

<p>Institution: University of Oxford</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 28</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The impact of the research done in the Faculties of Modern and Medieval Languages (MML) and Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics (LPP), which form this unit, ranges from the enrichment of cultural life to the revitalisation of endangered languages. Although the unit has had a longstanding commitment to public engagement and to extensive communication of research insights to wider audiences, until recently these have not always been undertaken in a structured fashion; we therefore now consider it necessary to integrate our activities into the academic process in order to maximise the benefits of our work for broader publics.</p> <p>1) Among the most obvious beneficiaries are students and teachers in <u>secondary schools and colleges</u>. The unit maintains contact with the widest possible range of secondary institutions. School visits, often including research-based talks, serve to widen understanding of what it means to study a foreign language and culture. LPP engages in reaching out to inform young minds about the hidden complexities of linguistic structures, not only in familiar but also in unfamiliar languages.</p> <p>2) Our cultural and linguistic advocacy also involves the <u>wider public</u> who attend exhibitions, theatre productions, public lectures, and other events where many members of the unit contribute the findings of their research. A further constituency is the <u>readership of trade publications</u> written or edited by unit members, such as volumes in OUP's Very Short Introduction series, encyclopaedia entries, translations and editions of classic texts, and literary translations published by various houses; all of which draw on the fruits of research. These publications also benefit the <u>publishing industry</u> by generating economic impact at home and abroad.</p> <p>3) In many cases our research is linked to <u>creative practice</u> by feeding into theatre productions, translations, and original fiction and poetry.</p> <p>4) Finally, because MML and LPP engage with communities and constituencies in a variety of countries, their research has a demonstrable impact on the lives of <u>communities all over the world</u>, through participatory research processes and via research findings: for example, in Italy, Argentina, Russia, and Indonesia (the latter two are the subjects of impact case studies).</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>There are multiple ways in which the unit conveys its research insights to non-academic constituencies and the broader public at home and abroad. We contribute to the enhanced understanding of languages and cultures, and increased awareness of linguistic diversity, history of human languages, and how the human brain processes language on a daily basis. Some of these outward-facing activities are outlined below.</p> <p>1) <u>Educational outcomes</u>. Besides school visits, MML has for many years maintained and subsidised the Sir Robert Taylor Society, which brings our researchers together with language teachers from secondary schools and colleges. The Society meets in Oxford every September. While its primary purpose is to enhance communication between schoolteachers and Oxford faculty members about language teaching in schools, it is also an occasion to convey the results of research to a wider audience as a form of professional development. Thanks to generous sponsorship, and in order to extend the range and number of schools involved, the Society offers state schools 90% bursaries for travel and attendance.</p> <p>LPP has been active in reaching out to children of all ages, exposing them to the excitement of deducing linguistic structure. One way of doing this has been to promote the Linguistic Olympiad, which challenges young people to solve linguistic problems and increases their awareness of unfamiliar languages from across the globe. Another initiative has been the organisation of contests in various languages such as Latin, Greek or Umbrian (e.g. by Willi in Basel, de Melo in Brussels).</p> <p>Members of the unit also seek ways of interesting school students and teachers in the diverse research resources available at Oxford. In June 2010, as part of the 'Think German' programme organised by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), the Oxford Kafka</p>

Research Centre held a competition for the best translation of, essay on, or creative response to a Kafka story, with prizes generously sponsored by *German Life & Letters*. The competition attracted 51 entries; the prizes were awarded by Kafka's great-nephew, Michael Steiner, in Oxford on 20 October 2010, and were accompanied by a display of Kafka manuscripts. In connection with increased research on cinema, in 2012 the first French film essay competition (organised by MML and supported by the French Embassy) attracted more than 50 entries from 32 schools. **Willi** regularly gives public talks to large audiences (e.g. in Freiburg) specifically aimed at keeping schoolteachers up to date with developments in academic research. **Lahiri** addressed school students in Calcutta on how brain-imaging techniques can examine more directly the way the brain processes language.

2) Addressing the wider public, the unit seeks through cultural and linguistic advocacy to promote understanding and enjoyment of a variety of languages and literatures and to increase linguistic awareness among the public at large. Our mission includes the enrichment of cultural life by encouraging non-academic audiences to encounter, understand and appreciate manifestations of European culture (including that of non-European areas, such as Latin America or the Maghreb, where languages originating from Europe are spoken). MML academics promote the appreciation of literature by presenting writers to British audiences and by helping with the production of foreign plays in British theatres (see the case studies on 'Russian drama on British stages' and 'Promoting public reception of Brecht'). **Leeder** and **Paul** have presented German poets to British audiences, and **Leeder** has frequently broadcast about German poetry and discussed the reception of German-language culture in Anglophone countries. They also make foreign literature available through translation (e.g. from French, German, Spanish and Italian, in Penguin Classics, Oxford World's Classics, and elsewhere), while **Gardini** has moved in the other direction by translating W.H. Auden and Ted Hughes into Italian.

