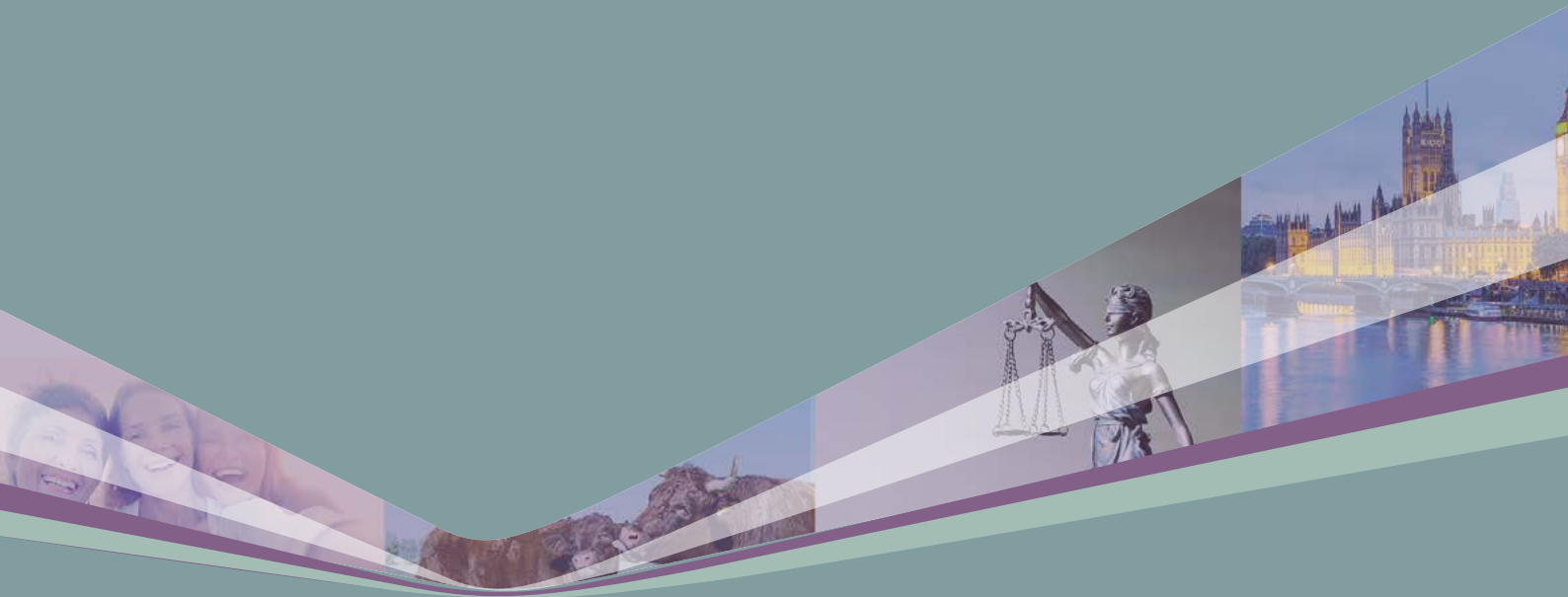


Research Report 2021/22



Contents

3	Introduction from Susan Molyneux-Hodgson	
4	Research Overview	
5	DAME	
6	RENEW	
7	Cross Disciplinary Working	
8	ADR Funding	16-17 Arab and Islamic Studies
9	Partnership and Knowledge Exchange	18-19 Education
		20-21 Law
10-11	PGR and ECR Community	22-23 Politics
12	Training	24-25 Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology
13	Exeter Research Networks	
14-15	Post Covid Research and return to 'normality'	26-27 REF 2021

Introduction Susan Molyneux-Hodgson, Associate Dean for Research, SSIS

Welcome to our second annual research overview for SSIS. Second and last, given the upcoming transition to the new Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. Taking the time to pause and reflect on the amazing research and impact conducted by SSIS colleagues is important, both to acknowledge the depth and breadth of activity through 2021-22, and as a marker of success for the exciting future we will go on to have with colleagues from more disciplines and more perspectives from 2022 onwards.

The academic year has been marked by increasing diversity, in the forms of research activity, in the funders supporting our work, and in the career-stage of colleagues whose work is being supported. More in-person research and fieldwork has been able to take place and a plethora of seminars, workshops and events has enable colleagues to meet, exchange ideas and develop exciting ways forward for their research. Initial discussions around a focus on 'latin america' within SSIS is just one area of work where the intersection with HUMS colleagues will be able to grow in the new Faculty arrangement.

Pilot projects and pump-priming of strategic activity has continued and – after a long gestation – the Digital Societies initiative launched at Reed Hall with an amazing gathering of people from across Colleges. The event was followed up with five projects supported through the ADR fund and establishment of a mailing list being hosted with ILB. Writing workshops are now planned, with the first taking place in September, to support colleagues co-develop funding applications. This area of research is set to grow in the coming years, with numerous opportunities for collaborative, and tricky, conversations between disciplines of many kinds.

