1. **Summary aims and objectives of the research centre or department (Bullet points)**

The Centre for Research in Memory, Narrative and Histories is a cross-faculty grouping whose aims are: (1) to provide a context in which to foster research on the relationships between memory, narrative, and histories; (2) to promote dialogue about the methodological, epistemological and theoretical issues at work in the study of the making of histories; (3) to create an institutional locus that embraces creative and critical practice, and encompasses academic, professional and community development; (4) to raise the public profile of this research, contributing to the further development of the University's research culture in terms of research funding, research students and local and international collaborative networks.

2. **Key events organised**

*Please give a brief report as well as a list of events, with dates, places, number of participants, etc.*

**1) Annual MNH Seminar series**, held monthly in the CRD, involving between 12 - 25 participants at each event, including researchers, community and professional practitioners, and graduate students from right across the University of Brighton, from the University of Sussex, from the local area, and from further afield in London and the South East region. Speakers addressed the full spectrum of the Centre's areas of interest, with papers on the use of visual archives, the theory and history of memory, oral history, and the critical interpretation of life writing, as follows:

- 13 October 2010: Dr Frank Gray, University of Brighton. 'Making Histories from the Screen Archive South East Collection: the case of the Church Army';
- 17 November 2010: Annebella Pollen, London College of Communication/University of Brighton. 'Historians in Two Hundred Years' Time Are Going To Die for That!' Events and Non-events in the Mass Observation Archive's "One Day for Life" Photography Collection';
- 19 January 2011: Professor Andy Wood, University of East Anglia. 'Landscape, Place and Memory in Early Modern England';
- 16 Feb 2011: Dr Margaretta Jolly, University of Sussex. 'Sisterhood and After: The Women's Liberation Oral History Project';
- 23 March 2011, Dr Michael Roper, University of Essex. 'The "nameless dread" of trench warfare'.

Professor Susannah Radstone's (University of East London) paper 'Memory Ex and In Situ' on 27 April – which was to examine the question of memory and memory studies as transcultural and transnational phenomena, and to raise questions about the locatedness of memory and its study – unfortunately had to be cancelled and will be rescheduled in 2011-12.

**2) Public debate**, 16 October 2010 in Brighton Museum, co-organised with Brighton and Hove Black History community group as part of the India Gate commemoration events during Black History Month in October 2010, on the theme 'Are black people excluded from the historic buildings of the places in which they live?' Speakers: Kofi Mawuli (Chief Executive Commissioner of PANAFRIINDABA), Daniel Ibekwe (Chair of the Racial Harassment Forum) and Louise Purbrick (School of Humanities, University of Brighton). Attended by some 50 people including members of BHBH and the wider Black and Ethnic Minority communities in Brighton, museum professionals, local council representatives and academics.

**3) Annual Symposium**, 'Archives and the Politics of History and Memory', 29 January 2011, University of Brighton, Grand Parade site. This brought together academic researchers, professional archivists, and practitioners in the community archive movement. Orginally due to be held on 4 December 2010, the event had to be cancelled due to bad weather conditions
and several of the planned speakers were unable to attend the rescheduled event. Discussion was organised in three themed panels: Archives, memory work and conflicted pasts; Archives, community histories and the politics of hidden pasts; Archives and working-class history and memory in postwar Britain. The speakers were: Sally Alexander (Emeritus Professor of Modern History, Goldsmiths, University of London and Founding Editor of History Workshop Journal); Red Chidgey (DIY feminist historian, blogger and co-founder of the transnational digital archive and community resource, www.grassrootsfeminism.net); Judith Garfield (Executive Director of Eastside Community Heritage in East London); Nick Mansfield (Senior Research Fellow in History at the University of Central Lancashire, formerly Director of the People's History Museum, Manchester); and Anita Rupprecht (Senior Lecturer in Cultural History, School of Humanities, University of Brighton). A rich concluding plenary was led by Anna Davin (Founding Editor of the History Workshop Journal). Over 30 delegates attended.

(4) National one-day conference (organised in collaboration with the Royal Marines Museum, Portsmouth), 'War, Silence and Memory in Modern Britain', Royal Marines Museum, Portsmouth, February 2011, to mark the Museum's exhibition 'Why Stay Silent?' Speakers included Professor Penny Summerfield (University of Manchester), Dr Dan Todman (Queen Mary University of London) and Dr Petra Utta-Rau (University of Portsmouth). Some 50 delegates attended.

