

# School of Advanced Study Metrics

Report for the Research England Advisory Group 2020-21

# School of Advanced Study 2020-21 Metrics Report

Focus on Research Promotion & Facilitation activities

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# **Executive Summary**

This report provides evidence of the School's performance between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and supplements the 2021 Annual Review. It focuses particularly on Research Promotion and Facilitation activities, with some contextual information on research grant capture and other key financial indicators, in support of the longer term sustainability of the School's mission. Other metrics on Teaching and Research activities can be supplied on demand.

2020-21 was a transitional year for the School as it prepared for its new Strategic Plan, which was launched in October 2021. While comparative information from 2019-20 has been provided, it should be noted that the pandemic, which started in March 2020, continues to impact on the School's activities, albeit having differently results than those reported in 2019-20.

The School commenced the 2020-21 academic year with a hybrid programme of activity with 99% of the School programme of activities held online. This made the school's activities more accessible to researchers around the world. One example of this is the School events programme which has attracted well over 100k people from across the globe.

The delivery of the School research training programme, in support the next generation of humanities researchers established cross-disciplinary training sessions, shows a similar

growth with almost 9k participants and over 723k record views of the research training platform.

Many of the School's activities continued to be collaborative, from research to events partnerships, from bilateral agreements to development of academic exchanges including digital partnerships across all sectors supporting the School's vision on knowledge exchange and its mission towards public engagement.

Our fellowship community continued to be strong with a very steady number of fellows (over 900), from visiting fellows to associated fellows. All make use of the school's facilities and make a substantial contribution to the RPF mission.

The School continued to support around 200 digital - online platforms or web presences; the data supports a steady increase in usage. A quarter of these platforms have been created in partnership and/or as a result of externally funded projects.

Library usage has been affected as a result of the lack of access to the building during lockdown. Our efforts to re-open when permitted to do so were much appreciated by library users as noted in the satisfaction surveys. Efforts were focused on making some resources digital where possible allowing humanities researchers to have access to our resources when these were physically unavailable.

With the re-launch of the UOL Press (the Press), the School is able to disseminate distinctive scholarship at the forefront of the humanities. The School publishes c.25 books per year and several OA journals, and maintains a backlist of over 1,000 titles available in a range of digital and print formats.

The School needs to have a financially sustainable base. To that end, the School has focused on reducing its cost base, focused efforts on securing external funding including research funding. While the impact of the pandemic continued to be felt across the School's income generating activities, some noticeable return to normal can be noted as demonstrated by the increase in research funding awarded and academic fees secured in 2020-21.

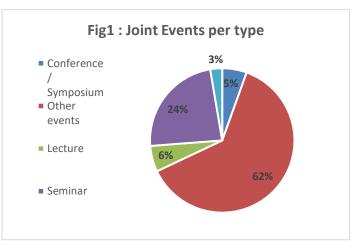
# **Events Programme**

The total **number of events** increased by 13% from 1,519 in 2019-20 to 1,711 in 2020-21.

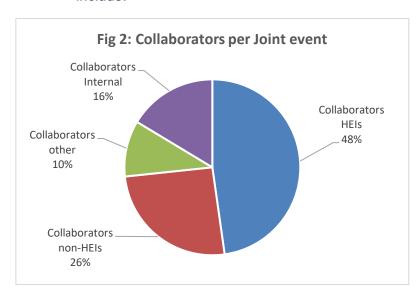
Seminars continued to be the largest component of the events portfolio. The number of workshops has reduced by 36% (from 88 recorded in 2019-20). The number of lectures and conferences has increased by 45% and 30% respectively (from 65 and 64 in 2019-20). The number of **other** events (which include exhibitions, book launches, readings, open discussions, as well as all activities undertaken as part of the Being Human Festival) decreased by 10% (from 521 in 2019-20 to 467 in 2020-21).

Table 1- Number of Events per Type					
Seminars	1011				
Lectures	94				
Conferences	83				
Workshops	56				
Other events	467				
Total 1,711					
Joint Events 637					

The **number of joint events** continued to be over 600. Such collaborations represent 37% of the School's events programme (compared to 45% in 2019-20). **The number of collaborators per joint event** from the HE sector continued to be higher than the number of collaborators from other sectors, covering nearly half of the joint events (17% of which were with members of the University of London Federation). The number of collaborators was predominantly from the UK, with 11% from overseas (including Europe).



Joint events were also the results of cross-institute collaboration. Examples of joint events include:



- The History of Libraries Seminar Series was organised by the Warburg Institute and the Institutes of Historical Research and English Studies, and attracted over 100 participants per seminar.
- The Being Human Festival recorded over 300 partners across all sectors<sup>1</sup>:
- The conference Decolonising Modern Languages: A Symposium for Sharing Practices and Ideas, organised by the Institute of Modern Languages Research in collaboration

with the University of Birmingham in Sept 2020 with over 20 speakers and registered over 500 attendees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Being Human Festival Evaluation Report

the Exhibition Aby Warburg: Bilderatlas Mnemosyne, curated by Roberto Ohrt and Axel Heil in cooperation with the Warburg Institute was held in Berlin, accompanied by a conference and a publication:
<a href="https://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2020/aby\_warburg/bilderatlas\_mnemosyne\_start.php">https://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2020/aby\_warburg/bilderatlas\_mnemosyne\_start.php</a>. This collaboration contributed to the School's Knowledge Exchange efforts, working with Haus der Kulturen der Welt, which embodies new forms of encounter and opens up experiential spaces between art and discourse.



Aby Warburg: Bilderatlas Mnemosyne | Exhibition view | © Silke Briel / HKW

Most events collaborations were part of our *research partnerships* (58%), while 36% were as a result of working with *businesses or the public/third sector*, and 5% as focusing on *skills*, *enterprise and entrepreneurship*, supporting the School's strategy on Knowledge Exchange.<sup>2</sup> For example:

- The Curatorial Conversations Series organized by the Warburg Institute. The Institute worked with the National Gallery, the V&A Museum, the Musei Capitolini of Rome, of the National Museums Scotland. (KE: skills, enterprise and entrepreneurship)
- The 11 Lectures organized by the Institute of English Studies in collaboration with the Bibliographical Society (KE: research Partnerships)

Reflecting on this year's programme, 39% (compared to 40% in the previous year) of the School's events were **interdisciplinary** (663). 68% of the School's events (same percentage as in the previous years) demonstrated **engagement with the public** (including active engagement). The types of engagement provided are multi-faceted, including outreach, participatory arts, community engagement and engagement with partners. In addition to the data arising from the School's Flagship Humanities Festival *Being Human*, other examples included:

• The conference *Documenting the Olympics and Paralympics*, run by the British Society for Sports History in conjunction with the British Library, the International

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Knowledge Exchange Concordat definitions.

Centre for Sports History and Culture at De Montfort University, as part of the CLEOPATRA project, the EU-funded International Network, which the School is one of the 9 official partners. The event held in July 2021, recorded over 100 participants. One of the School's researchers on this project, Ciao Mello, took part on the GLAM Sector panel as part of the broad discussion on physical, digitised and born-digital resources relating to the Olympics and Paralympics, and how these collections have been used by researchers.

