

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Leicester</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> UoA28 Modern Languages</p>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>The key users and beneficiaries of the Unit's research are the general public; educators and the young people they teach; museums and art galleries; and businesses, particularly those requiring translation and interpreting services. The types of impact which spring from our research fall into three main areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Public understanding of social and cultural issues:</b> During the assessment period, the Unit's research has underpinned public exhibitions in France, London and Italy as well as in Leicester. It has also been disseminated through the media.</li> <li><b>2. Supporting economic growth:</b> Our research is enhancing the skills of public service interpreters in the East Midlands initially, through the design of a short course in Interpreting for private sector interpreters. Our research also underpins the Unit's involvement in a SME Support to Growth project – a University/UKTI programme designed to help small businesses optimise their export potential.</li> <li><b>3. Outreach:</b> Our research informs teaching materials used in schools across the UK and Europe, has guided curriculum policy in Europe and engages directly with young people.</li> </ol> <p>Cultural enrichment and enhancement of historical, sociocultural and political awareness underpins all research within the Unit, which is clustered in four main areas: Communication (Translation and Interpreting Studies); Visual culture (art, photography, theatre, film and documentary, comic art); Cultural Studies (literary and gender studies); Spatial Practices (Diasporas and immigration).</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p><u>Collaboration</u></p> <p>Impact is achieved through collaboration with a range of strategic national and international organisations and networks. Partners in research and impact activities include professional and cultural organisations such as offices of the European Union, regional government bodies, arts centres, galleries and educational organisations. Working in partnership with arts organisations and galleries, <b>Aissaoui's</b> work on North African diasporas, <b>Storchi's</b> work on Mussolini and art in the Fascist period (Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art) and <b>Spunta's</b> research on the Italian photographer Luigi Ghirri have all underpinned significant public exhibitions in France, Italy and the UK. <b>Wood's</b> translation of Dacia Maraini's <i>Hurried Steps</i>, which emerged from a close working relationship with the playwright herself, has played to a significant number of school-age audiences across the UK.</p> <p><u>Knowledge dissemination</u></p> <p>The Unit has an active approach to communication beyond traditional academic journals. It uses the University's press office to communicate the findings of research to a broad audience and researchers are encouraged to maximise opportunities for knowledge dissemination. <b>Aissaoui's</b> research on media representations of Turkey's bid to the EU was the focus of a major article published in <i>Today's Zaman</i>, Turkey's national newspaper. <b>Wood's</b> research involving the translation into Italian of <i>Grazia Deledda: sfida alla modernità</i> (2012), accompanying book launch (October 2012) and conference (March 2013) in Sardinia, was widely reported in the Sardinian press and TV channels, and Wood herself gave numerous press and television interviews. This led to an impact on Italian educational policy, contributing to the successful efforts of the association <i>Società delle letterate</i> to have this Nobel prize winning author restored to the reading lists of schoolchildren within the autonomous region of Sardinia. Similarly, <b>Wylie's</b> work on the marginalised culture of the Colombian Amazon was widely disseminated. The work provided a context for public debate over the current violence experienced in the country. A University press release was picked up by numerous newspapers including <i>The Sunday Times</i>, <i>Metro</i>, <i>Daily Mail</i> and <i>Miami Herald</i> and on blog spots such as those by the Colombian indigenous organization FUCAI, and Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein. <b>Spunta's</b> interdisciplinary project on Luigi Ghirri, contemporary photography, literature and place/landscape, supported by a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant, attracted press attention in Italy and beyond. The retrospective of Ghirri's work at the MAXXI Museum in Rome will be taken to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro from November 2013-April 2014. The Unit's recent success in underpinning public</p>

exhibitions and contributing to cultural understanding is set to continue with **Jones'** project (AHRC application), emerging from her research and proposed monograph on North African women's literature and space, which includes an exhibition of North African Women artists' work to be displayed in one of the most culturally diverse areas of the city of Leicester. This project links with work on the North African diaspora by Aissaoui and Fayard. Fayard is currently curating an exhibition on Gender Violence at Embrace Arts, University of Leicester.

#### Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Centre for Translation Studies, under the guidance of **Malmkjær** and **Fayard**, has designed a short course in public services Interpreting, which will enhance the skills of practitioners (health and legal services for example) in and around Leicester, with the aim of raising the standard of interpreting in these contexts. The diverse nature of the East Midlands population makes this an increasing need for the region. The course is underpinned by research in interpreting by Malmkjær, Fayard and Shih, and here too this contribution to the local community will be made more widely available over time. The School also runs a full programme of 10-week part-time language teaching for non-specialists in 13 languages at up to 6 levels, called Languages@Leicester. Development plans include a bespoke service for businesses and other organisations whose staff need language training. This service is being developed with funding from the University's 'Prospects Fund' to support staff with business development projects.

#### Regional Regeneration Projects

**Malmkjær** is Co-director/Joint Academic lead for the 'SME Support to Growth' project funded by the European Regional Development Fund. UK businesses increasingly identify the lack of language skills as a hindrance to international development. This University project, by the School of Modern Languages together with the Department of Computer Science, in conjunction with United Kingdom Trade & Investment (UKTI), enables academics to work with SMEs in the region in order to optimise their export potential. The value of the funding is £408,227; the project runs from January 2012 to May 2015.

The Unit recognises the potential impact of its new Centre for Translation Studies. The high-quality theoretical and empirical research carried out by a growing number of EU and International PhD students within the new Centre has the potential to impact on translation strategies and policies in their countries of origin. This will be supported by maintaining close contact between the Centre and students who have completed their studies, involving them in conferences and opportunities for Continuing Professional Development.

#### Support for academics including use of institutional resource

The University has a framework of professional services which support the development of impact, including significant investment in PR and communications, IT-based services, an academic practice unit to build researchers' skills and knowledge, and Enterprise and Business Development Office and Research Support Office services. The Unit exists within the College of Arts, Humanities and Law which has a dedicated Business Development Manager who has worked closely for example with **Malmkjær** on providing expertise for local SMEs as well as Interpreting courses, and will continue to work with staff to identify opportunities for external collaboration and impact. The College administers a Research Development Fund, to which **Spunta**, **Storchi**, **Louwagie** and Shih have successfully applied, which can be used to fund research dissemination to audiences outside academia with a view to generating measurable impact. Within the Unit, we have recently appointed both a press officer and an impact coordinator; staff are encouraged to consider impact in their applications for both external grant funding and internal study leave; best practice is shared through dedicated time at Research Committee meetings as well as informally through shared interests. Impact now features in both the annual appraisal process and in regular six-monthly research reviews conducted by the School. At College level, the remit of the Research Committee has expanded to include enterprise and has a developing enterprise strategy.

The Unit fosters engagement in activities with impact through support with travel costs, with time-tabling of teaching and with flexibility of leave in order to enable staff involvement with public and international initiatives. Selected impact-bearing activities are offered heightened support in terms of finance and staff time. Where appropriate, colleagues take advantage of expertise across the College to maximise impact within their research plans.

Outreach

The Unit's researchers work with the University's Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; the Centre delivers an active outreach programme which impacts on the public. **Louwagie's** research on the Holocaust is communicated to the general public and to young people in particular, through the Centre, of which she is deputy director. This includes guided visits to Auschwitz for young people, and Holocaust Awareness Week events which are open to the public and attract significant visitor numbers. Her editorship of a bilingual educational bulletin, funded by the Auschwitz Foundation, disseminates research widely beyond academia, translating current research and information on the Holocaust and Jewish history and memory studies into easily understandable articles and useful teaching materials for schools.

**c. Strategy and plans**

The Unit's strategy is guided by the University's commitment to maximising the economic and societal impact of its research. A key aspect of the University's strategy is the development and sustainability of an internal culture that encourages, supports and builds further the capacity for impact. The Unit will continue its commitment to the Support to Growth project and has set a target to develop up to twenty relationships with local enterprises by 2016, and we anticipate that some of these relationships will lead to opportunities for Doctoral study in partnership. As this project develops, it will be of assistance to Modern Languages graduates in finding internships leading to jobs, while at the same time enhancing the region's skills base and encouraging economic growth.

Looking ahead, **Malmkjær's** AHRC funded network, *Key Cultural Texts in Translation*, will enhance our understanding of the changes that linguistic and other symbolic representations of identity undergo in translation across times, spaces and media and disseminate this understanding to individuals and organisations concerned with policy and issues related to migration. The end-of-network conference (April 2014) will be attended by local and national educational policy makers. Her work on the use of translation in language teaching, which has involved close collaboration with language teachers across the UK, underlies her participation in the Directorate General for Translation funded project DGT/2012/TLL (*Translation in Language Learning*, October 2012-July 2013); this investigation into the use of translation in language classrooms across the European Union and beyond will impact on European primary and tertiary language teaching policy, providing evidence for the efficacy of translation as pedagogic practice at different levels. At the conclusion of the project, **Malmkjær**, and Anthony Pym (Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona) presented their research outcomes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Translation Studies Conference in October 2013. The department recognises the potential for significant impact from this project. It is committed to realising impact potential by ensuring that staff are given adequate support in terms of administration and teaching relief, and making necessary financial support available at School, College and University level through the Enterprise and Business Office.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The Unit's case-studies emerged from the primary School impact objective as outlined at the start of this document, to foster public awareness of, and reflection on, key contemporary social and cultural issues, in these cases immigration and gender violence. Research in these areas is designed to have impact on understanding of relevant issues beyond the academy and also to influence policy makers and political thinking around some of the most contentious issues of concern across international borders.

Both case studies are illustrative of the Unit's collaborative approach, and involved working closely with external organisations and networks to reach as wide and diverse an audience as possible. Impact is achieved through strategic and research-based events which seek to displace stereotypes and assumptions into a more informed understanding of fundamental social and political issues in Europe and beyond.