

<b>Institution: University of Northumbria at Newcastle</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: UoA 28 History</b>
<p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b></p> <p>History at Northumbria is a thriving discipline, characterised by excellence in research, collaboration within and outside the academy, and a commitment to developing our community of scholars at every stage of their careers. Our research spans seven centuries and six continents, and across this REF cycle we have deliberately expanded our geographical and chronological range, and the interdisciplinary outlook of our research. Our six research groups, <b>Global and Transnational History, Histories of Activism, Environmental Humanities, American Studies, Conflict and Society</b>, and <b>Medieval and Early Modern Studies</b>, exemplify our areas of particular strength. In the spirit of the 2016 Stern Review, all 37.9 FTE History staff at Northumbria are being submitted to this Unit of Assessment (an increase from 20 FTE in REF2014 and 8.11 FTE in RAE2008). The 86 outputs we are submitting to REF2021 are selected from a pool of publications that includes 40 monographs, 20 edited collections, and more than 100 journal articles. In a highly competitive environment, research grant and contract income has grown from £215,237 in the last REF to £872,028 in 2020. Since 2014 we have hosted four Leverhulme Early Career Fellows and have benefited from funding from the AHRC, ESRC, British Academy, and Leverhulme Trust, while also diversifying our funding sources beyond RCUK. Our postgraduate research culture has been transformed, with the number of PhD completions rising from 6 in the previous REF cycle to 34 in the current cycle. From 2014, we were part of the AHRC Heritage Doctoral Training Partnership and in 2019 we joined the AHRC Northern Bridge Consortium, through which we recruit and train PhD researchers alongside six other HEIs in the North East of England and Northern Ireland. We have also increased our contribution to our discipline via leadership in subject associations, editorial appointments, and the hosting of international conferences.</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b></p> <p>In REF2014 our Unit ranked 18<sup>th</sup> nationally for our outputs, and 41<sup>st</sup> in overall GPA. Our strategy in 2014 focused on developing areas of excellence, through our four research groups at that time: British and Irish Worlds, Histories of Activism, Medieval and Early Modern, and US History. This focus on clusters of research strength helped us to meet the objectives in our strategic plan for 2013-20: to manage the growth of our unit in a sustainable way, to increase external funding through mentoring and collaboration, to grow our PhD community, and to develop our international profile. Our significant expansion in the last six years reflects Northumbria University's investment in the Unit following our strong performance in 2014, and our capacity for attracting outstanding historians from around the UK and internationally. Our distinctive culture of trust and collaboration</p>

allows colleagues to navigate the challenges of a research career, including preparing for REF2021 itself, in an open, supportive and collegial environment.

While we have continued to build new and established areas of thematic strength, as a growing community of researchers we have also sought to extend our geographical breadth (most recently to Africa, India and the Middle East), and have deliberately expanded in the pre-1600 period and in contemporary history. Our UoA now includes business, cultural, environmental, gender, migration, political, religious and social historians. Our research groups remain central to the research culture and research strategy in History. They encourage synergy and cross-pollination of ideas across the History team, and we use them to share work in progress, build links with national and international networks, and engage with external partners and audiences. As we have made new appointments, we have reconfigured these groups in order to reflect new cross-connections and emerging specialisms in our research. We have also developed a more consciously interdisciplinary direction, so that all six research groups involve colleagues in other disciplines – for example English, Music, Art and Geography. Our new appointments have been designed explicitly to extend or make cross-connections between the specialisms of our research groups (see staffing strategy, below).

Our research culture has also benefitted from Northumbria University's strategic investment, following REF 2014, in a new Institute of the Humanities (IoH). The IoH provides an intellectual home for Humanities researchers across the university, and it has enabled us to work collaboratively with colleagues in other disciplines within our department (English Literature, Creative Writing, Linguistics) and outside it (Arts, Criminology, Geography, Engineering, Business and Law). The IoH's objectives encompass campaigning for the value of Humanities research, the promotion of cross-disciplinarity within and beyond traditional 'Humanities' fields of scholarship, and the sharing of our research beyond the university.

Our impact strategy involves working collaboratively with partners to understand and address contemporary challenges through knowledge of the past. The co-designing of projects with partners, accompanied by collaborative research funding applications, is evident in **Webster's** work on the history of the Co-op (funded directly by the Co-op, with whom he has also applied to the research councils), and in **Laqua's** partnerships with the National Union of Students and the Workers' Educational Association, with whom he has won funding from the AHRC and non-RCUK sources. **Skelton's** work on historic flood mitigation involves partnerships with the Environment Agency, Northumbria Water and the Tyne Rivers Trust, and is designed to benefit communities struggling with this urgent problem today. As historians our work generates impact in the civic and cultural life of our region through longstanding partnerships with cultural and creative organisations (Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, the Bowes Museum, and Newcastle's Literary and

Philosophical Society, for example). Our four impact case studies demonstrate the power of our research to create and sustain beneficial impact across a range of communities, but (as illustrated in section 4 below) all colleagues and research groups understand the value of their work beyond the academy. Impact activity is supported by the University's impact support team, based in Research and Innovation Services (RIS), who advise on pathways to impact and evidence collection. Impact is supported through the academic workload planner, designated impact sabbaticals, and a Faculty fund for impact-related research assistance.

Our plans for the next cycle reflect our areas of research strength, our growing track record of supporting postdoctoral researchers, and opportunities for interdisciplinary working through the IoH. Between 2021 and 2028 we aim to:

- Invest in our Institute of the Humanities as the forum through which we work across disciplines and engage with non-academic beneficiaries of our research
- Apply our research to local and global challenges, regarding the environment, conflict and activism
- Launch the Connected Histories Centre, a multi-institutional, outreach-focused home for Global and Transnational History in the North East
- Develop our postdoctoral community, extending our success in supporting Leverhulme ECRs to other postdoctoral funding schemes, and to collaborative grants that support postdoctoral fellows
- Build on our success in winning scholarships through both standard and CDA routes in the AHRC-funded Northern Bridge Consortium
- Extend our international profile, hosting major conferences, attracting visiting fellows and offering leadership in international scholarly networks and learned societies.