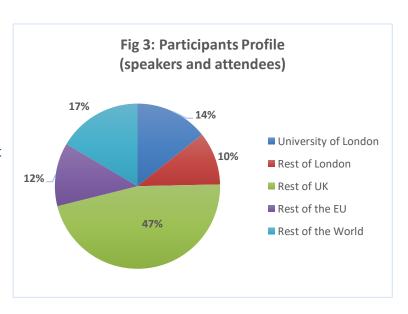
 The IMLR's Languages and the Pandemic: Public Health Engagement with Multilingual Communities in the UK, part of the Open for Discussion series brought speakers across the UK and industries such as Li Wei (UCL), Emma Whitby (Chief Executive of Healthwatch Islington), Yaron Matras (Manchester), Claudia Lopez-Prieto (Citizens UK), Carolina Camelo (Coalition of Latin Americans in the UK) and Soledad Montanez (Manchester / IMLR) and was attended by over 140 people.

The School adapted to the circumstances around the various lockdowns and held 99% of its events online, including exhibitions. This has had the opposite effect than observed in the previous report, as the School opened its programme to a much wider audience than everthought possible. While the **events footfall** as such presents very high figures, its national and international reach has also improved substantially. Events attendance is showing an average of 75 people per event (140 per conference, 100 per lecture and workshop, 60 per seminar...).

Table 2: Number of Speakers in 2020-21				
Conference / Symposium	1,092			
Other events	351			
Lecture	158			
Seminar	1,641			
Workshop	322			
Total	3,564			

Table 3: Number of Attendees in 2020-21				
Conference / Symposium	9,888			
Other events	42,006			
Lecture	9,642			
Seminar	40,060			
Workshop	5,403			
Total	106,999			

While many of our attendees logged in from the convenience of their own home, researchers from all over the world used the opportunity to take part in the School's events through presentation of their own research to a wider audience, an appealing opportunity for all researchers at all stages. For example: Refugee Law Initiative organised its 5th Annual Conference: 'Ageing Gracefully? The 1951 Refugee Convention at 70'. Across the three half-days of the conference<sup>3</sup>, a fantastic range of current research was presented across a total of 18 panel slots.



<sup>3</sup>https://rli.sas.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/5th%20Refugee%20Law%20Initiative%20Conference%20Programme 2021 FINALISED.pdf

Around 90 speakers presented their research including: Professor James C. Hathaway (James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor of Law, University of Michigan, USA), Professor Fatima Khan (Director of the Refugee Rights Unit, Dr Alice Edwards (Convention Against Torture Initiative, Switzerland) and many more.

A further demonstration can be seen through the events organised as part of the **Open for** 

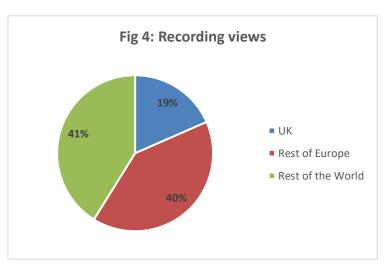


Discussion Series which started in 2020-21 and led by the Vice-Dean, Professor Clare Lees. Another example is the workshop<sup>4</sup> organised by the IMLR's Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS). Chaired by its director, Dr Ainhoa Montoya, an associate fellow of CLAS and Manoela Carpenedo, CLACS Stipendiary Postdoctoral Fellow and

successful MSCA applicant and the research services teamed to discuss the new 2021 Marie-Curie Action Postdoctoral Fellowship call and explain how the School operated the call and the support it would provide to all prospective applicants and fellows, if successful. (c100 attendees were recorded, most from Central America and Europe).

Attendance of events should also be appreciated in terms of record views of the events

footage made available online. The Being Human Festival saw an additional 12,904 people watching recordings of events that had taken place, 3,645 items of digital content were also consumed (watched or listened to) during this period, comprising content produced for the festival such as podcasts, animations and films. In May 2021, a further 40,624 event recordings had been watched since the festival ended plus a further 5,460 digital content recordings.<sup>5</sup> In total, more than 66k events have been watched live or recorded since the start of Being Human 2020. In total,



over 470k views of the School's recordings/podcasts/videos were logged. Similar to the actual event attendance, these figures are very high but are demonstrative of the reach of the School's events programme.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship Workshop for Latin Americanists https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24456

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Being Human Festival Evaluation Report

# Research training provision and delivery

The School **research training programme** proposes various types of events, from classic

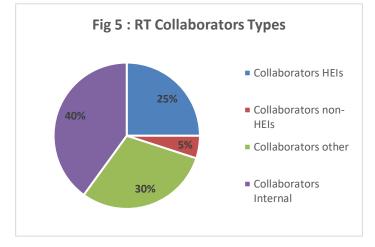
training sessions to short courses or summer schools. Training this year has been provided mainly online. Events which could not be held in 2019-20, such as the summer schools, were attempted in a hybrid format during this year. Short courses, which were all held online, increased by almost 50% compared with the number run in 2019-20.

Table 4: Number of RT Events				
Research Training events	135			
Short Courses	30			
Summer Schools	8			
Total	173			

60% of the School's research training programme was disciplinary, 38% included some public engagement activities and 66% were free of charge. 12 events were organised in

collaboration with a variety of external partners as well as co-organised across institutes. The School programme included such events as:

The ICS Sunoikisis Digital Classics:
Publishing 3D models and intellectual property Research Training, held in March 2021, in collaboration with the Digital Humanities Hub and Sunoikisis DC (An International Consortium of Digital Classics Programs) (part of a series of 4 events in total). While attendance at this series could not be



collected, over 1k event views were recorded.

- Centrally organised events such as 'Using Social Media', or 'Getting Research Published, to sessions on 'Academic Practice and ethics' recorded an average of 70 attendees per session.
- The IALS 2021 Library roadshows, 9 in total, aimed to provide postgraduate researchers and lecturers across the country with the opportunity to learn more about the national role of the Institute and to discover the range of library resources, collections, expertise and training available to them. These events focused on various cities across the country, from Aberdeen to Nottingham, from Cardiff to Liverpool.
- The IES London Rare Books Summer School, was held over 3 weeks and recorded an attendance of over 180 people in total.
- The Research Training Session on *Text Encoding for Ancient and Modern Literature, Languages and History,* which attracted 66 people, was co-organised between the Institutes of Classical and English Studies and the Institute of Historical Research.
- The Being Human Festival Masterclasses, primarily aimed at BHF organisers, as well as those interested in public engagement in the humanities more broadly. Throughout the year, events were organised to discuss the opportunities and challenges of conducting public engagement with research and how to deliver entertaining experiences in ways that appeal to intended audiences.

The School's research training programme has always traditionally been accessed by a

largely UK Humanities and Social Sciences researcher audience but became attractive to overseas researchers due to its accessible online format. **Research Training footfall** as such increased by 72% from 5,171 recorded in 2019-20 to 8,895 in 2020-21. Attendance from across the UK was 6 times higher than in 2019-20 (from 385 to 2,443). The same increase has been noted for all overseas attendees (EU from 114 in 2019-20 to 663, and RoW from 144 in 2019-20 to 898).

