

<p>Institution: University of East Anglia</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: 27 Area Studies</p> <hr/> <p>a. Overview: Our mission is to lead developments in Area Studies research. Powerfully underpinned by the University of East Anglia's (UEA) tradition of, and commitment to, interdisciplinary research, our work aims to be at the forefront of research in intercultural communication. Our research strategy is driven by a desire to enhance understandings of human cultures and communities, their linguistic, historic and literary transformations, and by questions of power and identity that issue from such investigations. We recognise Area Studies as a field of associated – and thus, of their nature, interdisciplinary – investigative practices rather than a defined discipline. The researchers submitted to the Area Studies sub-panel are all members of either the Schools of American Studies (AMS) or Language and Communication Studies (LCS) in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and work in four associated research groups: i) Intercultural and interdisciplinary studies; ii) Global and transnational communication; iii) Representation and identity studies; iv) Translating, interpreting and border-crossing.</p> <p>Each group focuses on specific aspects of a region, community or professional practice. They are united by an overarching interest in how identity itself comes to be culturally inscribed in formations such as nation, language, history and aesthetic practices. Research in this unit has been instrumental in defining and extending the recent trans-national turn in Area Studies by explicitly focusing on issues of cultural power within global and local contexts. Much of this work engages with and develops understandings of Area Studies by being at the forefront of challenges to habituated disciplinary thinking, and by an active and lively commitment to cross-cultural and international modes of intellectual analysis.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy: An emphasis on transnational and global frames of reference underpins this submission and is central to its research strategy. In applying these conceptual frames and by focusing its energies in the research groups outlined above, our work has deliberately built on the success of the UEA American Studies RAE 2008 submission and the strategy outlined in it. Response to suggestions from the RAE panel about developing a research strategy for each group led to re-organisation of the groups around conceptual rather than topic headings, and the development of such strategies.</p> <p>Defining our research in terms of intercultural communication has extended the reach and strategic focus of our contribution to Area Studies since RAE 2008. Collaborative work across Language and Communication Studies and American Studies has fostered exciting new directions for our research that reflect the increasingly comparative, transnational and global perspectives of the field. Consequently, our research groups lead the field by providing exemplary ways of engaging with key questions at the heart of Area Studies – about the nature of interdisciplinarity itself; about local and global communities; about personal, national and cultural identity; and about translating between languages and cultures.</p> <p>An overall concern for us, therefore, has been to interrogate the intellectual paradigms of Area Studies. This is evidenced by the central position of the exploration of cultural and linguistic differences and similarities between areas, and the fostering of cross-cultural and international perspectives. The main achievements, and vitality, of each research group in respect of such intellectual frameworks are summarised below. These are supported by a twofold, and on-going, strategy: to develop international collaborations and events so as to animate colleagues' work within global contexts; and to encourage colleagues to develop aspects of their research that is 'outward' or 'public' facing.</p> <p>Group 1: <u>Intercultural and interdisciplinary studies</u>. Since its foundation, UEA has promoted interdisciplinary scholarship, identifying it as a 'founding principle and continuing practice' of the university. Interdisciplinarity and intercultural study are central to our research strategy. Work in this group has broken new ground in interdisciplinary collaboration, and defined a strong research identity around intercultural communication. This has led to the highly successful <i>Norwich - City of Interculture</i> project. Colleagues in this research group also examine America from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. The recent, strategically-driven concentration of staff interests in space, place and environment means that – uniquely in the UK – the group has developed new</p>

research areas in ecology and land in American culture (Smith on the Mississippi and Tillett on NAFTA and environmental justice, the latter project the subject of a BA mid-career major grant bid). Work by Selby and Hair examines American poetics within interdisciplinary contexts and leads a new field linking experimental poetics and environmentalism.

