

<p>Institution: University of Surrey</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: UOA 29 English Language and Literature</p> <hr/> <p>a. Context</p> <p>Formed in its current structure in 2011, the School of English and Languages (SEL) covers English literature, creative writing, languages, linguistics, translation and intercultural communication. SEL is committed to supporting Impact-generating activities. The four main strands of our impact are;</p> <p>Research into creative writing</p> <p>The beneficiaries are different <i>user groups</i>, i.e. writers, editors, literary agents, teachers and pupils (Ashford, Mooney, Palmer, Tate, Vlitos) and the public; <i>businesses</i> including publishers, e-book designers (Luhning) and the fashion industry (e.g. Brazilian designer Ronaldo Fraga; via Suriani da Silva). The main impact, achieved through a growing series of public events, lies in the creation of cultural capital, enriching the cultural lives of these groups, but the work also has economic impact through the set-up of poetry presses managed by Surrey (Ashford, Mooney).</p> <p>The study of literature and environment, science, gender, sexuality, radicalism, migration</p> <p>Audiences include activist and pressure groups (Institute of Sustainable Practice, Innovation and Resource Effectiveness; via Johns-Putra), faith groups (Watt); user groups (non-academic audiences interested in environment, science, gender, sexuality, religious issues). Above all, however, this work has attracted strong interest from the media, especially the BBC. The main types of impact are public engagement and impact on public discourse, by contributing to major contemporary debates about gender, ecological issues and immigration and by challenging cultural values and social assumptions.</p> <p>Research in intercultural communication, translation and interpreting.</p> <p>Main beneficiaries are businesses, especially export-oriented SMEs in the UK (Dippold), a multi-national call centre in Mexico (Marquez Reiter); government agencies including Ministries of Justice (UK, The Netherlands and other EU countries), the Metropolitan Police, the National Offender Management Service (Braun), the European Council and the European Commission, user groups e.g. professional translator/interpreter associations (Asimakoulas, Braun, Rogers). The impacts are economic (creation of prosperity for businesses), political (influence on policy making, improvement of Public Services) and educational (delivery of non-academic training).</p> <p>Linguistic and cultural studies.</p> <p>The beneficiaries of work leading to the world-wide preservation of endangered languages are the user communities of such languages in Dagestan (Corbett, Chumakina), Indonesia (Fedden), Mexico (Palancar), Nepal (Bond) and Niger-Congo (Saga), teachers and youth groups (e.g. Manang Youth Society in Nepal). The beneficiaries of recent cultural preservation work in India (Mahn) include charities and volunteer organisations (e.g. conservation architects, Cultural Resource Conservation Initiative and Mehar Baba Charitable Trust). The impact of this work arises from its contribution to preserving and presenting linguistic and cultural heritage and public engagement, through fieldwork and public events.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>SEL's approach to achieving impact 2008- 2013</p> <p>The School has taken a flexible approach to its interactions with non-academic users, focusing on fostering strong relationships with local communities, public bodies, policy makers and companies. Continual engagement with user groups aims at ensuring long-term impact on cultural life.</p> <p>Addressing the needs of beneficiaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Language and cultural consultancy/training</i>: consultancy for a multinational call centre resulting in implementation of better business practices (Marquez Reiter); development of intercultural guidance and training for export-oriented SMEs in the UK (Dippold);
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- *Legal interpreting consultancy/training*: analysis of the quality of videoconference interpreting in legal proceedings; with guidelines being adopted by the European Council and delivery of CPD module to Metropolitan Police interpreters (Braun)
- *Commissioned research*: study on viability of videoconferencing and interpreting in cross-border resettlement of offenders commissioned by the London Probation Trust (Braun)
- Analysis of the use of specialised language/terminology in multinational companies (Daimler-Benz, Triumph-Adler) and *creation and participation in networks*, e.g. Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) Terminology Network, Association of Terminology and Lexicography, European Language Industries Platform, European Commission in 2010 (Rogers),
- *Non-academic training*: main contributor to seminar on specialised language/terminology organised by ITI and European Commission; seminar repeated by popular demand (Rogers)

Local Audiences

- Engaging with local audiences through the re-launch of Morag Morris public poetry lecture (Ashford), Surrey New Writers Festival (Luhning) and Surrey Poetry Festival (Ashford and Mooney)
- Participation in Networking activities, e.g. Small Publishers Fair (Mooney), organised event with Fashion Industry representatives, arising from research into creative writing (Suriani da Silva)