Further ways of engaging wider audiences with our research include:

Public lectures. MML academics, notably **Tunstall** (whose input derives from her research on the Enlightenment) and **W. Williams**, take a major part in organising the annual Oxford Amnesty Lectures on human rights. Many members of LPP participated in a very popular series of public lectures in 2008 promoting 'dead' languages including Hittite and Tocharian. Public guest lectures and interviews across the world provide ways of increasing linguistic knowledge to wide audiences, and native speakers are often surprised at the complexities of their own languages. **Maiden's** work on Romanian excited interest among the Romanian public who were exposed to the intricacies of their own language when he was interviewed on the radio, on TV and in the newspapers in Romania. **Fellerer's** lectures and radio interviews in Poland and Ukraine on multilingualism and linguistic variation in Slavonic languages allowed native speakers to appreciate the hidden complexities of their linguistic environment.

Media appearances – Members of the unit have participated in programmes such as Start the Week, and Night Waves (see case studies on 'German poetry' and 'Enlightenment debates'). **Bullock** has written and presented numerous Radio 3 features on Russian literature and music. **Probert** was interviewed by Remark! Production, a Deaf-led film and television production company, for a TV programme on change in British Sign Language, broadcast several times in December 2012 on Film Four and the Community Channel. In an interview, the BBC World Service gave wide coverage to **Dalrymple's** work on the endangered language Dusner. We also inform the media about research discoveries: e.g. in 2011, **Cronk** identified previously unknown letters written by Voltaire when in England in the 1720s and revealing hitherto unknown biographical details. The letters have been published online by the University's Voltaire Foundation as part of the Bodleian Library's Electronic Enlightenment website, and attracted press attention, including coverage on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme and in *The Guardian*, as well as in the French-language media.

Attracting the public to events and exhibitions: Each year **C. Williams** organises a 'Brazil Week' of lectures, talks, films and musical performances, intended to raise awareness of the richness and diversity of Brazilian culture, and to facilitate interaction between academics and the approximately

4,000 Brazilians living in Oxford. In February 2013, **Papanikolaou**, with colleagues from RHUL, organised 'Greece/ Precarious/Europe' at the Hellenic Centre in London, an event intended for both academics and lay people, including London's Greek community. Researchers work closely with the Bodleian Library in connection with exhibitions and events showcasing the Library's extensive holdings in European literature. **McLaughlin** curated the exhibition 'Italy's Three Crowns' (2007), which gave rise to a publication, *Italy's Three Crowns: Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio*. For the exhibition 'Treasures of the Bodleian' (2011) **McLaughlin** contributed to a video about the Dante MS, now available on YouTube. In 2011 the Bodleian held an exhibition, 'Liebe Ottla', showing Kafka's letters to his sister Ottla (recently acquired by the Bodleian jointly with the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach), and marked by a public event, comprising a reading from Alan Bennett's play *Kafka's Dick*, a lecture by **Robertson**, and a panel discussion chaired by **Kohl**. For the centenary of the Chair of the Romance Languages, **Maiden** organised a public exhibition on Romance languages in the Taylorian in 2009 which was well attended and well received by the general public.

Trade publications include the volumes in OUP's 'Very Short Introduction' series by **Kelly** (Russian Literature), **Robertson** (Kafka), and retired colleagues Peter Hainsworth and David Robey (Italian Literature). As part of a project based at the Sorbonne, **Viala** is presenting the French Renaissance to a wide audience through a set of 40 CDs, in which he narrates a text based on his prize-winning book *La France galante*, while the author Daniel Mesguich reads literary passages; for this he has received the 'Coup de cœur' 2013 of the Académie Charles Cros. MML and LPP academics also often write in the *TLS* and in non-specialist journals and contribute to reference works.

3) Supporting a vigorous public culture informed by research: MML academics concerned with drama are regularly consulted by directors about productions of foreign drama, which often leads to extensive involvement (see the case studies on Russian drama and Brecht). **Thacker** advised the National Theatre on its production of Tirso de Molino's *Damned by Despair*, which opened in October 2012. **C. Williams**'s edition of interviews with the Brazilian author Clarice Lispector, *Entrevistas* (Rio de Janeiro: Rocco, 2007), inspired a film by the director Nicole Algranti, *De corpo inteiro*, which was shown on Brazilian TV, distributed throughout Brazil, and also shown in the UK.

