

Institution: Leeds Trinity University
Unit of Assessment: English Language and Literature
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Leeds Trinity is a new, small University with approximately 135 academic staff and a student population just over 3,000 FTEs (full time equivalents). The student population is predominantly undergraduate, and there are currently 136 taught postgraduate and 7 postgraduate research students. This small size enables us to work across discipline boundaries, which is particularly seen in our flagship interdisciplinary research centre, the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies. The institution is committed to the 'creation of a strong research culture' while being 'student-centred at all levels' (Strategic Plan, 2013/14). It has a record of sustained engagement with Research Assessment Exercises from 1992 onwards.</p> <p>The period 2008-2013 has been one of dynamic and rapid institutional change. At the point of the RAE 2008 the institution was still a College of Higher Education, and its undergraduate and postgraduate degrees were awarded under the aegis of the University of Leeds. The institution received Taught Degree Awarding Powers in 2009 and gained University status in December 2012. During this period the institution has remained committed to sustaining research excellence and to its primary aim of developing the breadth of research activity (Research and Scholarship Strategy, 2006). As a result, there are 2 new Units of Assessment being submitted for REF 2014 (which did not submit in 2008), an increased number of individuals being submitted, and more than twice as many registered doctoral students (7 as compared to 3). During this period the University's research culture has been enhanced, enriched and expanded within the wider context of a community characterised by inclusiveness and the commitment to being student-centred. As a result of this institutional change, Leeds Trinity has undergone a degree of restructuring, which has necessarily impacted on some of the roles described in the research plan stated in RAE 2008. During this process, research became embedded within the staple business of the institution. For example, Heads of Department gained responsibility for aspects of research leadership that had previously resided solely at senior management level, in the Director of Research, while the Faculty Research Champions created by the Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund became Research Leads within Departments. Since gaining University status, the institution has appointed a Vice-Chancellor (from Jan 2013) and a Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) (from Sept 2013). These appointments have led to a revised Strategic Plan (2013/14) and a bold and ambitious ten-year research strategy (to 2022). Research is the institution's 'intellectual capital' and that capital is for the 'benefit [of] our students in the wider community' in an institution that aims to contribute to local and international community partnerships (Strategic Plan, 2013/14). Its academic provision, which has always been characterised by a particularly high level of vocational focus underpinned by professional practice, is now also to be 'research-led and research-informed' (Strategic Plan, 2013/14).</p> <p>The English Language and Literature UOA is made up of the English team which exists within the Humanities Department at Leeds Trinity University. The research output has increased exponentially since RAE2001, when only 2 members of staff were research active. All 8 members of the English team are engaged in research: all have published outputs during the assessment period, as well as giving conference papers and taking part in outreach, knowledge transfer, and impact.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The UOA has succeeded in its aim of developing the research culture in the department from its position at RAE2008. It has succeeded in developing all three strands identified for particular development in 2008: Literature and Spirituality, Modernism, and Creative Writing. Of these, Creative Writing has grown the most rapidly: the annual Writers' Festival and the annual activities</p>

to mark National Poetry Day have all continued very successfully, but additionally, members of the UOA have run numerous Open Mic nights, workshops and readings nationally and internationally. The UOA has also expanded its research output on the modernist period. Publications in this area include three books: Juliette Taylor-Batty, *Multilingualism in Modernist Fiction* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) and *Samuel Becket's Waiting for Godot*, Modern Theatre Guides (London: Continuum, 2008), with Mark Taylor-Batty; and Richard Storer's *F. R. Leavis* (Routledge: 2009). Jane de Gay has published an edited collection (with Marion Dell of the Open University), *Voyages Out, Voyages Home: Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Virginia Woolf Conference* (Clemson: Clemson University Digital Press, 2010), as well as several articles on Virginia Woolf, and the pamphlet, *Virginia Woolf and the Clergy* (Southport: Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain, 2009).

Successes in literature and spirituality include Paul Hardwick's monograph, *English Medieval Misericords: the Margins of Meaning* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2011) and his edited collection, *The Playful Middle Ages* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010). Professor Hardwick and Dr Amina Alyal have co-edited the volume *Classical and Contemporary Mythic Identities: Construction of the Poetic Imagination* (2010). Professor Hardwick co-edited a second volume with David Kennedy of the University of Hull, entitled *The Survival of Myth: Innovation, Singularity and Alterity* (2010), that included an article by Dr Alyal. Dr de Gay has published research on Virginia Woolf and Christian Culture and gave the invited Virginia Woolf Birthday Lecture on 'Virginia Woolf and the Clergy'; she is also the editor of *Victorian Spiritualities*, Leeds Working Papers (Leeds: Leeds Trinity University College, 2012), based on a colloquium of the same name held at Leeds Trinity in March 2012. There is research activity in the areas of spirituality and ethics, including Dr Nathan Uglow's edited a volume on *Victorian Ethics* (Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies) and Dr Susan Anderson's interest in disability studies (she co-organized a major conference on Victorian Disabilities at Leeds Trinity, attended by 82 people, in July 2012).