**Structure:**

History is co-located with English in the Department of Humanities, and the leadership of the two units work closely to encourage, inform and support each other. Our collaboration in research was cemented following REF2014 by major investment from the University in the Institute of the Humanities. The IoH is directed by **Aston** and has dedicated physical space, equipment and funding. Its mission is to enable research that is interdisciplinary and outward facing, and in practical terms it (a) runs a weekly cross-disciplinary seminar series and hosts symposia and workshops to support research; (b) provides funding for interdisciplinary 'banner' projects that are expected to lead to grant capture; (c) hosts visiting fellows who are working with colleagues in Humanities. The Institute's dedicated space is used by members to host seminars, conferences and meetings: for example the 2019 networking workshop, 'Female Entrepreneurs in the Long Nineteenth Century: In Search of a Global Perspective', which involved an IoH Visiting Fellow (Bishop), along with 26 participants from 5 continents. The IoH moved its seminar online in 2020,

increasing its global reach and providing a welcome weekly opportunity for colleagues to get together and hear about research despite the challenges brought about by Covid-19.

All members of the History team belong to one of our six research groups, and many colleagues participate in more than one. Membership is intentionally fluid. Most groups are driven by a common theme or approach that brings colleagues together across geographical and chronological boundaries; although in some cases where we have particularly strong capacity, we use a geographical or chronological focus to draw colleagues together across disciplines. Of the Unit's six research groups, new, multi-disciplinary capacity has been developed in four areas since 2014. **Global and Transnational History** and **Environmental Humanities** are wholly new initiatives, reflecting new appointments. The **American Studies** research group developed organically from the US History group in 2017, reflecting a greater emphasis on interdisciplinarity, while the **Conflict and Society** research group was formed in 2018 to reflect synergies between new and established staff members. These new groups augment two existing clusters: the **Medieval and Early Modern Studies** research group and **Histories of Activism**.

Members of the **Global and Transnational History** group are united by a shared methodological interest in global, transnational and connected approaches. The group's members study cross-cultural contact and exchange from the pre-modern to the contemporary period. The group established the inter-institutional North East Transnational and World History Research Centre (NETWoRC), led by **Gottmann** and **Hill** and hosted by Northumbria, which hosts a fortnightly lunchtime seminar involving colleagues from Northumbria, Newcastle, Durham, and Sunderland Universities. Since the arrival of **Hill** the group has set up a collaboration with Oxford University in global political economy with funding from Brasenose College and the Past and Present Society, matched by Northumbria. The group is shaping the field in transnational history ranging from the late medieval and early modern world (**Murphy, Kosior**) to contemporary history (**Anderson, Francis**), and covering the Americas (**Francis, Gleeson** and **RWright**), the Middle East (**Hill**), Africa (**Livesey**) and Asia (**Anderson**), Central and Eastern Europe (**Alston, Kosior**) and European-Asian relations (**Anderson, Gottmann**). They share interests in the study of the urban environment (**Livesey** and **RWright**); early modern diplomatic relations and kingship (**Kosior** and **Murphy**); the connected flow of ideas, ideologies, and objects (**Gottmann** and **Hill**); the role of ethnicity, religion, and diaspora in the former British Empire and Anglophone world (**Buelmann, Gleeson, Hardwick, Anderson**); and cooperative movements, activist networks and international organisations as pioneers of globalisation (**Alston, Laqua** and **Webster**). The group has a growing network of international and third sector collaborations, e.g. with the Cooperative Group, Cooperative College and Cooperative Archives (**Webster**), the Durham Oriental Museum, Bowes Museum and the German Museum of Technology (**Gottmann**), and the Union of International Associations (**Laqua**). The award of a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship to **Gottmann** in 2020 is a

major boost to the group as it will fund two postdoctoral fellows, a PhD student and the establishment of a multi-institutional, outreach-focused Connected Histories Centre from 2025.

The strategic development of **Environmental Humanities** (coordinated by **Devienne**) is a new initiative within the Unit since REF2014. Group members focus on changing attitudes toward the natural environment, the political and cultural history of resource use, and the production of place. They have published major studies within the cycle on the environmental history of Dartmoor (**Kelly**), the urban and environmental history of early modern Britain (**Skelton**), and California's beach culture (**Devienne**). Members have built international partnerships with the Rachel Carson Center, Munich and the Max Planck Institute in Berlin (**Kelly**), and Australian National University (**Hardwick**), while developing collaborations with public, private and third sector partners like the New Forest Association and Northumberland Wildlife Trust (**Kelly**) and the Environment Agency, Northumbria Water, and the Tyne Rivers Trust (**Skelton**). The arrival of **West** as a Leverhulme ECR Fellow working on publishing and the built environment in Black Chicago, and of **Livsey** as a Vice Chancellor's Fellow (VCF) from 2019 researching housing and state-building in West Africa, have strengthened the group's focus on the urban environment. In 2020 a further Leverhulme Fellow, Roddy, joined the group working on border landscapes and regional identity. His research connects with work on borderlands by colleagues in Arts and English. The group brought Professor Peter Coates (Bristol) to Northumbria as an IoH Visiting Fellow, and hosted the British Academy conference 'New Lives, New Landscapes: Rural Modernism in Twentieth-Century Britain' (2019).

The **Conflict and Society** research group (convened by **Williams**) brings together expertise in the history and literary representation of conflict from 1500 to the modern day. The group's emphasis is on the relationship between armed conflict, social developments and cultural production. Members have published major books on masculinity and warfare (**Robb**), genocide in the British Empire (**Lawson**), the Tudor occupation of Boulogne (**Murphy**), and the cultural history of Ulster Protestantism (**Parr**). Group members have led funded projects on the First World War and its aftermath, including **McConnel's** Leverhulme Research Fellowship on cultural representations of Irish soldiers, his AHRC-funded citizen history project on 'Dominion Geordies', and **Laqua's** collaborative project on students and ex-servicemen. A Heritage Consortium funded postgraduate group member (Foster) organised the AHRC and RHS funded conference 'Objects in and after Conflict'. The appointments of **Williams** and **Beorn** (2019), have built capacity in the study of the Holocaust. The group hosted the twenty-first Conference of Irish Historians in Britain in 2018, bringing international scholars together to reflect on the twentieth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

The **American Studies** research group (convened by **Andelic**) comprises eleven Americanists (seven of whom are historians), making it one of the most important centres for American Studies

in Europe. The group's members share a multi-disciplinary approach (including history, literature, politics, music and cultural studies) that offers a rounded understanding of the United States in national, regional and global contexts. The group has published major studies on American cultural conservatism (**Street**), the early US recording industry (**Ward**), the British diaspora in North America (**Buelmann**), transatlantic civil rights activism (**Ward**), and evangelicals and rock music (Stephens). The appointment of **RWright** (2018) and **Devienne** (2019) has augmented the group's strengths in 20<sup>th</sup> Century US cultural and environmental history, while **Badger** and **Andelic** have enhanced its expertise in 20<sup>th</sup> Century politics. The group hosted the 2015 conference of the British Association of American Studies (BAAS), as well as the annual postgraduate conferences of BAAS and HOTCUS (Historians of the Twentieth Century United States), and externally-funded symposia on 'Music and Social Movements' and 'Midterms and Mandates' (both 2018). Two group members (**Gleeson** and **Ward**) have been appointed distinguished lecturers by the Organization of American Historians.

