

<p><b>Institution: Keele University</b></p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment: English Language and Literature</b></p>
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>English at Keele is an integrated, dynamic research group in the School of Humanities, within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Since 2008, the group has continued to nurture a collegial and supportive environment, creating the optimum conditions for high-quality research. Research in English is organised in four overlapping clusters, which provide both a focus for the exchange of ideas and the structure within which mentoring and staff development take place: 1) English Literatures; 2) North American Literatures; 3) Film and Television; and 4) Creative Writing. The literature clusters span the period from early modern to the present. Literature research at Keele has a strong tradition of politically informed, historical criticism. Since 2008, this commitment has extended to growing research in film and television and includes a new specialism, Creative Writing, enhancing an ethos of interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration. Shared interests in <b>textual scholarship, literature and science, literary geographies</b>, modernism, and life writing cut across the clusters. Through the Research Institute for the Humanities (RI), English works closely with other disciplines and contributes to the University's longstanding reputation for collaborative research between the arts and social sciences, for example in the areas of health, sustainability, and <b>ageing</b>. The RI supplies research intelligence and infrastructural support for research projects and postgraduate students. Liaison with the RI is through English's research and postgraduate coordinator, who is on the RI Board. Research strategy is discussed and intelligence about research funding disseminated through subject programme meetings. Strategic and operational management of Humanities Research are overseen by the Director of the RI and the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Research Committee, which comprises the Dean, the RI Director, and Heads of Research Centres. This oversees the Faculty research strategy, approves applications for research leave, monitors reports on leave, and approves internal selection processes for restricted external applications. The University Research Committee, under the authority of Senate, has overall responsibility for research matters affecting English, while central Research and Enterprise Services provide specific expertise on legal and financial arrangements for research, business engagement, governance, and ethics.</p>
<p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>Since 2008, English's broad aims have been to develop existing strengths, and to maintain its commitment to engaged, historical criticism while diversifying the scope of research. This has been achieved through a vibrant and supportive research environment, which actively promotes equal opportunities through mentoring and allocated research time for all career levels and especially early career researchers. Over the period 2008-13, this broad strategy has been refined into <b>four key aims</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To develop existing research strengths such as textual scholarship and Film and Television.</li> <li>2. To develop a new research specialism in creative writing.</li> <li>3. To continue and extend engagement with non-academic beneficiaries arising from both single-discipline and collaborative interdisciplinary research.</li> <li>4. To improve the quality of research outputs, increase research income and diversify its sources.</li> </ol> <p><b>Aim 1 Developing Existing Strengths:</b> Keele's position as centre for <b>textual scholarship</b> represents the culmination of a key strategic aim over the last ten years. In that time, English has hosted or developed major projects on Jonathan Swift, William Burroughs, and Dorothy Richardson. McLaverty was PI for the AHRC-funded Jonathan Swift Archive (2004-2009, £533,661), which will result in seventeen volumes of the <i>Cambridge Edition of the Works of Jonathan Swift</i>; five volumes have been published to date and the project's digital archive is now online. McLaverty's experience is vital to this grouping and he advises on current editing projects. McCracken secured two British Academy grants and then an AHRC major standard grant (£966,</p>

466) as PI for a collaborative project with the Universities of Oxford, Birmingham and Birkbeck to complete scholarly editions with Oxford University Press of the work and letters of Dorothy Richardson (ten volumes) over a period of five years (2014-19). Harris has edited three major collections of essays on the work of William Burroughs since 2009 and secured British Academy funding to produce three further scholarly editions of Burroughs work in the four years from 2014. Seager, an early-career scholar, was appointed in 2009 to contribute to **textual scholarship** research through publications on Defoe, and is developing a new project on the early history of serial fiction. Yearling has complementary early modern expertise, and works on theatre history and poetry. Strengths in Romantic and Victorian literature have been extended by the partnership between Shears and Amigoni. Amigoni's contribution to interdisciplinary research on **ageing** at Keele has extended the scope of his work on the Victorian period. Shears has published on poetic influence in theory and Romantic literature, and on Victorian material and literary culture. His new work on the cultural history of the hangover bolsters the longstanding interests in **literature and science** shared by Amigoni and Bell. Amigoni has published on Darwin and sympathy, the evolutionary epic, and the place of science in modern fiction. Bell's article on Pound and the fourth dimension contributes to his significant body of work on science in modernist literature. This connects with Lustig and Peacock's work on diseases and disorders in contemporary American literature, and demonstrates further Keele's traditional strengths in North American literatures which Peacock, Harris, Lustig, Palladino and Bell continue to uphold. It is from this interest in North American fiction that work on **literary geographies** has developed, with Peacock's new AHRC-funded work on Brooklyn fictions and globalisation growing from his innovative research on spatiality in the contemporary fictions of Paul Auster and Jonathan Lethem. There are longstanding research interests in film, exemplified in Harris's profile. To enhance this established interest, Johnson, a specialist in film and television and now a Leverhulme award-holder, was appointed in 2009, followed by Archer in 2012. Archer's work on the French road movie, and the US traditions from which it draws, complements both Harris's work on past and evolving traditions of North American film and its relationship to European traditions, and Peacock's work on **literary geographies**.

**Aim 2 Creative Writing:** Creative Writing at Keele represents a new strategic investment in staff since RAE2008. As the two Somerset Maugham awards suggest, Keele writers are committed to high-quality, experimental work that engages with contemporary culture. English appointed the poet Sheard and the novelist Stretch in 2008. Sheard has published two acclaimed collections and was included in *Identity Parade: New British and Irish Poets* (Bloodaxe, 2010), the latest in this prestigious series of anthologies that collects the most important poets of the previous decade. Stretch has published three novels, the most recent of which won a 2013 Somerset Maugham Prize. His film *Wizard's Way* won the Best Comedy Feature Award at the Independent London Film Festival 2012 and the Discovery Award at the London Comedy Film Festival 2013. In 2010, Creative Writing at Keele was recognised by the poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy, who endowed the Roy Fisher Prize for the best student poet. Lustig, a published novelist as well as critic, has contributed to the development of this group and published his innovative critical-creative work on Malory and childhood reading in 2013. Summer schools and festivals comprise an important part of the writing strategy, supporting PGR and student publications. Two further appointments were made in 2013: Gwendoline Riley, one of the most accomplished young novelists in Britain today, whose *Joshua Spassky* won a Somerset Maugham award in 2008; and Emma Henderson, whose first novel was nominated for the Orange Prize in 2011.

**Aim 3 Non-academic Beneficiaries:** Since 2008, English has focused on key areas of research that engage with non-academic beneficiaries, drawing on the resources of both the single discipline and Keele's wider interdisciplinary research culture. Stretch and Sheard have successfully engaged non-academic audiences through creative writing. Harris has used documentary film making and radio broadcasts to engage with public interest in the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *The Naked Lunch*. Munro's work with the Globe Theatre, London offers a model of how theatre can translate academic research into public engagement. Munro's theatrical expertise also made a vital contribution to the interdisciplinary team that came together in 2008 to address the agenda of the second phase of the RCUK New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) cross-council initiative, which sought innovative research on **ageing** that advanced arts and

humanities approaches to this urgent demographic challenge. The resulting project, 'Ages and Stages: the place of theatre in the representation and recollections of ageing' was funded by the NDA (2009-2012, £373,313) and led by Professor Miriam Bernard (Keele, Centre for Social Gerontology). The New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme was both part of the research process, which involved the production of a new piece of intergenerational theatre (performed in July 2012), and itself the object of research. Amigoni and Munro utilised the Theatre's rich archive to investigate the representation of ageing in the New Vic's long tradition of documentary drama. Work in this field led Amigoni to a further collaboration with Professor Gordon McMullan, King's College, London, in the AHRC-funded research network 'Late Life Creativity and the New Old Age' (2011-13), which engages a wide range of disciplines and non-academic beneficiaries.

**Aim 4 To improve research outputs and increase grant income.** These strategies are dealt with in **c** and **d** below.

Keele's collegial environment is maintained and developed through lively research seminars and forums. The English Seminar is the main forum for all the research clusters. The North American Literatures cluster has a long-standing interdisciplinary seminar organised by the David Bruce Centre for American Studies. The Film and Television cluster contributes to the interdisciplinary Media and Communication studies seminar. English also contributes to interdisciplinary seminars including: the Early Modern Seminar, which has run for seventeen years; the Reading and Writing Lives seminar on life writing; and the Security Studies seminar. In addition, there are regular work-in-progress papers from staff and research students, and reading and discussion groups on postcolonialism and film, and literary theory.

**Future plans:** Over the next five years English will continue to develop both individual, period-based and thematic research endeavour and collaboration. The existing strength in **textual scholarship** will be taken forward by McCracken's Richardson Editions Project, with the volumes coming out 2015-2020. Seager will complete his monograph on Defoe and form in fiction, begin new work on the serial novel before Dickens (for which he will seek AHRC early-career fellowship funding), and publish an edition of Samuel Johnson's *Life of Savage*. Extending the **literature and science** strand, Amigoni will complete his monograph on intergenerational relations between Victorian scientific intellectual families, literature and inheritance (for which he will seek Leverhulme support). A range of literary projects will involve interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, and cross-institutional collaborations. Shears' new project, a cultural history of the hangover, involves collaboration with colleagues in Psychology and addresses health and well-being issues in the long nineteenth century. Yearling's book on Marston, Jonson and satire is forthcoming in 2014 and her new project is 'Shakespeare and the Art of Violence'; it will make connections between early modern understanding of violence and present-day research in cognitive science. Continuing to collaborate on **ageing** in culture, Amigoni will produce, with McMullan (King's College, London), an edited collection on interdisciplinary approaches to late-life creativity. Together they will submit a research grant application to the AHRC on ageing and creativity in history since the late nineteenth century that expands the research findings generated by their network, fully exploring its medical, cultural and social scientific implications. Focusing on the other end of the life course, Bentley will complete a monograph on youth sub-cultures in British fiction, 1950-2010, which will be a part of wider, collaborative work in this field: he will apply to the AHRC for a project on youth subcultures that involve fiction, film and sociological research. In North American Literatures and Film and Television, Harris will develop his work on photojournalism and visuality, including new work on 1940s Hollywood and *film noir*. Archer is researching a new project on 'new' European cinema and its relations with American culture. Following her Leverhulme award, Johnson will complete a monograph on the TV phenomenon of *Shameless*. Morgan will complete her book on Canadian 'heartlands', a project that will both contribute to work on **literary geographies** and complement Lustig's recent hybrid creative/critical work. Palladino's book on Toni Morrison is forthcoming (2015) and her work on 'Mediterranean Encounters' will enhance existing work on **literary geographies** as well as contribute to emerging critical debates in cultural studies on the postcolonial Mediterranean. Peacock will produce his monograph on Brooklyn fictions and community in a global context and is planning his next project on The Clash as a transnational phenomenon. McCracken will complete a monograph on literary responses to political defeat 1870-

1989 and Bruce will co-edit a collection on the politics of feminist thinkers and will continue to develop her work on the politics of 'the production of English' as a discipline. All the Keele writers are engaged in future projects that will extend the unit's developing reputation for engaged and innovative work. Henderson's next novel, *The Missing Letter*, will be published by Sceptre. Riley's new novel, *Games at Dusk*, will be published by Jonathan Cape. Sheard's new collection of poetry *Abandoned Settlements* will be published by Cape. Stretch's next novel, *Stranger and Stranger* will also be published by Cape.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Since 2008, English has worked closely with the RI to develop new policies on career advancement, targeted research leave, and mentoring for early-career researchers. During the period 2008-13, English has invested in new staff, mostly early-career researchers. The group has benefited from the energy and the enthusiasm of new staff, quickly inducting them into a research ethos that encourages researchers to engage with their colleagues at Keele both within the discipline and across disciplines. English sees its early-career researchers as a source of renewal, continuing innovation, and long-term sustainability. A structured staff development strategy has enabled early and mid-career researchers to build strong and successful careers. Bentley, Morgan, Peacock, Sheard, and Stretch have all been promoted to Senior Lecturer in the REF period. Support is provided by the Director of the RI in conjunction with senior staff in the research group, who ensures that all resources are used effectively, allocating appropriate, protected time for research through regular periodic leave for all active researchers. Such support has led to success in the AHRC Early Career Fellowship competition (Peacock, 2012-13), and the Leverhulme Fellowship competition (Johnson 2013). Staff members are given strategic guidance through an annual research report process, which informs the research element of the formal appraisal system, the allocation of additional research time, and plans from research mentors within the group. Research active staff are normally expected (as *minima*, and with due allowance for disciplinary differences, personal circumstances and career stage) to produce the equivalent of at least one high-quality publication (peer-reviewed article, substantial chapter) *per annum* and at least two substantial grant applications over a five-year cycle; and to be involved in postgraduate training and supervision; seminar and conference organisation and attendance. All staff who meet these expectations are eligible to apply for a semester's research leave on a one-semester-in-eight basis, or, for staff appointed to their first research-related open-ended academic post, *no later* than the seventh semester after appointment. In the period, English has awarded twelve periods of leave to ten individuals. Early career researchers appointed in 2009 were supported by having research leave brought forward (Johnson, Seager, Carrigan and Shears). Keele has seen a number of staff changes in the period. All posts vacated have been replaced. For example, Ruston moved from a Senior Lectureship at Keele to a Chair at Salford in 2009 and was replaced by Shears; Munro's move to King's College led to the appointment of an early modernist, Yearling; and when Carrigan moved to a post at the University of Leeds he was replaced by Palladino, another highly promising early career postcolonialist.

All policies relating to research management at Keele are subject to equality impact assessment (this was done with recent changes in the research leave policy); all members of appointing committees and any staff who carry out appraisals have been trained in equality and diversity issues, with periodic updates on alterations to the law. The University abides by the Vitae Concordat to support the Career Development of Researchers. The University has recently achieved the 'HR Excellence in Research Award'.

#### ii. Research students

English at Keele has a flourishing postgraduate culture. Fourteen students successfully completed doctoral awards in the REF period (*NB this includes 5 awards between Jan-July 2008, which do not appear in RA4A*). Our successful partnership with the University of Salford in the AHRC's Block Grant Partnerships Capacity Building Exercise has enabled us to award two AHRC studentships

since 2011. In addition, there were two awards in the AHRC's open competition, one CDA award (with Chetham's Library), and a studentship secured from the ESRC under the New Dynamics of Ageing programme. Seven studentships and GTAs were funded by the Research Institute for the Humanities. Creative Writing has quickly developed a flourishing postgraduate research culture which contributes powerfully to this overall energy, claiming three of the studentships and with five PhD enrolments at the time of submission. A named PhD pathway in Creative Writing was formalised in 2013. In all, twenty-seven PhD students are currently supervised by English staff, which will result in a very significant increase in Doctoral awards over the next REF cycle. The sustainability of the postgraduate programme is evidenced by the award of funding for the AHRC North West Consortium for Doctoral Training Partnership in October 2013. Keele led on the English literature pathway for the bid, and will participate in both the literature and the Creative Writing pathways.

Full-time students are allocated office space and a networked PC. Part-time students hot desk, but have equal access to travel and conference funds and other research support and infrastructure. All students are required to write a learning plan and to do 200 hours of generic research training. Progress reports are submitted every six months and students are required to pass a rigorous written and oral doctoral progression at ten months and do a thirty-month review. In the same way that early career colleagues become quickly integrated into the research culture of English, our aim is to include research students as fully as possible in the unit's activities with a view to developing their research, publication strategy, presentation skills, and career prospects. The postgraduate-staff reading group is an example of a forum in which this happens: the reading and research agenda is shaped by research students, but discussion is shared with members of staff. Other reading groups that contribute to the vitality of the postgraduate culture include the Keele/University of Chester neo-Victorian reading group, comprising staff and PGs, which has met biannually since 2010. Victorian Things Revisited, one of the Midlands Interdisciplinary Victorian Seminar Series, was hosted by Keele in 2012. Students and staff from Keele have contributed to the postgraduate training days organised by the British Association of Modernist Studies. The RI also provides a forum for research students to present work in progress. Again, this is organised by students and it provides students from the English unit with the opportunity to present in a stimulating cross-disciplinary seminar attended by postgraduate students working in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Keele's strategic themes have provided opportunities for postgraduate involvement, integration and networking. In 2012, a group of English students (PhD and MRes) organised a conference, Two Cultures or Co-Evolution? Science and Literature 1800-Present, funded by an institutional EPSRC, Bridging the Gaps award, with the strategic aim of building bridges between disconnected fields of knowledge. In addition to providing platforms for students from Keele and other institutions to present papers, the conference was addressed by Professor Joanne Verran (MMU), a microbiologist who has developed a distinctive line of public engagement involving **literature and science**. Public engagement has been an important dimension of recent postgraduate activity (2013): Joanna Taylor (AHRC-funded, 2011-14) has been successful in securing funding from the AHRC for a student-led public engagement initiative, Crossing the Bar, with the University of Liverpool, which involved workshops on engaging with non-academic partners. During the REF period, research students from Keele have gained academic posts at the Sorbonne; University of Sheffield; New University of Lisbon; Zanjan University, Iran; and at the Department of English, Hang Seng Management College, Hong Kong. Former Keele postgraduates have published widely and Chris Prendergast, who is currently studying for a PhD in Creative Writing, has had his first novel accepted for publication by Salt. To ensure the sustainability of its doctoral programmes, English will continue to recruit doctoral students through its multiple MA and MRes pathways, which have been revised and enhanced since 2008: a new MA in Creative Writing was established in 2009, and one in English Literatures in 2012. In 2012-13, HESA data for students enrolled on English PhD pathways records a more than three-fold (214%) increase on the RAE 2008 position.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

The aim of increasing and diversifying research funding (**Aim 4**) has been achieved in partnership with the Research Institute for the Humanities, which provides the infrastructure for grant

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applications, including dedicated officers who identify and consult on funding opportunities. The RI organises workshops on writing bids and offers close support for prospective PIs. Researchers work closely with the RI officers on grant applications, using examples of successful bids. Expert advice is given on budgets, management, and planning. An anonymous internal peer-review process, conducted by members of staff who have a record of gaining research income, assesses all applications before final submission is given approval. In addition, there are face-to-face mechanisms for sharing best practice. Awards such as Johnson's early career Leverhulme success benefited from this. McCracken's recent success in securing his collaborative AHRC standard grant for the Dorothy Richardson letters and editions is evidence of the strategy in action over the long term: smaller pilot awards, which diversified funding sources, created a track record, drew in collaborators and secured, finally, the major award with a bid that was subject to intensive in-house review before submission. Over the REF period, research income per staff FTE per year has increased by 71% compared with RAE 2008.

Since 2008, English has benefited from the infrastructure provided by the RI and the Faculty research infrastructure, both housed in the Claus Moser Research Centre, a £3.5m investment in Humanities and Social Science Research funded by HEFCE research capital and University funding. The RI has directly supported the vitality of the research environment by funding travel and conferences, and through investment in regular visits by speakers and writers. Keele library holds important archives and resources relating to T.E. Hulme, Arnold Bennett, and Josiah Clement Wedgwood. The 'Foundations of British Sociology Archive' has materials that have been used in several English research projects.

Over the assessment period an average of £7,000 *per annum* was made available to Humanities postgraduate students for conference attendance and research trips with a further £9,000 allocated specifically to training (either for individual courses or collective events); English research students make up some 65% of humanities PGR students. All students attend a workshop on external funding opportunities so that they can also access additional funds. Across the Faculty, £270,000 HEFCE research capital funding has been spent to refurbish and equip office space for our postgraduate students, with a further £20-25,000 *per annum* used to provide computing facilities (including laptops for loan), providing excellent facilities for PGRs well above Research Council minima, with the Moser Centre serving as a social and intellectual hub for PGRs with weekly social events and drop-in sessions.

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

English at Keele contributes to the research base through cross-institutional collaborations and long-term national and international networks. Amigoni, as a member of AHRC Peer Review College, is national moderator for AHRC's research network scheme (from 2013). Bell and McCracken have also been members of AHRC's Peer Review College. An innovative collaboration with Université de Paris-Ouest, Nanterre has already resulted in one research student graduating with a doctorate from both Keele and Nanterre, regular exchange visits, and an international conference in Paris, Virginia Woolf and Philosophy, which led to a special issue of the journal *Le Tour Critique* that included articles by Jacques Rancière and J. Hillis Miller. Harris played a leading role in developing the European Beat Studies Network: he is founding president of the network. The Northern Modernism Seminar was founded by McCracken and Andrew Thacker (Nottingham Trent) and has run since 2003. McCracken is a co-founder of the British Association of Modernist Studies. Bruce is a member of Council for College and University English's executive committee. Amigoni has been appointed to the advisory board of Exeter University's Medical Humanities theme as part of its 'Inspiring Research' strategy, 2013. Bentley is a founding member of the London Literary Society, Johnson is a member of the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies' (BAFTSS) executive committee, 2012-15, and Seager is a member of the executive board of the Defoe Society, 2011-15. Morgan is a member of the Council of the British Association of Canadian Studies and co-editor of its journal.

Since 2008, English has organised events that reflect its research strengths, attracting international researchers to Keele. Uncovering the Scholarly Edition (2008) brought together major scholars in

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the field of textual editing. The Dorothy Richardson conferences (2009, 2011, 2013), held in Bloomsbury, advanced the Richardson editing project. Two events made interventions in the field of **literature and science**. The British Society for Literature and Science held its conference at Keele in 2008 and the David Bruce Centre hosted *The Syndrome Syndrome: Disease in Contemporary Literature* in 2009. The latter led to an edited collection (Lustig and Peacock, 2013). *Victorian Life and Works* was organised in 2008, to mark forty years of Victorian Studies at Keele. (Re)-reading John Addington Symonds (2010) was co-funded by the British Association of Victorian Studies and the London Library: it resulted in a special issue of *English Studies* (2013) edited by Amber Regis (Keele PhD, 2010, ECR) and Amigoni. McCracken was on the organising committee of the December 1910 Centenary Conference at Glasgow in 2010. Two conferences on contemporary literature were held in July 2013: on youth subcultures and Salman Rushdie, respectively. Creative Writing runs Poetry Live, a series of public readings, which has included performances by Carol Ann Duffy, E. A. Markham and Don Paterson and a series of fortnightly readings by new novelists and poets, which has included performances by Tony Williams, Socrates Adams, and Frances Leviston.

Three journals are edited from Keele: Shears is editor of the *Byron Journal*; Morgan is co-editor of *The British Journal for Canadian Studies*; and McCracken is the editor of *Pilgrimages: a journal of Dorothy Richardson Studies*. Amigoni (with Amber Regis, PhD Keele, Sheffield) was guest editor of *English Studies* 94.2 (April 2013). Morgan was co-editor (with Daniel Laforest, Alberta) of a special edition (Autumn 2011) of *British Journal of Canadian Studies*. English at Keele also has representatives on the boards of *new formations*; *English Studies in Canada*; *Tropismes*; *Critical Engagements*; *Porn Studies*; *Journal of American Studies*; *Symbiosis: A Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations*; *Journal of Beat Studies*; *Le Tour Critique*; and *Digital Defoe*. Invited talks, keynote addresses, and public lectures given by English include: Harris, 'From Dr Mabuse to Doc Benway: The Myths and Manuscripts of *Naked Lunch*', at the William Burroughs conference, Columbia University, New York, 2009; McCracken, 'The End of the Cold War and the Return to History', at *After the War: Postwar Structures of Feeling* conference, Institute of English Studies, April, 2009; Amigoni's keynote lecture on Victorian **literature and science** at CCUE's Annual Conference in April 2010; Seager, 'Gulliver's Travels Serialized and Continued' at Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster; University of Vanderbilt, 2011; Morgan, keynote at the Women's Writing and Filmmaking in Quebec Conference, Centre for Contemporary Women's Writing and Centre for Quebec and French-Canadian Studies, Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, London, 2013; Shears, 'Byron's Habits', at the Byron in 1812 conference, London, 2012; McLaverty, 'Troublesome Works: Swift in 1735 and Other Problem Authors', at the Text and Trade Conference, Queen Mary, University of London, 2012; and Johnson, '*Shameless*: Studying Revolt/ing Subjects', University of Leicester, 2013. Amigoni conducted a public conversation with novelist Ian McEwan about Darwin and science at the Darwin Bicentenary Festival, Cambridge, July 2009; he was invited to discuss his book *Colonies, Cults and Evolution* at an interdisciplinary seminar on science and culture at the University of Toronto in March 2009. Peacock has conducted a series of recorded interviews with the novelist Jonathan Lethem; McCracken contributed a paper to the European Science Foundation workshop on Aestheticism and Modernism in Montpellier in 2013. Bentley delivered keynotes on 'Transatlantic Rushdie' at the 'Rushdie in the 21st Century' conference, 2013, Institute of English Studies; and 'The retrieval of Second World War in Ian McEwan's *Atonement* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*' at the 'Transactions and Connections: Memories of the Past in the European Context' at The University of Malaga, 2013. Institutions where members of English have examined theses during the period include Cambridge, Western Australia, Nottingham, Exeter, Bristol, Royal Holloway, Birkbeck, Edinburgh, Newcastle, and Sheffield Hallam.