This list also demonstrates that the unit has achieved another aim from 2008: encouraging and enabling all staff to develop their publications record. Additionally, our plan to encourage and support applications to the Research Leave Scheme from members of English staff has been achieved, and all five members of the UOA who applied for research leave were successful in being granted funding.

We have also, as planned, continued to make requests for increased staffing in English, in order to attain a staff-student ratio further conducive to research work. English staff have supported and presented work at the University's Humanities Seminar Series. Dr Juliette Taylor-Batty was convenor of the seminars for 2008-09 and Dr Susan Anderson, Dr Jane de Gay, Dr Richard Storer, and Dr Nathan Uglow have all given papers.

We planned to recruit more research degree students in English. We had one PhD student for RAE2008, and that increased to 3 during the period of assessment. One has now completed and one is on course to submit in September 2013.

Part of the plan outlined in RAE2008 was to build on the success of 'Bodies of Myth' by organizing a second international conference in the department, with external funding. Rather than attempting a department-wide conference with an umbrella title, however, department members organized two international conferences and two international colloquia on more focused topics. Dr Anderson and Dr Nathan Uglow were on the organising team for the interdisciplinary international conference 'Disability and the Victorians' (Leeds Trinity, 30 July-1 Aug 2012), which attracted £1000 funding from the British Association for Victorian Studies (BAVS). Dr Anderson organised the conference

'Disability and the Renaissance' (Leeds Trinity, 8 Sept 2012), with the support of a grant of £350 from the Society for Renaissance Studies for postgraduate bursaries. Nathan Uglov organized a colloquium on 'Victorian Ethics' and Dr Jane de Gay organized a colloquium on 'Victorian Spiritualities' (17 March 2012), attracting a small grant from BAVS.

Only one plan from 2008 did not come to fruition, but this was due to circumstances outside our control. We planned to apply for a second AHRC Fellowship, in order to maintain and develop work in Creative Writing. A suitable candidate (a published poet) was identified and Professor Hardwick began working with her to draw up plans for the Fellowship and the bid. However, before the bid was drafted, the poet decided upon a career change and plans for the Fellowship were dropped.

The plans for 2014-19 have been made in response to the revised Strategic Plan and the 10-year Research Strategy. A stated objective of the Strategic Plan (2013/14) is that the institution's research capacity will be increased. This is supported by the Research Strategy's overarching aim to create a strong, vibrant and sustainable research culture that underpins our teaching, enables research excellence and enhances our academic reputation and credibility. Projected plans in the Research Strategy are to stimulate research partnerships and networks regionally, nationally and internationally, create research leadership and co-ordination roles and, subject to clear procedures and protocols, establish new research groups and centres. A key objective of this strategy is to lay the foundation for the application for Research Degree Awarding Powers by 2022, plans and targets for which are outlined in 3-4 year periods (the current period being 2013-16). Details of how the institution will work towards this over the next four years include: revision of academic staff appointment procedures to ensure only research-active staff are appointed to academic roles; providing funding (level of which will be agreed on an annual basis) to recruit and support the progression of postgraduate research students; seeking at least one externally-funded PhD research studentship for each internally funded studentship; and creating the post of Research Officer to provide institutional support for grant administration.

Responding to the institutional research strategy, the department has set the following plans for 2014-19.

Aims:

- To enhance our research profile nationally and internationally.
- To ensure that all members of staff are encouraged and enabled to develop their publications record.

Plans include:

1. Developing a web presence to promote the research culture of the department and the research activities of individual staff members.
2. Enabling and encouraging all staff in the UOA to attend national and international conferences.
3. Hosting at least one international conference during the period, as well as continuing to develop the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies colloquium series.
4. Enabling and encouraging all staff in the UOA to take regular study leave, by supporting applications to the University's Research Fellowship Scheme and supporting bids to external funding bodies.
5. Developing research networks, for example by members of staff contributing to national and international research bodies such as Misericordia International, The International Virginia Woolf Society, and the Leavis Society, and continuing to foster the links between the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies and the University of Cergy-Pontoise, Paris.
6. Increasing the recruitment, progression and completion of postgraduate research students from the UK and overseas. This will be done by competing for some of the 10 institutionally-funded PhD studentships, giving a higher profile to advertising postgraduate study outside the institution, and also encouraging our strongest MA graduates to apply for PhD study.
7. Increasing our externally-funded research income by drawing on the developing research

infrastructure within the University.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development:

