

<p>Institution: University of Wolverhampton</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 29 - English Language and Literature</p> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>Since 2008, English research at Wolverhampton has been developing the critical mass that has now put it in a position to be entered for the first time as a UOA. The Unit brings together a staff member formerly returned in History (RAE2008), staff who have not been returned previously, and new appointments in Twentieth-Century British/American Literature and in Creative Writing.</p> <p>The English Unit embraces a broad, interdisciplinary concept of research drawing upon expertise from the disciplines of Literary Studies, Creative Writing, and Film Studies. It harnesses distinctive strengths accruing around the areas of transnational/transcultural studies, inter-disciplinary approaches to popular culture, and English Studies pedagogical research. The Unit consists of 10 Category A staff (7.95 FTE): <i>English Literature</i>: Dr N. Allen, Dr B. Colbert (UOA Coordinator), Dr D. Ellis, Dr M. Jones, Dr R. Miles; <i>Creative Writing</i>: Prof. N. Griffiths, Dr P. McDonald, C. Miller; <i>Film Studies</i>: Dr S. Hockenhill and Dr F. Pheasant-Kelly. Since 2008, the Unit has published 25 books and edited volumes, 58 peer-reviewed articles and chapters, 4 special journal issues, as well as numerous research reports, reviews, short stories, and poems.</p> <p>The Unit's organisational core is provided by the Centre for Transnational and Transcultural Research (CTTR) and the Centre for Film, Media, Discourse, and Culture (CFMDC), both co-directed by senior members of the team and encompassing all its staff. The Centres have guided research by mentoring early career and returning researchers, monitoring and setting goals for individual research activity, providing support and guidance for external income generation, and raising the subject's profile through international conferences and collaborations.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>2008-2013 Since 2008, the research strategy in the English Unit has been to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a viable and sustainable UOA for English at the HEI; • Develop a sustainable mechanism for research management within the CTTR and CFMDC; • Develop leadership capacity among researchers entered in RAE 2008; • Develop capacity by supporting active researchers not entered in RAE 2008; • Develop sustainability by supporting Early Career researchers and staff seeking to rebalance teaching and infrastructural roles with research activities. • Place the work of the UoA within a national and international academic network. <p>This strategy has been effected through a revised School research plan leading to the institution of the CTTR and CFMDC in 2010. The Centres are the vehicles through which the Unit integrates its members and their work into a national and international context at an organisational level. They also encourage and support individual and interdisciplinary work in preparation for REF2014 with thematic and structural capacity for developments to 2019. Research activities are concentrated upon three interrelated areas spanning Transnational/Transcultural Writing, Intercultural Media, and English Studies Pedagogy:</p> <p>1) Transnational/Transcultural Writing Research includes strengths in cross-cultural literary exchange, cultural theory, and the development of transnational reading communities. Colbert's research focuses on Romantic Period travel writing, translation, and the Shelley circle, for which his 2005 monograph <i>Shelley's Eye</i> continues to be widely cited. He currently leads the <i>Database of British Travel Writing 1780-1840</i>, which will result in a publicly accessible online interrogative database of travel books published in Britain and Ireland, and includes 5000 text and 3000 author entries, a tranche of which (<i>Database of Women's Travel Writing</i>) is scheduled to go live in 2013/14. Ellis continues to</p>

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develop work begun with his book *Writing Home: Black Writing in Britain since the War* (2007) with a revised and updated edition planned for publication in the US in 2015. His recently published work maintains his interest in Caribbean and 1950s neo-realist British literature and extends it to current black writing of Britain as expressions of transnationalist identities. **Allen** explores figurations of marginality – for example, baldness, shame and trauma, social exclusion, and disability – in contemporary British and American fiction. More recently she has engaged with issues of canonicity and is co-editing a critical re-evaluation of British and American ‘classics’ of the twentieth century, forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan in 2014.