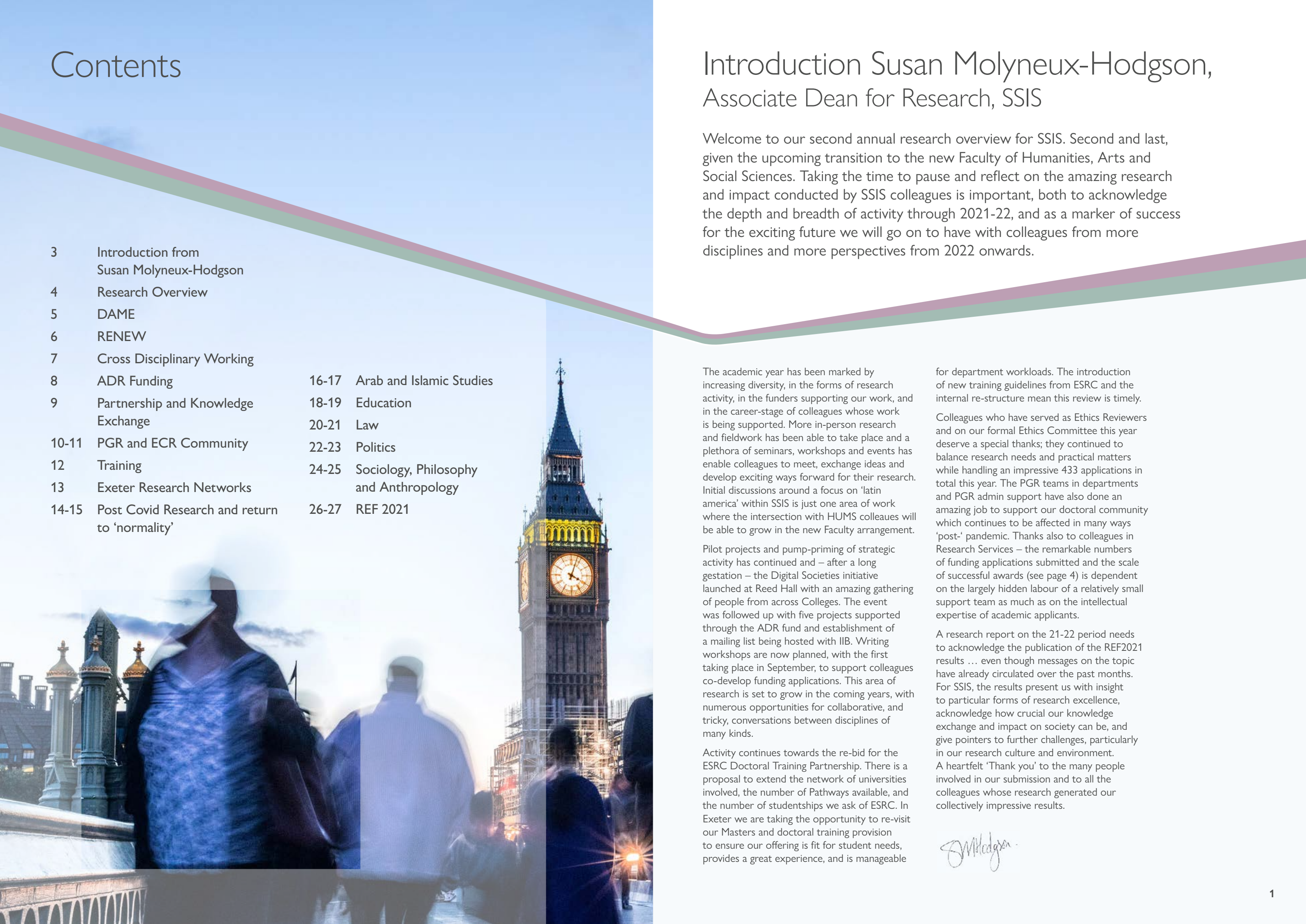
Activity continues towards the re-bid for the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership. There is a proposal to extend the network of universities involved, the number of Pathways available, and the number of studentships we ask of ESRC. In Exeter we are taking the opportunity to re-visit our Masters and doctoral training provision to ensure our offering is fit for student needs, provides a great experience, and is manageable

for department workloads. The introduction of new training guidelines from ESRC and the internal re-structure mean this review is timely.

Colleagues who have served as Ethics Reviewers and on our formal Ethics Committee this year deserve a special thanks; they continued to balance research needs and practical matters while handling an impressive 433 applications in total this year. The PGR teams in departments and PGR admin support have also done an amazing job to support our doctoral community which continues to be affected in many ways 'post-' pandemic. Thanks also to colleagues in Research Services – the remarkable numbers of funding applications submitted and the scale of successful awards (see page 4) is dependent on the largely hidden labour of a relatively small support team as much as on the intellectual expertise of academic applicants.

A research report on the 21-22 period needs to acknowledge the publication of the REF2021 results ... even though messages on the topic have already circulated over the past months. For SSIS, the results present us with insight to particular forms of research excellence, acknowledge how crucial our knowledge exchange and impact on society can be, and give pointers to further challenges, particularly in our research culture and environment. A heartfelt 'Thank you' to the many people involved in our submission and to all the colleagues whose research generated our collectively impressive results.

S Molyneux-Hodgson

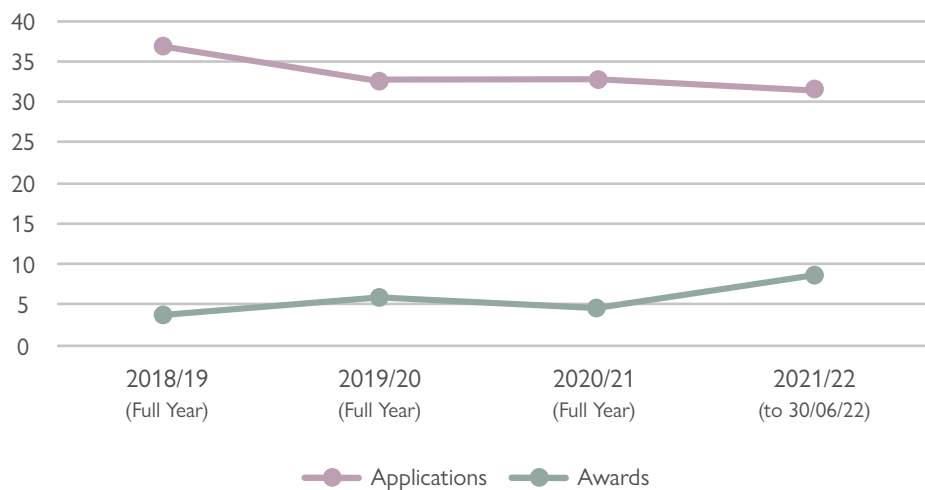


Overview

2021-22 has been a phenomenal year for research in SSIS. Across our five departments we have¹:

- Secured £9m of funding to support research projects. We had planned to win around £4.3m so this is an impressive result. More projects are subject to contract.
- Submitted applications totalling £31.7m
- Supervised 89 students to PhD completion
- Awarded 21 PhD scholarships (funded by the College, Doctoral Training Partnerships and research grants)

SSIS Applications and Awards (£m)



Some of Our Funders

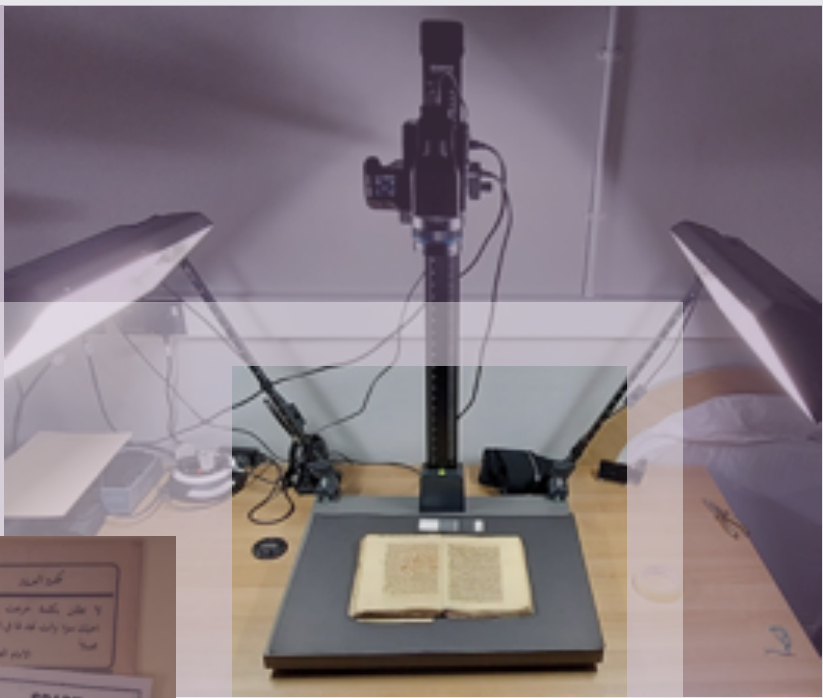


Digital Archive for the Middle East (DAME)

The £2m DAME project, led by Adam Hanieh (IAIS) and in collaboration with Tsinghua University, comprises 'creative and systematic work to increase the stock of knowledge' through the digitisation of portions of major, largely unstudied and uncatalogued archives of documentation from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region that are held at the University of Exeter.