The Leeds Trinity HR Staff Development Strategy identifies Research and Scholarship as one of its priority areas. This includes the objective 'To support the Strategy for Research and Scholarship by increasing staff expertise and experience in research and scholarship', elaborated in three actions: '(I) Ensure that academic staff who are involved in research are supported in carrying out this role effectively, by providing a programme of staff development activities designed to build research competencies. (II) Establish a mentoring system for early-career academic staff. (III) Provide support for staff undertaking research degrees through the provision of partial funding.' The institution is committed to equal opportunities in the recruitment and support of research staff. The HR Staff Development strategy addresses equality and diversity in Objective 2: to embed the principles of equality and diversity, which underpin the institution's vision and values, into all actions of the institution's work.

After RAE 2008, as part of an initiative to maximise staff research engagement, the annual Professional Development Reviews (PDR) was revised to incorporate focused coverage of research and scholarship plans in place of the optional individual Research and Scholarship Plans used before. This process also highlights staff development needs with regards to research. These reviews are reported back to HR via line managers. The English UOA has employed a mentoring scheme for several years: Dr de Gay was research mentor for Dr Taylor-Batty, and Dr Alyal was research mentor to Dr Anderson. The policy for research leave is that every member of lecturing staff has an entitlement to 20 research days a year. In addition, Leeds Trinity operates a competitive scheme for research leave (known variously as the Research Leave Scheme (pre-2010); Research Support Scheme (2010-12); Research Fellowship Scheme (since 2012)), and five members of the UOA have successfully applied for funding: Dr Nathan Uglow (2008-9); Dr Jane de Gay (2010-11); Dr Juliette Taylor-Batty (2011-12); Dr Susan Anderson (2011-12); and Professor Paul Hardwick (2012-13).

There are clear procedures for career progression of staff, including a clear set of criteria for applicants seeking a Professorial title or Readership. According to these procedures, Dr Paul Hardwick became Professor of English in 2011 and Revd Dr Jane de Gay became Reader in English Literature in 2012.

A procedure that is in place to stimulate and facilitate exchanges between academia and public or third sector bodies is the LCVS Associates Scheme. This scheme forges stronger and more permanent links between LCVS and the heritage sector. It honours prestigious scholars who have been loyal friends of the Centre and was developed during the academic year 2009-10, and finalised in 2011-12. An example of a recently named associate particularly collaborating with the English team is Jane Sellars (Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate).

ii. Research students

Research degrees undertaken at Leeds Trinity University are currently awarded by the University of Leeds. Leeds Trinity's monitoring and support mechanisms therefore follow guidelines set out by the University of Leeds. The Research Committee at Leeds Trinity has overall responsibility for the internal quality for Research Degree Programmes and considers reports on enrolments and progression of postgraduate research students. An important initial stage of student progression is the 'transfer' process. Research candidatures which are intended to lead to a Doctoral award are subject to a process whereby the student is formally assessed and, if successful in the assessment, is 'transferred' to a specific degree category after an initial, provisional stage. The

assessment at 'transfer' stage is intended to identify whether the individual student and the research project have the potential for research at Doctoral level and also whether completion of a thesis within the standard period of study for the programme concerned is a reasonable expectation. Students are required to submit reports, which should include a planned schedule of work and a synopsis of work already carried out or a sample chapter, within 10 months of commencement for full-time study (22 months for part-time students). Two PhD students supervised by members of the English UOA have successfully completed the transfer process. The monitoring of research students is undertaken through the supervisors. Supervisors are required to provide regular written reports on the student's progress which are presented to the Research Committee. Leeds Trinity's reporting processes require reports on admission, transfer and examination, in addition to interim 6-monthly reports. The committee considers the reports and where there are matters of concern arising, recommends the appropriate action to the Postgraduate Research Tutor and supervisors. To date, no student in English has been identified by the Research Committee as a cause for concern requiring action to be taken to support them.

All students enrolled on a Research Degree Programme at Leeds Trinity have access to the training courses provided by the Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU) at the University of Leeds. A wide range of training is available through the SDDU including personal skills development (such as project management) and research specific skills (such as ethical issues in research, methodology, and writing and publishing). All the PhD students supervised by members of the English UOA have accessed such courses. Courses attended include: 'Starting your research degree', 'Project-Managing your part-time research degree', 'Presentation and publication', and 'Preparing for your transfer.'