Griffiths, Professor of Creative Writing, explores alienated, socially deprived underclasses, principally within Wales, in such critically acclaimed novels as *Grits* (2000), *Stump* (2004; Wales Book of the Year Award), *Runt* (2006), and *A Great Big Shining Star* (2013), a novel about the brutality and sexism at the heart of celebrity culture. Current projects include a film script for his 2005 novel, *Wreckage*, and a new novel re-visiting the social milieu of earlier ones, while questioning authenticity in our increasingly virtual culture. **McDonald’s** research extends from comic writing in the Black Country to American humour, particularly in the works of Joseph Heller and Phillip Roth. Since his book *Fiction from the Furnace* (2002), his recovery scholarship has included Black Country poetry, research that has continued alongside his work as a novelist, award-winning poet, and editor of fiction. **Miller’s** two novels to date (2006, 2011) are based on field research with the San, an indigenous people of the Kalahari, with whom Miller continues to work as mentor for the Kalahari People’s Network. Set in apartheid South Africa in the 1960s, the novels explore complex cross-cultural relations between whites and blacks, indigenous peoples and emigrants, men and women, and are the only examples of fiction in English that include San click language (with glossaries). Miller is currently extending her research to produce an enhanced e-book of San folktales, a project shortlisted for the AHRC-BBC New Generation Thinkers Award in 2012.

2) Intercultural Media

Jones and Carlin (not entered) have developed a strong focus on inter-media research in popular culture, particularly the textuality of pop music, pornography, 1960s counter-cultural periodicals, paperback books, and, more recently, work towards a book on the cultural reception of the Manson family phenomenon. **Hockenull’s** essays and books are based on the correlation between film and other visual arts, primarily painting, with an emphasis on ways in which sublime landscape ‘vocabularies’ produce a Neo-Romantic affect in times of conflict or turmoil; more recent work includes visual responses to global warming and the environment post-Millennium. **Pheasant-Kelly’s** research centres on the representation of space in film and television in the context of its narrative, cultural, psychoanalytic, and formal applications. Since 2008, her work has emphasised abject space and subjectivity in the institution film and the fantasy quest, as well as considering the impact of 9/11 on film and its implications for cinematherapy in relation to traumatic events. Palgrave has nominated her *Fantasy Film Post-9/11* (2013) for the 2014 Kovacs Book Award. **Miles’s** research considers the multi-disciplinary figure of William Morris and the cultural contexts of Victorian literature, including the relation between text and image as well as contemporary appropriations of Morris’s work in a variety of media. Her interest in web appropriations of Morris intersects with her work as co-originator and contributing editor to the Online Morris Edition based at the University of Iowa under the stewardship of Professor Florence Boos, as well as her pedagogic research into Virtual Learning Environments (see below).

3) English Studies Pedagogy

Members of the Unit conduct nationally and internationally recognised research in English and cultural studies pedagogy. **Colbert, Miles, and Miller** have collaborated with other members of English and Creative Writing on the design, moderation, and assessment of Virtual Learning Environments in English Studies, an English Subject Centre-funded project that led to the publication of an influential Good Practice Guide (2010) and underpins Miles’s on-going roving role as a VLE consultant (See REF3b above). **Miles’s** National Teaching Fellowship (2011) is also indebted to applications of this research, particularly of Twitter and social media to online learning, an interest she continues to develop. Carlin and **Jones** have written on both the teaching of pornography in the classroom as well as public perceptions of this through the media. **Ellis** has written an English Subject Centre report on the first-year experience in HE, and is currently

investigating the effectiveness of blogging in teaching composition. **McDonald** has published a research-led Readers' Guide to *Catch-22* (2012) and has recently become editor of the American Insights Series of expert introductions to literature for Humanities-Ebooks.

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From January 2014, following a university-wide restructuring, the Unit joins a new School of Humanities within the Faculty of Arts, consolidating its infrastructural and staff base. The strategic priority will be to build upon and enhance transnational and regional themes of its research identity, whose foundations were laid with the CTTR in 2010. Towards this end the Unit is co-sponsoring the 2014 Borders & Crossings conference to be held at the University of Veliko-Turnova in Bulgaria, and it will also host the 2016 British Comparative Literature Association (BCLA) conference, themed on the tetracentenary of Shakespeare's and Cervantes's deaths.

Griffiths's appointment is indicative of planned developments in creative/professional writing and intercultural media. His media profile as a creative writer will facilitate major projects such as the inauguration of a national literary prize for regional writing hosted by the HEI. His growing presence as a screen-writer will also harness existing activities that link literary studies, creative writing, and film studies. It is envisaged that collaborations with local venues (Light House, Art Gallery) can be extended to a national scale given the potential for Griffiths's work to build upon the current filmic adaptations of his novels and other related commissions. Similarly, **Miles's** work on social media as a pedagogic tool can be developed in concert with **Miller** and Pieterick's creative writing app commission to further opportunities for links with the creative industries in developing innovative applications of social media for academic and non-academic uses.

In the next phase of the HEI's Strategic Investment programme, the Unit will bid for Readership/Professorship posts as well as PhD Bursaries in the areas of travel writing, translation, black writing, and regional writing, to augment current expertise in these areas and increase the success rate of project funding. A branch of the HEI's Project Support Office recently opened in Brussels signals its new commitment to attracting European funding, and the English Unit plans to target Horizon 2020 funding for networking and projects in collaboration with established European partners.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

As noted in b. above, the overall strategy has been to establish a new UOA and to do so by developing researchers at all levels and by encouraging new research among existing staff. In addition, strategic appointments have been made to develop critical mass.

Staffing strategy (leadership): Senior staff have taken leadership roles in the School's new research Centres, with **Colbert** co-directing the CTTR and **Pheasant-Kelly** and **Hockenhull** co-directing the CFMDC. Both Centres have been instrumental in developing sustainable structures and assuming responsibility for this has enhanced the professional development of the staff concerned. In (part) consequence, **Colbert** (2010), **Hockenhull** (2013), and **Pheasant-Kelly** (2013) have been promoted to Reader and are on track for attaining Professorships in the next REF cycle.

Integration: **Jones, Ellis, McDonald, Miller, and Miles** are all examples of research active staff not returned in RAE 2008 who stood outside formal research support structures. The CTTR leadership, in combination with the sabbatical policy (see below), has succeeded in bringing these colleagues to REF 2014 and therefore access to ongoing support for research towards 2019.

Recovery: Staff not entered for REF2014 exhibit a clear trajectory towards increased research activity in the period 2014-19. Boutonnet is participating in 'Linguistic Representation of the Other: The Evolution of the Concept of "Foreign(ness)"', a collaborative project in conjunction with members of the English and German Departments of Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain)

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and Universität Regensburg (Germany); Boutonnet, an expert in regional humour and board member of the International Society for Humour Studies, is also working on im/politeness theory, face, and humour that will complement **McDonald's** humour research. Steinke is developing research in children's writing with recent publications and conference attendance. Wilson has joined **Colbert's** bibliographical project, *Database of British Travel Writing, 1780-1840*. Pieterick is moving from pedagogical research to inter-media investigation of the creative and cultural dimensions of cookery and travel writing, while experimenting, with **Miller**, in ficto-criticism. Carlin, who has co-authored articles with **Allen** and **Jones**, is writing his first sole-authored book, *Reading Jean Toomer*, contracted with Humanities-Ebooks. In this way, through sustained development, the Unit is working toward 100% eligibility for the next REF.

New appointments: **Allen** (2013), an ECR, was appointed to her first full-time post, following contracts on an hourly paid basis. In that period, she was encouraged to take an active part in subject research and formed collaborative partnerships with Carlin and Byrne resulting in publication. As part of her appointment, **Allen** is afforded workload allocation hours in recognition of her ECR status. Byrne (2012) was appointed to a 0.5 post following contracts on an hourly paid basis and in conjunction with an existing 0.5 contract in Media. As an existing member of the HEI, he has been given responsibilities within the CTRR as its Events Coordinator with visiting speakers and conference organisation planned for 2013-15. Byrne's ongoing research in regional and Welsh writing will be supported by **McDonald** and by the appointment of **Griffiths**, and he has 2 peer-reviewed publications confirmed for 2015. He has also been named as part of the team providing supervisory support for an ERASMUS PhD student from Bulgaria. **Griffiths** (2013) has been appointed to a 3-year (in the first instance) part-time Professorship in Creative Writing to provide leadership in that aspect of the Unit and increase its world-facing reputation.

International collaboration: The Unit supports active collaboration with international scholars. CTRR's Honorary Research Fellows – Professor Jan Borm (Université de Versailles, France; 20thC British Literature, Travel Writing, and Arctic Studies), Professor Ludmilla Kostova (University of Veliko-Turnova, Bulgaria; Romanticism, Travel Writing, and British Fiction), and Professor Dámaso López-García (Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Anglo-American Modernism and Translation) – regularly participate in research seminars at Wolverhampton, co-organize symposia and conferences, and provide opportunities for research exchange with staff and postgraduates. For example, Borm co-organised with **Colbert**, *Foreign Correspondence*, University of Vilnius, Lithuania, 2008, and was the inaugural speaker at the opening of the CTRR in 2010. Similarly, Borm, Kostova, and López-García all participated in the *On the Wane: Decadence and Decline in Literature and Culture* conference at Wolverhampton in 2012.