The focus of the **Medieval and Early Modern Studies** research group (convened by **Kosior**) is on the history of Britain, Europe and the wider world before 1700. The group provides a forum for researchers in History, English Literature, Art, and Music to share work on gender and cultural production, monarchies and court culture, social networks, identity and cultural exchange, and emotions and the body. The group has published major studies on royal courts and urban culture in late medieval France (**Murphy**), queenship in sixteenth-century France and Poland (**Kosior**), Christian spirituality in fifteenth-century Spain (**Solares**), music at the Elizabethan court (**Butler**), and the urban and environmental history of early modern Britain (**Skelton**). French history is a strength in the group, with work by **Murphy**, **Kosior** and **Gottmann** exploring French court culture and trade in global context. **Twomey**, **Solares**, and **Knox** constitute another strong cluster with a focus on the early-modern Iberian peninsula. **Murphy** organised the RHS funded 'Ritual and Ceremony' conference, and members of the group have partnered with Newcastle Cathedral on public engagement events including 'Plague and War in Newcastle'. **Kosior** and **Butler** organised an IoH symposium on 'Sex and Gender Politics' in early modern Europe in 2019.

Researchers in the **Histories of Activism** group (convened by **Laqua**) examine political protests and campaigns, the promotion of alternative economic and social models, and measures for the protection of particular groups in society. The group has published major studies on French republican identity (**O'Brien**), French socialism (**JWright**), and the government of the early Soviet Union (**Douds**). In 2014, an international workshop resulted in two themed journal issues (*European Review of History*; *Journal of Modern European History*) edited by **Alston** and **Laqua**. The group has hosted high-profile events including the 2014 conference of the Social History Society, two annual conferences of the Study Group on the Russian Revolution (2016, and the centenary year of 2017), and a 2016 Society for the Study of Labour History conference on

'Revolutionary Pasts: Representing the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century's Radical Heritage'. In 2016, **O'Brien** was awarded funding by the Society for the Study of French History to bring Professor Dominique Kalifa (Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne) to Northumbria, as the Society's first ever Visiting Fellow to the UK. The arrival of **Anderson** (2020), working on the Indian diaspora and multiculturalism in Britain, extends the group's existing interest in diasporic activism (**Alston, Francis**).

**Open Access and ethical research practice:** We recognise the importance of making our research available to the widest possible audience. We also acknowledge the challenges of funding publishing, whatever the route, and the importance of making sure that hidden inequalities in the production and consumption of research are not exacerbated. Colleagues involved in editing journals are at the forefront of efforts to facilitate OA publication. *French History* (co-ed. **JWright**) belongs to the Oxford stable of journals and adopts the protocols of 'Oxford Open'. *Holocaust Studies* (co-ed. **Lawson**) offers a range of OA options. **Francis** is co-editor of the journal *Radical Americas* which has been open access from its inception, while **Smith** is the editor of the OA journal *Scottish Music Review*. **Alston** is a member of the editorial board of the Royal Historical Society's 'New Perspectives' monograph series, which publishes simultaneously in hard copy and OA format. Her role as Secretary of History UK means that she is engaged in discussions about OA publishing within our field. Colleagues have been briefed on Open Access requirements through a series of OA roadshows led by RIS, and through regular email reminders. All of the in-scope outputs published after 1 April 2016 that we are submitting meet REF OA policy requirements. We prioritise publications funded by the research councils or where we believe the research merits speedy and/or wide dissemination for the Gold OA route, and mandate green OA as a minimum. Besides our journal articles, **Murphy's** 2016 monograph was published as a 'born digital' ebook, while 2019 book chapters by **Aston** and **Hill** were published by the Gold OA route. We expect our next REF submission to manifest a broader spectrum of longer format OA-compliant outputs, and will work to ensure that early-career and non-established academics are able to publish in this way.

Research carried out in the Unit complies with Universities UK's Concordat to Support Research Integrity, which covers plagiarism, impartial peer review, data management protocols, and research ethics and governance. The University operates an online research ethics system through which researchers assess their projects' risk level. Researchers are expected to undertake ethics training every three years, and can only supervise doctoral students if their training is up to date. Our Department has its own ethics coordinator, who is responsible for coordination and review of ethics applications.

## 2. People

### Staffing Strategy and Staff Development:

Our expansion from 20 to 37.9 FTE in this cycle results from strategic investment in research capacity in History but also from a commitment to replacing colleagues who have moved to other institutions, the growth of our postdoctoral community, and crucially, transformative mentoring to support existing colleagues in becoming research active. 12 current members of the Unit featured in Northumbria's History submission in REF2014. Three were not submitted to REF2014 but are now included. 15 are new permanent posts across the cycle, including six appointments to Vice Chancellor's Fellowships (VCFs), and seven are appointments to replace colleagues who have left. Two are current Leverhulme ECFs, and one is a full-time 12-month teaching replacement funded by Leverhulme, in post on the REF census date. In our UoA there are 10 Professors, two Associate Professors, 22 colleagues at Lecturer/Senior Lecturer level, and six Postdoctoral Research Fellows.

Our strategy for appointments in this cycle has focused on extending the range of expertise within our research groups and making cross-connections between our areas of strength. In 2015-16 Northumbria launched a fund to support the establishment of multi-disciplinary research themes, and our Department made three appointments in Environmental Humanities. Two of these were in History: one a VCF (**Skelton**) and the other at professorial level (**Kelly**); the third was a professorial appointment in Literature. This initiative acknowledged the importance of this emerging interdisciplinary field, but also reflected the potential for bringing together researchers already at Northumbria (in History **Hardwick**, working on religious responses to natural disasters, and **Stephens**, working on the American dustbowl). In 2018-19 we made two further appointments that bridge our Environmental Humanities and American Studies research groups (**RWright**, working on energy history, and **Devienne**, on beach culture and coastal histories). Similarly, in 2019 we expanded our capacity in the history of genocide and the Holocaust, building on the leadership of **Lawson** in this field with the appointment of **Beorn** and **Williams**. We have a longstanding commitment to global and transnational history, and through the 2019 round of Northumbria's VCF competition we extended our global reach by appointing researchers working on Africa and the Middle East (**Livesey** and **Hill**). In 2020 we made a further appointment in the history of the Indian diaspora (**Anderson**). We have deliberately maintained and expanded our research and teaching in the pre-1600 period, through the appointment of **Skelton** (2016), **Gottmann** (2017), and **Kosior** (2018).

A key indicator of the Unit's development is our growing success in attracting talented postdoctoral researchers and the funding to support their work. The Unit currently has seven postdoctoral research fellows: **Kosior**, **West** and Roddy (appointment after the REF census date) are Leverhulme EC Fellows, while **Douds**, **Francis**, **Hill**, and **Livsey** are VCFs. Two further

postdoctoral fellows will be appointed in 2021 to the project team for **Gottmann's** UKRI-funded project 'Migration, Adaptation, Innovation, 1500-1800'. Our PDRFs are accommodated in dedicated office space within the IoH. They are mentored by a senior expert in their field, and line-managed outside that arrangement with a focus on career next steps. VCFs have a light teaching load in their first three years, and are gradually integrated into teaching in the department. **Parr** and **Skelton** transitioned to permanent appointments two years into their VCF contracts in 2018, while **Gottmann** and **Kosior** moved from Leverhulme ECF contracts to Lectureship/Senior Lectureship in 2019 and 2020 respectively. **Douds, Hill** and **Livsey** were appointed as VCFs for their first three years but are on permanent contracts from the outset. Our strategy for growth is informed by the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. Where fixed-term contracts are used to replace staff on externally-funded leave, we do not use teaching-only contracts and we appoint for 12 months in order to maximise research time for new entrants to the profession. Fixed-term colleagues receive the same support as permanent academic staff (including workloaded research time, a mentor, and research funds). Both **Cooper** (2017-18) and **O'Donoghue** (2019-20) were allocated a research mentor and received financial support to lead research events. We bring the Concordat to the attention of our final-year doctoral candidates, and we have introduced training for PIs to ensure they create an appropriate developmental culture for PDRAs on their projects.

We have invested significantly in the training, development and mentoring of our cohort of junior researchers. Our submission to REF2021 includes six ECRs, and a further ten colleagues meet the AHRC definition for ECR funding routes (being within eight years of their PhD). In their probation period new colleagues benefit from a reduced teaching load, and we aim to accelerate the access of ECRs to our sabbatical scheme. The University runs an ECR Forum, and the ECR voice is influential through University and Faculty Research committees. RIS runs an ECR development programme which offers an introduction to the funding landscape, preparing applications, and impact and engagement strategies. ECRs are central in leading and shaping the direction of our research groups.

Our mentoring system is crucial to staff development, and we have further developed this over the current REF cycle. Colleagues are allocated a line manager but are asked to choose a mentor, who may be outside the subject unit (**Lawlor** in Literature is mentor to **Laqua**) and may change according to an individual's mentoring needs. Mentors read drafts of funding applications and publications, and help colleagues map themselves against Northumbria's promotions criteria. All research mentors attended a workshop on the coaching approach to mentorship conducted by Advance HE in April 2018, as part of our strategy to develop the value of our mentoring system. We also benefit from the experience of senior colleagues who support ECR career progress in our broader field. **Webster** convenes the Cooperative College's ECR network. **Alston** acts as mentor

to early career authors in her role on the editorial board of the Royal Historical Society's monograph series. The roles of **Laqua** in the Society for the Study of Labour History, **JWright** in the Society for the Study of French History and **Alston** in History UK have involved supporting ECRs through training events and funding opportunities.

We are committed to translating our good ECR development practices to mid-career researchers (MCRs), and a feature of this cycle has been support for colleagues who were not submitted in REF2014 so that they are now included in our REF2021 submission. The Faculty has recently introduced an MCR Forum to gauge and support the developmental needs of mid-career staff. We are especially aware of the challenge of retaining research momentum faced by colleagues moving in and out of leadership roles. **McConnel's** responsibilities as Head of Subject between 2010 and 2018 led to focused support (mentoring and funding) that resulted in his successful Leverhulme Research Fellowship. We also recognise development needs within the professoriate: in 2018 we introduced peer-mentoring for all professors, as we believe that professorial career progression requires the same developmental support as at other career stages.

The Director of Research maintains a sabbatical rota, earmarking sabbatical semesters for all staff based on a 1-in-6 cycle (above the University's 1-in-7 policy). This enables colleagues to take at least two semesters of sabbatical in each REF cycle. Colleagues can apply for a sabbatical to support publication, preparation of research funding applications, or impact activities. Staff on fractional contracts enjoy equal access to the scheme. We accelerate leave for strategic reasons: to support colleagues returning from parental leave, or to kick-start research following a period of administrative/leadership duties. Additionally, we manage teaching delivery to ensure that all staff have a ring-fenced research day every week. Where possible in this cycle we have ensured that this falls on the same day for all history colleagues, reducing email traffic to a minimum on that day. In 2020, in response to Covid-19, the IoH set up externally-facilitated writing workshops to support colleagues' research.

We have worked hard to create a supportive culture that acknowledges the challenges faced by researchers and celebrates achievement. Good communication has been vital in building this culture of solidarity and recognition. Preparation for REF2021 has involved peer-review of external publications in open, transparent workshops, enabling the work of the internal peer review group to be supported and understood across the unit. All funding awards, the organization of events, and interim successes (e.g. shortlisting for the AHRC/BBC R3 New Generation Thinkers scheme) are publicly acknowledged by an email from the Director of Research. PhD viva successes are marked by a unit-wide email from the PGR Lead (**Robb**). An annual History research newsletter collates all the events and achievements in our research calendar. We also incentivise research

activity: grant holders benefit from the University's QR reward scheme which allows a small proportion of the grant overhead to be used on research-related travel or materials.