Table 5 – Research Training Footfall					
Origin	Speakers	Attendees			
UoL	184	3,758			
London	27	862			
Rest of the UK	43	2,443			
Rest of the EU	10	663			
Rest of the World	7	898			
Total	271	3,758			

**Research Training platforms,** mainly PORT (Postgraduate Online Research Training for postgraduate studies in the Humanities) recorded a 29% increase of record views. It is interesting to note that 66% of the record views (compared to 48% in 2019-20) were from outside the UK (Rest of Europe and Rest of the World).

Table 6: Research Training Online Platforms						
Record views UK Rest of Europe Rest of the World						
2014-15	42,931	7,883	28,204	79,018		
2015-16	65,099	15,481	70,735	151,315		
2016-17	96,799	20,084	59,309	176,192		
2017-18	139,075	26,229	95,723	261,026		
2018-19	175,084	58,481	189,781	423,345		
2019-20	207,964	83,988	270,243	562,195		
2020-21	246,796	103,044	373,366	723,206		

In addition to the footage of the Research Training events, of which usage is included in the total events recording data stated on page 6, **particular training events videos** remained available to view on the School's YouTube platform. Some of the research training videos most viewed this year, included:

- The viva: the examiner's point of view (published in 2014) acquired 89,444 impressions<sup>6</sup> (compared to 69,279 in 2019-20) and 8,114 views compared to 6,411 in 2019-20.
- The viva: opening questions (also published in 2014) acquired 4,969 views and 49,183 impressions in 2020-21.

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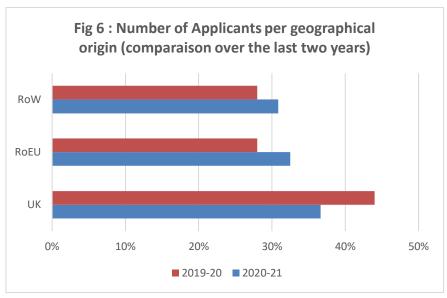
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> YouTube impression is counted when a video thumbnail is shown to someone on YouTube.

# **Fellowships**

The School runs **over 30 fellowship schemes**, which aim to attract researchers from across the globe. Due to the pandemic, only 17 were open for competition in 2020-21. Over 600 researchers applied to the School's fellowship schemes. This represents a decrease of 28%

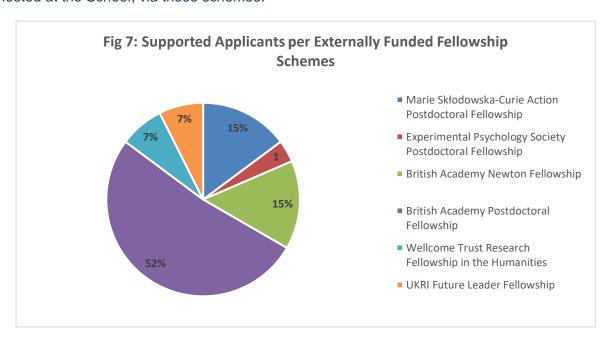
on the previous year.

The School took the decision to accept a lower number of fellows for the academic year which reflected the fact that many of its resources were not available for part of the year, and the difficulty of national and international travel. A large number of applicants were from the UK, with a small increase in the number of international applicants. 76% of the schemes were aimed at early-career researchers. The



applicants' gender profile remained the same compared to the previous year: 42% female, 52% male, with a 6% non-disclosure rate.

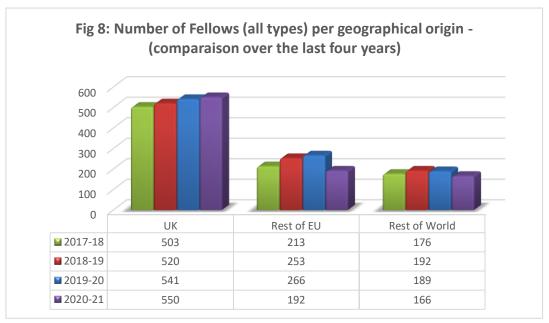
The above data does not include **fellows who applied to externally-funded schemes via the School** such as the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Postdoctoral Fellowship, or the British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship schemes. This year, the School attracted 27 researchers from all areas of the globe who wished to be hosted at the School, via these schemes.



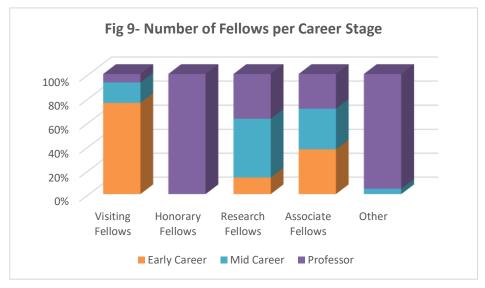
The **School Fellowship community** includes visiting researchers and students, honorary fellows, associates and senior researchers. In 2020-21, the School experienced a 9% decrease in the number of fellowships held at the School overall (from 996 in 2019-20, to 908). While the total number of Visiting Fellows increased by 2% (from 98 in 2019-20 to 100 in 2020-21), mainly due to the increase in the number of European and overseas Visiting Fellows (by 4% and 5% respectively), the decrease, as noted in fig 8, can be explained by the

Table 7: Number of Fellows – 2020-21					
Туре	Number				
Visiting Fellows	100				
Honorary Fellows	93				
Research Fellows	159				
Associate Fellows	446				
Visiting Students	20				
Other	90				
Total	908				

significant reduction in the number of Visiting Students from 127 recorded in 2019-20 to 27 in 2020-21. The majority of our fellowship community continued to be overwhelmingly UK-based.

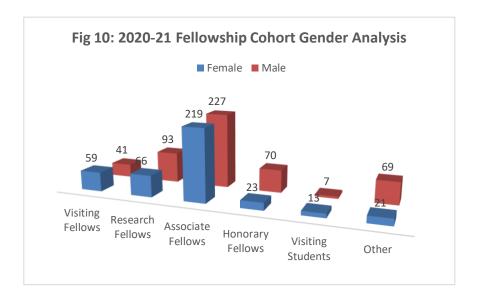


65% of our fellows' research was disciplinary. Nearly 30% were Early Career and Mid-Career researchers, while a large proportion (over 40%) were Professors or Chair equivalents.



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The gender profile of the School fellowship cohort remained similar to the previous years, 44% female (compared to 42%, in 2019-20), and 56% male (compared to 58% in 2019-20).

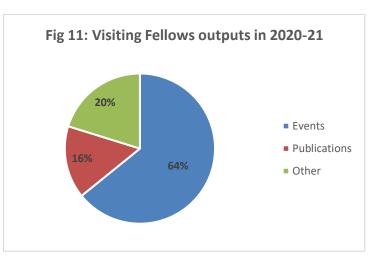


All fellows contribute to the School's mission and its programme of activities, and our visiting fellows were very active in 2020-21 with over 250 registered outputs during their fellowships at the School. Some examples include:

- Dr Diya Gupta, Past and Present Fellow: Race, Ethnicity, and Equality in History

(IHR), worked with Anna Maguire, on the publication of 'Teaching empire and war: Opening up the wartime British Empire to teachers and students', History Workshop Journal (in press 2021) In total, she contributed to 19 events and 16 publications in 2020-21.