Institutional policy and support: The School's sabbatical programme has underpinned strategy objectives for building capacity and outputs among existing staff. All of the Unit's staff have been granted fully funded semester-long sabbaticals to complete substantial projects. In addition, 4 staff not entered in REF2014 have received sabbatical support to develop their research careers, for example, Steinke, a former European studies lecturer, to reactivate research publication as part of the English team with potential to contribute to a future REF, and another member, Orpin, to finish a PhD on discourse analysis. A competitive Early Researchers Award Scheme (ERAS) is also available to staff working on major projects within 5 years after having completing a PhD (recipients include **Hockenhull** [2009] and **Pheasant-Kelly** [2010]).

ii. Research students

Relative to established units, the Unit's postgraduate research degree programme has been small; yet PhDs have achieved success with appointments including, most recently, University of Wolverhampton (Byrne 2007) and Aston University (Dakin 2013). Since 2008, the programme has grown from 1 enrolment to the current 8 (Geal, Greenfield, Hague, Holden, Kenny, Martin, Priest, and Yassimedes), with Hague securing a FT university studentship (fees-only). It is expected that PhD enrolments will be enhanced internally via the MA in English, recruiting FT students from 2011/12, as well as cognate MAs in Popular Culture, in Film, and in Transmedia Screen Writing.

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Support for postgraduate students is managed by the School, which offers generic training designed to meet the requirements of postgraduates throughout their research programmes, and organises a series of research events and activities. Postgraduate students' office accommodation is provided in the centre of the City Campus, and all postgraduate students have access to computer facilities and staff social spaces. The Harrison Learning Centre also houses the Post Grad Lab where postgraduates have access to private IT facilities and individual silent study rooms, part of the new Research Hub (see facilities section, below).

English PhDs are supported in specific aspects of professional development including giving papers as part of the School's annual New Research in LSSC day conference; preparing and delivering conference papers at appropriate external fora; and seeing work into print (for example, Geal and Holden received Centre grants for research leading to publication, and Hague contributed to **Colbert's** Women's Travel Writing project as a volume co-editor). Advanced PhDs receive mentored teaching-training as hourly paid staff on module teams. PGs also participate fully in research seminars organised by the research centres; Hague and Greenfield were themselves instrumental in launching a PG Research conference ('Deviance', Sept. 2012), with 13 speakers from 6 universities.

As recruitment increases the Subject strategy is to seek alternative sources of funding including studentships rolled into larger externally funded research projects. In addition, international elements are being extended, including collaborations with Honorary Research Fellows (HRFs). **Miles** has examined a PhD at the Sorbonne; a PhD at Wolverhampton directed by **Colbert** includes on its supervisory team the distinguished historian Professor Bernard Cottret of the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ), and a UVSQ student delivered a paper at the student-run postgraduate conference in 2012. Through ERASMUS, HRF Kostova regularly sends PhD students to Wolverhampton who are advised by English staff during their residence.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Since 2008, the School in which English resides has invested in building research capacity beyond its core UOAs. A budget was created for a competitive programme of semester-long sabbaticals, apportioning £3k for teaching and administrative buyout, representing an investment of £39k for the English Unit. It has also benefited from School funding for individual allocations for research trips, attendance at national and international conferences, and workshop participation (£500 per annum), along with Centre-based budgets of £6k per annum used to augment School support of individual research for those who have been identified as potential REF contributors. The School also funded research events (1-2k per annum), including an on-going English Research Seminar series run in conjunction with its Research Centres, and attended by research staff and postgraduates. Speakers have included Frederick Burwick (UCLA), Richard Cardwell (Nottingham), Julia Douthwaite (Notre Dame), Anna Horolets (Warsaw), Ben Knights (Teesside), and Marina Warner (Essex).

