

Institution: Leeds Trinity University
Unit of Assessment: English Language and Literature
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The English UOA engages with three main non-academic user groups or audiences in the dissemination of its research. The first is an audience of people with a general, non-academic interest in literature, writing, arts and culture. Researchers from the English unit have reached these people by outreach activities including giving talks at galleries, museums and theatres; conducting creative writing workshops; staging readings at libraries and at literature and arts festivals; engagement in online creative-writing activities; and writing directed at a non-academic audience, such as book reviews and theatre programme notes. The second audience are members of the public who come to campus to take part in seminars, colloquia, conferences, readings, professional development sessions, quiet days, and writing workshops, including the annual Writers' Festival Day (for which members of the public participate in workshops led by established writers). The third audience is of young people, reached primarily through book readings and creative writing workshops in schools.</p> <p>Through these activities, the UOA has had impact on public appreciation of a range of literary and cultural topics, including Medieval literature and culture, Renaissance drama, Victorian literature and culture, spirituality in literature, and twentieth-century fiction and drama. The UOA has also had an impact on the personal and professional development of young people and adults who have taken part in creative writing workshops and professional development sessions, both on and off campus.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Leeds Trinity has had a strategy for developing research as part of its aim to become a University (a goal that was achieved when the Privy Council granted it University status on 10th December 2012). A central part of this strategy was to raise the profile of the institution locally, nationally and internationally, and this was a key driver of impact-related activities within the English UOA, along with colleagues' desire to share their knowledge and experience in their specialized areas.</p> <p>The institution has a strong catholic ethos, reflecting its foundation principles, and part of this is a wish to reach out to and engage with the local community. Impact is therefore embedded in this manner in the character of the institution. Impact activities have been supported by the institution's involvement with CREST (the Consortium for Research Excellence, Support and Training). CREST is a sub-association of Guild HE, a network for small and specialist institutions. Through CREST, Leeds Trinity has benefited from the dissemination of policies related to impact and specific impact workshops for staff. Prior to the REF assessment period, the institution was awarded HEIF funding for the creation of several Business and Community Fellows who supported knowledge transfer. In 2008 this impact-related activity was devolved to the Enterprise and External Engagement Group, an arm of the Research Committee. Pathways to impact have also been supported by Leeds Trinity's Marketing and Communication team who have publicly disseminated research undertaken at the institution.</p> <p>These institutional visions have been drawn upon by the English UOA in its approach to impact. The unit have primarily focused on two areas: fostering creative writing; and sharing knowledge and expertise. Both of these areas align with the institution's foundation principles of being a partner in the community and its emphasis on education. The unit has made considerable impact in the first of these areas, fostering creative writing. This has been achieved through various teaching activities across schools nationally, workshops and the provision of critical feedback for aspiring adult writers, and hosting larger creative writing events at Leeds Trinity. These activities are supported at the departmental level through: regular team meetings, at which research and impact news is shared and affirmed, and plans discussed; and the provision of expenses for outreach activities.</p> <p>The unit has also focused on sharing their knowledge and expertise in specialised areas, with</p>

people who have a general non-academic interest in literature, writing, arts and culture. This 'sharing' has taken the form of public talks/readings (both at Leeds Trinity and outside the institution's physical location), events (such as the annual Writers Festival Day), and publishing in accessible formats. For example, Dr Susan Anderson and Dr Amina Alyal have established pathways to impact of their research on Renaissance drama through links with theatres in the Yorkshire area. Anderson has delivered public talks, such as a pre-performance talk on the representation of madness in Shakespeare's *King Lear* (West Yorkshire Playhouse, 1st October 2011). Alyal has communicated her research in an accessible format (including readability) by regularly writing programme notes for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Impact activities in Victorian Studies take place under the auspices of the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies (LCVS). This Centre was established in 1994, and its activities include a seminar programme, a colloquium series, MA and PhD programmes, and sponsorship of the refereed *Journal of Victorian Culture*. The key contributors within the institution come from both the History and the English UOAs, but the English UOA has made a substantial contribution as follows:

- Dr Uglow is Deputy Director of the Centre, seminar series co-ordinator, and website co-ordinator. Uglow established links between Leeds Trinity and the Mercer Gallery in Harrogate, and organized a one-day conference on Leeds artist Atkinson Grimshaw to coincide with the Mercer Gallery's hosting of the first major exhibition of Grimshaw's work for a generation. Speakers included artists, curators and poets as well as academics.
- Dr Richard Storer has contributed to colloquia and seminars, and is currently arranging an exhibition in local libraries to celebrate the centenary of the Leeds-born Poet Laureate Alfred Austin.
- Revd Dr Jane de Gay organized a colloquium on Victorian Spiritualities, which attracted scholars from different disciplines from around the world, and also forged links with the newly-founded Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery.
- Dr Susan Anderson co-organized a major conference on Victorian Disabilities and a colloquium on Victorian Childhoods (both involving non-academics, museum staff and non-academic disabled activists).