 In May 2021, Prof Tim Potier, a member of the Department of International Law at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University) and



IALS visiting fellow, organised a seminar entitled Securing a lasting settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh following the recent war.

- Dr Jennifer Solivan Robles, one of the 2020-21 Frances Yates Short Term Fellow (at the Warburg Institute), led a work in progress seminar in June 2021, to discuss her project 'Virtues, Vices and Preachers: the Mnemonic Function of the Sculpted Programs in Medieval Cathedrals'
- Dr Katherine Hindley, Assistant Professor of Medieval Literature at NTU, Singapore and Visiting Research Fellow at IES led a free online study day on 10 October 2020 to provide an introduction to reading medieval manuscripts.

# Digital Resources and Online Platforms

The School has a very wide range of online resources and services, which continued to be popular: from archived project sites to blogging sites, to library catalogues, research training resources or community building presence (ie. social media accounts). They may be held on specific platforms or on institutional websites. The figures below take into account of all activities publically available online, managed as well as supported by each and every institute and centre of the School.

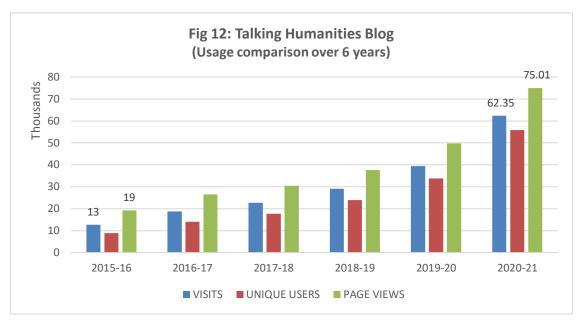
The School holds about 200 online resources, which together recorded over 121m page views, compared to 115m in 2019-20 (which represents a 5% increase). This does not take into account social media accounts' usage. Over 50 resources were created in collaborations with a little over 40 partners.

Table 8- Type of Resource 2020-21	Number	Page Views
Archived Site	1	252,892
Blogging Website	30	414,974
Community building site (social sites)	53	N/A
Database (holding data)	3	96,239,589
E-journal	5	222,245
E-repository	10	15,423,855
Informational website (core sites, societies)	42	4,389,056
Library Catalogue / Directory	10	1,555,831
Research project website (active project)	20	1,610,104
Research project website (closed project)	2	74,423
Research training resource	10	524,298
Teaching/Learning resource	2	638,845
Video-sharing website	3	426,497
Total	191	121,772,609

Despite the small decrease (from 39 in 2019-20 to 30 in 2020-21), the number of **blogs** remained high. In addition, the number of page views increased by 37% from over 300k in 2019-20 to 415k in 2020-21). The usage originated overwhelming from within the UK with 42%, while views from overseas were split between Rest of the World (41%) and Rest of the EU (17%). Blogs include:

- The Blog On History, which provides the latest news and research from the IHR.
   <u>https://blog.history.ac.uk/</u>. The blog recorded over 100k page views in 2020-21,
   compared to 96k in 2019-20. Featured articles included the IHR Centenary global
   Birthday Event which brought together a panel of academic researchers from around
   the world.
- The **Talking Humanities blog**: <a href="https://talkinghumanities.blogs.sas.ac.uk/">https://talkinghumanities.blogs.sas.ac.uk/</a> continued to see its usage increase, showcasing another year of substantial engagement and interest in the promotion of the Humanities generated by the School. The use of this platform showed an average increase of 52% (compared to a recorded increase in usage of 36% in 2019-20). The blog includes content written by members of the

School community, staff, students, fellows, and provides not only opinion pieces, but training and research resources as well as events, projects and publications notices.



The number of community or social platforms continued to increase (with an additional 7 sites). Social or community sites are hosted by a third party, such as facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. Such platforms allow more direct promotion and engagement with the School's audiences than any other platforms. In 2020-21, the School and Institutes' Twitter accounts recorded over 175k of followers<sup>7</sup> (representing another 25% increase from the 29% increase recorded in the previous report). The number of engagements recorded on Twitter showed another 20% increase from 300k in 2019-20 to 366k in 2020-21. These figures do not include personal accounts managed by academic members of staff. The number of engagement (reactions, comments, share, clicks) on Facebook pages in 2020-21 across the School and its institutes were estimated over 500k.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Likes and followers

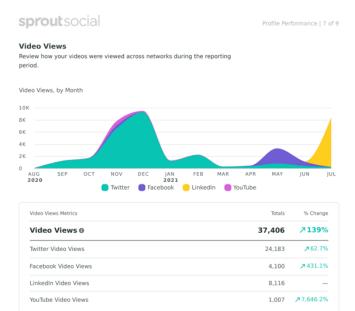
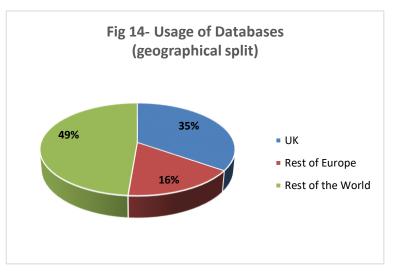


Fig 13: Video Views from various social media sources

While a number of our databases have been decommissioned and archived, others such as **BAILII**, the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (full-text online legislation and case law hosted by BAILII at IALS), continued to show very high usage rate. BAILII is the most popular free legal website with legal content, which assists teaching staff and students in their law studies, It is accessed frequently as shown by the 87m page views (compared to

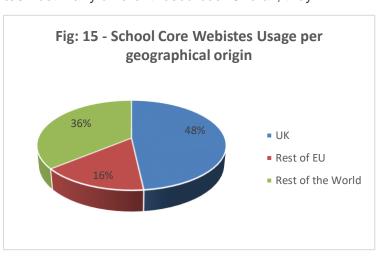
80m recorded in the previous report), and the recorded 4.7m downloads in 2020-21. Or, the **British Online**<sup>8</sup> - <a href="http://www.british-history.ac.uk">http://www.british-history.ac.uk</a>, under the IHR's aegis, which is a collection of nearly 1300 volumes of primary and secondary content relating to British and Irish history, and histories of empire and the British world, recorded over 9.6m page views compared to the 9m recorded in 2019-20. Compared to the School's core websites, these databases were being used more widely outside the UK.



**E-repositories** as presented here cover a wide range of repositories that support both external and institutional scholarly works, such as the **Warburg Digital Library Collections** (<a href="https://wdl.warburg.sas.ac.uk/">https://wdl.warburg.sas.ac.uk/</a>) which recorded near 43k page views, compared to 30k in 2019-20. This repository of collections aims to follow its physical counterpart in employing the unique classification scheme devised by Warburg; or the School's Open Access repository, **SAS-Space** <a href="https://sas-space.sas.ac.uk/">https://sas-space.sas.ac.uk/</a>, which aims to provide a stable, well-managed, permanent archive for digital scholarly and research materials of enduring value produced at, or in association with, the School. SAS-Space recorded 78k page views in 2020-21 compared to 66k in 2019-20, and over 230k downloads in 2020-21.

The School's and institutes' own websites host many different resources. Overall, they

recorded over 4.4m of page views (compared to 3.2m in 2019-20) (representing a 13.5% increase). Resources available from these sites include the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Research Portal, which offers a searchable directory of Latin American and Caribbean Studies research resources in the UK and Éire. The site <a href="https://ilas.sas.ac.uk/portal">https://ilas.sas.ac.uk/portal</a> displays lists of academic staff/researchers, theses in progress,



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Originally funded by Andrew W Mellon Foundation scholarly communications programme

institutions/centres/universities, libraries and museums working in this area. Additionally, **the Yellow Text Blocks** project, supported by the Munby Fellowship in Bibliography, Cambridge University Library, for which the working data has been provided via the Institute of English Studies' website <a href="https://ies.sas.ac.uk/research-projects/yellow-text-blocks">https://ies.sas.ac.uk/research-projects/yellow-text-blocks</a> to share findings with the community in the hopes to further progress in this research field.

**Library Catalogues** are part of our digital services. Data shows an increase in usage as demonstrated by the **Institute of Classical Studies Library** website which recorded 61k page views in 2020-21, representing an increase from 42k recorded for the previous year. Similar to the database and projects, usage is more prominent outside the UK. (21% UK, 18% RoEU, 61% RoW)

Table 9: Number of Record Views <sup>9</sup>						
Academic	Academic Total Total Unique Total Page					
Years	Visits <sup>10</sup>	Visitors <sup>11</sup>	Views <sup>12</sup>	Downloads <sup>13</sup>		
2020-21	31,890,205	14,959,400	121,772,609	5,915,789		
2019-20	31,525,983	15,739,693	115,901,686	799,282		
2018-19	29,496,314	15,171,057	105,008,446	769,283		
2017-18	25,985,443	9,076,481	94,687,028	7,310,073		
2016-17	24,431,705	8,563,299	94,612,280	7,532,058		
2015-16	24,398,991	12,479,627	86,883,928	10,014,435		

While a few **project websites** have been decommissioned or are in the process of being decommissioned and archived, the usage results show an overall increase, above 35% (archived and live projects together). For example, **The Layers of London Project**<sup>14</sup>, <a href="https://www.layersoflondon.org/">https://www.layersoflondon.org/</a> which brings together a collection of digitized historic maps, photos and crowd-sourced histories provided by the public and key partners across London, recorded 760k page views in 2020-21, compared to 653k in 2019-20. Another example would be the **Black British History website** <a href="http://blackbritishhistory.co.uk/">http://blackbritishhistory.co.uk/</a> which aims to aim is to foster a creative dialogue between researchers, educationalists (mainstream and supplementary), archivists, curators, and policy makers, which recorded over 15k page views, compared to 13k in 2019-20.

A list of digital resources can be found here: <a href="https://www.sas.ac.uk/projects-and-initiatives/digital-resources">https://www.sas.ac.uk/projects-and-initiatives/digital-resources</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Record Views include all types and methods of recording usage of online platforms. They include:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Visits – The number of visits to your website

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Unique Visitors – The number of individuals who have visited your website. ...

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Page Views – The number of web pages your website serves

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Downloads: number of transfers (software, data, character sets, etc.) from a distant to a nearby computer, from a larger to a smaller computer, or from a computer

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Project funded by the National Heritage Fund.

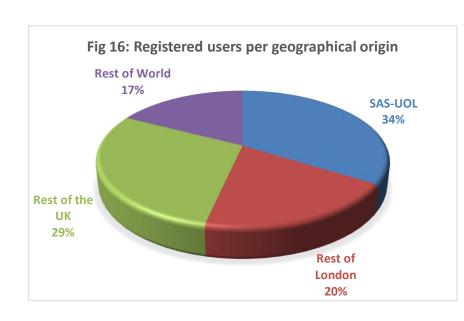
## SAS-run Libraries – Usage and Collections

The School collections are managed by both Institutes and Senate House Library. The results below are for the **SAS-run libraries** only, which include Legal Studies, Classical Studies, Historical Research and the Warburg Institutes. Due to the transformation programme, information relating to the collections hosted there (Germanic, Latin American, and Commonwealth) is currently unavailable.

The results reflect the periods of lockdown experienced by libraries.

Table 10 – SAS-run Libraries' usage								
Type of Usage/Users	MPhil/ PhD	Academic Staff	MA Students	Independent	Non-HEI - Private Sector	Non-HEI - Public Sector	Other	Total
Registrations	1,779	5,384	1,542	1,931	148	108	171	11,063
Visits	9,023	4,590	8,430	1,131	54	133	7,488	36,368*
Loans	3,040	2,628	1,429	948	2	16	41	8,104

\*includes Warburg which cannot provide segregated figures



**Registrations** to SAS libraries recorded a 24% decrease (from 14,596 recorded in 2019-20)

Understandably, visits to SAS Libraries recorded a 64% decrease (from 100,119 in 20-21), mainly due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The **number of loans** decreased by also by 38% (from 12,969 in 2019-20).

Despite the pandemic, work continued, and in 2020-21, the School libraries spent over 1.2m on library resources (71% on print, 29% on digital), which represent a total increase of 14% from 2019-20 (which recorded £1.1m worth of spend). It is worth noting that while the spend on print increased by 12% (from £801,916 in 2019-20 to £899,634 in 2020-21, the spend on digital increased by 19%, from £312,910 in 2019-20 to £373,353 in 2020-21).

Libraries worked hard to make collections not usually digitally accessible, available. For example: the Warburg Institute has been working on the **Warburg Library Commons**<a href="https://commons.warburg.sas.ac.uk/">https://commons.warburg.sas.ac.uk/</a> to host publications under Green Open Access principles. Anyone in the world with an internet connection will be able to browse through publications filed under Image, Word, Orientation action categories. Perhaps one of the rarest and unusual titles in the extensive IALS' research collections is the **Laws and Statutes Relating especially to Heligoland**. This is a handwritten one-volume compilation

of laws passed between 1652 and 1847. Having digitised the whole volume, research scholars worldwide could gain access to this unique resource: https://catalogue.libraries.london.ac.uk/record=b2597298~S6

In addition to licensed e-resources which recorded over 830k page views with an increased usage of eBooks as a key factor, to assist the legal researchers working remotely, IALS

Table 11– SAS-run Libraries' catalogue record views						
Type of Usage/Users UK Rest of the EU Rest of the World						
Visits	117,668	351,331	592,566			
Unique Users	72,010	66,789	199,296			
Page Views	330,333	276,771	948,727			

library staff continued to update the useful guide to free open

access legal resources: <a href="https://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/openfreeresources/oa">https://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/guides/jurisdictions</a>. In total the IALS "LibGuides" were opened 202,097 times in 2020-21, compared to 191,444 times in the previous year, with 9 foreign law guides updated such as those for Canada, India, Uganda and Zambia.

The IHR team, including the Library, IHR Digital and the Centre for the History of People, Place and Community, similarly published a new directory, the 'Open and Free Access Material for Research' guide <a href="https://www.history.ac.uk/library/collections/online-resources/open-access-resources">https://www.history.ac.uk/library/collections/online-resources/open-access-resources</a>. In the absence of access to the IHR's physical library collections (as well as most other research libraries and archives) this guide aimed to consolidate as many of the growing number of freely available historical research materials available, and since its launch the positive feedback received from academics, students and private researchers has been growing.

2020-21 was used to **celebrate the treasures that SAS-run libraries** hold, and the acquisitions made in year. For example, a gift from the Mainz Foundation for the acquisition of French books meant the Warburg Library was able to complete its collection and buy books it had not had the funds to acquire in recent years. Purchases from Les Belles Lettres and Les éditions du Cerf in Paris included recent editions and translations of classical, late antique and medieval authors whose texts are important for the study of the history of philosophy, religion and historiography. The library also bought recent research published by French University Presses: Sorbonne, Aix-Marseille, Rennes, Grenoble, Ecole des chartes, Centre national de la recherche scientifique. This gift has helped to strengthen collections in all major classes of the library: Image, Word, Orientation and Action. In the last months of 2020, Warburg Digital Library added the final items from its magic and science collection of books from Aby Waburg's Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg to its virtual shelves.

Table 12 : 2020-21 Library Acquisitions						
<b>Books and Pamphlets</b>	Serial titles	Withdrawals	By gift	By purchase	By exchange	
6,052	2,170	513	4,573	2,363	146	

Not all **Library Reader Satisfactory Surveys** were undertaken during 2020-21, but appreciative feedback has been noted in many forms.

- The IALS' Library Reader Satisfaction Survey 2021 revealed that the overall satisfaction remained at 97.5%, while satisfaction on library provision specifically the Coronavirus pandemic was noted at 94.3%. Other high satisfaction ratings (above 90%) included research skills public training sessions (98%), study facilities (95.9%), helpfulness of library staff (94.4%), range of

electronic journals and databases (94.2%), study environment – quietness (94%), range of books and print journals at (92.5%)

It should be noted that IALS managed to expand their services with new "live" webchat services (including virtual reference and admission desks), which received many testimonies of thanks from researchers.

Some positive comments noted on the IALS Reader survey included:

o "IALS is by far my favourite library in London" o "I always find what I seek. I am so far from a physical library that I shudder to think how I could have managed without the IALS."

o "I am appreciative of the library offering relatively long slots upon re-opening. Very different from the BL!"

- Neither the IHR WHOL Library, nor the ICS Library or the Warburg Library ran a

Hello old friend @IHR\_Library

satisfaction survey, but they received a large amount of very positive feedback.

ROFESSOR OLGA CRISP ROOM

books were loaned to cover 15k people; 2.6k+ live chat queries were attended to, 258,286 pages were digitised, 35k+ students and researchers did access the physical collections and many were in receipt of scanned documentation posted out to individuals in their own home. Over 10m of online and e-resources engagements were recorded. Visitors had been preparing for their return: over 620k had accessed SHL and SAS websites and over 46k follow SHL and SAS libraries social media channels to get timely updates.

As reported in a video organised by **Senate House Library and SAS-libraries**, a lot had been achieved despite the various lockdowns across 2020 and 2021: 138 training and induction sessions had been organised online and were attended by over 3.5k people, 24,114



## **Publishing**

The new University of London Press inherits and builds on that rich publishing tradition, disseminating distinctive scholarship at the forefront of the humanities. The Press publishes c.25 books per year and several OA journals linked to the School and maintains a backlist of over 1,000 titles available in a range of digital and print formats. Our books and journals boast a diverse authorship, with contributors from all over the world, including Latin America and Africa.

**Books** 

The Press published 24 monographs, edited collections and other scholarly works in 2020-

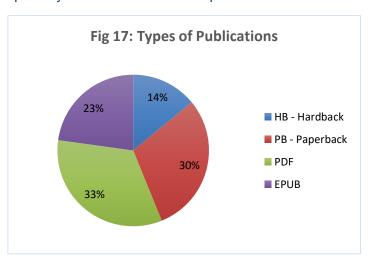
21. The figures for 20/21 represent a change in methodology for this report,

Table 13 - SAS Publications						
Types of Scholarly works	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Monographs	9	40	24	21	26	9
Edited Books	15	53	28	27	28	12
Other Scholarly works	-	4	6	2	3	7

and show the number of books published rather than the total number of separate products/ISBNs (across hardback, paperback and ebook formats for the same book) as has been the case with previous years. This will be the metric we use from now on. For comparison with previous years, the Press published 57 products (covering separate hardback, paperback and ebook ISBNs) in 2020-21.

83% of the School's titles were disciplinary. 79% were accessible on Open Access. Other scholarly works include reviews, research aids and primary resources. 42% were published

in collaboration with partners (29% of the collaborators from the higher education section.) For example, *A British Book Collector*, by Dr Cynthia Johnston (IES), is a collection of articles from a wide variety of contributors from within the UK: the universities of Cambridge, Birkbeck, as well as from partners overseas: the University of Sapienza at Rome and Princeton University in the USA. The articles were first presented as part of a conference held at Blackburn College in Lancashire in collaboration with the Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery.



The Press hosted several successful book

launches during 2020-21 with partner organisations including the Blackburn Museum, the National University of Singapore and the Royal Historical Society. As an example, the online launch of A British Book Collector by Cynthia Johnston was attended by over 100 people from all over the world, including Italy and the US, and featured live presentations from special collections held in the Blackburn Museum's archive. Similarly, the launch of Coal Country: Memory and Meaning of Deindustrialisation in the Scottish Coalfields by Ewan Gibbs in the 'New Historical Perspectives' (RHS/IHR) series was attended by over 150 people, many from working-class mining communities in West Lothian Scotland.

New titles published in 2020-21 have been under review in over 76 different academic journals, including *Modern Language Review, English Historical Review and the New Law Journal* (amongst many others). Titles have also seen extensive reporting in mainstream media and have featured in print and online features in *The Times, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, The Independent, London Review of Books, DIVA* magazine, the *Morning Star* and Oprah.com and have been front-page of Scotland's *Sunday National* newspaper. The Press's authors have had speaking engagements about their book research on the BBC and been featured on Netflix, radio, podcasts and in think-pieces for The Conversation, The Drouth, and blogs such as Talking Humanities and History Matters.

## Sales

As with many academic publishers during this period, the number of copies of frontlist titles (i.e., those published by the Press in 2021-21) sold decreased slightly by 2%: 1,123 copies of new Press books were sold in 2020-21 compared to 1,150 copies in 2019-20 (though still higher than in 2018-19, which recorded 705 copies). Proceeds for sales accordingly also slightly decreased, from £30k in 2019-20 to £25.5k in 2020-21.

However, the number of copies of backlist titles (i.e. books published prior to the 2020-21 academic year) increased by 37%: 1,643 copies were sold in 2020-21, compared to 1,200 in 2019-20. Proceeds of backlist titles also increased by 28%: £29.5k in 2020-21, compared to £23k in 2019-20. It is worth noting that with bookshops and libraries closed during the pandemic, the Press launched a #FreeReadsFriday initiative that unlocked key backlist titles each week. This campaign boosted title downloads, with an increase of 27,942 recorded downloads from the HDL platform alone.

In total, across all the Press's books programme, gross margin sales were £56,992 in 2020-21, compared to £42,963 in 2019-20.