Using digital tools to collate, catalogue and analyse these collections will open up a series of new questions with regard to the modern history of the MENA region.

The focus of the project goes beyond digitisation, exploring how digital technology and methods can both open up and respond to research questions. DAME research will be examined by a research group made up of PhD students, post-doctoral research assistants and other staff, overseen by a joint UK-China Chair. The research group intend to run a series of DAME Research Seminars and expect significant publications and other events arising from the project.



Renewing biodiversity through a people-in-nature-approach (RENEW)

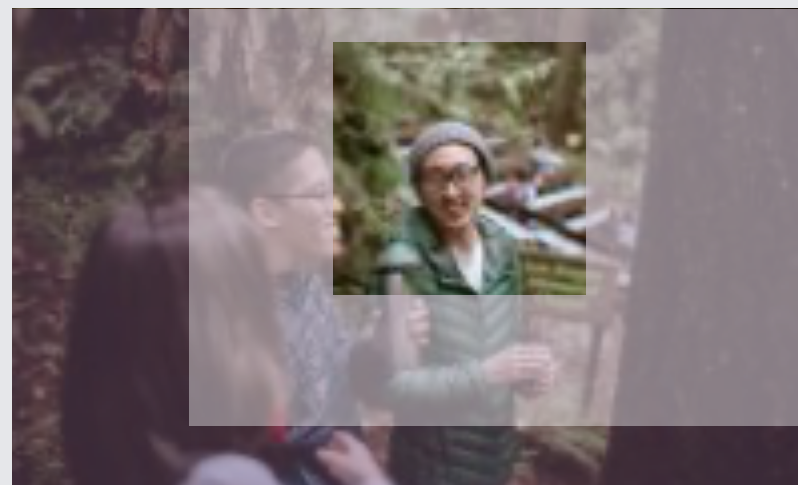
The 'Renewing biodiversity through a people-in-nature-approach' (RENEW) programme will develop solutions to one of the major environmental challenges for humankind, the renewal of biodiversity. The £10m NERC-funded project represents a major investment for SSIS in collaboration with academics from other Colleges.

A million species of plants and animals are threatened with global extinction, and wildlife populations across much of the planet have been dramatically reduced, perhaps by as much as half in recent decades. We are in a biodiversity crisis. This is of profound concern because biodiversity underpins human existence. Biodiversity provides the foundation of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life. Increasing numbers of people, organisations and governments recognise the need to reverse the perilous state of our ecological inheritance. However, while there is willingness to act, what we do not know is what will work most effectively to renew biodiversity and ensure continued delivery of its benefits.

Researchers in Politics and SPA including Catriona McKinnon (Co-Director), Angela Cassidy, Susan Molyneux-Hodgson, Oliver James, Charles Masquelier, Matt Loble, Rebecca Wheeler, and Caroline Nye are core to the project, designed to put people at the centre of action on biodiversity renewal and build expertise across different sectors and communities to address the environment and climate crisis.

RENEW will focus on several challenges, with workstreams including:

- How community support for biodiversity renewal can be harnessed
- How people who are disengaged, disadvantaged, or disconnected from nature can benefit from inclusion in solutions development
- How renewal activities can be designed and delivered by diverse sets of land-managers and interest groups
- How biodiversity renewal can most effectively be embedded into finance and business activities
- How interdisciplinary collaborative work can be creative and successful



Cross Disciplinary Working

Interdisciplinarity remains at the core of much of what we do as a College. We have seen articles from SSIS researchers appear in journals such as [Nature Climate Change](#) (Nadia Khalaf) and [Nature Human Behaviour](#) (Jason Reifler) and numerous cross disciplinary events were held throughout the year. Our Centres are also critical to this activity.

[The Digital Societies Grow House](#) launch event, held on 29th April, brought together academics from across Colleges with an interest in how digitalisation and digital technologies are profoundly influencing all aspects of societies. Five projects in Law, SPA and Politics have subsequently been awarded seed funding to develop larger scale activity, broker relationships and support potential funding applications.

Members of the [Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health](#) including Robin Durie undertook work underpinning a Lancet Commission on the Value of Death. The story of dying in the 21st century is a story of paradox. COVID-19 has meant people have died the ultimate medicalised deaths,

often alone in hospitals with little communication with their families. But in other settings, including in some lower income countries, many people remain undertreated, dying of preventable conditions and without access to basic pain relief. The unbalanced and contradictory picture of death and dying is the basis for the [Lancet Commission on the Value of Death](#). Drawing on multidisciplinary perspectives from around the globe, the Commissioners argue that death and life are bound together: without death there would be no life. The Commission proposes a new vision for death and dying, with greater community involvement alongside health and social care services, and increased bereavement support.

British Academy Fellowships

Each year, the British Academy elects to its fellowship outstanding UK-based scholars. Rebecca Probert (Law) and Susan Banducci (Politics) have each been elected as [Fellows](#) for their outstanding contribution to the humanities and social sciences.

"It's an honour and a privilege to be elected as a Fellow of the British Academy and to follow in the footsteps of such eminent family law scholars as my late friend and mentor Stephen Cretney."

Rebecca Probert

"I am delighted to be elected as a Fellow of the British Academy particularly because the BA understands the complexity of global challenges from climate change to inequalities and the importance of the humanities and social sciences in addressing these challenges. I look forward to continuing to support the work of the BA as a Fellow."

Susan Banducci

ADR Support Fund

The focus of the ADR Fund in 2021/22 has been to support the building of collaborative relationships between colleagues and supporting a shift toward a longer timeframe for planning and writing of grant proposals, especially as many calls now require significant external stakeholder involvement alongside academic coordination.