The LCVS has a Strategic Plan that is reviewed regularly, and as part of this it actively seeks out external links with galleries, museums and libraries. The LCVS devised a standard feedback form for use at all its activities, and this is being used to capture information on how users benefit from its activities.

In order to create further pathways to impact, the unit have made efforts to invite non-academic interested parties to events held at the institution. One such event has been the interdisciplinary conference *Disability and the Victorians: confronting legacies* (2012), co-convened by Anderson. Alongside academic speakers, this conference involved disabled activists, representatives from charities, and performances from disabled comedians. Similarly, the *Victorian Childhoods* colloquium (2010), also co-convened by Anderson, included speakers from external cultural and heritage providers. Working papers from this have been published, co-edited by Anderson along with History colleagues at Leeds Trinity.

A piece of impact that was not planned by the department is the dissemination of research through translation. Translations of Bedford's novels have been published in the Netherlands, Germany, Thailand, Italy, Russia, Taiwan, China, France, Japan, Brazil, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Spain and Greece. Poems from all of Hardwick's collections have been published in anthologies in Italian translation. An article by Taylor-Batty ("A Distortive Glass of Our Distorted Glebe": Mistranslation in Nabokov's *Ada*', *Linguistica Antverpiensia New Series*, 4 (2005), 265–278) is being translated into Chinese.

c. Strategy and plans

As a new University, Leeds Trinity is focusing on protecting and building on areas of research

excellence whilst encouraging the broadening of the research base into new areas of research activity. Within this vision, we have an expectation of research impact and seek to embed impact as part of the research cycle. Research schemes funded by the institution, such as the Research Fellowship scheme, will require applicants to consider who might benefit from the research (beyond academia) and how these users might be engaged. The University recognises however that not all research will have impact in this manner and will still continue to fund such projects. The future inclusion of impact in the institution funded schemes aims to support researchers to consider the specific benefits of their research and identify particular user groups. This emphasis is evidenced by the replacement of the University's Research Committee by a Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee which will now be monitoring impact in addition to research activities. The increased work involved in creating impact will be factored into staff workload planners and flexibility in subject teams (for example rearranging or covering teaching responsibilities) will be encouraged. The Marketing and Communications team will be more involved in research projects from the beginning so that research findings can be disseminated effectively to targeted audiences at any appropriate point. Though many staff are 'impact literate', the institution will focus on staff development to ensure that all research active staff are fully versed in impact and how this can be created.

To support impact from research in the future, the unit will seek to focus and direct the potential impact of their research. Over the next five years the unit plan to concentrate their research on exploring the synergies between the 'traditional' academic research undertaken by the unit (such as literature and spirituality, and modernism) and creative writing. This will primarily be done by organising creative writing workshops. Such workshops focusing on creative outputs are already established at the institution and will be built upon to include staff academic research as well. It is posited that any 'traditional' research of this type can be approached as an inspiration for a creative response. The workshops will occur on one-off annual events such as National Poetry Day and the Writers' Festival (held annually at Leeds Trinity since 2005), and be open to aspiring authors and members of the local community. In parallel with this, regular open mic events (held outside the institution) will be organised to provide venues for writers to perform their work. An online publication will be set up for outputs resulting from this research-led creative writing activity. Provisional titles for this are *Leeds Trinity Inspirations* or *Worlds within Words*, the latter of which is the title of the pamphlet currently produced annually after the Writers' Festival. This will provide a formal platform for aspiring authors to promote their work. It will also provide a method of measuring the impact created through monitoring the usage of the site, including numbers and category of user, and constructing a space for readers' comments and feedback. It is expected that the impact would be on local writers' groups, writers at all stages of experience, publishers, and other professionals connected to creative writing (such as therapists).

d. Relationship to case studies

The two case studies exemplify different aspects of the approach to impact the unit has taken. In line with our focus on fostering creative writing, one case study details the impact this research has had, through various workshops and provision of critical feedback, on the professional development of aspiring writers. In a society that is increasingly reliant upon the immediacy of technology and video games to provide entertainment, this case study also demonstrates how the unit have nurtured the joy and meaning of reading and creative writing amongst young people and adults. The case study on Victorian Literature has raised the research profile of the University locally, nationally and internationally. It exemplifies engagement with an audience of people with a general, non-academic interest in literature, writing, arts or culture through outreach activities including giving public talks, including talks at galleries and museums, and staging readings at libraries. It has also brought members of the public to campus to take part in seminars, colloquia and conferences of the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies.