

<p><b>Institution: University of Lincoln</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: 29 English Language and Literature</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>English at Lincoln has raised its research profile rapidly and significantly since 2008. From a total of 14.7 FTE staff, eleven are included in this submission, with staff at all career stages represented. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature has been a key strategic focus, along with the growth of research in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Literature. Two research groups underpin work in these areas: the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research Group (2012), combines the interdisciplinary research into aesthetic, digital, cultural and environmental mediations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century of colleagues in English, Media, Performing Arts, Art and Design and the Business School; the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Research Group (2008), provides a forum for interdisciplinary exploration of the literary, political, visual and trans-cultural aspects of the long nineteenth century, involving colleagues from English, History, Architecture and Art and Design. New research groups in testimony/life writing/memory studies, creative writing and women's writing are in the process of being formed. Two new Masters programmes facilitate students' progression to research degrees.</p> <p>The University has demonstrated a clear commitment to English by appointing five early career researchers during the census period. Two Professorial appointments in Contemporary Literature (<b>Armitt, Rowland</b>) have also been made; with the help of the Reader (<b>Adiseshiah</b>) they bring experience and esteem to an already dynamic and well-respected group. In these ways we have extended and enhanced our research profile offering sustainability to existing projects and strategies for future development.</p> <p>In 2011 the University moved from a Faculty to a College structure and is now organised into three academic colleges: Arts, Science and Social Science. The College of Arts contains the School of Humanities, which comprises English and History. A key driver in this reorganisation was the desire to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration for research and enterprise.</p> <hr/> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>The Unit's Research and Enterprise Strategy is aligned with the University's strategic research objectives. These are to improve the research environment by: investing in the building of key research capabilities and resources; underpinning the professional development of researchers; raising the impact of research outputs; and strengthening postgraduate research. Our achievements and activities since 2008 in relation to the above are summarised below and addressed in more detail in the relevant subsequent sections.</p> <p><b>Current projects</b></p> <p>A key research objective for the UoA has been to develop itself as a pioneering voice, forum and research leader for 21<sup>st</sup> century literary studies. To achieve this, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established the interdisciplinary 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research Group in May 2012 (<b>Adiseshiah Armitt, Charnock</b>, Edwards [until August 2013], <b>Eve</b>, Hildyard, <b>Marlow</b>, C. Redpath, P. Redpath, <b>Rowland, Woolley</b>, Chick [UoA 34], Dutton [UoA 34], Barrow [UoA 36], Meyer-Dinkgrafe [UoA 35]).</li> <li>• Launched the world's first MA in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature (2011), designed as a feeder of potential PGR students.</li> <li>• Organised and hosted the biennial 'What Happens Now: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Writing in English' conferences (2010, 2012, 2014), as well as a major international conference 'Interrogating Trauma in the Humanities' (2012), and conferences on living writers Maggie Gee and China Miéville (2012) and Adam Roberts (2013), and playwrights festivals and symposia (Caryl Churchill 2011, Sarah Kane 2012, Mark Ravenhill 2013).</li> <li>• Launched <i>Alluvium</i>, the new online, open access literary criticism magazine, dedicated to 21<sup>st</sup> century writing (edited by <b>Eve</b> and Edwards).</li> <li>• Worked with the new journal, <i>C21 Literature</i> (<b>Adiseshiah</b> is an Editorial Board member, Hildyard and <b>Marlow</b> are Review Editors).</li> </ul>
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- Increased outputs in the area of 21<sup>st</sup> century literature, including the first book on 21<sup>st</sup> century fiction, *Twenty-First Century Fiction* (Palgrave, 2013).
- Appointed two Professors from September 2013 (**Armitt** and **Rowland**), to provide further research leadership, assist with our key priorities of grant capture, growing PGR numbers, and strengthening our expertise in 21<sup>st</sup> century literature.

Digital developments in 21<sup>st</sup> Century research culture also form a cornerstone of the UoA's research strategy. **Eve** is working on several projects that enable us to contribute to national-level RCUK and HEFCE policy aimed at making open access to research financially sustainable. This is achieved through the two extant APC-free 'gold' open access journals, *Alluvium* and *Orbit*, to be accompanied over the coming years by a major, international venue, the *Open Library of Humanities*.

