

Introduction

Historians at the University of Westminster are a small and highly productive group, mostly in mid career, with already well-established international reputations in their fields. Collectively, we have, since 2001, achieved notable successes in publishing both monographs with major publishers and articles in leading international journals, as well as in winning prizes and securing research grants. We collaborate with scholars both nationally and internationally, and work by the History group has been translated into several languages. Of staff entered in RA1: Mark Clapson is known internationally for his work on social change and town development; Richard Harding is a leading naval historian; Lewis Johnman, an economic historian, is an acclaimed writer on the British shipbuilding industry; Frances Lynch is acknowledged as the pre-eminent British economic historian of twentieth-century France; Michael Alpert, emeritus professor and a renowned authority on Spanish history, continues to publish widely in his fields; Nina Fishman is a well-known labour historian.

1. Research structure

1.1 History at Westminster is located in the Department of Social and Political Studies (SPS), part of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages (SSHL). The Department is one of the largest in the University and also includes Criminology, European Studies, Politics and Sociology. We have developed strong links with each of these areas, organising jointly run seminars and other events. As well as UoA62, SPS is also making a significant submission in UoA39. The School is the administrative unit for the management and coordination of research activity at Westminster, responsible for the general terms of policy and practice. Strategy is led by the Dean and overseen by a School Research Director. In 2003 SSHL established a series of seven Research Clusters, defined by cognate areas and working across established subject boundaries, so as to facilitate the sharing of existing expertise and collaborative partnerships, essential for smaller research areas. Lynch is currently one of the two managers of the European Historical and Cultural Studies (EHCS) Cluster, responsible for the management of a devolved research budget. She is also the representative from History on the School Research Strategy Committee, which promotes and monitors all research activity across SSHL.

1.2 History at Westminster benefits considerably from the collaborative research culture within SSHL. As well as History, the EHCS Cluster includes colleagues from French (UoA52), English Literature (UoA57), and Cultural Studies. We have worked on a number of collaborations with staff in these areas, and have been instrumental in the development of two new interdisciplinary degree programmes at Master's level: MA European Studies, led by Lynch, in collaboration with other colleagues in SPS and in the Centre for the Study of Democracy; and MA London Studies, led by Clapson, in collaboration with staff in both English and Architecture. History has further played a major role in the University's successful London Studies programme of public events and conferences, including the *Seduced by the City* series at

Tate Britain (2007), at which Clapson was a speaker, and the *Teaching London* conference (2006), organised in collaboration with the Centre for Metropolitan History. Equally, we play a key role, with colleagues in French, in the Group for War and Culture Studies (GWACS), an inter-university group founded in 1995, and led by Westminster. Alpert, in particular, remains an active participant in the GWACS research seminar series, and gave one of the key papers at its 2006 tenth anniversary conference: *War without Limits: Spain 1936-39 and Beyond* (held at the University of Bristol, and supported by the British Academy). The historians have also collaborated internally on several projects to which we committed ourselves in RAE2001, including a book edited by Harding, *The Royal Navy 1930-2000: Innovation and Defence* (Frank Cass 2004), to which both Johnman and Harding contributed a chapter, and three articles on Franco-British technological collaboration, co-authored by Johnman and Lynch and published in *Contemporary European History*, *Twentieth-Century British History*, and *The Journal of European Integration History*.

1.3 Based in the centre of London, on our Regent Street campus, staff and students in History at Westminster benefit from access to many of the best research resources in Britain, including libraries, major museums and archives, regularly working, for example, with institutions like the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. As part of our involvement in Westminster's London Studies programme, we have also begun a series of extensive research projects drawing upon the University's own archive, which extends back to the Royal Polytechnic Institute founded in 1838. This includes the production of a searchable database linking the Polytechnic's World War One memorial with records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Imperial War Museum.

1.4 History plays a key role in the University's ongoing series of collaborations with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, co-ordinated by Alan Morrison in SSHL. This is a major international programme, consisting of scholarly exchanges, symposia and conferences, and has involved collaborations with the National Museum of American History. Recent visitors have included **Lonnie Bunch, Director of the new Museum of African American History and Culture**. Clapson was also supported by the department to give a number of lectures in Japan in 2006, including at: Osaka City University; Chukyo University, Nagoya; Setsunan University, Osaka; Tokyo Metropolitan University; and Saitama University. He is now working on a collaborative research project, on the planning of British and Japanese new towns in the 1960s, with Dr Tatsuya Tsubaki (Chukyo University). Lynch has done considerable work with the Committee of Historians at the French Ministry of Finance, who funded her to give a paper, in French, at the Ministry of Finance in Paris (May 2001). The paper was subsequently published in a book entitled *L'impôt en France aux XIXe et XXe Siècles* (2006). In October 2002 she was funded to give a further paper, published in *L'économie française dans la compétition internationale au XXe siècle* (2007).