**Equality & Diversity:** We are committed to understanding and addressing inequality, and to fostering an inclusive and empowering culture. The Royal Historical Society's 2018 Race, Ethnicity & Equality Report and the second RHS report on Gender Equality have been central to our work in this area. At a departmental away day in January 2019 we worked in targeted groups to consider the RHS reports' recommendations for our work, including for research management and PGR matters. Our research and the research of our PGR students – on race, gender and activism – are also drivers for our commitment to equality and inclusion. Northumbria holds an institution-wide Athena SWAN Bronze Award, and **Ward** is taking a leading role in our Departmental Self-Assessment Team. We have also benefitted from the expertise of **Gottmann**, who was a member of the national panel assessing Athena SWAN applications in 2017-18, and has acted as an external advisor to other institutions tackling this process. Our Department's dedicated ED&I lead (Elliott) has won funding from the university to deliver tailored EDI initiatives, including workshops run by an EDI consultant (attended by the Director of Research and HoD) on 'Leading Effective Change'. All colleagues have undertaken unconscious bias training, and those involved in research leadership have attended Advance HE training on unconscious bias in relation to REF.

We have brought forward research seminars (to 4 pm) to facilitate the attendance of staff with family responsibilities, and we guarantee colleagues one day per week free of teaching in termtime, as we know that work progresses more quickly when researchers can block out time. We have created bespoke packages of research leave to help colleagues returning from maternity leave recover momentum (**Robb** in 2019, and **RWright** in 2020). All interviews for jobs or PhD funding are conducted by mixed gender panels, and participants undergo fair selection training. We deliberately seek diversity in both the topics of papers and invited speakers in our seminar series (including nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity).

We take seriously the need to address the gender imbalance within the discipline. At the REF census date, 41% of colleagues in History are female, up from 35% in REF2014. The gender balance in our unit is represented precisely in the outputs we are submitting to REF. Women constitute 33% of the Unit's professoriate, compared to 26.2% nationally (according to the RHS's Second Gender Report), and in this cycle three female colleagues have been promoted to professorships (**Alston**, **Buelmann**, **Twomey**). Three key research leadership positions are occupied by women: **Alston** is Director of Research, **Aston** is Director of the IoH, and **Robb** is PGR Lead. Our aim, through our Athena SWAN application and our developing good practice on gender equality, is to create an inclusive culture that can help us to address pressing equality issues in terms of race and ethnicity. A BAME staff network was established across the University

in 2020 to provide a confidential environment for all staff who self-identify as coming from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background. **Lawson** is the chair of Northumbria's Race Equality Charter Team, which is committed to understanding, removing and overcoming racial inequalities at Northumbria. In 2020 we appointed to a post focused on the history of ethnic minorities in Britain (**Anderson**). We are seeking to address diversity within our postgraduate student body also, through **Aston's** collaboration with partners including the Rowntree Society to develop funded opportunities targeted to ethnic minority students.

**Research students:** The Unit's PGR community has grown substantially since the last REF cycle, enabling us to report 34 completions in this cycle compared to 6 in REF2014. This increase reflects the Unit's growing reputation as a provider of doctoral education. Each year History candidates compete for studentships allocated to the Faculty through the University's Research Development Fund (RDF), and we have won 3-4 of these studentships per year over the current REF cycle. Our success in this internal competition is an endorsement of our capacity to attract high quality candidates and our record of supervising students to timely completion.

This success has been complemented by our involvement in two AHRC doctoral training consortia over the current REF cycle. Between 2013-2019 Northumbria was a member of the Heritage Consortium, supported by £1.85M of funding from AHRC and £1.1M in institutional match funding. Northumbria also funded an MRes studentship in Heritage for five successive years, to generate prospective PhD applications to the consortium. In 2019 we joined the Northern Bridge Consortium (NBC), which brings together seven universities in North East England and Northern Ireland. In 2019 we were awarded our first studentship in History through the standard route, and we built on that in 2020, winning two Collaborative Doctoral Studentships (with the National Union of Students, and the Northumberland National Park) and a further studentship through the standard route. These were 3 of only 11 studentships awarded in History across NBC in 2020. In addition to RDF and NBC studentships, during this REF cycle we have hosted AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Studentships in partnership with the National Railway Museum (from 2017) and the Bowes Museum (from 2020).

History has a dedicated PGR Lead (**Robb**), who supports the PhD cohort. Beyond the University's PGR training provision, we run our own tailored PGR Training Programme in Humanities, which runs over 20 weeks from October to May. It is designed with input from our PhD cohort, and includes sessions on conference presentation and organisation, publication and open access, impact and engagement, and applying for external funding. PhD candidates are supported to organize their own training and methodological workshops, which are open to researchers from across the region: Keil secured an AHRC Collaborative Skills Development Grant for this purpose during his PhD. Under the auspices of the IoH we organized a week-long 'Article Accelerator'

programme (January 2018) to support students drafting their first publication. We also draw on the expertise of our Visiting Fellows/speakers to provide development opportunities for our PhD researchers, and have organized masterclasses led by Markku Peltonen (2014), John Brewer (2015); Tristram Hunt (2018) and Lucy Noakes (2020). Recent Northumbria History PhDs have obtained postdoctoral fellowships at the Institute of Historical Research, Ulster University, and Newcastle University, and full-time lectureships at Queen's University Belfast, Durham University, the University of Sunderland, Liverpool John Moores University, and the University of Stirling. In this cycle, PhD candidates have published articles with leading journals such as *German History*, *Women's History Review*, *Contemporary British History*, *Twentieth Century British History* and *History & Memory* as well as monographs with Edinburgh University Press, Boydell and Brewer and Palgrave. This success speaks to our commitment to preparing our students for life beyond the PhD.

PhD students can apply for funding for archival research, conference attendance and event organisation through the History QR budget. Over £70,000 of QR has been spent supporting PGR activity during the cycle. PGRs have also secured external funding, for example from the Royal Historical Society (8 times in this cycle), the Society for the Study of Labour History (4 times), the Economic History Society (5 times), the British Association for American Studies (3 times), the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (twice), and the Society for the Study of French History. Foster was awarded the Gerda Henkel Scholarship by L'Historial de la Grande Guerre, Péronne in 2017; Neary was a funded participant in the 2017 Spring Academy at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies; and Robertson-Major was selected for the Wilson Center's Summer Programme on Archival Research (2020). Two of our PhD candidates acted as PGR 'ambassadors' for the Economic History Society in this cycle. Our PhD students co-organised the IHR's History Lab North East, and take a leading role in the multi-institutional Centre for Nineteenth Century Studies. They organise a public 'Summer Speaker Series' showcasing their research, which was first hosted at Newcastle's Literary and Philosophical Society, and later at the city's Mining Institute.