The fund has supported 31 projects across all the departments in the College, including five via the Digital Societies Grow House, totalling over £100,000, and a further four were supported via the Impact Fund. Activity undertaken has included:

- Workshops planning for an ESRC Centre bid on Global Authoritarianism
- An interdisciplinary workshop on Family, Law and Technology
- Development of the Violence, Evidence & Justice Research Network
- A Law, Testimony and Trauma symposium
- A networking event for scholars focussing on Latin America

Research Away Day

In addition to the networking events supported by the ADR fund, now that we can meet in person once again, several away days have been happening across departments in the College. It has been wonderful to see people in person, rather than on screen. We also took the opportunity to get together key College research and knowledge exchange colleagues in June, with a day of lively debate and discussion.



Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange



Partnership working is increasingly crucial to project development and dealing with critical research questions.

This year Exeter has signed [strategic partnerships](#) agreements with a number of organisations including the [National Trust](#). Within SSIS we have also formalised our relationship with Devon and Cornwall Police, a relationship that supports research in several departments and across the university.

The National Trust are partners on the RENEW project, and SSIS has a long established relationship with Devon and Cornwall Police so these are partnerships we hope to progress further.

In another exciting development we have also appointed Dr Steven Emery to a joint position between the Centre for Rural Policy Research in SPA and [Rothamsted Research](#).

Andy Jones (Impact Fellow) is now embedded in SSIS and has been talking to colleagues across the College to understand what has contributed to successful Knowledge Exchange (KE) in the past, and how we can best support KE engagement in the future. Time, Access, Support and Know-how have all been identified as challenges to delivering KE, although the specific nature of these varies depending on academic career stage.

PGR and ECR Community

Early Career Successes

Notable early career successes in 2021/22 have included a BA Postdoc award for Kumail Rajani in IAIS and Exeter securing six of the seven ESRC DTP postdoctoral fellowships awarded this year (three of those in SSIS). Congratulations to Kumail and Aimee Middlemiss (Sociology), Rachel Manning and Bethan Stagg (Education)!

Hindus or Muslims? The Syncretic Religious Identity of the Satpanthi Khojas

Kumail Rajani's project focusses on the Khojas, an ethnocultural community of people originating in the northwestern provinces of the Indian subcontinent. Up until the nineteenth century, they followed a syncretic tradition that was neither "Hindu" (due to various Islamic expressions embedded in its devotional literature) nor "Islamic" (as it operated, particularly in legal matters, according to Hindu tradition). The term Khoja was subsequently used strictly to denote their caste distinction and not their religious persuasion. Nineteenth

century colonial India, however, witnessed events that forced Khojas to self-identify with a demarcated religious identity, leaving them divided into Isma'ili, Twelver and Sunni Khojas. This project aims to a) examine the creed of the early Khojas and analyse internal and external dynamics that contributed to the reshaping of their identity and b) highlight the differences between vernacular and colonial interpretations of eclectic traditions, such as that of Khojas, by consulting hitherto unexplored Sindhi and Gujarati primary sources.

PGR Annual Conference "Political Studies in a Digital Age"

The Politics PGR Annual Conference entitled "Political Studies in a Digital Age" took place on May 25th. The conference was a great success with talks held throughout the day as well as a drinks reception to close the day. The department look forward to holding further conferences in the future following a successful conference, enjoyed by all that attended.



PGR writing retreat, Tintagel, June 2022

From 15th to 17th June fifteen ECRs attended a three-day writing retreat in Tintagel, made possible by the SSIS Director of PGR discretionary fund. Thirteen PGRs from departments across SSIS attended, with facilitation provided by three post-doctoral fellows, also from within SSIS. Attendees report:

'The group stayed at Tintagel YHA, taking over the whole hostel for two nights. You step out of the door of the hostel onto the southwest coast path and the hostel has panoramic views out over the Atlantic! The retreat provided a valuable opportunity for PGRs to get away from distractions to write, something which was facilitated by the tranquil setting and the inspiring landscape. The weather was incredibly kind, meaning that we could write in or out of doors as the mood took us, and we ate our meals together outside, watching the sunset over the sea at dinner time.

Being right on the coast path also offered the opportunity for early morning runs (for the dedicated!) or more gentle afternoon strolls when a break from writing was needed. On the last day we walked from Tintagel to Trebarwith to share a lunch at the excellent Port William pub before walking back to meet our coach. Other meals were cooked and eaten together with the evenings ending sitting round a campfire looking out over the cliffs. This social side of



the writing retreat was just as important as the writing itself, giving PGRs a chance to socialise and share experiences in a way that hasn't been possible since before the COVID-19 pandemic.'

The writing retreat was a positive experience for participants, fostering research culture and peer support networks. It is hoped that it may be possible to make a PGR writing retreat and annual event.

"The writing retreat exceeded my expectations. I was able to work productively in a great setting and able to relax with walking or cooking a meal. The writing retreat was productive in giving me time allocated to work and peer pressure to work but chance to be in an environment with other academics and get inspired."



Researcher Training



Alongside the centrally offered provision from the [researcher development](#) and [learning and development](#) teams College have been working with RS and IIB colleagues to build our training portfolio across all career stages this year. Sessions offered across the College have included:

- **Research Induction and Meet the ADR** events
- **New PI training** – support for new grantholders covering the basics of grant management and talking through the other services needed throughout the life of a grant.
- **Developing a career plan** – how to approach the crafting of a research plan. Susan (ADR) and Kevin Sales (Research Services) talked through the importance of creating a plan to support your research career development. The session was also an opportunity to hear about a range of funding opportunities and how to think about using these to shape a 5 year plan.
- **Writing a funding application** – an overview of what to think about when applying for grant funding. Katharine Tyler (Associate Professor in SPA) and Kevin Sales (Research Services) talked about how to approach writing a grant application, from choosing a funder through to developing the proposal and budget, and seeking feedback through peer review.
- **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and the Social Sciences** – Engaging external partners in collaborative research projects can be a great way to improve the impact of your work, obtain funding, develop new research material and build links. The University of Exeter is the leading institution in the Southwest for one such type of project: Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs). How to get involved with KTPs, the support available and some case studies of successful projects are provided.
- **Tenders and Frameworks for Research – The Basics** – Commercial tenders and frameworks provide a great opportunity for to engage with government bodies and commercial organisations. This was an opportunity to find out more about the nuts and bolts of the applications process, contracting and the delivery of research and consultancy through these options.

Thank you to all those who contributed and attended.

Exeter Research Networks

[Exeter Research Networks](#) have been established to enable collective research groupings to develop quickly in response to changing interdisciplinary imperatives and opportunities. The Networks are by nature interdisciplinary, with SSIS colleagues involved in many. Three have SSIS at their centre.



Policy@Exeter harnesses cutting-edge research and innovation to enable better decision making. A community of practice both within and outside the University of Exeter, P@E facilitates knowledge exchange at the interface between academia and policy.