1.5 The History subject area at Westminster has further been involved in the organisation of several high-profile events held outside the University since

2001, extending our collaborative links with a number of external institutions. Fishman was a member of the steering group for organising two international conferences on Re-thinking Social Democracy: *Social Democracy, Culture and Society*, the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, April 2004; and *The Political Economy of Social Democracy*, University of Wales, Swansea, April 2005. Harding organised the conference *Innovation and the Royal Navy, 1930-2000* (December 2004), in conjunction with the National Maritime Museum. Johnman was co-organiser of the annual conference of New Researchers in Maritime History between 2000 and 2006, and in June 2004 coordinated a session at the 4th International Conference of Maritime History, Corfu.

2. Staffing Policy

2.1 Since RAE2001, our research culture has been further strengthened by the appointment of Clapson as a Reader in Modern History. Alpert retired to become Emeritus Professor in Spanish History, continuing his affiliation with Westminster and his involvement in its research culture. Fishman retired in July 2007, and has taken up a research post at the University of Swansea. The Department intends, within the next academic year, to appoint a full-time early-career researcher to replace her, who can make an equally important contribution to our future profile.

2.2 Research time in History is largely funded through the EHCS Cluster. As an indication of the University's confidence in the strength and future potential of our research, we have been assisted financially, in this regard, by the top-slicing of HEFCE QR income earned by SSSL in RAE2001, as well as via the University's own Research Development Fund. All research time in the School is subject to a competitive bidding and monitoring process, and all staff are also expected to apply for external funding, in which we have had some notable successes. The EHCS Cluster has its own Research Office with a 0.6 administrator who provides support for both staff and students with funding applications and preparation of publications. At University level, WestmARC (Applied Research and Consultancy) further supports staff in bidding for external funding. Funds are also made available through the Departmental Staff Development Budget, which predominantly funds conference attendance, research-related travel expenses, and staff training. For example: Clapson was funded to visit the Emory University Archives in Atlanta (August 2006) for research on the Special Housing Mission.

3. Research Students

3.1 The School operates a Research Training programme for all MPhil/PhD students, alongside a range of university-wide training courses, and an annual research student conference. All students are invited to undertake training in teaching and assessment via the Postgraduate Certificate of Special Study for Supporting Learning. Dedicated office space for research students is provided by the EHCS Cluster, with computers and other resources. Financial support is further provided through the Cluster to help graduate students organise conferences, set up online journals, and invite visiting speakers. The School

Research Degrees Committee monitors all postgraduate research through an Annual Progress Review. Since 2001, the School has strengthened its monitoring and training of PhD students with a range of new processes, including the compilation of supervision logbooks and an annual monitoring system, incorporating reports from students and supervisors, as well as a viva voce examination for the MPhil/PhD transferral stage.

3.2 The historians remain committed to increasing their number of postgraduate students. Following the feedback from RAE2001, we have sought to institute a more rigorous and robust admissions process, and, by introducing interdisciplinary Masters degrees based around our areas of research specialisms, aim to attract some of the best Masters students into PhD study in History at Westminster. The Cluster has recently established a postgraduate bursary fund, using increased funds from student fees, which should further help to strengthen our future graduate base. Of our previous successes, Hugh Murphy's PhD thesis, awarded in 2002, was subsequently re-written as a book with Johnman – *Deja-Vu All Over Again: The Rise and Fall of Scott Lithgow* (International Maritime Economic History Association 2005) - which was nominated for the Wadsworth Prize for Business History, 2006.

4. Research Income

Despite our relatively small size, we have a good record in securing external funding for our research in History.

4.1 In 2003 Fishman was awarded £3885 by the British Academy for research on the relations between miners' unions, political parties and the state in South Wales, Durham, Upper Silesia and the Ruhr, 1945-52.

4.2 In 2004 Clapson was awarded a 5-month Leverhulme Research Fellowship to the value of £6964 to fund research on American influences on the postwar British city. In 2006 he also received £1500 from the Nomura Foundation for the Promotion of Social Science to cover a Short Term Visiting Fellowship to visit five universities in Japan (see above). In 2003 he received a £2200 grant from English Partnerships to provide colour illustrations for the book *A Social History of Milton Keynes: Middle England/Edge City* (Frank Cass/Taylor and Francis 2004).