(5) Annual, one-day Postgraduate Research Conference (organised in collaboration with the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research at Sussex), 'The Emotions in History, Memory and Storytelling', University of Brighton, Falmer site, June 2011. This event is becoming an increasingly popular forum among MA and PhD students and early career researchers, with nearly 60 delegates hearing 40 papers, and drawing participants not only from Brighton and Sussex but from universities throughout the UK and internationally, including Australia, Argentina, USA, Canada, and right across Europe from the Republic of Ireland to Russia, and from Sweden and Poland to Cyprus and Romania.

(6) International conference (organised in collaboration with Strathclyde University and the University of Portsmouth), 'The Second World War: Popular Culture and Cultural Memory', July 2011. This major three-day, international and interdisciplinary conference attracted over 100 delegates and heard 86 papers in 29 themed sessions, plus four keynote speakers: Professor Sue Grayzel (University of Mississippi), 'Popular Culture, Civilians and the Prospect of Chemical Warfare Before and During the Second World War'; Professor Jim Aulich (Manchester Metropolitan University), 'The Imagery of the Left on the Home Front'; Professor Gill Plain (University of Edinburgh), 'Escaping 1945: Popular Fiction and the End of the War'; Dr Frank Gray (University of Brighton) on World War Two in Screen Archive South-east.

3. Publications arising from events

• Rebecca Bramall, (2011) 'Dig for victory! Anti-consumerism, austerity, and new historical subjectivities', Subjectivity 4(1): 68-86. (Developed out of paper delivered to MNH seminar in 2010.)
• Lucy Noakes (with Juliette Pattinson and Petra Rau eds.), two volumes arising out of 'The Second World War: Popular Culture and Cultural Memory' conference, one (on cultural memory of the war) with a publishing contract, the other (focusing on literature) to be submitted as a proposal.

4. Publications generated by the aims and objectives of the research centre or department

• Deborah Philips, Fairground Attractions: A Genealogy of the Pleasure Ground, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2011. (The genesis, research and writing of this monograph largely predates the establishment of the Centre, though it contributes to the its area of interest in popular and public histories, and indeed helps to define a distinctive Centre approach in this area.)
• Lucy Noakes, 'From war service to domestic service: Ex-servicemen and the free
5. General report on last year’s activities

(1) 2010-11 saw the further development of the Centre's research profile locally, regionally and nationally, and the involvement of significant numbers of scholarly researchers and other practitioners from inside and outside the University in its work, through an ambitious, wide ranging and successful series of events. These included events now becoming established on a regular basis, namely: the Research Seminar Series held monthly from October–April; the annual Symposium held in December/January; and the Postgraduate Research Conference (in collaboration with our sister research centre at the University of Sussex) held in June. Additionally, this year the Centre collaborated with external partners in other universities, in the voluntary community history field, and in the museum sector to organise a local public debate, a national conference, and an international conference (hosted here at Brighton).

(2) Following the Centre's successful funding bid to the CUPP 'On our Doorsteps' scheme in June 2010, which secured £5,000 seed funding from July 2010–January 2011, we established a partnership with the School of Humanities and Brighton and Hove Black History community group on the theme of 'Black History and Cultural Memory in Brighton: the India Gateway Commemoration Project'. Focused on BHBH's activities to commemorate the 69th and 70th anniversaries of the unveiling of the India Gateway to the Royal Pavillon, in October 2010 and 2011, this pilot project – the first-ever CUPP funding, and first ever-skills and knowledge exchange, in the humanities area at Brighton – was designed to contribute towards building a longer-term, sustainable relationship. The project involved meetings between the university and community partners to discuss our differences in ethos, purpose, skills and knowledge, modes of working, and outcomes, and to plan our work together; the setting up and supporting (in liaison with the University's Active Student unit) of two student placements with BHBH, offered to postgraduates studying on the MA Cultural History, Memory and Identity; innovative arrangements with Media Services to secure technical support and workshop training in digital recording and editing for both BHBH volunteers and the placement students; the co-organising with BHBH of a public debate with invited speakers, held in Brighton Museum as part of the India Gate commemoration events during Black History Month in October 2010 (see above); and planning to support future work. The project was successful in establishing a productive academic–community partnership and trusting personal relationships with BHBH (whose members expressed appreciation for our respectful and egalitarian approach), and in piloting the various practical activities (including a short film made by the students); thereby laying the basis for continuing collaboration.