Exeter Food – People engage with food in many different ways. Food is the substances that we consume to sustain our bodies. It is the basis of economic livelihoods for a vast number of people worldwide. The way food is produced has profound implications for our environment. And food is a means through which people communicate their identities, relationships and emotions. Coordinated by Harry West in SPA, the Exeter Food Network brings together researchers and students from across the University who study all dimensions off food, and more. Interest in food is found throughout the College and the wider university, with expertise in every college and on each campus.



Exeter Biodiversity and People – Closely linked to the RENEW project the network is made up of academics, businesses, civil society, and government bodies who share a common concern over the loss of biodiversity and the urgent need for its renewal. The vision of the network is to place biodiversity centre stage, from the boardroom to the community garden, to enable an integrated and inclusive approach to overcoming the challenges of its renewal.

Two additional networks are being supported through 2021/22 to develop proposals for the 2022/23 round that is currently open, Violence, Evidence & Justice Research Network (name TBC) and ROUTES, which focuses on migration and displacement.



Covid recovery and return to normality?

As we have moved through the pandemic, SSIS researchers have continued to assess the impact of Covid-19 on the world around us and in an increasingly interdisciplinary way.

Online lockdown outdoor science lessons boosted teachers' skills

Online outdoor science lessons run during the pandemic helped to engage children with the subject and boosted teachers' skills, analysis suggests:

FieldworkLive, a programme of live-streamed outdoor science lessons produced by the Field Studies Council and Encounter Edu during April and May 2020, was a valuable tool for learning topics and techniques, when accompanied by written instruction and student tasks. The live broadcasts helped to engage new audiences by providing an engaging and accessible introduction to relevant topics and technique, a study says.

Teachers as well as students gained access to a team of experts, through the broadcasts, the question-and-answer sessions, and guided resources. Teachers were highly positive about the live broadcasts and video-based instruction in curricular science, geography and outdoor learning. The [study](#), by Justin Dillon from GSE, Bethan Stagg from the Field Studies Council and GSE and Janine Maddison from Newcastle University, is published in the journal *Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Science Education Research*.

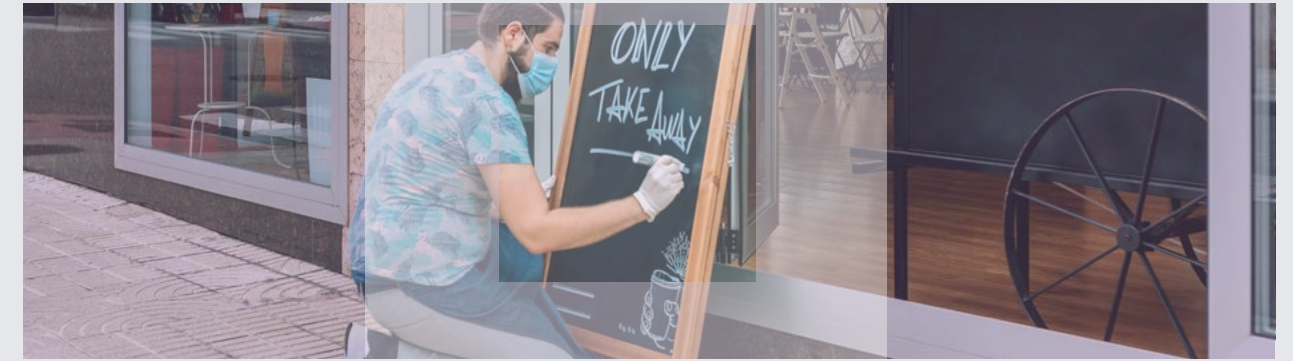
Researchers captured the experiences of approximately 377,000 teachers and students from 32 countries via an online survey and direct staff consultation. Video-based instruction was a valuable medium for learning topics and techniques, when accompanied by written instruction and student tasks. The study highlights the importance of training facilitators in the use of digital tools and approaches that increase interactivity with learners.



Pandemic left hospitality workers more vulnerable and less able to challenge

Hospitality workers felt less able to challenge and negotiate bad practice or unsafe working conditions during the coronavirus pandemic, [a new study shows](#). Workers feeling less financially secure, particularly those on zero-hour contracts, said they couldn't raise concerns about health and safety with their bosses.

Workers who took part in the research described how they were expected to enforce a range of frequently changing Covid-19 regulations, whilst protecting and distancing themselves. This sometimes led to aggressive confrontations from customers who disagreed with rules or refused to comply. This was a particular challenge when venues were especially busy and maintaining a safe distance from customers or other staff was described as impossible.



The study shows the pandemic put a strain on work relationships, particularly between workers and management. Workers built better mutual support networks during this period, with some realising the importance of trade unions and workplace organising for the first time.

Project lead, Dr Charlotte Jones, (SPA and WCCEH), said: "Participants experienced significant mental health consequences due to the pandemic and higher workloads: anxiety about transmission; stress from work precarity and intensification, and from public health responsibility.

"Some participants no longer found work fulfilling or manageable. Their physical health was often affected, and many reported extra unpaid labour at home due to Covid-19 precautions. They missed casual interactions with the public, which had been a major source of job satisfaction for some people in hospitality, pre-pandemic.

Fact checks on COVID-19 misperceptions are effective initially but do not stick over time

As the COVID-19 global epidemic persists, misinformation continues to circulate widely. Journalists and public health officials continue to struggle to debunk these false and misleading claims, an especially challenging task in the U.S. where COVID-19 has become a highly polarizing issue. Are these efforts successful?

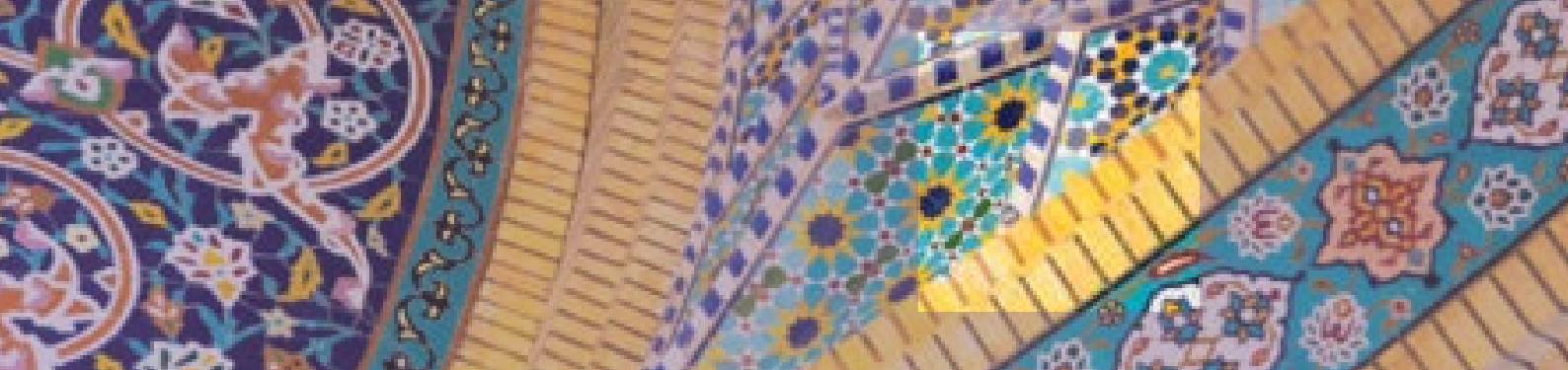
According to a new study published in [Nature Human Behaviour](#), fact checks can successfully reduce misperceptions about COVID-19 immediately after people read them but do not have lasting effects over time.

During the study, respondents from the U.S., Great Britain and Canada were asked to rate the perceived accuracy of four claims on COVID-19 that have been debunked by scientific and public health authorities: that the Chinese government created the coronavirus as a bioweapon; that a group funded by Bill Gates patented the coronavirus; that antibiotics are effective in preventing and treating COVID-19; and that the medication hydroxychloroquine is proven to cure or prevent COVID-19.

The research team then compared belief in the claims between respondents who were shown the fact checks and those who weren't. Regardless of when the surveys were administered, the results were the same: misperceptions about COVID-19 immediately decreased in all three countries immediately after the fact check was shown to them. Moreover, "the fact checks were most effective among people who are more vulnerable to misperceptions of COVID-19 at baseline," says Nyhan, including supporters of conservative leaders, those with high conspiracy predispositions, and those with low trust in health institutions.

However, these effects did not persist over time in follow-up surveys conducted in the U.S. and Great Britain.

"By comparing U.S. data on the effects of COVID-19 fact checks to that of Great Britain and Canada, we found that our results are parallel across all three countries, which suggests that the effects are not an artifact of polarization over COVID-19 in the U.S.," says co-author [Jason Reifler](#) (Politics).



Institutue of Arab and Islamic Studies (IAIS)

Exhibitions at The Street Gallery, IAIS

The Street Gallery is part of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies and exhibits material culture and art with relevance to its academic interests, namely the Arab World, Middle East and Islam. Exhibitions this year have included 'The Benefits of Empire? 98 Euro Colonial Images of Africa' which ran from October 2021 – April 2022.

The role of European empires and colonialism in Africa has again become a focal point of discussion, following recent events. It has been

implied that this was in some way beneficial, which it was not. The exhibition presented 98 photographs, mostly taken as snapshots by European photographers, which document views of European lives in Africa, and how they perceived Africa, Africans, and African wildlife, as well as European colonial perceptions of their contributions to the continent, and the mechanisms used to dominate the peoples, environments, and wildlife of Africa.



The Portrait of Abū l-Qāsim al-Baghdādī al-Tamīmī

Written by Abū l-Muḥammad al-Azdī

Translated, and Annotated by Emily Selove and Geert Jan van Gelder

Published by E J W Gibb Memorial Trust (2021)

Hikayat Abi l-Qasim al-Baghdadi (The Portrait of Abu l-Qasim al-Baghdadi) is an 11th-century Arabic work by Abu l-Mutahhar Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Azdi which tells the story of a Baghdadi party-crasher crashing a party in Isfahan. It is introduced by its author as a microcosm of Baghdad. This work, written in prose but containing numerous poems, is widely hailed among scholars as a narrative unique in the history of Arabic literature, but The Portrait also reflects a much larger tradition of banquet texts, from "Trimalchio's Dinner Party" and Plato's Symposium to the works of Rabelais. It also paints a portrait of a party-crasher who is at once a holy man and a rogue, a figure familiar among scholars of the ancient Cynic tradition or other portrayals of wise fools, tricksters, and saints from literatures around the Mediterranean and beyond. While some early scholars of The Portrait dismissed it as disgusting and obscene, this work, with its wealth of material-cultural, philosophical, spiritual, and literary treasures, is much more than just a "dirty book". Following an introduction, which offers new insights into the relationship of the work to both its Greek predecessors and to its European descendants, the volume presents a new, improved edition of the Arabic text, together with a richly annotated translation, that aims at being both scholarly and readable, reflecting the often racy style of the Arabic. This makes it not only useful to specialists and students of medieval Arabic literature, but also accessible to a much wider general readership of those interested in comparative literature or "world literature". There are extensive indexes of names, places, subjects, and rhymes.

British Academy / Wolfson Professorship Awarded for Pioneering Research

Huge congratulations to Rob Gleave who has been announced as one of the five [British Academy / Wolfson Research Professorships](#) awarded this year to enable some of the UK's most outstanding SHAPE (Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy) scholars to immerse themselves in research.

His project, 'The Foundations of Modern Shi'ism: The End of Akhbārism and the Beginnings of Uṣūlism' provides the first comprehensive account of modern Shi'ism's foundational intellectual moment: Uṣūlism's victory over Akhbārism. Through a detailed analysis of Arabic and Persian sources (many still in manuscript), Rob will describe how, in the late 18th and early 19th century, a doctrinal revolution occurred amongst Twelver Shi'ite Muslim scholars. The "Akhbārī" scholars - for whom the scholar's task was simply to transmit revelation's religio-legal content - lost their position of dominance to "Uṣūlī" scholars. The Uṣūlīs argued that qualified jurists (mujtahids) had an interpretative prerogative - the mujtahid's opinion of the laws revealed by God (Sharī'a) was, for Uṣūlīs, authoritative, requiring unquestioning obedience from the ordinary believers. The Uṣūlī victory meant that religious-legal authority now lay firmly in the juristic/scholarly elite (fuqahā'), and this has been maintained until today - the opinions of the Shi'ite "Grand Ayatallahs" (the so-called "Sources of Emulation") are generally considered binding for Shi'ite believers.

exeter.ac.uk/iais/research



Graduate School of Education (GSE)

MULTIWRITE

Phil Durrant is collaborating with researchers from the universities of Oslo, Agder, and Bergen on the MULTIWRITE project, funded by the Research Council of Norway. This project aims to understand how the different languages in which children write develop and interact with each other, how teacher feedback influences this process, and how teachers of different languages can work together to improve instruction. The researchers will collect samples of writing from 90 upper secondary school pupils in their first (Norwegian), second (English) and third (French/German/Spanish) languages across the length of a school year. They will investigate both how each language develops over time and how the three languages influence each other. They will also investigate teachers' feedback practices in the three languages and the ways in which this feedback influences children's linguistic development. Working together with teachers from several upper secondary schools, the team will use their findings to develop a model of how teachers of different languages might collaborate to achieve more effective writing instruction."

Evaluating the Silver Stories programme

Funded by the ESRC IAA, George Koutsouris, Brahm Norwich and Tricia Nash are undertaking a pilot trial of the Silver Stories programme which involves school age children reading to older people in the community. For children, the programme is a way of enhancing their interest in reading, social skills, and confidence. For schools, it has the potential for promoting social and emotional learning. In collaboration with the Silver Stories charity, we conducted an ESRC Impact Accelerator funded pilot project, over two school terms (May-July 2021 and October-December 2021). Five schools in Southwest England and Wales, 52 readers (Years 2-5), and 47 listeners were involved in the study. Silver Readers and Silver Listeners were recruited through the charity that provided support to schools. The main finding was that participants experienced the programme as an opportunity for relationship-building between generations and as mutual volunteering: students felt that they were able to support older people with loneliness and isolation, and older people that they were helping students develop their reading. The pilot also indicated that school priorities might have shifted due to Covid-19 from academic attainment to a focus on social and emotional support.

Teaching narrative writing with digital resources and apps

Clare Dowdall and Judith Kleine Staarman have been awarded a British Academy/ Leverhulme Small Research Grant to investigate the potential for digital resources and apps to promote children's narrative writing and contribute to children's engagement and enjoyment within a targeted unit of work, where the outcome is a written narrative that aligns with National Curriculum expectations for competence in transcription and composition. National school data indicates significant gaps between girls' and boys' attainment in writing and marked under-attainment for those labelled 'disadvantaged'. The most recent National Literacy Trust Survey records the lowest ever level of writing enjoyment amongst all learners, but particularly amongst boys with low socio-economic status. Using survey data and three participatory

'telling case' studies, this research will investigate how digital resources and apps can support the narrative writing process and promote enjoyment and engagement amongst all pupils, within national accountability measures. Based on this, recommendations for writing pedagogy involving digital resources and apps will be made.

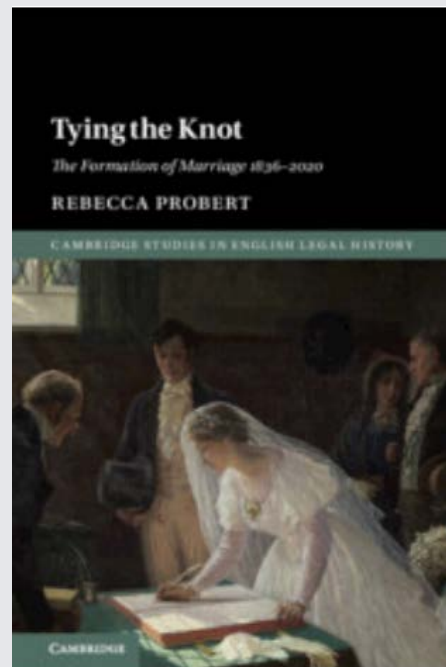
We will investigate how digital resources are used by three teachers, to develop children's narrative writing. Working collaboratively with teachers, we aim to identify and share best practice, and develop pedagogy for writing that involves digital resources. We also seek to investigate how the introduction of digital resources into units of work that align with the National Curriculum Programmes of Study (PoS) for writing contributes to children's engagement with, and enjoyment of, narrative writing.



exeter.ac.uk/education/research



Law School



Getting married: the roots of the modern law

In September 2021 Professor Rebecca Probert's new monograph, [Tying the Knot: The Formation of Marriage 1836-2020](#), was published by Cambridge University Press. She examines the roots of the modern law of marriage in the Marriage Act 1836 and how the law has evolved over time, providing the first detailed examination of marriage legislation, social practice, and their mutual interplay, from the early nineteenth century through to the unanticipated demands of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

exeter.ac.uk/law/research

Supporting European Commission's consumer and data protection policy development

Joasia Luzak has been part of another successful tender bid with the European Commission. In the coming 18 months she will act as the European consumer law and data protection expert in the "Study to support the Commission's policy development on promoting repair of consumer goods and contracts in the data economy". The study focuses on two priority areas of European consumer policy at the moment: ensuring sustainable consumption and minimising further risks that digitalisation of the society brings to our data. The study is led by Kantar Public consultancy company.

Legal resilience and hybrid threats

Aurel Sari has continued his work on legal resilience and the legal challenges posed by hybrid threats. In November, his report on [Hybrid threats and the law: Building legal resilience](#) was published by the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats. The report was formally launched at a [conference](#) in Helsinki, where Aurel gave the keynote speech. He also spoke on the subject at NATO HQ, the EU's Horizontal Working Party for Enhancing Resilience and Countering

Hybrid Threats (at the invitation of the Slovenian Council Presidency), the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg, the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the UK Defence Academy and the RAF Legal Branch. Separately, he briefed the Royal Navy Legal Branch on the Enrica Lexie case and contributed to a panel on the status of military uniforms at a conference convened by the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War.

Investigating expectations and equality around the 'Clawback' of pensions

Dr James Kolaczowski and Dr David Barrett have received funding from the Midland Clawback Campaign to investigate State Pension Integration, also known as 'Clawback' or 'State Deduction' that can result in the reduction of an occupational pension to take account of the state pension. Discretion as to how it is applied may mean that women and lower paid workers are disproportionately impacted. Interviews with members of the HSBC Bank (UK) Pension Scheme that were previously employed by the Midland Bank will be used as a case study, it is reported that 52,000 members of this scheme may be affected by Clawback.





Politics

Learning from peers: Creating a fairer working environment for MPs with disabilities in the House of Commons

In September 2021 Ekaterina Kolpinskaya was awarded a POST Parliamentary Academic Fellowship with the Office for Procedural Excellence. Despite increasing gender and ethnic diversity among MPs, there has been less progress for other under-represented groups, including people with disabilities. This project will identify which practices hinder and enable disabled parliamentarians in both Houses and examine which of them are present in the Lords but not in the Commons – and vice versa. The project will then explore what practices and how can be integrated into the work of the House of Commons and the UK Parliament at large.

Advancing Capacity for Climate and Environment Social Science (ACCESS)

Colleagues from Politics including Alice Mosely, Travis Coan, Nick Kirsop-Taylor and Clare Saunders are Co-Is on the Advancing Capacity for Climate and Environment Social Science (ACCESS) programme. The £4m, 5 year, ESRC funded project aims to provide leadership on the social science contribution to tackling and solving a range of environmental problems. ACCESS will provide insights to find fresh thinking and new solutions to support the transition to a sustainable and biodiverse environment and a net zero society.

Countering Russian Illicit Finance and Serious Organised Crime

Funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office this project proposes an innovative approach to understanding ‘organised criminal corruption’ in the context of Russia. It will develop a new conceptual framework to improve understanding of Russian Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) and Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) and will sharpen policy responses. The team, led by Cat Owen, will use existing and new evidence from a series of case studies to explain how networks of Russian state actors (politicians, officials, law enforcement) and non-state actors (business people and criminals) interact and how they impact on Russia’s foreign and security policy. The project is part of the Serious Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Evidence (SOC ACE) Research Programme, led by Prof Heather Marquette at the University of Birmingham.