All internally funded studentships are advertised in alignment with our research groups, and thus our research strategy. Our research students are supported to lead on activities within each group. PhD students have dedicated workspace in the Glenamara Centre, a postgraduate suite located close to staff offices and allowing access to a shared PhD-staff common room. Students can also access the Research Commons, a dedicated research space for PGRs and staff in the University Library. Student satisfaction is monitored through the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) and the PGR Lead implements an action plan following each survey. PRES outcomes for the Unit in 2017 (the most recent survey for which we have History-specific figures) indicated high levels of satisfaction, with 98% of respondents endorsing the excellence of our supervision (Q1);

98% agreeing that we make clear PhD progression (Q8); 95% believing that they have been equipped with appropriate research skills (Q12). Our overall performance (Q18 = 91%) placed the Unit well above the disciplinary average.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Investment in our infrastructure and success in winning external funding enable us to conduct the research that underpins our publications, to host and be represented at international conferences, to build collaborations within and outside the academy, and to develop the careers of early career scholars. Along with new appointments to support research in History, the Unit has received infrastructural support to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and outreach. In 2015 the University made a major strategic investment in the Department of Humanities with the establishment of the IoH, creating bespoke research space and facilities, including meeting rooms that are fully accessible for all users, high-spec hardware and software, microfilm readers, and microfilm collections relating to our research. These include the papers of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Students for a Democratic Society, the Aborigines Protection Society and the Black Panther Party. These collections have been essential in the writing of monographs and completion of PhD theses. The IoH offers desk space for Visiting Fellows who work collaboratively with our historians: in this cycle we have hosted Lynn Itagaki and Devin Fergus (University of Missouri), Markku Peltonen (University of Helsinki), Marinela Garcia (University of Alicante), Dominique Kalifa (University of Paris 1 – Pantheon Sorbonne), and Catherine Bishop (Macquarie University). Alongside this targeted investment, our research is well-served by the resources of the University Library. The University has invested over £650,000 in History specific resources since 2014, and its expenditure on multidisciplinary resources that benefit historians amounts to more than £5m. Major digital acquisitions this cycle include (but are not limited to) the Churchill Archive, the Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, the Daily Mail Historical Archive, the Guardian/Observer Archive, African American Newspapers, the LGBT Magazine Archive, the Mass Observation Archive, and the ProQuest collection on Civil Rights and the Black Freedom Struggle. The city campus library also offers a dedicated, well-equipped Research Commons providing research collaboration spaces, quiet study areas, and breakout space for student and academic researchers.

Our RCGI has grown from £215,237 in the last REF period to £872,028 between 2014 and 2020. As a growing team of historians we have worked in this cycle on developing the structures and culture that will help us to mentor our early career scholars to further successes in the next cycle. Research in History is overseen by **Alston**. She is co-Director of Research in the Department of Humanities (with Baxter, in English), and convenes the Department Research Committee, which includes PGR Leads, the Director of the IoH, the Department Research Funding Coordinator and

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Department Ethics Lead. All staff can apply to have research expenses covered from the History QR allocation, with a nominal £1000 p.a. per researcher. Researchers can also apply to central Faculty funds, which support impact work, pump-priming for funding applications, and research assistance. In Humanities we ring-fence a portion of our QR budget to support the objectives of the IoH. With these funds, the IoH provides annual funding opportunities for networking and project development, and a rolling call to support symposia and collaborative work. Projects must involve researchers in multiple disciplines.

We plan applications for research funding across a two-year cycle, helping researchers to identify appropriate sources of funding, and managing the number and quality of submissions we make. This is evident in our applications to the Leverhulme Trust across this REF cycle. Since 2016 we have advertised externally for applicants to the Leverhulme ECR Fellowship scheme, and we run an internal selection process in which Research Directors select the strongest candidates across our Faculty. This rigorous process means we have won a Leverhulme ECR Fellowship in History in every year that we have applied. **West's** Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (£90,000, May 2018–April 2021) was the first to be awarded in the Unit, followed by **Kosior's** (£75,000, September 2018–August 2021), and more recently Roddy's (£90,983, September 2020–August 2023). To maintain the quality of submissions we make to Leverhulme, we also run a selective process for Leverhulme Research Fellowship applications. This resulted in **McConnel's** success with the project “‘The Fighting Race’? Contested Images of Irish Soldiers in the First World War” (£47,003). **Gottmann's** successful application to the UKRI Leadership Fellowship Scheme (£1.2m, 2020–2024) was supported by a university-wide selection process, intensive peer review and a mock interview. RIS run funding application workshops for BA/Leverhulme small grants, Leverhulme Fellowships, and AHRC Fellowships, and hold regular research funding clinics. They also run a selective training programme that helps researchers transition to larger scale applications (‘Next Generation of Large Award Holders’) and a programme focused on preparedness for fellowship applications (‘Fellowship Ready’). **Parr, Williams** and **Aston** were selected for participation in the former programme in successive cohorts, while **O'Brien** has attended the latter, and their participation has led to major applications to Leverhulme, Wellcome and the UKRI FLF scheme.

All research funding applications are submitted to our Faculty Peer Review College and are scrutinised by two experienced reviewers. Faculty approval of an application for submission is contingent on the PI's engagement with peer review comments. Here we are able to take advantage of the experience of colleagues who review and/or take part in assessment panels for national and international funding bodies, including the AHRC (**Alston, Buelmann, Gleeson, Laqua, Lawson** and **McConnel**), UKRI (**Alston, Laqua** and **McConnel**); the Irish Research Council (**Kelly, McConnel**) the Research Council of Norway and the Portuguese national funding

agency (**Laqua**), the European Research Council (**Laqua**) and Humanities in the European Research Area (**Alston**).

The support mechanisms described above have achieved noteworthy results since 2014, particularly in building the funding trajectories of colleagues in our Unit. Having been a Co-I on the AHRC 'Locating the Hidden Diaspora' project (completed 2013), **Buelmann** secured an ESRC Standard Grant for 'European, Ethnic and Expatriate: A Longitudinal Comparison of British and German Social Networking and Associational Formations in Modern-Day Asia' (£234,809, 2013–16). Cullinane held an AHRC ECR Leadership Fellowship in 2014–15 for 'Memorial Communities and Presidential Legacy: Remembering Theodore Roosevelt' (£96,301), and in 2016–17 he secured £53,843 in AHRC follow-on funding. **Skelton** was Co-I on a three-year (2017–20) AHRC-funded project, 'Past Floods Matter' (£35,809), and in 2020 won funding for a 24-month project on 'Building Climate Resilience through Community, Landscape, and Cultural Heritage', with partners at Glasgow, Liverpool and Historic England. Researchers in the unit have successfully targeted sources of funding beyond the research councils. **Laqua** was PI for a 2020 Anniversary Grant from the Society for Educational Studies, for the project 'University Access and Student Life in the Aftermath of the Great War: Local, National and Transnational Dimensions of the Scheme for the Higher Education of Ex-Service Students (1918)' (£9,963). **Parr's** work on the anti-apartheid movement in Ireland has been supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. We have had considerable success in securing library and visiting fellowships to further our research. Both Paul and Knight Lozano won prestigious Huntington Library Fellowships (in 2014 and 2015 respectively). **Laqua** was a Senior Research Fellow at the Leibniz Institut für Europäische Geschichte in Mainz in 2014, and in 2020 was awarded a Simone Weil fellowship at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. **Andelic** won funding from the Gerald Ford Foundation for research at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in 2018, and a Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress in 2020.

