



Research Strategy

Inspiring Creative Research

The BSR has a strong record of inspiring creative research through its awards and its own research activities. We are profoundly interdisciplinary, richly diverse and fundamentally international. Our intellectual reach makes us the leading centre of academic research excellence and research-led practice in Roman and Italian studies from prehistory to the modern day, and across the visual arts and architecture; and we support research from across the Commonwealth. We are a leader in the cultural and academic networks of Rome, which as a physical centre and through its enormous symbolic capital, remains challenging and profoundly relevant to this day in Europe and beyond.

This strategy defines the principles that will inform the BSR's research over the next five years, and arises from our Strategic Plan, which identifies sustained excellence in research as a critical priority. It is also a benchmark for evolving policy and making decisions about new opportunities as these arise. We take research to cover all the activity undertaken in the BSR, and regard architecture and the visual arts as an important interlocutor and contributor. Within this overall strategy, the BSR will identify particular research themes which will focus research activity, and the strategy will provide them with a cohesive intellectual platform and a set of shared goals.

Priorities

Our main research aim is to continue to produce and support focused and interdisciplinary work of the highest quality, with demonstrable relevance and that enhances public understanding.

The BSR conducts research through its research active staff, research fellows and award-holders. We will maintain a decisive input into the choice of award-holders. We will aim to recruit researchers with the highest academic, intellectual and technical potential, and to

support them to make the best contributions to their field and to society at large. We will maintain links with award-holders, staff and members to be a part of their future research planning.

We encourage research that shows disciplinary excellence and challenges intellectual boundaries. We will continue actively to promote interdisciplinary dialogue within our community. We will initiate and support targeted events that bring diverse scholarly communities together. And we will continue to exploit to the full our international connections in Rome, throughout Italy, and across the Commonwealth, including using strategic partnerships where appropriate.

Projects conducted under the auspices of the BSR will be closely managed by the Director, and those which are based in another institution will be expected to have clear targets from the outset, and clearly defined management responsibilities. All BSR projects will be expected to publish in a timely and appropriate fashion.

BSR will increasingly exploit the research potential of its archive and library resources. We will continue to build on the capacity of our archive to generate funded research; and we will increasingly use the library catalogue as a key tool for appropriate dissemination of results, as we move towards embracing digital humanities.

BSR will seek to offer or support focused and high-quality training across all its disciplines, to contribute to the skills development of future generations of researchers.

Finally, the BSR will make the excellence of its research one of the key mechanisms for raising its profile, and for establishing its identity as Britain's leading arts and humanities research centre abroad. This entails a clear and sustained focus on quality.

Activities/Delivery

Themes

The BSR will regularly review the themes that will provide a focus for our research. Each theme will be theoretically informed, collaborative and interdisciplinary. Our research themes will always have points of intersection, and the intention is to create a seamless sense of forward movement in research across all the areas in which the BSR operates.

Programming

The BSR's aim to achieve excellent research will translate into a programme of research initiatives and events that advances fundamental knowledge, that contributes to the well-being of society and enhances public understanding.

In addition the BSR will focus on combining research and practice, and will maintain a clear focus on practice-based research and the creative industries, where we believe we are able to combine traditional and innovative research and practice.

Events

We will expect to host at least one major international conference a year at the BSR, which will result in an appropriate publication, normally in the *British School at Rome Studies* series published by CUP.

We will support workshop activity that is linked to the development of projects within our themes.

We will maintain a strong, international and diverse programme of lectures, which will draw an international audience in the Rome context, and also support high-profile and intellectually significant events in the UK.

Grants

We will look to facilitate strong and appropriate grant application activity, for HEIs and related organisations in the UK, Italy and the Commonwealth. Our aim is to support an average of one research application every year. We will continue to monitor the alignment of our thematic priorities with other funding bodies.

In particular we will support UK HEIs by linking projects with our own research themes and with the international excellence that we represent.

Publications

All publications which are related to the BSR's work should be peer reviewed.

PBSR will continue to be published by CUP in print and online; and meets the criteria for 'Green Open Access'.

We expect to publish *circa* two monographs a year on topics that relate to our research themes across the planning period, normally in the *British School at Rome Studies* series published by CUP.

We will maintain a strong record of publication by BSR staff and associated scholars, especially in peer-reviewed outputs, and expect to sustain the results of our recent research assessment exercises.

BSR-funded archaeology will be published appropriately. All BSR archaeology projects will be published in English in *PBSR*, but may also be published in full in other languages and/or with other presses where appropriate.

Outreach, Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange

The BSR will continue to disseminate its research activity to a wider audience, through online publications, podcasts, general magazines and other appropriate media.

The BSR will support staff to present research at relevant conferences and workshops.

We will actively promote and facilitate exchange between projects to encourage further successful dialogue.

Structures

The BSR's Faculties will advise on research priorities, assure the BSR of the quality of programming, and will continue to have a critical oversight of awards.

The BSR's internal research committee will be responsible for programming decisions, maintaining the quality of the overall research, gathering information regarding the work of research active staff and research fellows, and reviewing our research themes. The strategy will inform specific operational planning for Humanities and Fine Arts.

Progress on research is reported three times a year to Council, as well as to the British Academy. It is also brought to the attention of the general public through BSR publications (including the *Annual Review*, *Fine Arts* catalogue and *Papers of the British School at Rome*).

This strategy will be reviewed annually internally and at Faculties, and approved by Council.

C.J. Smith
Director