Group 2: Global and transnational communication. In the review period, a series of international and interdisciplinary conferences, *Cross-Cultural Pragmatics at a Crossroads* (organised by Guillot), has intensified the work of colleagues in this area. These conferences – hosted at UEA, and set to continue beyond 2013 – have attracted a wide range of internationally renowned experts and situated UEA at the heart of research in this emerging field. Cross-cultural research in this group is consolidated by Filipović's and Hijazo-Gascon's work as members of a collaborative multinational team within the interdisciplinary cognitive linguistics project (*Movement and space according to a semantic typology and its application to translation and acquisition*, 2010-2013). Research in this area is being expanded further through Filipović's major ESRC grant bid. The examination of the effects of spatial movement on language formation is mirrored by the investigations of other members in this group which examines the movement of ideas of American culture within transnational frames. Work on transatlantic poetics, modernism and postmodernism (Garland, Hair, McLennan, Selby), situates understandings of American literary culture within global contexts. The 'UEA Poetics Project' is a focal point for UK research in transatlantic experimental poetics, and stems directly from this. The UEA Arthur Miller Centre's activities were identified in RAE 2008 as world-leading. Building on this reputation, the Centre has become the hub for several international projects which underpin our strategies to sustain and energise research in the group, e.g. a research consortium for Global US Studies with colleagues at Temple University (Philadelphia).

Group 3: Representation and identity studies. Research in this area, a key strength of the RAE 2008 submission, has been targeted for growth by a recruitment strategy (see Section c. below) and a concentration of energies on themes of cultural and historical trauma, racial, ethnic and gender identities in America, and identity in intercultural communication. These are manifest in the world-leading work of Musolff on identity and body-based metaphor in political discourse, and in related work with Polish, German, Austrian partner institutions (AHRC funded) on the impact of Holocaust Memory on national identities. Alongside the recent work of McLennan into cultural representations of Anne Frank (which grows out of her work on metaphor, adolescence and female identity), that of Fear-Segal into Native peoples, and Fraser into slavery and antebellum America, this group shares significant interests in the shaping of identity through the experience of trauma and cultural dislocation. Similar concerns also inform Filipović's work, with its focus on witness narratives, memory, and trans-linguistic justice. Fraser and Tillett are leading an international project on quilting and African American cultural history. Fear-Segal and Tillett founded the Native Studies Research Network (2006), which hosted an international conference on indigenous bodies (2009), and will host the Network's 2015 conference.

Group 4: Translating, interpreting and border-crossing. Recent strategic emphasis has been given to developing this group, especially in relation to ethics and empathy. This work is both spearheading new ways of addressing and studying translation, and producing research directed to 'real-world' translation practice. Drugan has pioneered research on translation ethics and translation quality especially focused on such practice and will lead a large-scale investigation of gaps in the provision of interpreting and translation in the UK, while Guillot's work is shaping the development of pragmatics-driven approaches to audiovisual translation studies. By also pioneering research into forensic linguistics and translation (Filipović), museum translation (Guillot), and translation and sport (Baines) this group places itself centrally in these lesser-researched areas. The work of Tillett and Fear-Segal in native studies, and Smith in Southern and South-West literary cultures examines the ethics and politics of border crossing, and of cultural displacement and translation. Vital to this group, then, is an examination of liminal spaces and people, an interrogation of the ethics of how languages, cultures and people are 'translated' across borders, and questions surrounding the dismantling of linguistic barriers. By articulating such issues, the research of this group deliberately seeks to extend the field imaginary of Area Studies.

The strategy for Area Studies at UEA over the next five years is to maintain the productivity and vitality of its four research groups under the umbrella heading of intercultural communication. We will capture significant levels of funding (collaborative and individual); consolidate and develop national and international research collaborations; develop our base of doctoral students including

collaborative PhDs (see c. ii); enhance further our research-led connections with non-academic organisations, and build new relationships of this kind (see REF3a).