Researchers in the Unit have benefited from training on writing for and presenting to non-academic audiences. Both **O'Brien** and **Aston** were shortlisted for the AHRC-BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinkers Programme. Their developing expertise and subsequent radio appearances has been an invaluable resource for the Unit as a whole. In 2014 we secured funding to participate in the first BA/AHRC-funded UK Festival of Humanities, running a programme of ten public events under the title 'Eighteenth-Century Legacies: The Past in our Present'. The following year our Department was invited to coordinate a programme as a regional 'hub', and we have contributed to the Festival in each iteration since then. The 'Being Human' festival is a highlight of our research calendar: a designated individual coordinates our application and events, and works with colleagues to engage audiences with the big questions in our research.

**4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society****Collaboration and Contribution to the Economy and Society:**

We believe firmly in the relevance of history to public life. We have long-standing partnerships with cultural and creative organisations in our region (the Tyneside Irish Centre, Newcastle's Literary and Philosophical Society, the Mining Institute, and Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums) and with national and international organisations (the National Union of Students, the Cooperative Group, the Environment Agency, the Union of International Associations). **Badger's** role as President of the Historical Association from 2017 to 2020 led to our hosting a re-launch of the Newcastle branch of the HA, with an event at Newcastle City Library featuring David Olusoga (recipient of an honorary doctorate from Northumbria University). A follow-up event in March 2019 focused on the riots against South Shields' Yemeni community in 1919. We also work closely with the WEA, and have hosted events (2017, 2018) and research projects in partnership with them. Our researchers can frequently be heard on TV and radio applying their historical knowledge to contemporary debates – whether **O'Brien** on the history of Notre Dame Cathedral, **Parr** on the Irish border, or **Francis** on developments in Nicaragua.

Our four impact case studies, all of which are new since 2014, demonstrate the breadth and depth of our partnerships and collaboration. They range across our research groups, coming from Histories of Activism (**Webster**); Global and Transnational History (**Buelmann**); American Studies (**Ward**) and Conflict and Society (**Parr**). However, all members of our team engage with partners outside the academy: current beneficiaries of our research include businesses, libraries and museums, government agencies and community groups.

The 2014-20 REF cycle coincided with the centenary of the First World War. Given the expertise of researchers in our Conflict and Society research group, we have devoted substantial energy to engaging with communities interested in commemorating the war. A public lecture series organised by **McConnel** with the HLF-funded Tynemouth First World War Commemoration Project (featuring Professor Sir Hew Strachan and other high-profile speakers) led to further collaboration in the AHRC-funded project 'Dominion Geordies in the First World War'. This mobilised 'citizen historians' in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada to research the lives of the 7,000 men and women of the North East who served in Dominion armies for a free online database. A follow-up project funded by the US Embassy in London researched North East soldiers who served in the US forces in 1917–18. **Laqua's** funding from the AHRC and the Society for Educational Studies supported interconnected projects on ex-service student activism after the First World War, run in partnership with the WEA and the National Union of Students. These resulted in pop-up exhibitions, a policy workshop, presentations and performances. In 2018 **Alston, Laqua, McConnel**, and **Skelton** partnered with HM Revenue & Customs in delivering a day of WW1 centenary CPD, with sessions ranging from the challenges of peace-making to the

impact of war on the river Tyne. **Alston** collaborated with the Lit & Phil in two exhibitions showcasing books the library acquired during and after the war: the first, 'Revolutionary Books' (2017), focused on books written at the time of the Russian revolutions, and the second (2019) on the Paris Peace Conference and the League of Nations. Beyond the First World War, **Beorn** is a consultant for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, and has authored materials and facilitated workshops for the museum. The research underpinning **Beorn's** monograph formed a case study for the Reserve Officer Training Corps' Ethical Development Program. **Lawson** gave evidence to the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission in 2015 and was a member of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation Working Group on Education between 2015 and 2017; he also gave evidence to the Westminster Planning Enquiry on the proposed Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Gardens.

The development of our strength in Environmental Humanities across this cycle has led to productive partnerships focusing on the rural and built environment. **Kelly** worked with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust on its National Lottery-funded Wildwood Project, contextualising the re-creation of an ancient conifer woodland in Kielder Forest Park. He also advised the Northumberland National Park Authority on its 2019 exhibition at The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre marking 70 years of UK national parks. **Skelton's** research on historic flooding has involved partnering with the Environment Agency, United Utilities and Northumbrian Water, Newcastle and Gateshead Councils, Port of Tyne, and Cumbria County Council. Murphy has provided historical content for the HLF-funded 'Revitalising Redesdale' project, which engages audiences with the Rede Valley's cultural and environmental heritage. The Histories of Activism group hosts the digital project Mapping Radical Tyneside, established by **Hardwick**, a collaboration between the history team, local labour historians and members of the public. Alongside his Leverhulme project on Black media architecture, **West** maintains a digital mapping project showcasing key sites in Black Chicago. **Livsey** partnered with a filmmaker to document histories of decolonisation and welfare through the Pepys housing estate in London: this film was shown on the estate and as part of the 'Living with Buildings' exhibition at the Wellcome Collection in London (2018 – 2019). **Devienne** was historical advisor on a primetime documentary about coastal leisure which aired on France3 in September 2020. She also contributed an episode to Franco-German TV channel Arte's forthcoming 'History in Objects', focusing on the beach umbrella.