We have also developed the work of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Research Group, an interdisciplinary initiative co-established by **Styler** in January 2008. This draws together research into society, politics, literature and visual culture in the long 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its earlier membership (including **Styler**, **Culley**, Hill (UoA 30), Packer (UoA 30), Cowman (UoA 30) Cheshire (UoA 34) and Waites (UoA 34) has been expanded and refreshed by the appointment of ECRs **Clayton** and **Field**, who bring strengths in children's literature and book history and photography and visual culture.

Activities during the census period have included:

- Twice-termly colloquia involving visiting speakers, staff and postgraduates;
- Two interdisciplinary, international conferences 'Lives in Relation', (2009) and 'Travel in the Nineteenth Century: Narratives, Histories, and Collections', (2011);
- Establishing team-taught MA modules to enhance progression to PGR in this field.

Members of the School's Humanities Research Seminar Series meet fortnightly in lively, well-attended (20-25) seminars, to showcase and help develop staff and postgraduate research in English, History, and those working across the disciplines and to host papers by guest speakers.

### Future projects

Building on our research strengths a number of projects are in development, led by the Research Groups. We are establishing a new Centre for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research led by **Adiseshiah** and **Eve**. The Centre will form a platform for new interdisciplinary and multi-institutional collaborative projects in 21<sup>st</sup> century literary and cultural research. The potential impact of this research will be further progressed through the presence of **Rowland**, a prize-winning poet and specialist in Creative Writing (awarded the prestigious £10,000 Manchester Literary Festival Poetry Prize), who joined English as a Professor in September 2013 to promote postgraduate growth in creative writing and enhance 21<sup>st</sup> century research by expanding current activities around performances and events involving contemporary writers. **Armitt**, a specialist in Contemporary Women's Writing and a senior member of the Contemporary Women Writers Association, brings with her a £42,500 AHRC-funded Collaborative Skills Development Programme for ECRs and PGRs working in the field, which will further boost research-related activity and partnerships in 21<sup>st</sup> Century research.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century research group will exploit the rich resource of the Tennyson Research Centre, housed in Lincoln. The archive is the most internationally significant collection of Tennyson-related materials (including letters, manuscripts, proofs, photographs, and personal belongings as well as Tennyson's own library). It is a key local asset that offers a platform to enhance practical skills for Victorian archival work, for example, bibliography and cataloguing. Further research activities related to the Centre are also planned, for example, a 2015 conference on early photography focused on the images of Julia Margaret Cameron. New ECR appointments in 19<sup>th</sup> century literature recruited in September 2013 will help, with **Rowland**, to harness the potential of the archive. More specifically **Field** is working on an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award bid that would involve Lincoln and the Tennyson Research Centre in funding a PhD student to work on a project 'Tennyson and Print'. The studentship will move beyond immediate disciplinary boundaries to focus on the spectrum of 19<sup>th</sup> century print practices as evidenced in the archive's holdings.

The interdisciplinary interests of the two research groups have connected and expanded through

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collective work on 'stories of our own,' a series of projects aimed at: making visible the stories of marginalised communities and hidden histories. **Adiseshiah** (21<sup>st</sup> Century Research Group) and **Culley** and **Styler** (19<sup>th</sup> Century Research Group) are working with Leslie Hicks from the School of Health and Social Care (returned under UoA 22), in a collaborative, interdisciplinary AHRC-funded project focused on helping communities to research, write and document their stories (see section d). A recent grant of £5,000 from the central University Research Investment Fund (see section ii below) will extend this work in a pilot project aimed at engaging older readers in 21<sup>st</sup> century literature through establishing reading groups in connection with Age UK Lincoln, to be led by **Adiseshiah**, **Culley** and **Woolley**. Life writing is also a research focus of new ECR **Charnock**, who will help to inject new vibrancy into this cross-period collaboration, and this dialogue will develop a stronger identity through the emerging testimony/life writing/memory studies research group (led by **Rowland**, who is a specialist in memory studies).