4.3 In 2006 Lynch was awarded a grant of £46,022 by the ESRC for a three-year project at Westminster entitled *Who pays for the State? The evolution of personal taxation in postwar Europe*. This project, which aims to provide a history of personal taxation in seven European countries since the 1950s, builds on earlier research undertaken with Professor Paul Johnson at the LSE, for which they received a grant of £68,614 from the Leverhulme Trust in 2000 (detailed in the submission for RAE2001). The latter project resulted in conference papers being delivered at the French Ministry of Finance in May 2001; the international conference of the Association for History and Computing in Poznan, September 2001; the European Social Science History conference in the Hague, March 2002; the annual conference of the

Economic History Society in Birmingham, April 2002; and the History and Policy conference at the Institute of Historical Research, London, June 2002. It also resulted in articles for *The Guardian* (10 March 2004), and for *Electoral Studies* (2005). As a result of her ESRC grant Lynch was invited to a conference at the University of Cambridge, September 2006, and subsequently invited to contribute to Holger Nehring and Florian Schui (eds), *Global debates about Taxation* (Palgrave Macmillan 2007), as well as to present a research paper at the University of Nanterre, Paris, June 2006.

5. Research Strategy

5.1 The main strategy of the comparatively small team in History at Westminster continues to be the fostering of both individual and collaborative research to ensure our continuing national and international profile. Staff in History have commenced a number of major research projects that will come to fruition after 2007. These will constitute a key part of our plans for the immediate future. For example: Clapson is completing a book on Garden Cities for University of Hertfordshire Press (2008), and a further monograph on the Americanised City in Britain; Harding is completing a monograph, *The Emergence of Britain's Global Naval Supremacy, 1739-1748*, due September 2008 (Taylor & Francis), and is working on another monograph, *A British Way of Warfare: Britain and Amphibious Warfare, 1700-2000*; Johnman is currently completing an edited book for the Navy Records Society on the German Channel Dash of 1942; Lynch is working on a comparative analysis of the fiscal state in postwar Europe, in collaboration with Noam Weingarten, a computer programmer in Westminster's School of Informatics. It is planned to extend this research to cover further European countries in the coming years, and to make the programme developed available for public use.

5.2 Among our major targets for the next five years is to develop further our success in securing external funding for our research. Currently, Harding is working on a joint bid to the ESRC, in conjunction with the Business History Unit, University of Glasgow, and the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, to undertake a sector level study of the British shipbuilding industry from the creation of British Shipbuilders in 1977 to its demise between 1984 and 1988. Besides a book, it is intended to collate, assess and list all primary materials related to British Shipbuilders and to make this available online through the Business History Unit website.

5.3 History's involvement in the ongoing Westminster-Smithsonian Colloquium will continue to develop and expand. Current plans include a major conference on Anglo-American Relations to be held in 2008, and we will be welcoming visits from a number of US colleagues including Dr Harry Rand and Dr Arthur Molella from the National Museum of American History. History is also involved in current discussions around the formation of a new interdisciplinary research Forum for the Study of Urban Cultures, with colleagues in English Literature, Architecture and Asian Studies, which will seek to provide a base for several new collaborative research ventures.

6 Evidence of Esteem

6.1 **Clapson** was invited by the International Planning History Society (IPHS) to chair the Postgraduate Student Prize Committee for the IPHS conference in Barcelona (2004), and the New Delhi conference (2006). **Harding** is the sole judge of the Julian S. Corbett Prize for Naval History, awarded by the Institute of Historical Research, University of London (2005 to the present). **Johnman** and Murphy were winners of the Anderson medal for the Most Outstanding Contribution to Maritime History in 2002 for their monograph, *British Shipbuilding and the State since 1918: A Political Economy of Decline* (Exeter University Press, 2002).

6.2 **Clapson** has acted as a referee for the ESRC First Grants Scheme in 2006, independent assessor for the AHRC Research Grants (Standard) Scheme in 2005, and peer reviewer for both Taylor and Francis and *Urban History*. **Johnman** has acted as a reader for *The International Journal of Maritime History*, *The Journal of Maritime Research*, *The Journal of Geography*, *The Mariner's Mirror*, *Business History*, and Exeter University Press. **Lynch** has acted as an expert assessor of research grant applications under the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme (2004), as referee of a research grant application for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2005) and for the AHRB (2001), and as a reader for *The Historical Journal*. We have also acted as external examiners for several doctoral theses, our international profile being reflected in invitations to **Alpert** and **Lynch** to do so at the University of Murcia, Spain, and Trondheim, NTNU, Norway, respectively.

6.3 **Alpert** was an invited guest on the BBC Radio 4 programme *In Our Time*, on the subject of the Spanish Inquisition (2006). Due to the enduring influence of his earlier publications on the subject of the Spanish Civil war - a third edition of *El Ejército Popular de la República 1936-1939: Editorial Crítica* was published in May 2007 - he has been invited to write the introductions to a weekly fascicule of newspaper republications on the Spanish Civil War which are being published in Spain in 2007. **Clapson** has been a guest on various Radio 4 programmes, including the *Archive Hour* and *You and Yours* (2004), and has been interviewed by *The Economist* and *Financial Times* on suburbia (2004, 2005). **Harding** participated in the Radio 4 programme *Soldier-Sailor*, as well as several television programmes, most recently *The Rise of the Great Powers* for China Central Television.

6.4 **Alpert** maintains strong links with various academic institutions in Spain, and, in 2006 gave invited papers at both the University of Cádiz and the Universidad San Pablo, Madrid. In November 2004 **Clapson** was invited to chair the session entitled 'Social housing and public choice' at the 'Self and the City' British Academy/AHRB conference, Tate Modern. He was also invited to participate in a workshop at the British Academy in June 2003, based on an AHRB Project on 'Architecture and the Self'. In July 2004, he presented a paper at the International Planning History Society conference, Barcelona. He was also invited to referee conference papers, chair a session on comparative Reconstruction histories, and to head the prize-giving

committee for the best postgraduate student paper given at the conference. In 2001 he presented a paper at the University of Bologna/Olivetti Foundation Conference on *The Foundations of Postwar Europe*. **Fishman** has been invited to give many conference papers arising from her research on the relations between miners' unions, political parties and the state in South Wales, Durham, Upper Silesia and the Ruhr, 1945-52. These have included ones at Dortmund University, Germany (May 2003), the Welsh People's History Society, University of Wales, Swansea (November 2003), the Annual Advisory Board Lecture, Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick (December 2003), and the Association for Manuscripts and Archives in Research Collections AGM, University of Nottingham. **Harding** has given numerous invited papers, including at a special conference on Mobilising Resources for War at the University of Navarra (September 2004). He was invited to give The Pack Memorial Lecture (Queen's Harbour Master Portsmouth) in April 2002, and the annual Anderson Lecture of the Society for Nautical Research: 'The British Way in Warfare: Aspects of Amphibious Warfare' (November 2003). **Johnman** has been invited to present papers at conferences including the International Congress of Maritime History, Fremantle (2001), Ministère de la Défense, Cherbourg (2004), National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (2004, 2006), National Maritime Museum, Liverpool (2006), and the Anglo-American Conference, *The Sea*, held at the Institute of Historical Research (2001). In October 2002, **Lynch** was invited to give a research paper in the Department of History and Civilisation, European University Institute, Florence. In 2005/6 she was invited to participate in the Balzan Workshops held at Birkbeck College, on the theme of Comparing Europe's Reconstructions, funded by a prize awarded to Professor Eric Hobsbawm. In 2007 she was invited to participate in the Mellon Sawyer Workshop on *Debt and Dictatorship: The Interwar Experience*, held at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

6.5 **Clapson** was editor of *Planning History*, the three-times yearly bulletin of the International Planning History Society, from 2001-2006. He is now a member of the editorial board of *Planning Perspectives: An International Journal of Planning History and the Environment*. **Fishman** is a member of the advisory committee on the South Wales Coalfield Archive, University of Wales. **Harding** is Chairman of the Society for Nautical Research, and was Honorary Editor of the *Mariner's Mirror*, the journal of the Society for Nautical Research, from 2001-2005. He has been a Trustee of the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth since 2005, a Councillor of the Navy Records Society, a British Commissioner of the International Commission for Maritime History, and Editor of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Policy (2005 to the present). **Johnman** was Secretary of the British Commission for Maritime History, from 2000-2005, with responsibility for co-organising their New Researchers Conference meetings over this period. He is also a Council Member of the Society for Nautical Research.

6.6 Much of **Clapson's** research has been or will be translated. Following the seminar programme in Japan in 2006, three seminar papers, as well his chapter 'Cities, suburbs, countryside' in *The Blackwell Companion to Contemporary Britain, 1939-2000* (2005), are to be translated for various

academic journals and published in late 2008. Following an invitation to give a conference paper 'Neither town nor country? Suburbanisation and English society since 1945' at a University of Valenciennes conference, in March 2002, his paper was translated into French and published as a chapter in Emmanuel Roudat (ed.) *Villes et Campagnes Britanniques: Confrontation ou (Con)fusion?* (University of Valenciennes 2003). In 2004 a chapter written with Nick Tiratsoo was translated into Italian, as 'Creare il nuovo cittadino modello: governi e politici abitativi nella Gran Bretagna del primo dopoguerra', in *Trieste Anni Cinquanta: La Citta della ricostruzioni e industria a Trieste, 1945-1957* (University of Trieste 2004). In 2005, an article 'Recent suburbanisation in Britain: implications' was translated into Dutch for the journal *Stadebouw & Ruimtelijke Ordening* (Urbanism and Spatial Planning) and published in their November 2005 special suburbanisation issue. **Harding's** book *Seapower and Naval Warfare* was translated into Korean by the Korea Maritime Strategy Institute.