Our expertise has helped museums, archives and arts organisations in our region and beyond to exploit and contextualise the collections they hold. **Buelmann's** advisory role with the National Museum of Scotland supports the ongoing redevelopment of the Museum's Scotland galleries: their reconsideration of Scottish diaspora history was facilitated by funding she won from the Royal Society of Edinburgh. **O'Brien** collaborated with the Bowes Museum, which holds one of Britain's

richest collections of French art, on its 2017 exhibition 'The Allure of Napoleon' and through a collaborative doctoral studentship. **Taylor** advised Newcastle City Library on a public history project on Jewish communities in the North East. **Ward's** research was drawn on by diverse arts and community organisations in the planning for the 2017's Freedom City events. **Parr's** directorship of the board of Belfast's Etcetera Theatre Company, which encourages working class loyalist engagement in Arts programmes, is one of several partnerships he is involved with that aim to build community cohesion in Northern Ireland. **Badger** has served as the independent reviewer overseeing the release of FCO papers relating to former colonies.

Our researchers help businesses, organisations and communities to think about how their past informs present and future activity. **Webster's** expertise has been a major point of reference for the Co-op Group as it considered its future in the aftermath of the banking crisis, and he has also advised grass roots cooperatives and social enterprises. **Laqua** has enabled the NUS to engage more effectively with its history, through a joint series 'Studies in the History of Students' and the development of new content for the 'Our History' section of their website. From 2020 Laqua supervises a CDA with the NUS through the Northern Bridge Consortium. The Union of International Associations in Brussels is reflecting on its future activity through engagement with **Laqua's** edited collection exploring its history. **Buelmann's** work on diasporic communities has informed debates on citizen's rights: her brochure commissioned by the Friedrich-Ebert foundation was disseminated to politicians in Germany and the UK. **Francis's** expert advice on the on-going crisis in Nicaragua has fed into articles by leader writers for *The Guardian* and *The New Yorker*, and informed a policy statement by the Mayor of Lewisham about Lewisham's twinning with Matagalpa in Nicaragua. **Anderson** has led training sessions for diplomats on the history and politics of South Asia and its diaspora through the FCO Diplomatic Academy. He is historical advisor to the BBC Radio 4 series '£3 in my pocket', exploring the history of the South Asian diaspora in Britain, and he co-curated the exhibition 'Freedom and Fragmentation', which toured to Leeds and Lahore. Elements of the exhibition now form part of a permanent display in the Imperial War Museum.

#### **Collaboration and Contribution to the Research Base and our Discipline:**

Researchers in the Unit have also impacted on the sustainability of the discipline of History. **Alston** has been involved in national-level discussions on REF, TEF, and Open Access through her role in History UK since 2014. As President of the HA, **Badger** has worked to sustain History's position in the school curriculum while advocating for a wider public commitment to rational enquiry and evidence-based argument, at a time when the appeal of alternative facts is powerful. **Webster's** advisory role to the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) resulted in his co-authoring of the AQA-approved A level textbook *The British Empire, c 1857–1967*. Members of the Unit have taken up senior leadership roles in learned societies: **Ward** was vice-chair (2015–16) and then

chair (2016–19) of the British Association for American Studies, while **Devienne**, **Street** and **West** have all served on the BAAS Executive. **Andelic** is Chair of the US Presidential History Network. **Twomey** was a member of the Executive of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland (2013–18) and President of Women in Spanish and Portuguese Studies (2016–19). **Laqua** is Conference Secretary (and formerly International Secretary) for the Society for the Study of Labour History.

Our leadership of our subject is mediated through six academic journals edited within our unit: these include *French History* (**JWright**) and *Holocaust Studies* (**Lawson**). Colleagues also serve on 12 other editorial boards. In 2019 Kelly was appointed to the editorial board of *Past and Present*. We have co-edited book series, notably Palgrave Studies in the History of Genocide (**Lawson**), the BAAS paperbacks series (**Street**), and the Ashgate Historical Keyboard Series (**Smith**). Editors use their expertise to demystify the publication and peer review process for ECRs and PGRs, informally and through PGR training workshops. Colleagues have peer-reviewed outputs for leading national and international scholarly journals (e.g. *EHR*, *HJ*, *JBS*, *TCBH*, & *IHS*) and publishers (OUP, CUP, MUP, LUP, & Palgrave Macmillan), and have served as external examiners for PhDs in the UK (King's College London, Liverpool, Lancaster, Manchester, UEA, QUB, Sussex) and internationally (Aarhus & NUI Galway). Colleagues in our unit act as peer reviewers not only for UKRI but for research councils in Norway, Portugal, Ireland and Sweden.

The quality of our work has been recognised by awards, including the Belmont University Country Music 2018 Book of the Year Award, and the Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research from the Association of Historical Sound Recordings (**Ward**), the 2015 Saltire Society Scottish Research Book of the Year award (**Bueltmann**), the Devon Book of the Year 2015 (**Kelly**), the 2014 Florida Book Award Gold Medal and the 2014 BAAS Arthur Miller Centre First Book Prize (Knight Lozano). **Parr's** monograph was nominated for the RHS Whitfield Prize and the Ewart-Biggs Literary Prize, and was an *Irish Times* Book of the Year for 2017. **Devienne** was awarded the 2019 Doyce B Nunis Jr Award for the best demonstration of scholarship by a rising historian. Colleagues have also acted as panel members for prizes: **Kelly** is a judge on the Pol Roger/Duff Cooper Literary Prize for Poetry and Non-Fiction (five-year term from 2019).

We have hosted and organised international conferences and symposia during the current cycle. **Laqua** coordinated the annual conference of the Social History Society at Northumbria in 2014. **Street** organised the BAAS annual conference (the most important American Studies conference in Europe, with 500 delegates) in 2015. In 2016 **Twomey** was the national organiser of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland conference. In 2017 and 2019 respectively, **Devienne** and **Skelton** were members of the Programme Committee for the 5-day European

**Unit-level environment template (REF5b)**

Society of Environmental History Conference (in Zagreb, 2017, and Tallinn, 2019). Many colleagues participate in and lead international research networks: for example **Aston** established the REWomen (Researching Women of Management and Enterprise) network, a partnership between Macquarie University and Northumbria, and **Laqua** was a partner in the project 'The Transnational Dynamics of Social Reform', funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). Members of the Unit have delivered invited lectures in national and international venues, including Atlanta and Athens (Georgia), Avignon, Blacksburg (Virginia), Brussels, Copenhagen, Freiburg, Geneva, Halifax (Nova Scotia), Konstanz, Lisbon, Lubbock (Texas), Paris, Olomouc, Rouen, Semarang, Tübingen, Tbilisi, and Zurich. These contributions to organising and speaking at international events testify to the continuing global impact of our research.