## Open Access

The Press celebrated an important milestone in this reporting period, **reaching 500k downloads of its open access publications**. Our readership has also extended, and now covers over 200 countries including Iran, Ethiopia and South Korea. The Press was also successful in securing a grant enabling it to receive specialist training for the set-up and use of an innovative new Open Access books platform, Manifold<sup>15</sup>, which will launch in 2022.

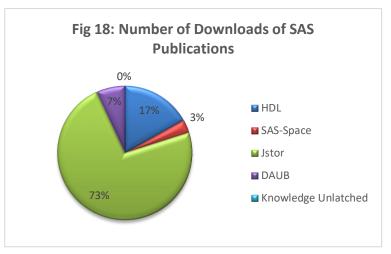
In February 2021, the Press was also successfully awarded over £33k in funding from libraries across Europe as part of the Knowledge Unlatched crowd-funding initiative to make 15 of the Press' books available open access. Successful titles included *Precarious Professionals: Gender, Identities and Social Change in Modern Britain, Mapping Crisis: Participation, Datafication and Humanitarianism in the Age of Digital Mapping and Cinemas and Cinema-Going in the United Kingdom: Decades of Decline, 1945–65.* 

<sup>15</sup> https://manifoldapp.org/features

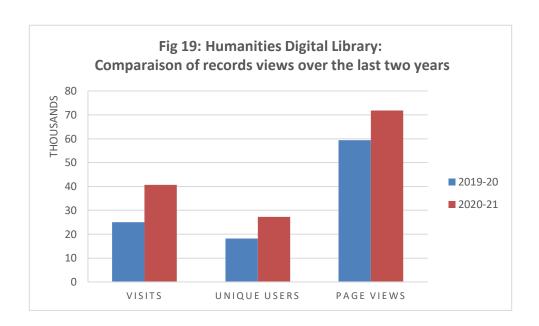
The number **of downloads** of the **School's open access publications** (available either via SAS-Space, JSTOR, the Humanities Digital Library, DOAB<sup>16</sup>, or Knowledge Unlatched) is

impressive, reaching 220k (compared to 164.9k recorded the previous year.

The Humanities Digital Library<sup>17</sup>, is a cross-institute initiative which allows the School to publish new titles through its open access programmes, as well as open access versions of books previously available only in print. Each book is available as a PDF (full text) but can also be purchased in print (hardback and paperback) or as an e-book (EPUB format) via links to the School's website.



The library currently holds 83 titles (compared 66 titles in the previous year), including monographs, edited collections and shorter form works. The platform continues to see a steady increase in activity year on year.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> <u>https://www.doabooks.org/</u>, Directory of Open Access Books

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> http://humanities-digital-library.org

#### Journals

The School manages 12 journals <a href="https://www.sas.ac.uk/publications/journals">https://www.sas.ac.uk/publications/journals</a>, across its Institutes, including 3 OA journals published through the UoL Press. which published 16 issues in 2019-20. This does not include the IHR's *Reviews in History*, which allows academic to write and publish reviews of scholarly works and which publishes over 50 reviews a year.

44% of our journals are interdisciplinary. Over 30% are Open Access and over 70% are available in digital form (EPUB or PDF). Some journals are published in collaboration with other institutions, such as the Journal of the Warburg Institute and the Courtauld Institutes. Most issues were still produced in paperback (89%). 56% of our journals are interdisciplinary and published by another publisher on behalf of SAS, such as the **Bulletin of the Institute** of Classical Studies (BICS) and Historical Research (HR) which are published by OUP while IMLR's Journal of Romance Studies and Francospheres are published by Liverpool University Press.

# Key financial indicators

Income - Research Grant Performance

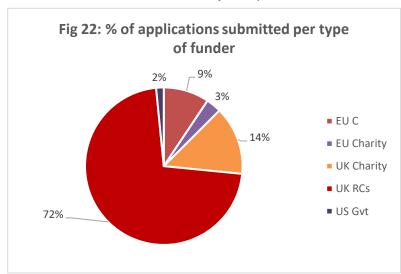
In support of the new School's strategy, Research Grant capture aims to support the School's RPF environment by increasing its visibility, growing its national and international partnerships and networks, and contributing to sustainability.

The profile of the School's grant applications continued to align with the evolving research landscape. The 2020-21 success rate was 13% compared to 22% recorded in 2019-20.

Table 14-Number of applications (census date 31 October 2021)							
Registered	Unsuccessful	Successful	Success Rate	SAS (Lead)	SAS (Co-I)	SAS sole PI	
81*	46	7	13%	11	17	35	

<sup>\*</sup> all projects registered with the research services during the academic year with the intent to be submitted in year, included those which were still in progress on 31st July 2021, and those which were withdrawn<sup>18</sup>.

SAS submitted 64 research grant applications out of the 81 registered for the year. 35 applications were made as sole applicant (compared to 26 in 2019-20). This is due to the resurgence of interest from external researchers, who sought to be hosted at SAS through externally funded schemes such as the Newton Fellowship, or the British Academy Visiting Fellowship Schemes. The number of applications submitted whether as lead or as collaborator remains steady compared to 2019-20.



\*UK RCs in this instance include the British Academy, as per HESA categories

86% of the grant applications submitted (compared to 83% in 2019-20) were made to UK-based funders. The other 14% were submitted to overseas-based funding bodies, 2% of which were based in the US. The School continued to apply predominantly to UK Research Councils and UK Charities.

In 2020-21, the School submitted or contributed to grant applications worth over £44.3m (compared to £20m recorded in 2019-20), which, if all had been successful, would have brought SAS over £21m (compared

to £9.5m in 2019-20). At the time of writing this report, 11 applications are still awaiting their outcome with funding estimated at £5.9m, of which £3.6m is the School's share. The sums are representative of the very large grant applications that were made during the year: for e.g. the Leverhulme Trust Research Centre call, which if the School had been successful, would have secured £10m in total (£7m for SAS); or an ERC Starting Grant, which was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Substantial work had been undertaken to prepare the applications, but circumstances had unfortunately prevented them from reaching the submission stage.

worth £1.2m (all for SAS); or a proposal submitted under the Trans-Atlantic Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities (T-AP), which was worth £1.2m (£245k for SAS).

While the success rate is less than recorded in 2019-20 (9% lower), the funding awarded to School projects in 2020-21 amounts to £8.9m (compared to £1.64m in 2019-20). The School's share in 2020-21 is £1.9m, compared to £360.5k reported in 2019-20. The awards are representative of the very large collaborative projects the School is leading and contributing to, which include 3 AHRC standard research grants. For example, the School, via the Institute of Philosophy, is part of the UKRI Future Leaders Fellows Development Network (award worth £2.8m) led by Edinburgh University. The network which started in October 2020, collaborates with the Universities of Cardiff, Leeds, Cambridge, UCL and Queens University Belfast and aims to provide training and development to 210 new fellows and 40 early-career researchers. Another example includes the establishment of the Centre for the Politics of Feelings directed by Prof Manos Tsakiris, in collaboration with RHUL, which secured £1m funding. The Centre, which launched in September 2021, is devoted to the interdisciplinary understanding of how emotions and feelings can be active causes but also targets of political behaviour in diverse socio-political contexts.

Over the 26 grant applications submitted to the UK Research Councils, 5 (19%) were successful, compared to the UK Research Councils average success rate of 27%, for 2020-21. 19 grant applications were submitted to the AHRC, 4 of which were successful. This represents a 21% success rate, compared to the AHRC national overall success rate, which has been recorded at 26%. 20 2020-21 successes are listed below:

Table 15: 2020-21 Successful Research grants								
SAS PI	Title	Funder	Scheme	Collaborators	Total Award	Total SAS Share		
Philip Murphy (ICWS)	The Visible Crown: Queen Elizabeth II and the Caribbean, 1952-present	AHRC	Standard Research Grant	Anna Whitelock (City) (Lead)	£810,308	£14,943		
Philip Murphy (ICWS) (Lead)	The Windrush Scandal in a trans-national and Commonwealth context	AHRC	Standard Research Grant	Rob Waters (QMUL)	£555,413	£ 524,059		
Barry Smith (IP)	UKRI Future Leaders Fellows Development Network	UKRI	UKRI Future Leaders Fellows Development Network	Edinburgh (lead)+ Cardiff, Leeds, Cambridge, UCL, QUB	£2.8m	£66,000		
Niels Gaul (ICS) (Lead)	Prosopography of the Later Roman and Byzantine Worlds (PLRBW)	The British Academy	ARP Quinquennial Review ARP Quinquennial 2020	Richard Flower (Exeter)	£24,885	£ 24,885		
Manos Tsakiris (CAI)	Centre for the Politics of Feelings	Nomis Foundation	N/A	RHUL	£1m	£544,199		
Jane Winters (CAI)	The Congruence Engine': Digital Tools for New Collections-Based Industrial Histories	AHRC	Towards a National Collection (Discovery)	John Stack (The Science Museum) (Lead)	£2,999,622	£306,913		
Katherine Harloe (ICS) (Lead)	Beyond 'Notability': Re- evaluating Women's Work in Archaeology, History and Heritage in Britain, 1870 - 1950	AHRC	Standard Research Grant	James Baker (University of Southampton).	£743,783	£406,295		

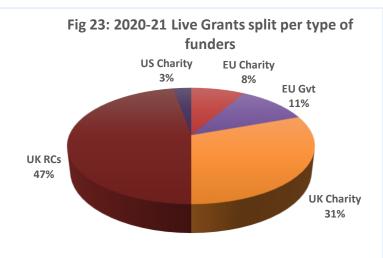
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Focusing mainly on the Councils which the School applies to: UKRI, AHRC, ESRC, EPSRC.

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/uk.research.and.innovation.ukri./viz/shared/4Y56QZCC3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> UKRI Competitive Funding Decisions 2020-21:

It is worth noting that during 2020-21, research active staff continued to focus on mitigating the impacts of the pandemic on their existing externally-funded projects. The School in total managed around 40 live externally funded projects in 2020-21, including:

- (ICWS) Dr Tripurdaman Singh's British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (project entitled: Negotiating Decolonisation in India's Princely States) entered its second year.
- (ICWS) Prof David Cantor, continued to collaborate on the GCRF-funded project "RECAP" with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (lead).



- (IP) Prof Nick Shea
   continued to lead his EU-funded Consolidator Grant, for his project 'Metacognition of Concepts'.
- (WI) Prof John Tresch, entered his last year as Chair of the Mellon Foundationfunded Chair in the History of Art, Science and Folk Practice (subsequently extended till November 2021)
- (IMLR) Dr Ainhoa Montoya, Director of the new Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), continued to lead her British Academy funded Project under the Sustainability Development programme, entitled 'The Juridification of Resource Conflicts: Legal Cultures, Moralities and Environmental Politics in Central America'.
- (Central Academic Initiatives) The School continued to contribute to the EU-funded International Training Network grant (CLEOPATRA) along with its 8 partners, together offering a unique interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research and training programme. SAS partnership is led by Prof Jane Winters, Chair of the Digital Humanities.

Outputs generated and delivered in 2020-21 from SAS live grants included:

- Numerous WARCnet papers published during the course of the year, series coedited by Jane Winters Schafer, V., Winters, J. The values of web archives. Int J Digit Humanities (2021). <sup>21</sup>
- Kalyan Dutia and John Stack, 'Heritage Connector: a machine learning framework for building linked open data from museum collections', Applied AI Letters (2021)<sup>22</sup>
- 2021, Prof David Cantor, jointly launched the global Health and Internal Displacement Network (HIDN), with Dr Jina Swartz (Academy of Medical Sciences) and Prof Bayard Roberts (LSHTM)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> https://doi.org/10.1007/s42803-021-00037-0.

<sup>22</sup> https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/ail2.23

- Prof David Cantor, Contemporary Perspectives on Internal Displacement in Africa Special Collection, 40(2) Refugee Survey Quarterly, co-edited with N. Maple, 6 articles, 2021
- Prof Barry Smith, Chapter, Tasting Flavours: An Epistemology of Multisensory Perception, in The Epistemology of Non-Visual Perception, Oxford University Press, Aug 2020,

## Other Key financial indicators

In financial year 2021-22, the School registered a decrease in income of (5%) a reduction of

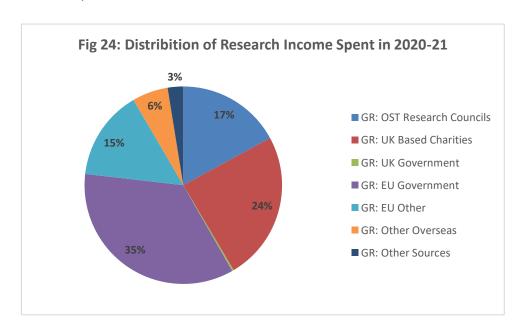
£786k. This is related to a reduction in its income earning activities due to the pandemic. The University made a contribution to the school of £3.7M.

The amount of Special Funding (SF) received as a percentage of the School's total income has slightly increased to 51%.

Table 16 - Income as presented to the University Academic Board	£ '000's
Funding Council Grants	8,624
Research Grants and Contracts	1,831
Academic Fees (Tuition Fees)	1,973
Other Operating Income <sup>23</sup>	3,817
Endowment Income and Interest	474
Total*	16,719

<sup>\*</sup> does not include University investment fund

**Research income** (*income spent in year*<sup>24</sup>), has decreased by 35% (from £2.82m in 2019-20 to £1.83m in 2019-20). This level of research income was expected due to the delayed impact of the pandemic on research grant capture. Efforts were focused on ensuring live grants could be extended to deliver the expected outputs. Small grants did not bring in as much income as planned.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Other operating income includes internal income, commercial income, subs from colleges, donations and other grants

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Research Income means income spent in year, not awards secured in year.

**Non-Research income** (which does not include the University of London contribution) has increased by 3% (£6.1m in 2019-20 to 6.2m in 2020-21). Tuition fees increased by 16% (from £1.7m in 2019-20 to 1.97m in 2020-21); other operating income which includes conference fees for example decreased by 2% compared to 2019-20.

Non-Research income includes **operating income** from sources such as short courses or summer schools, or from RPF activities such as digital hosting, publications sales, and library subscriptions or events. The graphs below illustrate the distribution of non-research income over the last two years with 20-21 showing the effects of the pandemic on activities. For decreases in income, there is an associated decrease in cost.