Funding. Our research groups have been set up explicitly to focus our efforts and resources upon grant bids and thus to drive our longer term research planning. The AHRC and Leverhulme Trust remain key targets for funding bids but our strategy is also to seek funding from a wider range of bodies. Both the Leverhulme's emphasis on originality, significance, risk and, in particular, interdisciplinarity, and the AHRC's emphasis on impact-led research that will 'facilitate knowledge exchange and partnerships with private, cultural and public sectors, collaborate internationally, and engage the general public' suit our approach to Area Studies well. Bids are in preparation on a range of intercultural and translational topics such as: Poetry and the Environment (Hair and Selby), Media, US and transatlantic folk cultures (Hair and Smith) (both Group 1); on 'linguistic and cultural representations in audiovisual and/or museum translation' (Guillot), and 'Developing intercultural communication skills for businesses' (Hijazo-Gascon) (both Group 2); a Network Grant application on 'The concept of the "body politic" in the Israeli-Arab-Palestinian Conflict' (Musolff), and 'Quilting and the Cultural History of the African Americas' (Fraser, Tillett) (both Group 3); and, from Group 4, 'The Language Gap' (a large-scale investigation of gaps in provision of interpreting and translation in the UK, and the serious impacts these have) (Drugan), and 'Translation and interpreting policy and practice in the English Premier League' (Baines). The latter project is a good example of one for which private funding will be sought (The Football Association, The Premier League and the Professional Footballers' Association). The following examples illustrate the extension of our search for funding beyond traditional Area Studies sources. Funding secured by Pounds from ASME (Association for the Study of Medical Education) into the development of an empathy-specific Medical School entry test will build into a project designed to enhance the quality of communication practice in the urgent tele-care service NHS111. Funding for this will be sought from the NHS National Institute for Health Research and the ESRC. Filipović is preparing a major ESRC grant bid with international collaborators for a project on psycholinguistic aspects of word order processing across typologically different languages. Fear-Segal is applying in conjunction with Dickinson College to the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund a symposium bringing together Native American Elders and university researchers (2016).

Research Collaborations. Existing links with University California Davis, Temple University, Philadelphia and Dickinson College, Pennsylvania (USA), the Eötvös Lorant University (Budapest) and Heidelberg University (Germany) provide the foundation for the further development of international research collaborations (groups 1, 2 and 3). The relationship with UC Davis is a particularly effective model of international collaboration because it embeds cross-linguistic research in an exchange programme involving both staff (Filipović) and students (from September 2013) (groups 2 and 4). We will extend this model to further links with the aforementioned institutions: with Temple, we are developing Global US Studies which links American Studies centres in Beirut, Brazil, France, Germany, South Korea, and Japan (groups 1 and 2); with Dickinson, the shared research is on dialogue between Native American Elders and academics (group 3); while with Heidelberg and Budapest, it is on cross-cultural metaphors (group 4). We are developing other international collaborations such as with the Truman Institute of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem around conceptual metaphors in the Israeli-Arab-Palestinian conflict (group 4). Our membership of the AHRC-funded Consortium for Humanities and the Arts in the South East (CHASE) will enable us to expand collaborative Area Studies projects in the Digital Humanities (Guillot on subtitling with the University of Essex (group 4), Grant on Civil Rights and Anti-Apartheid movements with the University of Kent (group 3), and in poetics (Selby and Hair with Kent and Sussex Universities (groups 1 and 2)). Research collaboration will be enhanced by the hosting of a series of major international conferences at UEA including: *East Asian Translation Studies* bringing together scholars from China, Japan, and Korea (group 4), and the next *Native Studies Research Network* conference (group 3) (both June 2014); an interdisciplinary conference on *Communication and Sport* (groups 1, 3 and 4), and an early career researcher symposium on intercultural business skills (groups 1 and 2) (both 2015); the fourth in the *Cross-Cultural Pragmatics at a Crossroads* conference series (group 2) (2016); *Quilting and the Cultural History of the African Americas* (group 3) (2017); and *Poetry and the Environment* (group 1) (2018).

c. People - i. Staffing strategy and staff development:

Since RAE 2008, twelve research active staff (lecturer, senior lecturer, and professor levels) have

been added to the Area Studies grouping. This significant expansion is part of a deliberate strategy targeting vibrant research areas in the Faculty. The University has invested in new, and replacement, staff so as to enhance existing research strengths, aid development of new directions and give potential for future growth. New appointments have actively enhanced our research groups, and have been selected for their potential to steer the field in new directions.