PhD students are actively integrated into the research culture of the institution. All PhD students supervised by members of the English UOA have given seminar papers within the University. PhD students are actively encouraged to submit their work to national and international conferences, and to publish their work. Helen Kingstone (co-supervised by Dr Nathan Uglow) has published two journal articles, critical review annotations for *ABES (Annotated Bibliography of English Studies)* and given several conference papers nationally and internationally. Katie Lister (supervised by Prof. Hardwick) has published a book chapter, a book review, and presented papers at numerous national conferences. She has also contributed to the web page for the GuildHE Consortium for Research Excellence, Support and Training (CREST). Katie Lister and Helen Kingstone co-convened the interdisciplinary postgraduate conference *The Nineteenth-Century Memory* (Leeds Trinity, 3rd March 2012), along with Tracy Hayes, a Masters graduate of Leeds Trinity who is doing her PhD at the Open University. The conference strengthened local and national links, with keynote speakers Professor Ann Heilmann (University of Hull) and Dr Trev Broughton (University of York). It attracted £200 of funding from BAVS to support the travel costs for delegates. Helen Kingstone and Katie Lister have both been supported in their careers by being given a range of teaching experience at undergraduate level (and, in Helen Kingstone's case, Masters level). Katie Lister was postgraduate student representative on the University's Research and Enterprise Committee for the academic years 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The University's Research Strategy for 2013-16 includes the objective to 'Increase the recruitment, progression and completion of postgraduate research students from the UK and overseas'. This is part of a longer-term aim to pursue Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAP) after 2016. Leeds Trinity plan to fund 10 PhD studentships (at the same level as Research Council funding) across the institution to be advertised in January 2014. The Strategy includes developing progression routes for existing students into higher degrees. The English UOA, through the LCVS, is pioneering this by encouraging a climate of achievement amongst its MA students and alumni. The recent

publication *MA in Victorian Studies: Research Papers*, edited by Jane de Gay (Leeds Trinity, 2012), forms part of this, as a way of celebrating students' achievement and encouraging aspiration to higher degrees.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

During the REF assessment period, oversight of research has been vested in the Research Committee, who were responsible for the development and enhancement of activities relating to research and scholarship. It ensured that there was a supportive and proactive environment for these activities. The Research Committee was one of the primary standing committees of the Academic Board, the main University forum for establishing policy on academic matters, as such it advised the Academic Board on matters of policy relating to research. Among its membership there was a research student nominated by the research student community. The Research Committee was chaired by the Director for Academic Enhancement (Research) who was responsible for the development, coordination and implementation of institutional strategies for research. Since the appointment of the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) a new deliberative structure has been implemented (October 2013). The purpose of the Research Committee has been revised and now operates under the title of Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC). The Committee retains its status of reporting to the Academic Board on research activity. The activities of the RKEC will be supported at the operational level by the recently appointed Research Officer (October 2013) who will support the implementation and promotion of Leeds Trinity's research strategy. In addition a sub-committee of RKEC, the Research Degrees Committee, will be established to monitor the recruitment and progress of Post Graduate Research Students and develop relevant policies and procedures.

A recently formed Professoriate, comprising of Professors and Readers within the institution, also contributes to the organisational structure supporting research. Having regular meetings since June 2013, the Professoriate aim to contribute to informing future policy and strategy for research, and to generate research ideas and initiatives to enhance the relationships, reputation and impact of the University. The Professoriate meets at least once per semester and report their activities to the Pro-Vice Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.

Close relations are maintained with the University of Leeds: staff benefit from the library resources and research activities of the relevant Schools and institutes. However, the most significant scholarly infrastructure for supporting research within the department since 2008 has been the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies. Established in 1994, the activities of the Centre include the colloquium series, a programme of seminars and day schools, MA and PhD programmes in Victorian Studies, and the sponsorship of the refereed *Journal of Victorian Culture*, which is jointly published by Leeds Trinity and Taylor and Francis. The LCVS is important for collegiality and collaboration with academics at other institutions. It is run by a Management Committee comprised of academics within the UOA (including Dr Uglow and Dr de Gay), and representatives from three other institutions. The Management Committee set and review the LCVS Strategic Plan, track actions, and receive financial reports.