While 'younger' researchers have relied chiefly on sabbatical support and Centre-based teaching remission for attaining publishing targets, **Colbert** was successful in attracting a British Academy Visiting Fellowship (2010; £5783). Links established with the Visiting Fellow, Dr M. Nadales and with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), led **Colbert** to represent Wolverhampton in a successful project bid to the Spanish Ministry of Education worth €25,000 (2012-15; administered by UCM), and which, as mentioned above, provides opportunities for less experienced English language researchers. **Miles** attracted a series of consultancy grants from the former English Subject Centre (£6000), funding impact-related staff cover and visits to HEIs in the UK, with a final £5k Project Grant awarded in 2011-12 to ensure the longevity of this work (see also REF3b VLE Case Study). **Miller** and Pieterick are academic advisors for the KTP Project, *Heroes and Guises*, funded by a £10k Creative England and Creative Skills For Life Competition Fund. By focusing future efforts on project-based research, some of it already attached to funding bids, English plans to increase its rate of submission for and success rate in securing external funding, of necessity reducing its reliance on internal pump-priming.

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Oversight of research is managed by the Research Policy Unit, which develops, implements, and monitors the University research strategy. It also has responsibility for research ethics, research governance, policy, management and reporting of research-related management information, and development and dissemination of institutional research publications and other communications. The remit includes management of institutional submissions to research assessment exercises (e.g. RAE 2008, REF 2014), statutory returns, coordination of research and management of institutional strategic research investment. It works with others in the HEI to address questions around gender imbalance in research leadership positions and is responsible for providing the framework to support the development of researchers at all stages of their career in collaboration with HR and the University Careers Service.

At School level, day-to-day research activity is managed by the research Centres in conjunction with a School Research Committee. Each of the Centres is in turn directed by a Steering Committee, including professorial representation. CTTR has further sub-delegated roles, including a Mentorship Coordinator for assisting early career and returning researchers through, for example, a peer-reading programme for draft publications, an Outreach Coordinator for engagement with local and regional communities, an Events Coordinator for planning and implementation of research seminars, and an Impact Officer.

All researchers in English have individually networked computers, regularly updated, and with access to a wide variety of electronic resources including 17th-18thC Burney Collection Newspapers, EEBO, ECCO, LION Full Collection, MLA International Bibliography, OED, The Times Digital Archive, electronic journals, and ebooks.

Research facilities are benefiting from the HEI's £6m Strategic Investment which includes a Research Hub, recently opened on the City Campus. This brings together the Research Policy Unit, the Project Support Office, activities that provide training and support for postgraduate research students, and the Research Librarians. This facility has been designed to maximise contact and interaction between research students, staff researchers, and support services. It supports established researchers and provides an environment to mentor and support younger researchers trying to establish a research career and a track record for funding. There is a research student area for private study and research student networking.

The Project Support Office provides expertise and support for the development and submission of research grants with an emphasis on European Funding. It provides a framework for post-contract management of projects ensuring that reports and other statutory returns are made in the correct way and in a timely manner. The co-localisation of these activities with other research support services will allow the development of new services to be developed in collaboration with the Finance Division around grant costing, financial monitoring and management of research awards.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Invited keynotes and lectures: **Colbert** delivered invited papers at the British Academy-funded *Transnational Histories of the Book* (Centre for the History of the Book, University of Edinburgh, 03/10/2008) and *Travels in Britain 1700 to Present* (Open University, 30/05/2008). He was also an invited panellist for the NASSR Graduate Student Caucus Round Table on Journal Publishing (*Romantic Mediations*, Vancouver, 2010). **Jones** was invited contributor to Mobile Summer School: Studies of Migration and Mobility in Europe, 11-24/08/2013, Poland. **Miles** was keynote speaker for May 9th Day 2012 on Blended Learning in English Studies at Leeds University, and has been invited to speak at the 'Digital Literacies: Building Learning Communities in the Humanities' conference at LJMU, 04/2014. She will give the 3rd Peter Preston Lecture (William Morris Society and Emery Walker Trust), London, 10/2014. **Miller** was an invited speaker on authors' panels at London Libraries events, e.g. Fulham and Hammersmith (02/2009), an invited panellist at the Write to Ignite Festival in Hackney (09/2009), and similar events in the Midlands (e.g. Midlands Art Centre, 2012, 2013; Birmingham Library 2011). **Pheasant-Kelly** introduced a series of films (*USA OK?*, 02-05/2010) at Light House, Wolverhampton.