Our key priorities for the next five years are to expand the number of PGR students through feeder MA courses, and to increase our success in grant capture (see section d). **Armitt's** role as PI of the UK-wide Collaborative Skills Development Programme will enable her to enhance the current skills provision on offer at Lincoln to those of our PGRs working in the field of contemporary women's writing. The University has begun to offer a number of research-council stipend level bursaries for PhD students; one of these was secured for Humanities within the census period, and we hope to achieve further success for the UoA through this scheme.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The Unit is supported by the University's People Strategy, a comprehensive range of policies around employment, equal opportunities, research management and ethics, each with an element designed to facilitate and support research activity among staff and students. The University has signed up to the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. It has introduced minimum academic standards regarding research productivity within its annual appraisal system for those seeking career advancement. English staff receive regular mentoring sessions from the Professors (**Armitt** or **Rowland**). Established staff undergo annual appraisals to set and monitor career aims, including research plans. Staff seeking promotion to roles with a strong research component (Principal Lecturer; Reader; Professor) are encouraged to discuss their applications with their research mentor as part of the process described above. Further initiatives include the University's commitment to increasing the number of female researchers in the institution through its Women into Research forum (2009), as well as sandpit events aimed at building links for collaborative interdisciplinary research. A research leave scheme, established in the School of Humanities in 2007, offers two colleagues the opportunity to take research leave each year (details below). Further mentoring is offered via through termly team research meetings.

The University's commitment to the UoA is underlined by enhancing and developing the research staff base. Two Professors of Contemporary Literature, **Armitt** and **Rowland**, both of whom have a track record of research management success at their previous institution, joined the subject group to take English research at Lincoln on to the next level. Both work alongside **Adiseshiah**, promoted to Reader during the REF period, helping to coordinate research in the UoA.

The UoA's people strategy aims to support its research objectives by recruiting into the key research areas of 21<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century literature. **Adiseshiah** and **Eve** will establish and lead a new Centre for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research. These areas are further supported by the recruitment of five new ECR staff (**Eve**, January 2013; **Woolley**, May 2013; **Charnock**, **Clayton**, and **Field**, September 2013). **Charnock**, **Eve**, and **Woolley** have strengthened the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research Group, while **Clayton** and **Field** are making new contributions to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Research Group. The new ECRs have brought fresh research and energies to an already active group of researchers and enhanced the research environment to the benefit of other staff and the research student community. ECRs are given reduced teaching loads and no administrative responsibilities in their probationary year and are allocated mentors – **Armitt** and **Rowland** - who advise and

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support them with their research development. English has also benefitted from the appointment of a Visiting Professor, the early modern scholar and specialist in contemporary critical theory, John Drakakis, for the period June 2012-2015, who has mentored staff, PGRs and PGTs on their research and has given a public lecture on *The Merchant of Venice* (October 2013).

Staff have their research plans reviewed at their annual appraisals, including the assistance they may need to fulfil them by means of internal and/or external funding, and in their twice-yearly mentoring meetings with **Armitt** and **Rowland**. Summaries of research plans are forwarded to the Head of School to assist in planning teaching loads and development needs. There is a research leave scheme offering periods of research – normally of a term – but the scheme is flexible enough to suit particular projects and requirements. This scheme has enhanced the quantity and quality of research outputs from the UoA, for example by supporting the production of monographs and scholarly editions by **Adiseshiah**, **Marlow** and **Culley**. Research leave has also encouraged staff who have returned to, or taken up research, at a later stage in their careers, and all are publishing in late 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century literature. Two colleagues (Hildyard, P. Redpath) have benefitted from the scheme and produced articles or chapters as a result.

**ii. Research students**

There are currently five PhD students registered in English (one of whom is co-supervised with Journalism); a sixth was awarded her PhD in July 2013. Of the five, two enrolled in September 2013 (one of whom transferred to Lincoln with her supervisor, **Armitt**), demonstrating an upward trajectory of PGR recruitment. PhD research is concentrated on 21<sup>st</sup> century literature, ecocriticism and creative writing. PGRs are encouraged and supported in research activities such as conference participation, organisation and publishing. PhD students contributed to the organisation of the 'What Happens Now' conferences in 2010 and 2012, and of 'Interrogating Trauma in the Humanities' (August 2012). The recruitment of PGR students in English is an area of special focus and there are good signs of potential growth. MA programmes in 21st Century Literature (established 2011) and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Studies (to begin 2015) are designed to encourage progression to research degrees. University PhD bursaries will continue in future years, helping us to develop capacity in this area. All PhD students are members of the University's Graduate School (established 2011) which provides a range of training, including research and employability skills. Research students get support, for example, to: present their work at seminars and an annual Postgraduate Student Conference; get work published; identify potential research funding; and to learn skills transferrable to the workplace. This is in addition to extensive online and physical library facilities and ICT support for all students. Other ways in which PhD students are supported within the School include:

- Financial support - £5000 of the College Research Resources Fund is ring-fenced for post-graduate research conference participation.
- Presentation skills - PhD students are expected to deliver research papers in the School's fortnightly research seminar.
- Training for PhD students is managed via the Personal Development Profile (PDP), introduced at induction. This contains a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and an annual log that addresses skills identified by the Research Councils and QAA Code of Practice. Training is delivered via the Graduate School and includes a 12-week programme, which introduces a wide range of research methodologies and practical strategies. Training includes consideration of issues such as criticality, ethics and dissemination. Plans are underway to develop further subject-specific PGR training for 2014-15.
- Monitoring and Support: All English research students have a supervision team of 2 or 3 staff chosen to represent expertise in different aspects of the research. Written records kept of supervisions feed into annual progress records which are monitored through the College Research Degrees Board.
- Facilities: PGRs enjoy generous facilities with a dedicated room and ICT facilities. They are encouraged to attend the School's fortnightly research seminar, the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research Groups, and discussion groups for sharing research and best practice.

**d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**



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English at Lincoln benefits from support from the College of Arts, the University and external funding. Research in the College is overseen by a Director of Research, working in connection with the College Business Development Manager and a dedicated administrator, to help with strategic planning including bidding. Further advice and support is available via the University's Research and Enterprise Office which includes a dedicated College Research Officer who will help with scoping and costing projects. **Adiseshiah** has contributed as a co-investigator to two successful AHRC interdisciplinary funded projects: 1) an AHRC Development Award, 'Looking Back for the Future: The Value of the Past in Developing the Lives of Young People', PI: Dr Leslie Hicks (UOA 22) [£25,000] February–December 2012; and 2) 'Telling Our Stories', support for Heritage Lottery Fund groups, PI: Dr Leslie Hicks [£37,000] February 2013–February 2014. **Armitt** brings with her a £42,543 Arts and Humanities Research Council Collaborative Skills Development Programme to benefit PGRS and ECRS working in the field of Contemporary Women's Writing; **Edwards** secured a \$500 grant from the University of Pennsylvania to attend the International Herbert Marcuse Society in 2011; **Culley** and **Styler** were awarded £555 in small grants (British Association for Victorian Studies, Royal Historical Society, and Midlands Romantic Seminar) and publisher sponsorship (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Gazelle, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Palgrave Macmillan) for the 'Lives in Relation' conference in October 2009; and **Adiseshiah** and Hildyard secured £400 in publisher sponsorship (Routledge, Methuen, Nick Hern, Continuum, Palgrave) for the two What Happens Now conferences in July 2010 and July 2012. **Adiseshiah** is currently working collaboratively with colleagues from Brighton, Portsmouth, Birkbeck and St Andrews on an AHRC 21<sup>st</sup> Century literature network bid.

Grant capture is a core priority for English over the next five years. The new Professors of Contemporary Literature are strategic appointments to enhance external income generation of the UoA, particularly in the area of 21<sup>st</sup> Century literature. Our strategy will include targeting specific funding bodies: AHRC, British Academy, Leverhulme, and the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust, in connection with the College Research and Enterprise team. Strategic planning for research, including external income targets, will be discussed and monitored in termly group research meetings. These activities will be supported by workshops at School, College and University level as well as individual mentoring provided by the Professors.