Recent appointments - Hair and Mistry (2011) - have added significant weight to the unit's expertise in global and transnational communication. Their work situates the US in such global contexts as transatlantic poetry networks and intellectual and diplomatic history. Musolff's world-leading work on body-based metaphor in political discourse was brought into the representation and identity studies research group in 2010. This dovetails with McLennan's (2009) expertise in narratives of gender, trauma and metaphors of adolescence. Sato-Rossberg (translation of oral Ainu narratives, 2011) and Drugan (translation quality and ethics, 2012) have joined the Translating, interpreting and border-crossing group, as have Filipović (translation and forensic linguistics, 2011) and Hijazo-Gascon (2012). The latter's expertise in cross-language comparisons in conceptualisations of space directly complements Filipović's research and enables an effective senior/early career relationship within the research team. Cultural historians Chronopoulos (urban history and culture, 2012) and Long (legal history and religious discourse in the US Constitution, 2012) add to the intercultural and interdisciplinary group, as do Wolf (intercultural and interfaith dialogue from the perspective of linguistic pragmatics, 2009) and Garland (2013), whose work explores the intersection of literary, visual and material cultures. The many links and cross-overs in expertise between these appointments facilitate the unit's vibrant and sustainable research culture.

The appointment of new colleagues in such key areas has been expressly to build interlinked groups of peer expertise and to embed a system of mentoring of junior colleagues by senior ones. All new staff, including early career researchers, are allocated a mentor and undergo formal mentoring. The Head of School manages this process with the input of the Research Director to both provide initial induction and on-going guidance for research focus, grant applications, publication and dissemination strategies. Each year, all staff have an appraisal and complete a research plan to cover the following five years of activity.

The University has established a Research Staff Working Group to support the implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. Chaired by a Pro-Vice Chancellor, this comprises academic representatives and researchers from all Faculties. The Group steers University strategy for career development and monitors implementation of activities. A Faculty Research Staff Coordinator acts as a supportive point of contact and mentor for research staff beyond their day-to-day line management group.

The University's staff and student profile is broad across the full range of protected characteristics. Its Single Equality Action Plan identifies policies which are proactively delivered by the Equality and Diversity Committee which includes representation from the Faculty. Robust information on staff and student populations is compiled by the Equality and Diversity Officer; this helps to raise awareness and inform decisions from an equality perspective. In 2012, Athena SWAN awarded the University a Bronze Award. This recognises the University's solid foundation for eliminating gender bias and development of an inclusive culture that values all staff. Within this submission, colleagues have received support through the provision of generous maternity and paternity leave arrangements and disability support.

ii. Research students:

The review period has seen significant expansion in the numbers of research students and the rates of successful completions of doctoral degrees (14 since 2008) in the unit. Currently there are 33 students registered in Area Studies, a doubling of numbers since 2010. This is due to the growing national and international reputations of colleagues in the unit (especially as they have been promoted into senior roles), concerted efforts to recruit the best of our MA students onto PhD programmes, budgetary decisions to fund studentships at School and Faculty levels, and enhancements to the support and training offered to students via the institution of a Faculty Graduate School, which has significantly raised the profile of graduate studies in the Faculty amongst potential applicants. Since 2008, 6 research students in the unit have been fully supported by the Faculty, 3 by Arthur Miller studentships, and 10 more have had some or all of their fees paid by the Area Studies group. As well as supporting research trips and fieldwork, Area Studies budgets pay for two PhD studentships every year. The University's Research and

Enterprise Service provides the infrastructure whereby doctoral students and their supervisory teams are enabled to create and sustain relationships with industry, public or third-party bodies. We plan future collaborative doctoral awards arising from these relationships.

