

<p>Institution: University of Reading</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: 28 Modern Languages</p> <hr/> <p>a. Context</p> <p>In its approach to Impact, the UoA has built on two of the distinctive and longstanding strengths of the department which cross all of its research groupings: public advocacy for the vital contribution which languages and European cultures make to society, and expert support for archives and museums.</p> <p>1) Public advocacy for the contribution of languages and European cultures to society. Researchers in the UoA have a tradition of contributing to the executive leadership of key national bodies lobbying on languages – in 2012/2013, Reading staff were on the executive committees of no fewer than six language associations. This subject activity, external to the University, has acted as a vital framework for Impact activities in the UoA, giving researchers an awareness of the public policy contexts in which they are operating, and providing experience of articulating the relevance of language research to outside groups. With this background, researchers in the UoA have addressed two key audiences – firstly, sections of the general public (at local/national/international level) interested in aspects of European culture, and secondly, specific governmental and non-governmental groups (MOD, NGOs) which are less aware of the value of languages within their activities.</p> <p>2) Expert Support for archives and museums. Historically, the Department was closely involved in the establishment of three major archives - the Samuel Beckett Archive, now the biggest collection of Beckett materials in the world, the Centre for East German Studies Archive, the largest in the UK on GDR/post GDR materials, and the holdings created by the Centre for Modern Italian History relating to fascism and anti-fascism. The ongoing experience of working with these collections to make them focal points for outside bodies has been the springboard for the UoA's now successful development of a series of structured research relationships with archives, museums and galleries in the UK (the British Library, the Estorick Gallery, the Imperial War Museum), and beyond (the Centro di Ricerca sulla Tradizione Manoscritta di Autori Moderni e Contemporanei in Italy, the Institut Mémoires de l'Édition Contemporaine in France, and the National Library and Archive Service, Namibia), involving curators, archivists, literary agents and publishers.</p> <p>Through public presentation, and proactive relationships with archives and museums, the UoA's research has raised awareness of European cultural capital, and increased public understanding of vital aspects of European languages and cultures.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Approach to impact.</p> <p>Our approach to Impact focuses on our three key audiences – members of the public interested in aspects of European culture, governmental/non-governmental bodies, and museums/archives.</p> <p>1) Members of the public interested in aspects of European culture. Through widely advertised general programmes, the University has provided a public platform for researchers to engage directly with members of the public. Thus its <i>European Researchers'</i> festival in autumn 2011, with a 'Language, Text and Power' theme, attracted approximately 500 visitors to a series of events, including 'Meet a researcher' evenings, and debates on cultural hegemony versus linguistic diversity, discussions made available to a wider audience through streaming (http://www.reading.ac.uk/researchers-night/rn-debate.aspx). The UoA has sought funding from the University's Arts Committee to support specific European cultural events open to the general public ('Gianmaria Testa in concert', July 2012), and cooperates with relevant cultural institutes to host</p>
--

and present the work of contemporary creative writers (with the Italian Cultural Institute, public discussion with author Laura Pariani, October 2010). In addition, the Department actively encourages its researchers to go out and participate in the programmes of local societies – since 2009 members of staff have spoken about their research to bodies such as the Caversham French Society, the Richmond Historical Society, and the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution. On a broader national scale, members of the UoA have used the services of the University's Press Office in order to facilitate a range of media contacts, giving researchers opportunities to discuss their work in the national media - *The Times* (Footitt, April 2011), BBC Radio 3 *Nightwaves* (Bryden, March 2010), BBC 1 'Louis XVI' (Félix, February 2012). The Department itself has strongly encouraged its researchers to develop opportunities to engage with the international media. Between October 2011 and August 2013, Faloppa was interviewed extensively about his work on languages and racism, on TV channels *RAI 3* and *LA7* (December 2011), in *La Stampa* (December 2011), and on Radio *RAI 3* (April and August 2013). Duggan's book was the subject of an hour-long live interview on *Rai Uno* (December 2008), whilst Medioli discussed her work on Arcangela Tarabotti with the *Toronto Star* (October 2011), and Knapp's research on the Allied Bombing of France was featured in documentaries shown on French regional television (September 2012), repeated on national television (*FR3*, November 2012).