Choose your collaborators wisely: Addressing interdependent tasks through collaboration in responding to wildfire disasters

Responding to disastrous wildfires traversing geographical scales requires multi-actor collaboration to address a series of interdependent operational tasks. While this type of distributed collective action problem is salient across governance contexts, less is known about if and how collaboration helps individual actors effectively address their tasks. Applying a novel network-centric method to wildfire responder networks in Canada and Sweden, this study by a group including Lorian Jasny, shows

that when actors working on the same tasks collaborate, and/or when one actor addresses two interdependent tasks, effectiveness increases. The number of collaborative ties an actor has with others does not enhance effectiveness. Furthermore, when the chain of command is unclear, and/or when actors lack recent disaster management experience and/or pre-existing collaborative relationships, effectiveness only increases if multiple actors collaborate over multiple interdependent tasks. The results have implications for disaster response agencies, and they provide valuable insights for collaborative responses to significant societal and environmental challenges.



exeter.ac.uk/politics/research



Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology



Kinship, Islam, and the Politics of Marriage in Jordan

Written by
Geoffrey F. Hughes.
Published by Indiana University Press (2021)

In Kinship, Islam, and the Politics of Marriage in Jordan, Geoff Hughes sets out to trace the “marriage crisis” in Jordan and the Middle East. Rapid institutional, technological, and intellectual shifts in Jordan have challenged the traditional notions of marriage and the role of powerful patrilineal kin groups in society by promoting an alternative ideal of romantic love between husband and wife.

Drawing on many years of fieldwork in rural Jordan, the book provides a firsthand look at how expectations around marriage are changing for young people, even as they are still expected to raise money for housing, bridewealth, and a wedding.

Kinship, Islam, and the Politics of Marriage in Jordan offers an intriguing look at the contrasts between the traditional values and social practices of rural Jordanians around marriage and the challenges and expectations of young people as their families negotiate the concept of kinship as part of the future of politics, family dynamics, and religious devotion

Identity and Wellbeing in Older Skateboarders

Written by Paul O'Connor.
Published by Routledge (2021)

O'Connor describes how mid-life circumstances impact the motivations for skateboarders. He addresses how these skaters viewed their participation beyond the instrumental value of maintaining physical well-being, instead, they engaged primarily for social and emotional benefits. His findings point to the significance that skateboarding provided for emotional wellbeing, providing joy, community, and a spiritual outlet



European Society of Criminology Early Career Prize

Congratulations to Abi Dymond who has been awarded the inaugural Early Career Prize by the Policing Working Group of the European Society of Criminology. The Panel commented that Abi's “Taser Taser ...” paper, published in Policing and Society: ‘contributes to the broader debate about police use of force and discriminatory practice, important issues at all times but particularly in today's climate.... (and provides) a sophisticated synthesis of findings and theory (and) clear scope to enable development of policy discussions’.

Falling Walls Winner 2021

Congratulations to Sabina Leonelli who was selected as one of ten winners in the Social Sciences and Humanities category. The outstanding quality and relevance of Sabina's research impressed the international Falling Walls Jury. The symposium on Breakthroughs in Social Sciences and Humanities and The Falling Walls Conference was held in Berlin in November 2021. Sabina has also been selected as the 2022 recipient of the American Philosophical Society's Patrick Suppes Prize in Philosophy of Science in recognition of Sabina's book Data Centric Biology.



exeter.ac.uk/sociology/research



Research Excellence Framework 2021

2022 saw the publication of the long-awaited REF 2021 results, which have confirmed the strength of the research produced across the College. SSIS submitted 538 research outputs and 21 impact case studies for assessment, and over the course of the seven year REF period awarded 630 PhDs and brought in £40m of grant income.

Across our departments:

- We are 17th in the UK for our world-leading Law research²
 - We are in the Top 10 in the UK for our world-leading Politics and International Studies research²
- We are 19th in the UK for our world-leading Sociology research²
 - 82% of our Education research is internationally excellent²
 - Our Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies research is No2 in the UK for world-leading research³



As with all good things in SSIS the results were celebrated with cake.

Our impact case studies scored well, with 95% of our impact deemed internationally excellent, demonstrating the difference our research makes in the world. 100% of the case studies submitted to UoA 25 (Area Studies) were rated 4*. Our full list ... !

UoA 18 – Law
Improving global cybersecurity: the implementation of the Tallinn Manual 2.0 on the International Law applicable to Cyber Operations
No fault now: Achieving historic reform of the divorce law in England & Wales
Putting the United Nation’s Guiding Principles into practice: National Action Plans on business and human rights
Re-shaping family mediation policy and professional practice after radical legal aid changes, to improve user experience
Reshaping insurance law in England & Wales and New Zealand
UoA 19 – Politics and International Studies
Anarchist constitutions: changing organisations and shaping radical social movements with research on anarchist constitutionalising
Shaping Policy Debates and Improving Western Policy Responses to a Resurgent Russia
Shaping Policy Learning on Regulatory Reforms: Co-Creating the World Bank’s Global Regulatory Impact Assessment Awards
Shaping the global response to the transnational repression of political exiles
The UN and the Middle East Peace Process: shaping interventions to support progress in the peace negotiations
UoA 21 – Sociology
Building resilience within the UK farming community
Enhancing the prevention of torture and misuse of ‘less lethal’ weapons in places of detention
Shaping guidance, training and transparency around police use of force in the UK and internationally
The Openness Agenda: Re-Shaping the Governance of Science, Digital Technologies and Research Infrastructure in Europe
UoA 23 – Education
Adapting and developing Lesson Study to improve the teaching of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities.
Changing professional understanding and pedagogical practice in the teaching of writing
Improving social mobility through evidence-informed practice and policy in Higher Education
Religious Education in Schools: Changing Conceptions of Curriculum Design, and Improving Policies and Practices
UoA 25 – Area Studies
Assisting the survival of endangered communities and cultures: Yezidis and Mandaeans
Reshaping legal investigations and proceedings involving Islam-related violence
The Wake of Islamic State: Shaping UK Foreign and Military Policy in Iraq

Further Information

The University Research Toolkit can be found [here](#) and information about many of the projects featured in this report, along with other can be found on the University's [Research and Innovation](#) pages.

For College information please look at the [SharePoint site](#).

Funder Guidance

Links to applicant guidance from some major funders are below. Please be aware individual schemes will have different and specific rules and guidance.

[British Academy](#)

[Leverhulme Trust](#)

[European Research Council](#)

[Nuffield](#)

[Horizon Europe](#)



College of Social Sciences
and International Studies

exeter.ac.uk/socialsciences