(3) The Centre has led a group of colleagues from several universities in London and the South-east – the Centre for Cultural Memory, Institute of Romance and Germanic Studies, University of London; the Raphael Samuel History Centre, Bishopsgate Institute/University of East London; Goldsmiths University of London; and the Centre for Media and Culture Research, London South Bank University – in a series of discussions on an application to the AHRC Research Network scheme on the theme of 'Memory and Methodologies'. Planning towards this bid is at an advanced stage and will be finalised and submitted during autumn 2011. If successful the MNH Centre will host one of four themed events designed to generate conversations about the practices of research and investigation into memory, involving academic researchers, postgraduate students, and practitioners outside the academy working in the media and arts, social policy, the health professions, public history, etc.

(4) A publication platform has been established for the Centre: an occasional series, Working Papers on Memory, Narrative and Histories, in simultaneous booklet and online formats each with an ISSN, will enable publication of symposium and conference papers and other work in the Centre's areas of interest by University researchers (including graduate students), on the model of the influential 'Working Papers in Cultural Studies' published by the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies in the 1970s/80s. The first issue, in autumn 2011, comprises papers from the Centre's launch symposium. Future numbers will be peer-reviewed by external referees.
6. Research strategy for 2011-12

(1) Events
(i) Symposium, 'The Arab Spring', January 2011, Grand Parade site; book proposal under discussion with Peter Lang publishers;
(ii) Conference (in collaboration with the University of Leicester and The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace at the Warrington Peace Centre), 'The Northern Ireland Troubles in Britain: Impacts, Engagements, Legacies and Memories, University of Brighton Grand Parade site, 11-13 July 2012; funding applications to be made to the Royal Historical Society, the Institute of Historical Research, and the Gerda Henkel Foundation. The conference is envisaged as the first stage of a longer research project on 'The Irish Troubles in Britain: Legacies, Silences, Memories and Peace-building', and will lead both to a publication and to a larger collaborative research application.
(iii) 4th Postgraduate Research Conference, June 2012, subject to discussion with colleagues at the Centre for Life History and Life Writing at the University of Sussex, and postgraduate students at both Brighton and Sussex, who we plan to involve centrally in the conception and organisation of the event;
(iv) Longer term planning will begin towards the Research Seminar Series 2012-13; and the Symposium December 2012/January 2013 on the theme of memory and the cultural politics of sustainable development.

(2) Applications for external funding
i. Completion/submission of application to AHRC Research Network scheme, 'Memory and Methodologies' (with University of East London, Institute of Romance and Germanic Studies University of London, Goldsmiths University of London);
ii. Heritage Lottery funding, extending the collaboration with Brighton and Hove Black History;
iii. AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award scheme (in autumn 2011 or 2012) (a) with Brighton and Hove Black History; (b) with The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace in Warrington, and/or the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace in Brighton; and (c) with the Imperial War Museum.

(3) Working Papers on Memory, Narrative and Histories
In liaison with colleagues in the Design Archives and Screen Archive South-east, an editor will be sought for Working Papers no. 2, a collection based on the Symposium on Archives and the Politics of History and Memory.

(4) Developing the Centre's structure and widening active participation
In 2011-12 we plan to deepen the Centre's involvement within the University as an active as well as representative cross-Faculty grouping, by (i) clarifying the role and procedures of the Steering Group as a vehicle for encouraging and facilitating new ideas for research projects, events, bids etc., (ii) redefining (as Narrative and Life Writing; Public and Popular Histories) two of the Centre's specified areas of interest to focus more accurately on significant research activity and potential; (iii) initiating wider involvement of key active researchers and supporters in the Centre's work, by the introduction of an Associate Membership who will be able to propose initiatives (on the model of the Arab Spring proposal), on a basis to be clarified during the autumn term 2011; (iv) continuing discussion about the relationship of postgraduate researchers to the Centre, the merits of and criteria for establishing a Postgraduate Membership, how best to relate the Centre to groupings such as the Critical Studies Research Group of doctoral students, and the involvement of MA as well as doctoral students in organising the annual Postgraduate Research Conference.

7. List of bids made in 2010-11
Please indicate funder, scheme, title of project, date submitted, amount bid for and whether or not it was successful

- October 2010, unsuccessful bid for British Academy conference support grant for 'The Second World War: Popular Culture and Cultural Memory'
- June 2011, successful application to the University's Research Network Fund, £500 for planning meetings (with University of Leicester & The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball
Foundation for Peace, Warrington Peace Centre), to design a new research project: 'The Irish Troubles in Britain: Legacies, Silences, Memories and Peace-building'.

8. Problems encountered

Please indicate whether any difficulty identified which impacted on the delivery of last year’s activities and how they might be addressed.

| Lack of time to do research and prepare research funding applications alongside the work of organising a full programme of events and other activities to build up the Centre as a locus within the University and the south-east region. |

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