2) Governmental/non-governmental bodies. We have involved governmental/non-governmental bodies in our research by integrating impact into the initial stages of project planning through the structures of the research projects themselves, establishing Advisory Groups with potential users, and inviting outside groups to give papers in research workshops. The AHRC *Languages at War* project (2008-2011) had two members of the MOD in the Advisory Group, with workshop papers given by the MOD, the Imperial War Museum, the British Council and the Professional Interpreters Association. Faloppa's research on social stigma and discrimination (2007-2010) similarly developed as a joint project, funded by the Italian Health Service, and undertaken with two Non-Governmental Organisations (Associazione Difesa Ammalati Psicici and Parole MOLEste), working with mentally ill patients in order to write and produce a short film, widely shown in public film festivals in Italy. In the AHRC Translating Cultures *Languages and International NGOs* development project, NGOs (the International Red Cross, Médecins sans Frontières, and Concordis International) were involved in formulating new research questions and suggesting future research projects through meetings held by the Network at the RSA (March, June 2012).

3) Museums/Archives Since 2009, relationships with museums and archives have developed following this same model of integrated research partnerships. The AHRC project, *The Italian Academies 1525-1700: the first intellectual networks of early Modern Europe* (Sampson, 2010-14), is a partnership involving Reading, Royal Holloway, and the British Library, with the British Library (together with the Warburg Institute) represented on the Advisory Group, and hosting an international conference of research based on the publicly accessible database run off the BL catalogue. The more recent Leverhulme network, *Diasporic Literary Archives: questions of location, ownership, interpretation* (la Penna, Heywood, 2012-2015), has been established as a partnership between Reading, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (Yale), archivists in Trinidad and Tobago, the Centro di Ricerca sulla Tradizione Manoscritta di Autori Moderni e Contemporanei (Pavia), the Institut Mémoires de l'Édition Contemporaine (Paris), and the National Library and Archive Service of Namibia. The group, which brings together archivists, authors, literary agents, publishers, the Society of Authors and UNESCO (March 2013) has supported the work of the National Library and Archives of Grenada, struggling to house their collections after severe storm damage, and is contributing to the 'Francophone Manuscripts' project which aims to promote the conservation of literary manuscripts in the Francophone world.

Impact template (REF3a)**c. Strategy and plans**

Overall, and supported by university-wide structures, the UoA has developed a creative and robust approach to embedding Impact in its research activities. Over the next five years, the UoA will further foster its impact culture by:

- (1)** generalising out to all relevant research proposals the structures which have proved successful in the Department – integrated partnerships with a range of outside bodies, with formal Advisory Groups to include non-academic partners;
- (2)** using the newly established interdisciplinary and transnational research groups and projects in which the Department participates– the Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism, the Cultures of war and conflict group, and the Interdisciplinary Research into the Humanities and Sciences cluster – in order to work with a broader range of outside bodies connected to the cognate disciplines: Neuroscience and Psychology, International Relations and Politics, Biology, Meteorology and Cybernetics.
- (3)** continuing to make key archival resources accessible on-line to the general public through university-supported digitization projects (the extensive feature film collection held by the Centre for East German Studies), and by co-operation with outside bodies (discussing with the British Library putting digitized Mss in Occitan on-line);
- (4)** ensuring that an understanding of impact is embedded in the internal research processes of the UoA through the Department’s regular research interviews, and its mentoring structures;
- (5)** increasing the number of researchers who have benefited from relevant training at an institutional level, with 75% having received detailed press office advice/media training in the next five years;
- (6)** ensuring that our international media contacts are celebrated and shared with younger researchers in the Department.

d. Relationship to case studies.

Our three Case Studies illustrate the ways in which we have increased public understanding of vital aspects of European culture and languages, through public advocacy (Case Studies 1 and 2), and structured research partnerships (Case Study 3).

Case Study 1 (Knapp) shows how a broad public in France, and servicemen in the US, have been made aware of a highly sensitive issue (Allied bombing) which had seldom been openly addressed in France before this time.

Case Study 2 (Duggan) demonstrates how research on nation building in Italy has generated lively public debate on what constitutes a state, and been at the heart of discussions in Italy on how to form an effective national community.

Case Study 3 (Footitt) shows how research on languages in conflict has acted as a catalyst, raising awareness among language practitioners, governmental/non-governmental bodies, and the UK’s principal Museum of War.