Institution: London Metropolitan University.
Unit of Assessment: 36 - Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management.
a. Overview   Research in Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management (CCMSLIM) is located in the School of Media, Culture and Communication (SMCC), which is based in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH). FSSH was formed in 2011, and was the result of the merger and subsequent restructuring of two faculties – the Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Languages and Education (HALE), and the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences (FASS). Formerly split between HALE and FASS, research in CCMSLIM is now consolidated within FSSH, and has recently located onto a single geographic site. This considerably enhances research collaboration and synergies, and is of major significance for the future.   Constituent in the creation of a new faculty was the establishment of the Faculty Advanced Institute for Research (FAIR) to ensure the survival of strong research traditions, to help foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and to increase cooperation between core-funded and externally-funded research staff. FAIR is comprised of a range of key research clusters pertinent to the broad range of FSSH research activities. FAIR focuses on securing external research funding, and provides faculty-wide support and services (including regular 'research surgeries') accessible to all academic staff. Both the director of FAIR and FSSH's Associate Dean for Research and Partnerships sit on the Faculty Executive, to which significant decision-making powers regarding research have been delegated by the University. Following a process of institutional reconfiguration, the Faculty Executive now manages the University's Research and Postgraduate Office, which is located in the Faculty and provides central services including the administration and management of the University's research students, the Researcher Development Programme, research bid support, and research related audit and regulatory functions.   To give focus and direction to CCMSLIM research within the faculty, a specific research centre – the Centre for Research into Media, Identity and Culture (MIC) – has recently been established. MIC exists under the auspice of FAIR, receiving academic and administrative support in developing its externally-funded research activities and in promoting disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research. The primary aim of MIC is to provide cohesiveness and promote synergies within CCMSLIM research. MIC aims to foster a collaborative research culture, attract and retain high-calibre research students, encourage funding applications and disseminate the research work of affiliated staff. Within MIC are four key research clusters around which research is organized: the Communications and Subjectivity Research Group; the Film and TV: Representation, History and Practice Research Group; the Community Media Research Group; and the Subcultures and Popular Music Research Group.
b. Research strategy   At its creation in 2002, London Met's research in CCMSLIM was spread across three faculties. In 2003 the subject area was awarded funding from the HEFCE Research Capability Fund, which was used to support the development of research culture and the production of research outputs for RAE 2008. Since 2008, the defining change has been the restructuring of CCMSLIM related provision in the University and a more focused approach to the resourcing of research activity to ensure its sustainability. Career mobility has also triggered a reassessment of funding opportunities, postgraduate recruitment and collaborative research. During the assessment period the University has continued to provide support for CCMSLIM research in the form of administrative provision, funding for the organisation of conferences and seminar series, sabbaticals and attendance at national and internal conferences, along with internal promotions to the levels of both Reader and Professor. As a result, since 2008, 8 members of staff have published: · 10 books   · 17 refereed articles   · 30 chapters in books

Members of staff have supervised 11 PhD students to completion and have 15 research students currently engaged in doctoral projects. We also awarded 143 Masters degrees over the period of assessment.

In RAE 2008 three areas of development for 2008-14 were identified: the impact of digital media; the study of cinema audiences; and the role of media in relation to the concept of communities and selves. Following occupational mobility and a reassessment of growth opportunities, research on digital media has been phased out. Work on cinema audiences, and that on media, communities and selves has continued to be addressed; while work on subcultures and popular music adds a new strand to our research areas. Our research activities are now organized around four key clusters that are part of MIC – the Communications and Subjectivity Research Group (CSRG); the Film and TV: Representation, History and Practice Research Group (FTV); the Community Media Research Group (CMRG)**;** and the Subcultures and Popular Music Research Group (SPMRG). Membership of the clusters is open to all staff and to postgraduate students with related research interests from across the University.

The Communications and Subjectivity Research Group (CSRG) brings together researchers working in the CCMSLIM field with research interests related to theories of communications and subjectivity. The group carries out work of an interdisciplinary nature across a broad range of topics and works to develop ways of understanding, theorising and researching relationships between communications and subjectivity.

Professor Jenny Harding (convenor) has an international reputation for her work on the cultural analysis of emotions, body, gender, sexuality, subjectivity and life history. Her research projects include 'Working Lives of the Thames Gateway', with Eastside Community Heritage, a two year oral-history project funded by HLF (25k) between 2008 and 2010, which documented the working lives of men and women who had been employed in the disappearing industries of East London. In 2011 Harding worked on an HLF (25k) and ESRC-funded (2k) oral history project, 'Muslim Women and Sports Participation', with Independent Academic Research Studies (IARS) and The Women's Library, which investigated and documented Muslim women's experiences of sports participation since 1948.

Anne Karpf has an international reputation for her work on the human voice and its place at the centre of interpersonal and cultural communication. Her research has focused on gendered aspects of the voice, the disembodied voice, and the relationships between psychoanalytic theory and the voice. She has received funding for her research from The Winnicott Trust, and presented an *Archive on 4* programme, 'From Donald Winnicott to the Naughty Step', on Radio 4 in May 2013.

Luke Tredinnick's work has investigated the impact of digital information and digital resources on the individual, exploring the changing nature of identity in a digital world. His articles have focused on our everyday use of digital technologies and the tendency for history to become a cultural artefact that is self-consciously manufactured through individual and collective participation.

CSRG events have included a seminar series on 'Radio and the Inner World' (2011), organized by Harding and Karpf with University of East London and Roehampton University as part of the AHRC funded Media and the Inner World research network. Themed conferences have included:

- 'The 6th Nonverbal Arts; Verbal Discourses Conference', May 2008 (featuring Francisco Bautista, Stephen Bayley, Javier Lopez-Martin and Edward Cooper).
- The Oral History Society Annual Conference (2010), co-organized by Harding with the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.
- 'Women and Sport', organized by Harding with The Women's Library (2011), funded by the ESRC as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science.
- 'Sign, Information and Graphics: A Biosemiotic Perspective on Communication' (2012) (featuring Kalevi Kull, Frederik Stjernfelt and Søren Brier).

The Film and TV: Representation, History and Practice Research Group (FTV) brings together film and TV researchers working with a wide range of practices and methods. Members of the group employ textual analysis, empirical research, historiography, archival research, ethnography, and practice-based research. The aim of the group is to share methods and practices as a means of developing understanding of the nature and social impact of film and TV.

Dr Karen McNally (convenor) has specialised in the analysis of classical Hollywood cinema, star imagery and post-war American culture. Her monograph explored Frank Sinatra's star image in relation to post-war cultural debates around masculinity, race, class, ethnicity and sexuality. More recently she has researched and edited a collection of essays on the writer-director, Billy Wilder.

Dr Mike Chopra-Gant has published widely on American popular culture and modern American cultural history, particularly Hollywood film, cinema exhibition, and contemporary US television. His three monographs comprise an exploration of key historical issues related to popular film; a study of representations of masculinity, families and national identity in popular movies; and an analysis of nostalgic desire and constructions of the family in the TV series, *The Waltons*.

Dr Jeremy Collins' articles have explored the roles of television and the media in generating discourses of risk in relation to ecstasy use and drug classification, mobile phone masts, and media 'influence'.

Professor Bill Osgerby has published work on youth film and television as part of his broader research dealing with youth culture and the media. He was a consultant for a project (12k) in 2008 for the BBC dealing with the relationships between television and audiences.

FTV seminars have featured Ben Brown (BBC), Maurizio Cinquegrani (Kings College, London), Stan Cohen (LSE, London), Silvia Costeloe (BBC), Kate Egan (University of Aberystwyth), Mark Gallagher (University of Nottingham), Todd Gitlin (Columbia University, New York), Oliver Gruner (University of Portsmouth), Martin Halliwell (University of Leicester), Will Kaufman (University of Central Lancashire), Martin Moore (Media Standards Trust), Iwan Moran (UCL), Lawrence Napper (Kings College, London), Clare Parfitt-Brown (University of Chichester), Martha Shearer (Kings College, London), and Fran Unsworth (BBC). McNally co-organized a themed conference with the University of Bedfordshire, 'Not Just Fred and Ginger: Camaraderie, Collusion and Collisions Between Dance and Film' (2011), featuring Steven Cohan (Syracuse University) and Helen Bailey (University of Bedfordshire).

The Community Media Research Group (CMRG) brings together researchers who have a specific interest in making connections with communities located near the University and throughout London, using the media expertise and resources of the group to identify and explore common interests and issues.

Dr Peter Lewis (convenor) is probably the most widely known and esteemed figure in the academic study of community media. He is a member of the Steering Group of the Radio Studies Network, and Associate Editor of *The Radio Journal*. He was awarded a PhD by prior output in 2010 on 'Community Media: Field, Theory, Policy' and was a Visiting Professor of Radio at University of Sunderland (2008-9). His published work has explored histories of the campaign for community media in Britain, and the more general role of community media in promoting social cohesion. Lewis has also been commissioned to undertake external evaluations of projects for Crosstalk (2008-2010; 7.1k) and COMAPP (2011-13; 5.4k) and has recently received funding as a PI from HERA for a (51.2k) collaborative project with Dr. Golo Föllmer (Martin-Luther University, Germany) with partners in the Universities of Arhus, Copenhagen, Utrecht, and Sunderland.

Professor Jenny Harding has led a London Metropolitan University East End Archive project to develop a digital community photographic and oral history archive documenting everyday life in East London, organizing an exhibition in 2011.

The Subcultures and Popular Music Research Group (SPMRG) was formed in 2011, and is the newest of the research groups. It focuses on the analysis of style-based subcultures and their associated music genres. The group is affiliated to the AHRC-funded Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Subcultures, Popular Music and Social Change, linking researchers in institutions throughout the UK.

Professor Bill Osgerby (convenor) is one of the leading scholars in cultural studies of youth and his research receives many citations, nationally and internationally. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna twice during the assessment period (2010 and 2011) and was a founding member of the Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Subcultures, Popular Music and Social Change'. His recent articles have explored subcultures and 'youth-spolitation' novels in the 1970s, and media, marketing and the American teenager.

SPMRG seminars have featured Jim McGuigan (Loughborough), Garry Whannell (University of Bedfordshire) and Helen Reddington (University of Westminster). An Inaugural Symposium for the

Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Subcultures, Popular Music and Social Change was organized by Osgerby in 2011 and attracted over 200 international delegates.

There have also been a number of CCMSLIM related events outside the research clusters, including journalism related events such as: 'How To Get Published in Turbulent Times' (2010), featuring Lennie Goodings (Virago Press) and Clare Alexander (literary agent); and 'Will We Learn to Love Digital Magazines?' (2011), featuring Louise Chunn (*Psychologies* magazine) and James Bilefield (Conde Nast International Digital). There have also been several digital media exhibitions, including 'Liminal: A Question of Position' (2009) at Iniva, London, 'Fun with Software' (2010) at the Arnolfini, Bristol, 'Funware' (2011) in Eindhoven, NL, and 'Emergent Design for Playful Engagement' (2010), a symposium held at London Met that attracted 80 external attendees.

For the short and medium term (2014-19), our aim is to consolidate and develop the activities of the four key research clusters under the co-ordination of the new research centre, MIC. Within and between the research clusters, MIC aims to develop and co-ordinate collaborative and cross-disciplinary research projects, and to enhance income-generating potential to ensure the future financial sustainability within the CCMSLIM area. The key aims for the area are to:

1. Promote inter- and cross-disciplinary approaches within MIC and the key research clusters through workshops and seminars, and to generate more collaborative and innovative research proposals;
2. Embed research more deeply within the University's media, culture and communications teaching curricula;
3. Build stronger formal and informal partnerships nationally and internationally around our core research areas;
4. Develop improved levels of funding from Research Councils, the EU and other funders commensurate with demonstrating both the importance and sustainability of excellent applied research;
5. Evaluate the achievement of these aims through:
   - developing a stronger PhD culture around MIC,
   - involving more staff in research activities and outputs,
   - sustaining significant volumes of quality outputs,
   - focusing more on securing a greater research impact, and
   - ensuring greater recognition of London Met CCMSLIM research both inside and outside the university.

MIC will support research seminar series and conferences that are congruent with these aims. The Centre includes several staff with a successful record of small grant applications, and this experience will be built upon to develop a co-ordinated, inter-disciplinary programme of research grant applications. MIC will also develop areas of research with potential for growth, including the field of subcultures and popular music, and the fields of news and journalism (which are growing areas of media provision within the Faculty). Additionally, MIC will seek to develop collaborative research projects with other London Met research Institutes and Centres, and will seek to attract postgraduate research students at both national and international level.

c. People, including:
i. Staffing strategy and staff development

All academic staff in the SMCC area are encouraged to engage in research, with significant effort made to support and develop their research activities. The Faculty aims to offer staff an appropriate balance between their teaching, research and administrative activities. In line with University policy, staff have a maximum teaching load of 550 hours contact time per year, and the Faculty attempts to synchronize at least some of the modules taught with the research interests of the teaching staff. The operation of an academic workload allocation model (AWAM) allows teaching to be balanced in relation to research priorities and external funding, and all staff are allocated time on the AWAM for research and/or scholarly activity.

Up until 2011, the Faculties operated a system whereby staff could apply for additional teaching relief to undertake research projects. This was organized through a bid system, with staff applying for teaching relief on a module-by-module basis. Applications were assessed by the REF Working Group chaired by the Associate Dean. Harding, Lewis and McNally received reduced teaching loads through this route. Staff could also apply for financial support for projects in the early stages of development, and for fully funded attendance at (or the organisation of) seminar series and conferences. Funds for this scheme came from RAE 2008 income that was allocated to Faculties. Since 2011, financial circumstances have meant that returns from RAE 2008 have been set against the salaries of core staff; so the bidding system has ceased. Staff can now apply for financial support to attend conferences through staff development funding, available on a one conference per annum basis. Teaching relief is not possible unless it is supported through externally generated income.

All new members of staff are appointed individual research mentors, and mentoring for new and existing staff on research funding applications is available through FAIR. It is expected that MIC's position in FAIR will assist in fostering links and collaboration with other research centres and institutes in FAIR. All staff also have access to the University's Researcher Training Programme, which is run by the Research and Postgraduate Office. Staff are appraised annually by their line manager, and their targets for the year are expected to include research and/or scholarly activity. There are also University-wide mechanisms for promotion to Reader and Professor, which take place on an annual basis and are competitive. Since 2008 there have been three promotions to Reader (Chopra-Gant, Harding and Karpf) and one promotion to Professor (Harding) in the CCMSLIM area. Some staff have also pursued research degrees at the University, with 3 staff in the SMCC School (including Lewis) awarded PhDs since 2008, and 2 (including Osgerby) awarded D.Litts.

ii. Research students

An important element of strategy has been recruitment of research students. Our PhD students tend to be self-funding, mature students from a diverse range of backgrounds. Many of them study on a part-time basis. 11 PhDs in the subject area have been completed during the period of assessment, including: *Transformational Texts: Genre, Discourse and Subjectivity in the Self-Help Book*; *The Role of Transnational Television in International Political Decision-Making after the Cold War*; *Everyday Life in the Suburbs: Surveying Suburban Narratives*; and *The Formulation of an Author's 'Other' in Late Postmodern Fiction*.

We have 15 PhD students that have been continuing their studies in areas related to CCMSLIM during the assessment period. We also have one member of staff (Tredinnick) currently submitting for PhD by Prior Output in the area.

There are four levels of monitoring and support for our doctoral students:
1) Supervisor-student relationship. Each student has two supervisors, who may meet the student together or separately.
2) Ethics compliance monitoring by the Faculty Ethics Committee. Each student must provide a detailed description of the ethical issues raised by their research design and methods and get approval prior to starting their fieldwork.
3) Registration of the student's thesis in a ten-page outline, which is reviewed by the Faculty Research Committee.
4) Formal monitoring through the University Research Office, which requires an annual progress review form to be submitted, together with evidence of written work. In this process students can comment on supervisory support, while supervisors and the Research Student Progress Group provide feedback on students' progress. Students are only allowed to progress from MPhil to PhD registration after a significant element of their work has been read by a senior member of staff other than their supervisor and after the Student Progression Group has given its approval.

Additionally, the London Met Researcher Development Programme offers a range of courses across four domains: Knowledge and Intellectual Abilities; Personal Effectiveness; Research

Governance and Organisation; Engagement, Influence and Impact. These courses are available in both a face-to-face and on-line format.

Research students are closely integrated within MIC and the key CCMSLIM research clusters. Students are included on staff mailing lists and attend the seminars, workshops etc. organised by MIC and the research clusters. Research students are allocated dedicated office space, desks and computers alongside other staff, and have open access to photocopying and similar resources. They also participate in the regular PhD Student Forum, which meets twice annually and allows students to raise general issues or concerns about their studies with the Faculty. Research students are supported in organising their own events (e.g. research seminars, visiting speakers and social gatherings), to which staff are invited as audience, guests or speakers. Students are encouraged to give papers at internal, subject-based research seminars and have also been able to access RAE research funding for activities such as archival research and the delivery of papers at external conferences.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities
Research Income
Researchers in CCMSLIM have been involved in winning – both individually and with internal and external partners – over £540,000 external funding since 2008. Some awards went directly to researchers (for example, Karpf's Winnicott Trust awards and Lewis's evaluations for COMAPP and Crosstalk), and some were research initiatives that were part of more broadly funded projects (for instance, Harding's oral history research and digital media training projects were part of larger HLF funded projects). As a result, £128,827 is eligible for return. This included funding for a research report on audiences and presentations to the BBC Audience Council commissioned by the BBC Trust (Osgerby); a lottery funded project with Eastside Community Heritage that documented the disappearing industries of East and South London (Harding); and three information management related projects – The Quality Leaders Project (funded by the Paul Hamlyn foundation), Skills for a Globalised World (funded by Linking London) and Facilitating Information Literacy Education (funded by London Health Libraries).

Organizational and operational infrastructure:
The University provides excellent library facilities and comprehensive information systems and computing services. Until 2012 staff also benefitted from the situation of The Women's Library at London Met, which allowed for a number of research collaborations between the staff of the Library and the University (e.g. Harding's work on Muslim women and sports participation). All SMCC staff have access to leading online journals and to media production facilities including radio and television studios and computer laboratories with software appropriate for research in CCMSLIM fields. Since late 2012, SMCC staff have been located on a single site, and have been provided with newly refurbished, shared office space with their own computers, and access to photocopying and scanning equipment.

Following the Faculty mergers, restructuring, and the development of FSSH, the Faculty has invested in research infrastructure through the appointment of staff to key strategic roles. In 2012, it employed an Associate Dean for Research and Partnerships to manage and enhance research activity and to monitor the experience and progress of the Faculty's research students. In addition, a Contracts and Projects Officer (CPO) has been appointed to assist staff in the preparation, costing and pricing of research bids and third stream income, and also to help manage successful grants and projects. A Research and Enterprise Officer (REO) also assists in the administration of research activities, including the monitoring of research projects, research students and their progress, and organization of the REF submissions from the Faculty. Since January 2013, the University has also located its Research and Postgraduate Office within the Faculty. This provides central services including the administration and management of the University's research students, the Researcher Development Programme, bid support, and research related audit and regulatory functions. The Research and Postgraduate Office has developed a close relationship with FAIR, and offers advice to staff across the University on applications for large grants and projects. In accordance with University structures, FSSH has a Research and Enterprise

Committee that is chaired by the Associate Dean for Research and Partnerships. It meets once a term, and has a membership of academic and professional support staff from across the Faculty.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Chopra-Gant is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Popular Culture* and *Intensities: Journal of Cult Media.* He has delivered a number of invited national and international talks on his research. He regularly reviews proposals and manuscripts for academic publishers, as well as articles for journals including *American Studies*, *Men and Masculinities*, and *Popular Communication.* During the assessment period he was external examiner for an MLitt.

Collins is a referee for *Health, Risk and Society*, and has delivered a number of invited talks on his work.

Harding co-organized *The Oral History Society* annual conference in 2010 with the Trustees of the Oral History Society, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the University of the Arts. She is an editor of the *Oral History Journal*, a trustee of the Oral History Society and leader of their Higher Education sub-group. She has worked on oral history projects with IARS, The Women's Library and Rowan Arts, and with UEL and Roehmapton Universities on an AHRC funded project (along with Lewis and Karpf).

Lewis is one of the founders of community media research. He is a Member of the Steering Group of the Radio Studies Network in MECCSA, and an appointed member of the Expert Group of Community Media Forum for Europe (CMFE). He was a funding application assessor for the Broadcasting Council of Ireland in 2008, and peer reviews panels for the ECREA Radio Research Section. He has also worked with Crosstalk and COMAPP as an external evaluator. During the assessment period he was external examiner for five PhDs.

Karpf was Chair of the Judges for the Jewish Quarterly-Wingate Literary Prize in 2010, and since 2009 has Chaired the Wellcome Medical Book Prize, as well as a series of seminars for the Wellcome Collection. She is an internationally renowned writer and journalist, broadcasting regularly on BBC Radio, notably as a critic for BBC Radio 3's 'Night Waves'.

McNally was co-organizer of the conference 'Not Just Fred and Ginger' (2011) in collaboration with the University of Bedfordshire and the European Association of Dance Historians. She has reviewed proposals and articles for Routledge and the *National Women's Studies Association Journal.* During the assessment period she was external examiner for a PhD.

Osgerby worked with colleagues to establish the AHRC-funded 'Subcultures Network: The Interdisciplinary Network for the Study of Subcultures, Popular Music and Social Change' and organized its inaugural conference in 2011. His work has been widely anthologised and translated into French and Japanese. He is a member of the editorial board for the *Punk and Post-Punk* journal and *Intensities: Journal of Cult Media*; and is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for Wallflower Press's 'Cultographies' book series. He has reviewed funding bids for the Economic and Social Research Council; peer-reviews articles for journals including *Crime, Media and Culture*, *Cultural and Social History*, *Journal of Contemporary British History*, *Men and Masculinities* and *Popular Communication*; and has reviewed book proposals for publishers including Ashgate, Edinburgh University Press, Manchester University Press and Sage. During 2010 and 2011 he was Visiting Professor in Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna, Austria. During the assessment period he was external examiner for six PhDs (one overseas) and served as external assessor for professorial appointments at two universities (one overseas).

Tredinnick is a member of the editorial board for *Library and Information History* and regularly reviews for *Journal of Library and Information Management Research*, *Library Review*, and *International Journal of Knowledge Management Studies*. He has reviewed manuscripts for Sage and Pearson. He is a member of the British Association of Information and Library Education Research Heads, and committee member of the Open Knowledge Society Program.