We aim to create even stronger growth in our PGR community over the next five years. Our strategy is three-fold: i) bursaries (UEA, AHRC consortium fund/collaborative doctoral awards, and privately sponsored awards); ii) the embedding of studentships into funding bids; and iii) targeted international recruitment. We finance two Home/EU PhD scholarships each year and applicants are also eligible for annual Faculty awards. In addition, we will benefit from funds awarded to the CHASE AHRC consortium for doctoral study, and have proposals for collaborative doctoral awards in site-specific poetry and activism with Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Selby) and interdisciplinary ethics for 2014-15. We will continue to seek funding from this source in the future. Private sponsorship of doctoral students is rare in Area Studies but we have one project in conjunction with Norwich City Football Club for a studentship in the area of the translation of social media which we hope will become a model for such funding in future. Research Council funding bids including studentships are in development in the following areas: 'Environmental Activism in the US Southwest' (Tillett); 'Eco-Poetics' (Selby, Hair); 'Quilting and African American Cultural History' (Fraser, Tillett); and 'Policy and Practice: Translation and interpreting in the English Premier League' (Baines). In conjunction with UEA's international recruitment team we have put aside funds to enable Area Studies academics to visit targeted countries, meet agents and speak at recruitment events in order to develop further our recruitment of international doctoral students.

We select research students on the quality of their academic achievement and potential, and on the fit of their proposed topic with the expertise of available supervisors. A student works with a supervisory team, typically comprised of a primary and a secondary supervisor. Recently, co-supervisory arrangements where two or more colleagues share equal responsibility have become more common and the majority of our newly recruited students are now co-supervised. We believe this to be especially good practice for this field because it gives impetus and support to interdisciplinary projects.

Students have regular meetings with their supervisors. The expectation is that these will take place at least monthly, with eight formal supervisory meetings a year being the minimum. Students are also required to complete ten training credits per year. All students initially register for an MPhil degree. Towards the end of year one (year two for part-time students) students submit work-in-progress for review by a transfer panel comprising of two Faculty members. After successful completion, students then register for a PhD degree.

Student progress is reviewed annually. Since 2009, students in the unit have been supported to organise an Annual Review Symposium where they present their research to their peers and members of Faculty; feedback on this work is a key part of each student's annual review. Involvement also provides them with valuable training in, and experience of, organising an academic event. The high value of training and support given to our research students and the benefits of the responsive nature of the skills programme are demonstrated by it being the model on which the CHASE consortium won its bid for Block Grant doctoral funding from the AHRC.

We foster a strong and vibrant research community amongst students, with their work helping to direct the future shape of work in the field. All students attend regular research seminars given by visiting academics (funded in some instances by the American Embassy and EU); research and engagement seminars; and public lectures on intercultural communication. Financial support is also provided for students to attend conferences and symposia at other institutions, and to carry out research in archives. A key strand of the Global US Studies consortium is the sharing of supervisory expertise to graduate students across all partners in the consortium, a model we are developing with our other international partners. In these ways we instil in research students the values of interdisciplinarity, internationalisation and global thinking that underpin our own research.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities:

Income. The Area Studies research income stream from QR funding and from the Arthur Miller Centre's Literary festival profits has sustained research in the unit, and supported some of the strategic growth outlined above. The expansion and greatly enhanced profile of research in the unit over the period of assessment has provided us with an excellent platform to nurture our grant-bidding culture and ensure our sustainability.

Income received from successful bids has ranged from support for research and engagement

projects in the local community (so as to define Pathways to Impact) to funding for international research collaborations. These include: Eighth in the East (Heritage Lottery Fund, £575,000); Intercultural Communication in Norfolk Primary Education (AHRC, £23,000); American Icons and Globalisation (British Council, £10,000); Native Studies and Indigenous Peoples Symposium (Central Pennsylvania Consortium, \$10,000; and Dickinson College, \$10,000); Holocaust Memory and National Identities (AHRC, £2,700); *Movimiento y espacio* project (Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, share of €135,000); Empathy: Development of an empathy-specific entry test for applicants to medical schools (*Association for the Study of Medical Education*, £1,800); various smaller funds have been received for conferences, research symposia and seminars throughout the period from the British Academy, the Society for French Studies, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the UK, and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation.

Given the recent growth in the numbers of Area Studies staff, especially at early career level, the number of successful funding bids is more moderate than in the last assessment period. Work in group 4 has resulted in a Leverhulme bid, 'Multilingual Interactions in Legal Contexts' (Research Project Grant) (Filipović, 2013); a major British Academy mid-career bid, 'Otherwise, Revolution! Leslie Marmon Silko's Almanac of the Dead' (Tillett, 2013); and an AHRC Collaborative Skills development grant, 'Engaging with Ethics: Bringing Humanities Research and Expertise to Professional Practice' (Drugan, 2013). An AHRC Network Grant has been submitted from Group 1 on 'Collaborations in word and image: verbal/ visual relationships from modernity to the present' (involving Garland and a range of UK, US and Norwegian universities). Pounds' collaboration with the UEA Medical School on improving communication for health professionals has already secured funding (£1,800, 2012) from ASME.

Infrastructure. We have introduced a robust system of internal peer review. Colleagues receive training before joining the Faculty's Peer-Review College. Such processes have been introduced to provide effective structures to improve success rates. To this end, we have also recently appointed a number of colleagues with a track record of successful funding bids prior to joining UEA (e.g. Drugan, Filipović, Musolff), and they have been specifically tasked with mentoring junior colleagues over grant applications. Research activities in the unit are supported by an appropriate balance between teaching and administration tasks and research time (weekly research days, teaching loads commensurate with researcher roles, and closely monitored study leave for post-probation researchers). Staff are eligible to apply for study leave every seventh semester. Twenty two periods of study leave have been awarded to colleagues, across all four research groups in this submission, during the review period. This significant investment in study leave has resulted in the production of many of the research outputs in this submission. To further encourage colleagues to develop their research careers, each is allocated a research allowance of £500 per year to support visits to archives, conference attendance and other research activities.

The vitality and collegiality of the unit draw strongly on UEA's profound commitment to interdisciplinary research. This ethos extends to non-research-active colleagues whose teaching and scholarship maps onto and complements that of the four research groups. Indeed, the work of these colleagues is crucial to the unit's research strategy. It provides both teaching relief and the expertise necessary for the development of public engagement projects leading to impact from our research.

Facilities. Various facilities are available to colleagues in the unit to enable their research to capitalise on local resources within international networks and collaborations. The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is a unique resource for interdisciplinary research in visual cultures and Area Studies. It was the venue for a recent 'ImageText' conference organised by members of the unit. The Forum, in Norwich city centre's Millennium Building, has provided the venue for much of the unit's public dissemination of its research (Norwich - City of Interculture; American Lives; Black History Month). Colleagues benefit, too, from excellent resources in the James Platt Language Centre, in particular its latest technological tools for translators, subtitling and dubbing software and interpreting equipment. University internationalisation funding (£11,000) was awarded for the development of a research and teaching link with the linguistics department at University California Davis. A Japan Internationalisation Fund award (£6,000) has enhanced relationships with high-ranking Japanese universities and fostered strong research collaborations within Area Studies research groupings. The Arthur Miller Centre coordinates international networks in Native Studies, Contemporary Poetics and Global US Studies and is thus at the heart of the unit's efforts to lead new directions in Area Studies.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base:

The Native Studies Research Network established UEA as the hub for communication and collaboration between UK and international scholars studying indigenous peoples. Tillett is a Steering Committee member for 'Rethinking Indigeneity: Sovereignty, Representation and Environment,' based at the University of Leeds; this project links research institutions in South Africa, India and New Zealand.

Executive committees of relevant subject associations and international research networks are well represented by researchers within this unit: Drugan, founding Council Member of the Publication Integrity and Ethics non-profit organisation (from 2013); Guillot, Secretary of the Executive Committee for the Association for French Language Studies and incoming Chair of its Research Committee (from 2013); Musolff, Executive Committee of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (2009-2012), and Executive Board of Researching and Applying Metaphor (2012-2015); Selby, Committee on Programs and Centers of the American Studies Association; Long, Membership Secretary of the Historians of the Twentieth Century United States; Smith, Chair, Conferences Sub-Committee, British Association for American Studies.

Our involvement in peer review and advisory panels is evidenced through the tenures of Selby and Drugan as members of the AHRC Peer Review College, Filipović for the National Science Foundation (USA) and CUP. All colleagues undertake peer reviewing for journals and publishing houses, with a number undertaking lead editorial roles. These include: *European Journal of American Culture* (McLaughlin, Tillett); *Comparative American Studies* (Selby); *Journal of American Studies* (Smith); *Cahiers de Praxématique* (Guillot); *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* (Musolff); *Metaphor and the Social World* (Musolff). Selby was also Editor of the 20th Century American Poetry section of *The Literary Encyclopaedia* (2008-2011).

Colleagues have acted as external examiners of PhDs at the following institutions in the period: Drugan (Bangor University, 2009; Imperial College, Swansea University, 2013); Fear-Segal (KCL, 2008, 2011, 2012); Filipović (University of Zaragoza, 2012); Fraser (Warwick University, 2012); Musolff (Lancaster University, Copenhagen Business School, 2009; Open University, 2012); Tillett (KCL, 2012); Selby (University of Kent, University of Sussex, 2008; UCL, 2009; Bangor University, 2010; KCL, Oxford Brookes, 2011; University of Sussex, University of Kent, 2012).

A number of prestigious awards have been bestowed upon research produced within this unit as further evidence of the contribution of our research to the discipline and research base. In 2013, Musolff was invited to take up a Visiting Fellowship at the Harry S Truman Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for a research and engagement project focused on the discourse of Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution. Fear-Segal's *White Man's Club* won the European Association of American Studies Book Prize and was runner up in the British Association for American Studies Book Prize (both 2008). Her *Shadow Catchers* project was equally successful and was awarded the British Library Eccles Centre Best Research Project Prize (2008). Fraser's *Gender, Race and Family in 19th Century America* was shortlisted for the Women's History Network prize. Tillett's essay on Anna Lee Waters's *Ghost Singer* was selected for inclusion in the authoritative *Native American Writing* (2011, ed. Robert Lee).

Invited presentations to international audiences include: Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture at the Florida International University, USA (Filipović, 2013); workshop on translation quality at the W3C Multilingual Web meeting (Drugan, Rome 2013), established by Tim Berners-Lee with high-profile industrial participants including Google, GALA and Facebook; keynote at the 'Beats and the Classics' conference (Selby, UPenn, Philadelphia, 2012); and keynote at 'Mark Twain and the Mississippi River' conference (Smith, Hannibal, Missouri, 2008).

We have hosted successful academic conferences in the field of Area Studies during the assessment period. These have included: Indigenous Bodies (2009); the British Association for American Studies Annual Conference (2010); American Image/Text (2010); Cross-Cultural Pragmatics at a Crossroads Conferences (2011 and 2013); America Changed through Music Conference (2012); Comic Book Superheroes (in association with Birkbeck College, 2012). Furthermore, Sato-Rossberg co-organised inaugural conferences on Intercultural Translation Studies in the Japanese Context (Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto 2010 and Aichi Shukutoku University, 2012).