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Networks/Conference Organization: Drawing on international networks established with HRFs, **Colbert** co-organised *Foreign Correspondence*, with UVSQ and University of Vilnius (Lithuania, 25-26/09/2008); *Xenographies I* (Wolverhampton, 09/2009) and *Xenographies II* (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, 8-10/09/2011), both co-sponsored by the Spanish Comparative Literature Association, the BCLA, and CTTR; and *On the Wane: Decline and Decadence in Literature and Culture*, with UVSQ, University of Veliko-Turnova, and UCM (Wolverhampton, 07/2012). **Jones** co-organised and hosted *Home of Metal: Heavy Metal and Place*, with Capsule, a Birmingham arts management company (09/2011). **Pheasant-Kelly** and **Hockenull** organised a symposium, *Screens of Violence* (21/11/2013).

Refereeing: Members of the Unit have refereed submissions for journals, publishers, and grant-giving bodies. **Colbert** has peer-reviewed for British Academy/Leverhulme Research Grants, USIAS-FRIAS Joint Fellowship Programme, *European Romantic Review*, *Romantic Textualities*, *Studies in Travel Writing*, *Textus*, Jagiellonian University Press, and Routledge. **Hockenull** has refereed for Common Ground publishing and *Global Studies Journal*; **Jones** for *Sexualities*; **McDonald** for *Ángulo Recto*; **Miles** for *Oxford Bibliographies Online*; *Digital Studies/Le Champ Numérique*; *Journal of William Morris Studies*; and *Comparative Literature*; and **Pheasant-Kelly** for Cambridge Scholars Press.

Editorial positions: **Colbert** is Book Review Editor for *European Romantic Review* (also serving on the ERR Article Prize Committee in 2009 and 2013) and is on the editorial board of *Romantic Textualities*. He has co-edited special journal issues for *1616* (2011) and *Comparative Critical Studies* (2012). **Miles** serves on the editorial board of *Journal of William Morris Studies* and has reviewed for *Times Higher Education*. **Pheasant-Kelly** sits on the editorial boards for *International Journal of Arts in Society* and *Journalism and Mass Communication*. **McDonald** is series editor for Humanities-Ebooks American Insights, and reviews poetry for *Envoi* and fiction for *Flash: An International Short Story Journal*. **Allen** is assistant Book Review editor for *Critical Engagements*. **Hockenull** co-edited special journal issues for *International Journal of the Humanities* (2009) and *Global Studies Journal* (2012).

Reviews, reprints, translations, and prizes: Within the census period, **Griffiths's** novels have been translated into Finnish, Arabic, Norwegian, Romanian, and Russian, and *Kelly + Victor* has been adapted into film (dir. Kieran Evans, 2012). **McDonald's** novels have been reviewed in national publications including *The Times*, *Time Out*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *The Daily Telegraph*; his poems won first place in the John Clare Poetry Competition (2012) and Sentinel Quarterly Poetry Competition (2013). **Miller's** novel, *Salt and Honey*, selected for the Arts Council's Exclusively Independent promotion, has been translated into French, German, and Italian, and reprinted in India; a revised edition appeared in 2011.

Media and public dissemination: **Colbert** appeared in a documentary on Marco Polo ('Mystery Files', Series 2, National Geographic Channels International, 06/2011). He has published invited essays for *The Oxford Handbook of Shelley Studies* (2012) and *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Romantic Literature* (2012); and has been invited to speak at the Oxford University Day School on 'The Grand Tour' (03/03/2013). **McDonald's** research on the world's oldest joke received international press coverage via Reuters (see REF3b); he was commissioned by Tindal Street Press to write a Short Story Master-class article published in the *Birmingham Post* (11/08); and he has had fiction commissions from Birmingham Book Communications and Glasshouse Books.

Subject associations and learned societies: **Colbert** has served on the Steering Committee for the International Society for Travel Writing (2007-11). **Griffiths** is a Fellow of the Welsh Academy. **Miles** was E-Learning Consultant for the HEA English Subject Centre 2009-10; 2010-11, and is an HEA National Teaching Fellow (2011).

Examining of doctorates: **McDonald** examined a Creative Writing PhD at the University of Aberystwyth (2011) and **Miles** a PhD on William Morris at the Sorbonne, Paris (2011).