LCVS activities have provided the UOA with an income stream of around £20,000 p.a. This comprises royalties from the *Journal of Victorian Culture* of c. £8,500 p.a.; conference and seminar fees; a proportion of tuition fees from MA students; and sales of the *Leeds Working Papers in Victorian Studies*. Currently on Volume 13, these *Working Papers* are produced for discussion at the colloquia and then sold through the University website and at subsequent LCVS events. Members of the UOA have successfully applied for small grants to support LCVS events, totalling £1,200: 'Disability and the Victorians' (Leeds Trinity, 30 July-1 Aug 2012), which was co-organized by Anderson and Uglow was awarded £1,000 from BAVS; and de Gay was awarded £200 from BAVS for 'Victorian Spiritualities'. Anderson also received £350 from the Society for Renaissance Studies for 'Disability and the Renaissance' (Leeds Trinity, 8 Sept 2012). The unit has received

income from RAE 2008 and a total of around £1,600 from the Royal Literary Fund in the first few years of running the Writers' Festival Day.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Several members of the UOA have worked collaboratively with scholars and organizations outside the University both nationally and internationally:

Dr Susan Anderson gave a reader's report on a manuscript for Toronto University Press in June 2012. She organised the conference 'Disability and the Renaissance' (Leeds Trinity, 8 Sept 2012), with the support of a small grant from the Society for Renaissance Studies for postgraduate bursaries. She has given the following papers and talks by invitation: 'Representations of Madness in *King Lear*', pre-performance talk at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, 1 October 2011; "'The Virtue of Traffic": Trade and Identity in Middleton's London Lord Mayors' Shows', Leeds Medieval and Early Modern Research Group, 29 March 2011; 'Money, Music, and Civic Magnificence in Middleton's London', Northumbria University Research Seminar, 20 October 2010.

Dr Anderson and Dr Nathan Uglow were on the organising team for the interdisciplinary international conference 'Disability and the Victorians' (Leeds Trinity, 30 July-1 Aug 2012).

Martyn Bedford was invited Visiting Speaker at the Creative Writing MA, University of Central Lancashire, Preston (talk, reading, Q&A and panel discussion) in June 2012.

Revd Dr Jane de Gay is in an international collaboration with Prof. Eleanor McNeese (University of Denver); Prof. Beth Rigel Daugherty (Otterbein University, Ohio); and Dr Catherine Hollis (UC Berkeley Extension), working on Virginia Woolf's family, the Stephens. They gave a panel at the 23rd Annual Virginia Woolf Conference in Vancouver (6-9 June 2013). Dr de Gay examined a PhD thesis for Macquarie University, Australia, in August 2012 and she has reviewed manuscripts for Cambridge University Press and Macmillan/Palgrave, and articles for *Woolf Studies Annual*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, *Journal of Victorian Studies*, *International Journal of the Book*, and *Postgraduate English: A Journal and Forum for Postgraduates in English in the UK and Europe*. By invitation, she delivered the Virginia Woolf Birthday Lecture 2009 (London, January 2009) and was an invited plenary speaker at the 17th Annual Virginia Woolf Conference in Miami University, Ohio, June 2007. She also organized the colloquium 'Victorian Spiritualities', for the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies (17 March 2012). This attracted speakers from the UK, USA and Europe, and was supported by a small grant from the BAVS to fund postgraduate bursaries.

Professor Paul Hardwick is a committee member of Misericordia International and is on the editorial boards of two series published by Brepols: *Profane Arts* and *Medieval Texts and Cultures of Northern Europe*. He has refereed for the journal *Reinardus*. He has given the following papers and talks by invitation: 'The Continuing Middle Ages', *Poetry on the Lake*, Orta, October 2008; 'Birds, Beasts and Popular Belief,' *Belief Made Manifest*, Centre for North-West Regional Studies, Lancaster University, 10 December 2011. 'The Continuing Middle Ages,' *The Great Bed of Words*, Ware, 17-18 November 2012. He served on Leeds Trinity's Research Committee in 2008.

Dr Richard Storer has been invited to be on the Leavis Society committee. He was invited speaker at the Bram Stoker Birthday Symposium at the University of Hull in November 2012 and has been invited to speak at the Leavis conference at the University of York in October 2013.

Dr Juliette Taylor-Batty refereed articles for the journals *Symploke* and *Dorothy Richardson Studies*. By invitation, she contributed the chapter, 'Singular Multiplicity: The Ground Beneath Her Feet', to *Romancing Theory, Riding Interpretation: (In)Fusion Approach*, Salman Rushdie, ed. by Ranjan Ghosh (New York: Peter Lang, 2012), pp. 182-198. She has also been invited to contribute a chapter entitled 'Eugene Jolas, *transition*, and "intercontinental" modernism' to a collection edited by Katia Pizzi and Patricia Silva McNeill, based on a paper presented at the conference 'Peripheral Modernisms' (Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of London, March 2012). She was an invited speaker at the 'Modernism and Non-Translation' seminar, University of Durham, 4-5 July 2013, and hosted the Northern Modernism Seminar at Leeds Trinity in April 2009, at which she also presented a paper.