### Infrastructure and Facilities

Lincoln has made considerable investment in facilities during the census period (£75.8m 2008-2013) and this process continues with £75.5m scheduled for investment in the next 5 years. Support for research is offered through a variety of mechanisms. A central University Research Investment Fund offers £500,000 annually on a competitive basis to support strategic pump-priming and pilot research projects. Decisions are made by a panel comprising Directors of Research, and the University Dean of Research and the PVC Research; in the first round English secured £10,000 for two collaborative projects. **Woolley** will work with colleagues in Drama to prepare a project based on the British Council, and **Culley** and **Adiseshiah** will join colleagues from Health and Age UK Lincoln piloting a project on reading groups for the elderly. In the College a Research Resources Fund offers £75,000 each year to fund the costs of fieldwork, conference participation (including international conferences) and grant development, as well as support for materials and other appropriate research assistance. Money is awarded on a competitive basis, with three annual calls, by a panel consisting of the Director of Research, senior academics and the Business Development Manager. There is no fixed cap on individual grants, and staff at all career stages have received funding for two international conferences a year.

The School of Humanities has an institutional membership of the Tennyson Research Centre, an internationally recognised archive based in Lincoln's central library, with which English has established a productive collaboration. Since 2011 the University has also been home to the Media Archive for Central England (MACE). This unique archive includes over 70,000 items of regional TV news since the 1950s, as well as examples of early film production and videos and films produced by amateurs and professionals associated with the Midlands; its presence offers further opportunities developing our research in 21<sup>st</sup> century cultures in the next cycle.

### e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

The research groups drive interdisciplinary work internally and externally and play a significant role in the development of our research base. Participation in conferences, journal production and other forms of professional collaboration are all actively encouraged. Notable achievements within the census period include:

**Interdisciplinary/collaborative research:** Staff from both research groups have worked with colleagues from the College of Social Science in projects focussed around the theme of ‘telling our stories’; further inter-institutional collaboration involves engagement with broader University research groups, such as the Rural and Regional Research Group (involving colleagues from Business, Politics and Economics). Hildyard contributed to their publication, *Interpreting Rurality* (Routledge, 2014). Staff are also involved in a number of national collaborative research groups; **Styler** was a founding member of the Midlands Interdisciplinary Victorian Studies Seminar (MIVSS), with colleagues from Nottingham, Leicester, Warwick and elsewhere. **Adiseshiah** is working with colleagues at Brighton, Portsmouth, Birkbeck and St Andrews in developing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century writing network.

**Professional Associations:** Staff are involved in a number of broader research and professional associations. **Armitt** is treasurer of the Contemporary Women’s Writing Association; Hildyard is on the Executive Committee of the Association for Study of Literature and Environment; and **Eve** is a steering group member of the JISC OAPEN-UK project. All staff are members of the European Society for the Study of English and of the subject associations in their respective fields.

#### Conferences:

Working in collaboration with others, the Unit has organised eleven conferences and symposia at the University within the census period. Highlights include:

- ‘What Happens Now: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Writing in English’, a biennial event inaugurated in July 2010 by **Adiseshiah** and Hildyard and repeated in 2012. The 2014 event will be co-organised by **Eve** and **Woolley**. Outputs include an edited collection and a special issue of *C21 Literature* (2013) both co-edited by **Adiseshiah** and Hildyard.
- ‘Interrogating Trauma in the Humanities’, a major international conference in 2012 with Cathy Caruth as keynote speaker and participants from throughout Europe and the USA. An edited collection will be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in 2014.
- Symposia on Maggie Gee and China Miéville in 2012 and Adam Roberts (2013) co-organised by Edwards. Co-edited volumes of critical essays are due to be published with Gylphi in 2014.
- Week-long festivals on the work of Caryl Churchill (2011), Sarah Kane (2012) and Mark Ravenhill (2013), co-organised with colleagues in Drama. **Adiseshiah** organised one-day symposia on the playwrights during each of these events.
- ‘Travel in the Nineteenth Century’, a large international conference organised by Hill (UoA 30) and Garrison, with over 100 speakers from the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and South Africa. Proceedings will be published by Ashgate.
- ‘Lives in Relation’, an interdisciplinary conference organised by **Culley** and **Styler** in October 2009, which resulted in a co-edited special issue of *Life Writing*.

