**PREP GUIDELINES: APPENDIX 2**

**Subject specific guidance for planning your research outputs and where to aim to publish**

**Developed by Social Anthropology**

**Aspiration**

This document sets out the broad aspirations of the Anthropology Department within the current REF cycle. The Department performed well in the previous exercise with high scores for research and impact scores.

Our aspiration is to maintain our position for the next REF through submission of similar proportion of high scoring publications and high quality impact case studies.

We acknowledge the University’s aspirational target that staff in each Department should aim to submit FOUR pieces that are regarded as being of world leading or international excellence according to peer reviewed standards.

This is an ambitious target. The SOSS external review clearly states that the application of a universal target across the social sciences at Manchester is not realistic for all staff. It is particularly challenging in a discipline such as Anthropology in which sole authorship is the norm and where high quality outputs can take many years to produce because of the need for long term and immersive fieldwork.

**Our Approach**

The Department is committed to participatory approaches in which the co-production of knowledge is prioritised. Anthropologists have to produce research materials in language accessible to informants and for a variety of audiences.

The Department values staff commitments to working with informants and research partners in diverse settings and the production of outputs which strengthen these relationships but which may not have immediate REFable impacts.

We are also committed to the creation of a collegial and supportive environment in which all staff are supported to produce work of the highest quality. Effective mentoring arraignments are in place for probationary staff, peer review processes are being refined for the research grant applications and staff share and comment on work in progress at an annual research residential.

**Guidance for Staff**

Within these constraints and recognising the aspirational nature of the University targets for outputs, the Department recognises that steps can be taken which increase the likelihood of submitted pieces attaining optimal REF scores. We Department therefore adopt the following guidance for staff relating to the production of REF outputs.

This guidance applies to the production of written outputs. It is recognised that some staff in Visual Anthropology may produce outputs in the form of film or other media. Guidance on this will be developed over the session 2016-17 within the Visual Anthropology Unit of the Department

The Anthropology REF panel did not differentiate between journals in Anthropology nor between book chapters and monographs. Nevertheless, monographs were likely to be scored more highly than articles and articles, particularly those in leading journals, were more likely to be scored higher than book chapters.

Promotion committees and external referees are also likely to regards certain journals and publishers more highly than others. Such judgements, although not formally part of REF, will have an influence on reviewers. Indeed, Prof Jonathan Spencer who carried out a post-REF2014 external review of Manchester Anthropology recommended that colleagues seek to increase the proportion of outputs in the better known anthropology journals, and to reduce the number of pieces published in book chapters where possible and to seek out University presses or specialist presses which have wide distribution and which have a reputation for quality.

Colleagues are therefore advised to produce a mix of pieces for REF which may include a monograph and articles, or which may consist of articles with perhaps a single book chapter and to seek to publish where possible in University presses or in presses which have established lists in anthropology and which have reach and influence.

The emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity. The Department, following REF panel practice, does not prescribe a list of key journals for the discipline. Given the interdisciplinary nature of much of our work a proportion of our outputs will be published in cognate disciplines including Sociology, Human Geography and Development Studies as well as in Area Studies journals.

**Research Funding**

Over the next REF cycle the Department as a whole should aim to improve grant capture. The Department recognises that funding is highly competitive and that at any one time the number of unsuccessful applications will exceed those awarded funding. To increase the success rate of funding applications colleagues are encouraged to make use of peer review mechanisms, external peer support provided through the Department and to seek advice on recycling unsuccessful funding applications. A substantial grant application every four years would be considered an aspiration within the Department.

**Research Students**

Anthropology has a high number of good quality PhD students. Colleagues are encouraged to develop their supervision portfolios through co-supervision. The Department is seeking to ensure improved