideas or debate topics, often around a specific publication, position paper, topical event or research proposal.

Having said that, there is no great dichotomy between a research centre and a research group. The university, through the faculty research committee, is committed to enabling clusters of sufficient critical mass to evolve into new groups and, if appropriate, centres. Accordingly, it has funded a number of external speakers for conferences organised by team members such as the History seminar series; the early modern research group; and even discrete commemorative events. Such assistance has also enabled projects with important strategic outward-facing and networking dimensions. Examples include new team member Danny Evans' conference coinciding with the fortieth anniversary of the return to democracy in Spain (2019); Stephen Kelly's conference *The Idea of a University Revisited* (2014), which marked the anniversary of the publication of John Henry Newman's *The Idea of a University*, which was accompanied by a public exhibition; and Sonja Tiernan's public exhibition showcasing her research into women's suffrage campaigns, which marked International Women's Day (2015), was named by American broadcaster CNN as one of its 'top ten international women's day events you'd be crazy to miss'.

Every member of the History unit has availed of consolidated research time (CRT), the university's research leave programme, many taking advantage of CRT in consecutive years, with fourteen separate awards to Hope historians in the census period. For example, Stephen Kelly has been twice awarded CRT 2014-2020, including one award covering seven weeks of teaching while he undertook a research fellowship at Churchill College from January to March 2016; in 2020 Ruth Canning was awarded \$6,000 as part of a collaborative research grant from the US National Endowment for the Humanities for a 'Castle to Classroom' research initiative geared towards the imaginative rediscovery of the world of the early modern castle. CRT provided the 'teaching relief' so that she could deliver this funded work. CRT is allocated by department heads and heads of

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school in line with equality and diversity policies, to ensure that the leave is fairly distributed across the team.

In support of impact activity, team members have also utilised the university's 'REFresh' and 'REFine' financial support mechanisms. For example, in 2015 Bryce Evans received funds to produce a mini-series entitled 'Hidden Histories' on local television station 'Bay TV' which focused on the Irish diaspora in Liverpool; in 2019, to boot, he received further monies to hone his 'egalitarian eating' impact case study, enabling him to target the project towards non-academic beneficiaries of research, specifically elderly people in Merseyside at risk of being underweight / malnutrition. All team members have also benefited from the university's generous conference attendance funding, which is administered by the faculty research committee. Financial support for archival visits and grant-writing workshops is also provided by this body.

### External Support

Seeking external funds was identified in the last exercise as a key strategic priority in order to aid publication, outreach and impact (see above). Previously, the level of external funds attracted was very small. This time around, there has been a modest but significant improvement. In line with the strategic goal of attracting greater external research funding, greater effort has been directed towards collegial support in bid-writing, with a bid-writing mentorship programme operating amongst subject members. The bid-writing programme operates as part of each individual's research plan, a new initiative implemented during this REF cycle. The research plan is a short to medium term (1 to 4 year) plan overseen by the Head of Department and REF Coordinator, which seeks to manage and support each person's output strategy and income generation prospects, with a view to enhancing their impact and by utilising the expert advice from experienced staff outside of the unit.

Building on these individual research plans, a number of projects have received external funding, contributing towards this priority in the overall research strategy. In doing so, History staff have benefited from the bid-writing assistance of the University's Research Facilitator, who offers review and detailed advice, especially on costings and the overall financial aspects of bids, and who complements the support provided by colleagues as part of the collegial support system identified above.

Team members have been successful in attracting a number of small but prestigious research funding awards. Once again, this represents a significant achievement relative to the last REF. For example, Bryce Evans has been awarded monies from a variety of sources – notably including non-conventional funding sources - including funds for public-facing outreach and impact activity

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around social eating and food poverty from Greggs (the high street baker), the Guinness Trust, and Cooperative Food. Bryce Evans has also been awarded four-figure research grants from the Economic History Society (2020), the Science History Institute Philadelphia (2018), the Pasold Research Fund (2017), the Scouloudi Trust (2016), the Wellcome Trust (2016) along with £15,000 from the AHRC's 'Gateways to the First World War' fund (2017).

Other colleagues have received external grants to aid publication. In 2018, Ruth Canning – who had previously held a Marie Curie International Outgoing Research Fellowship from the European Research Commission - received a Marie Curie Alumni Association Micro Media Grant to support the publication of her monograph *The Old English in Early Modern Ireland: The Palesmen and the Nine Years' War, 1594-1603* and in 2017 was awarded a Moore Institute Visiting Research Fellowship by the National University of Ireland. Fiona Pogson (2019) and Chris Williams (2015) were both Scouloudi Trust small grant awardees. After presenting his research at the History seminar series John Wallis, an 'outlying' historian of early modern crime and punishment located in the School of Social Science, was encouraged to apply for small grants from the Lancashire and Cheshire Historical Society towards his 2018 monograph *The Bloody Code in England and Wales, 1760–1830*, and was subsequently successful in receiving funding from that association in 2015 and 2016.

External funding may support teaching replacement, but due to staffing resources and economies of scale, cover has been supplemented by existing staff where necessary. In line with the priorities identified above, external funding is therefore not only enabling the growth of individual staff research specialisms but also enabling networking through Hope, a key component of a more inclusive and integrated research culture and, crucially, contributing to developing the impact agenda around the case studies submitted for the current REF and beyond. For example, Bryce Evans' external funding awards – mostly concerning approaches to food poverty – speak to the afore-mentioned impact strategy goals of widening outreach and addressing matters of policy.

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

**Introduction**

The above three sections have provided a glimpse of some of the unit's significant research collaborations. Some of that information will be repeated and elaborated on here, alongside mention of other initiatives. Rather than merely listing specific initiatives, this section demonstrates how our networks are integral to our strategic considerations, strengthening them and helping to shape them. This serves as an indication of how our commitment to broadening outreach and speaking to policy, as part of a more integrated and inclusive research culture, underlies our collaborations, evidencing the fact that they are targeted rather than merely accidental. This

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section concludes by listing Hope historians' overall service to historical studies in this country and beyond.

**Outreach to the public and the hard-to-reach**

In line with the strategic goal of reaching the wider public and the hard-to-reach through innovative open research initiatives, the unit has developed a number of initiatives with diverse communities throughout the census period. Bryce Evans' research into historical approaches to food poverty saw him working in a voluntary capacity as part of the efforts to reduce food poverty in the UK spearheaded by the Right Honourable Frank Field MP, focused locally in Liverpool and Birkenhead. This involved providing a number of public lectures at social eating events at which those at risk of food poverty were informed about historical approaches to the problem while cooking, eating and talking together.

Although mentioned above, the flagging of such events here highlights the way that such collaborations engage diverse audiences through large public events attracting up to 200 people. These involve research-informed performances (musical and culinary) and offer a chance for dialogue between non-specialists, practitioners and academics.

A number of these events targeted diverse and hard-to-reach public groups. For example, in 2015 as part of Frank Field's 'Feeding Birkenhead' initiative, Bryce Evans spoke at breakfast clubs targeting school children experiencing school holiday hunger in impoverished parts of Birkenhead; in 2017 he lectured at Nottingham's Pakistani Community Centre, and in the same year at Preston's 'Festival for Peace', a cross-community and local government sponsored event in that city's Harris Museum designed to use intercommunal cooking as a counterweight to the rise of the radical right in the city; and in 2018 he lectured at Sheffield's 'Festival of the Mind' in that city's 'Foodhall', a student-run initiative fostering urban communal gardening and public dining between university students and members of the public. Since 2018, and in reaction to the growth in podcast listenership among the UK public, Bryce Evans' freely accessible food studies podcast has attracted tens of thousands of listens and regularly features in the upper echelons of the UK podcast charts for the subject of food.

**Inclusivity**

In line with the strategic objective of enhancing the inclusivity of research culture, Hope's historians have undertaken projects which aim to enhance the accessibility of historical resources through openly accessible digital resources. For example, Ruth Canning added to the corpus of electronic texts on early modern history by contributing to her publisher Boydell and Brewer's online research

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blog. In 2018 Ireland's national broadcaster, Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ) launched 'Brainstorm', an online open research platform through which 'the academic and research community will contribute to public debate, reflect on what's happening in the world around us and communicate fresh thinking on a broad range of issues'. Among the first contributors was Stephen Kelly, who offered two pieces (both 2019) on the assassination of Airey Neave and nationalist political frameworks in Northern Ireland. Stephen Kelly has also been active on online open research blogs, offering articles to high impact historical / political blogs such as 'Slugger O'Toole' (Irish affairs) and the 'Thatchernet' (international network of Thatcher scholars) blog.

Sonja Tiernan delivered a number of plenary addresses outside the academy, addressing the Trade Union Congress (TUC) Race Relations Committee on the history of Irish workers in Britain in May 2017 and the Irish Parliament's (Houses of the Oireachtas) Commission to commemorate the passage of the Representation of the People Act in February 2018. Sonja Tiernan's standing as a proponent of public-facing history was confirmed by her 2019 appointment as Eamon Cleary Chair in Irish Studies at Otago University, New Zealand.

Following his well-publicised work on social eating in the First World War, Bryce Evans was contacted by the UK's official public record, *The Gazette*, to provide an open access overview of the National Kitchens of World War One with citations from *The Gazettes* of the time; this open research article was accessible from September 2015. In the same year, Bryce Evans was commissioned to write the food history of the Guinness Trust: the result was an open access online history of one of England's largest providers of affordable care and housing, *Food Sense: 125 Years of Food History at Guinness*, which was later presented as a lecture to Guinness Trust call centre workers in Oldham.

### Service to the discipline and indicators of esteem

Unsurprisingly, as research-active academics individual unit members enjoy several markers of esteem, such as membership on committees of academic organisations, editorial boards. As publicly engaged actors, some also bring their expertise to civil society organisations where they sit as board members or on boards of advisors. There is neither space nor purpose to listing all of these positions, but a few examples are below selected for their significance in serving the discipline.

In terms of service to the discipline, historians at Hope have served on numerous editorial and association boards and have received a number of prestigious awards and accolades. Notable examples include John Appleby, who regularly reviews for the *International Journal of Maritime History* and Fiona Pogson, who has acted as long-time Treasurer and council member of the

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Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire and who brought the North West Early Modern Seminar to Hope in 2015. Both Stephen Kelly and Sonja Tiernan were invited to address the Conference of Irish Historians in Britain in 2016 and Tiernan joined the Association of Irish Historians in Britain as an advisory council member in the same year, adding to her notable roles as Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship evaluator and her role as Peter O'Brien Visiting Professor in Irish Studies at Concordia University in 2015-2016. Bryce Evans was invited to address the Institute of Historical Research's Voluntary History Society (2016) and Food History Seminar (2019).

Colleagues conduct peer reviews for leading journals and academic publishers and half of the subject team have acted as editors for book series and peer-reviewed journals. Just one example is John Wallis, since 2018 a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, who is book reviews editor of the *Law, Crime and History* journal.

As well as addressing the strategic priority of maximising external income, the award of prestigious small external grants has brought Hope's historians broader recognition within the discipline. Stephen Kelly's research into former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Northern Ireland policy led to the award of the Political Studies Association's Conservative Studies Group's best article award (2017) and a by-fellowship of Churchill College Cambridge in 2016, along with the college's John Antcliffe Memorial Fund Grant. Bryce Evans is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society; his research into food history across various projects has been recognised through several funding awards from universities and research bodies in the United States of America, including a Hagley Fellowship (2015); a Winterthur / University of Delaware Fellowship (2016); a University of Miami Abrams/Banning Fellowship (2018); a Harry S. Truman Presidential Library Fellowship (2018); a University of West Virginia research scholarship (2019); Georgia State University Reed-Fink research scholarship (2019); Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Fellowship (2020); and College of Physicians of Philadelphia short term research fellowship (2019).