**Journal editorial work and peer reviewing** English staff sit on the editorial boards of a number of journals and have served as guest editors: **Adiseshiah** is on the boards of the *Journal of Gender Studies* and *C21 Literature*, and has guest co-edited the second issue of *C21 Literature* (October 2013); **Armitt** is a founding Associate Editor of the prize-winning OUP journal, *Contemporary Women’s Writing*, an Advisory Board member of *Extrapolation*, and has edited a special issue of *Women: A Cultural Review* (2008); **Culley** and **Styler** were guest editors of a special issue of *Life Writing* 8:3 (Sept 2011); **Eve** is Chief Editor of *Orbit: Writing Around Pynchon* and Web Editor of *Alluvium*; Hildyard is Reviews Editor of *C21 Literature*, has guest co-edited the second issue of *C21 Literature* (September 2013), and guest edited *Green Issues* 10.2 (2009). **Marlow** is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Adaptation in Film and Performance* and is a Reviews Editor of *C21 Literature*; C. Redpath is on the advisory board of the *Journal of New Directions in the Humanities*; **Rowland** is on the board of *Critical Survey* and the *Journal of*

*Literature and Trauma Studies* and co-edited (with Robert Eaglestone) *Critical Survey* (2008); and **Styler** is Editor of the *Gaskell Journal*.

**Armitt** was a member of the AHRC peer review college (2007-10) and **Rowland** is currently a member (from 2007). Book proposals have been reviewed for Palgrave (**Adiseshiah**, Hildyard, **Rowland**), Routledge (**Rowland**), Edinburgh University Press (**Armitt**), University of Wales Press (**Armitt**) and Manchester University Press (**Rowland**). Journal reviewing includes: *C21 Literature* (**Adiseshiah**, **Eve**, **Marlow**, C. Redpath), *Contemporary Women's Writing* (**Armitt**), *Studies in the Novel* (**Armitt**), *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* (**Armitt**), *Women: A Cultural Review* (**Armitt**), *Textual Practice* (**Charnock**, **Eve**, Hildyard), *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* (**Culley**), *Symbiosis* (**Eve**), *European Journal of American Studies* (**Eve**), *Film-Philosophy* (**Eve**), *Green Letters* (Hildyard), *Journal of Gender Studies* (**Marlow**), *Journal of Adaptation in Film and Performance* (**Marlow**), *Gaskell Journal* (C. Redpath), *English Studies* (**Styler**), and *Ex Historia* (**Styler**).

**Keynote speeches/invited talks:** Several researchers in the Unit have been invited as guest speakers at research events. **Adiseshiah** was invited to speak at the 'Transactions and Connections: Memories of the Past in the European Context' conference at the University of Malaga (October 2013), and at an Oxford Brookes research seminar (November 2013); **Armitt** was keynote speaker at 'Writing Bodies/Reading Bodies', University of Oxford, 2009, and at the Feminist and Women's Studies Association conference, Edge Hill University College, 2009; **Culley** at the North East Forum in 18th Century and Romantic Studies, University of Durham, June 2012; South Coast Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Research Group seminar series, University of Chichester, November 2010, 'Writing Women's Literary History: Problems and Possibilities' workshop, University of Kent, November 2009, and Oxford Enlightenment Exchanges seminar series, University of Oxford, January 2008; **Eve** on Open Access Monographs in the Humanities and Social Sciences Conference, JISC, The British library, July 2013, at E-reading between the lines: 21st century literature, digital platforms and literacies, University of Brighton, July 2013, at Ten Years After the Iraq War "'Too many goddamn echoes"' Historicizing the Iraq War in Don DeLillo's Point Omega', Birkbeck College, University of London, March 2013, and the "'Opening children's eyes": Post-Millennial Metafiction and the Didactic Function', English Literature Research Seminar, University of Westminster, November 2012; **Rowland** was a keynote speaker at the 'Memory and Conflict' conference, University of York, July 2011; **Styler** for the Leicester Secular Society guest talks series (Feb 2011, Nov 2013), and 'New Approaches to the Victorian Short Story', University of Birmingham (July 2013).