Engaging in outreach/public events

- *Media work*: Dr Vlitos appeared on BBC Newsnight, reading an extract from his work and discussing sex in literature with Kirsty Walk and novelist/historian Kate Williams in 2010; Dr Bantman appeared on BBC1's 'Who do you think you are?', JK Rowling episode (6 million viewers), as expert historian in 2011 and gave an interview on political violence for the BBC Radio 4 series 'Terror through time' in 2013; the Anarchist Studies Network, of which Bantman is a founder member, was approached by The Guardian to discuss anarchism in 2010; Dr Tate is a BBC/AHRC New Generation Thinker 2013 and is currently involved in Radio 3 Broadcasts (Nightwaves, Free Thinking festival of ideas)
- *Outreach activities*: Dr Mahn has worked with English PEN to set up a series of events on writing and the freedom of speech (e.g. Q&A with Monica Ali, public talk from Jon Ronson)
- *Public talks*: Dr Johns-Putra acted as a judge and respondent for a public essay competition on literature and the environment, organised by Activist group INSPIRE during the Hay festival in 2013; Prof Watt lectured on early medieval women's writing at The Institute for Medieval Studies' Open Lecture Series, Leeds University, in 2012

Support from SEL

To support these approaches, the School has established a strong relationship with the University's Media and Publicity Office and the Faculty Marketing team, especially for liaison with local/national media and outreach activities reported above. Staff are offered training workshops on impact and are starting to maintain databases of users and contacts.

Support from the University of Surrey

The Department is supported in its approach to impact by the University's Research and Enterprise Support (RES) team. As well as providing KTP expertise and support for consultancy, RES provides project management for the key partnerships and requisite commercial, legal and IP expertise to help enable the creation of impact.

c. Strategy and plans

SEL is a young unit building on strong legacies, with a very healthy level of activity and media exposure and engaged in exciting new directions which all have good impact potential.

We have an active and developing programme of creative writing and poetry *events* and are building different types of collaborative networks. Translation and communication research seeks further engagement with businesses and government agencies, and linguistic & cultural studies

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focus on preserving linguistic and cultural heritage. The majority of SEL's impact activities to date have been intentional and arisen from strong local contacts; highlights are included in section (b). The successes in the period and recent bidding activity have informed SEL's strategy for achieving impact in the future.

SEL's Goals for Supporting and Enabling Impact

- Continue to **strengthen interdisciplinary collaborations** through Network grants: applied for mixed network on neo-Victorian theatre (Palmer); interdisciplinary network on global hopes and fears (Tate and Vlitos), AHRC Research Network to encourage interdisciplinary collaborations between scientists and humanities scholars (Tate);
 - RC knowledge transfer schemes: CDA with Watts Gallery (Bantman and Rogers); BA application with an online exhibition for the general public (Bantman and Suriani da Silva)
 - Follow-up European research grants on assessment of videoconference solutions in legal institutions (Braun) and on interpreter & client education and co-operation (Braun)
 - Grants to preserve cultural heritage: FAPESP/AHRC grant on the transfer of Walter Scott's to Brazil (Asimakoulas, Suriani da Silva); AHRC grant to follow up initial work in India and obtain World Heritage status for sections of the site (Mahn)
- Build on existing collaborations for further **network development**, e.g. connections in India (workshop at Southbank Centre Alchemy Festival in 2013; Mahn); our criminal justice network (workshops for legal professionals on how to work with interpreters; Braun); SME networks based on work in intercultural communication (Dippold), environmental networks (Johns-Putra), and creative writing networks with teachers, schools, local writer groups (Luhning)
- Develop **CPD courses**, building on previous experience e.g. in the Centre for Translation Studies (e.g. use of new technologies), and based on our research in creative writing and intercultural communication (e.g. training for SMEs in capitalising on language skills of their workforce).

SEL has great ambitions in engaging more widely with existing and proposed networks. SEL therefore intends to support such activities by updating annual staff appraisals to recognise and reward achievements in impact; by appointing an 'Impact Champion' who will report to the School's research committee; and by strengthening our alumni programme to ensure that our graduates remain advocates for SEL's research and capabilities throughout their careers.

d. Relationship to case studies

The three cases studies illustrate the diversity of approaches to realising impact described in section a. The particular mechanisms are described below;

- Case Study 1, "*Creating infrastructure for linguistic theory and endangered languages*", illustrates a **non-linear impact** which occurred as a by-product of theoretical research into linguistic features (Corbett, Surrey Morphology Group)
- Case Study 2, "*Improving the quality of videoconference-based remote interpreting in legal proceedings*", illustrates **planned impact through building relationships** with government agencies, public services and professional associations respectively. Following the creation of a network of Criminal Justice institutions beginning in 2008, it became apparent that these institutions were interested in using videoconferencing technology in interpreter-mediated legal proceedings. The networking led to the formation of a European research team and the case study was a product of this collaboration.
- Case Study 3, "*New Modernisms, New Audiences*", is an example of **planned impact through public engagement**. It is a direct result of SEL's growing focus on creative writing which, in turn, builds on Surrey's long history of involvement in the post-war British poetry scene. SEL's focus on contemporary poetic practice was instrumental in developing and establishing a series of public events which have since become an important part of SEL's strategy to make a marked cultural impact locally, regionally and nationally.