Many MML academics are deeply involved with literature, whether by publishing their own novels and poems, by translating, or by presenting creative writers to a wide public. They regard this creative work as a natural and seamless extension of their research: studying literature readily leads to producing literature. **McGuinness** has published a novel, *The Last Hundred Days*, based on his experiences in 1980s Romania (Seren Books, 2011, also available on Kindle), which was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, awarded the Writers' Guild Prize, and translated into German, French, Romanian, Hungarian and Chinese, and three collections of poetry, including *Jilted City* (Carcanet, 2010; a Poetry Book Society recommendation, since published also in French and Italian translation). **Gardini** has published four novels, including *Le parole perdute di Amelia Lynd* (Feltrinelli, 2012), which has received much attention in Italy and won the 2012 Premio Viareggio for fiction.

4) Interacting with international communities can take very diverse forms. **Bollig** has edited, translated and coordinated a bilingual volume of his translations of contemporary Argentinian poetry, to raise funds for the Eloísa Cartonera publishing collective, an innovative and influential cooperative venture between poets, designers, publishers, students and cardboard collectors based in a working-class district of Buenos Aires. He also edited and wrote the introduction to a collection of Western Saharan poetry in English translation, the sales of which aim to raise awareness of, and funding in support of, the Western Saharan people via the charity Sandblast.

LPP members' research has often led them to engage with small, isolated, and sometimes vulnerable language communities. Research findings can have a tangible influence on the understanding, usage, teaching and even protection of such languages. **Dalrymple** has produced, transcribed and annotated audio and video files for Dusner, an Austronesian language with few fluent speakers and no written form. This project will be of incalculable benefit to the Dusner community in West Papua by enabling them to preserve their language, culture, and customary

traditions. **Cappellaro's** research on the dialect of Bocchigliero (Calabria), which has some remarkable structural features but is spoken by a declining population, has been warmly welcomed by the local community, who turned out in large numbers to a public meeting to hear her speak about her work.

c. Strategy and plans

Many of the wide range of research-based public-facing activities outlined above arose from the initiative of individual members. Nevertheless, the Unit recognises that it is desirable to encourage and oversee these activities in order to support them effectively and to ensure future growth and continuity. These activities are increasingly overseen by the Faculties' decision-making bodies that meet termly. They consider grant applications and related matters, including helping colleagues to obtain funding for impact-related activities as part of wider research funding. They encourage colleagues to utilise the Humanities Division's research support officers, whose role includes advising on the impact potential of grant applications. Outward-facing work is also assisted by specific local funds, notably the fund supporting the annual Zaharoff Lecture on French culture, which is open to the public.

An essential element of the unit's strategy involves working with the Division's newly appointed Knowledge Exchange Fellow to find creative ways of communicating research to wider audiences, especially by co-operating with non-university institutions such as museums (both here and abroad). MML's policy is strongly to encourage colleagues, when devising research projects, to include a KE element from the outset, which, as 'exchange' suggests, will hopefully feed back into the projects themselves and point to interesting directions of development. This will particularly benefit colleagues involved with theatre who will be encouraged to develop their activities as part of a co-ordinated KE programme. These activities will be funded both from internal resources as well as from external funding.

In addition, the unit intends to extend, and diversify its public-facing activities. It will, for example, further develop its contacts with schools. MML has a Schools Liaison Officer who works closely with teachers and students of modern languages (directly through school visits and indirectly through organisations such as Language Rich Europe and Routes into Languages) and it will shortly appoint a second Schools Liaison Officer in order to expand such activities and enable a co-ordinated approach to school visits, including research-based talks, along the lines successfully developed by the Faculty of Classics.

LPP plans to extend its mission to increase the linguistic awareness of the public at large. It will continue its involvement in the Linguistic Olympiad and increase its efforts across the world to make students aware of language structure. Furthermore, the online dictionaries, databases, corpora, corpus linguistic tools for spoken and audiovisual material and other tools that LPP develops in its research activities will be made increasingly available to the general public. For instance, the spoken corpora of the British National Corpus are already available, but require further development to become more easily searchable. Oxford linguists are becoming more active in writing for the general public on language matters, reporting new discoveries and new insights in linguistics, in an accurate as well as entertaining way without undue over-simplification. They are also increasing their contribution to language issues of potential interest to the public at large. For example, new collaborations with Psychology are planned in order to develop our fundamental theoretical findings on normal language-processing as a model to help language-impaired patients (**Lahiri, Husband**).

The unit's impact strategy also includes an enlarged role for the European Humanities Research Centre, founded in 1994 by a group of scholars led by Professor Malcolm Bowie. The EHRC, now directed by **McLaughlin**, interconnects the research interests of Oxford's different modern languages specialisms; links the Faculty's activities with those of other Oxford faculties; and stimulates interaction in this area of study with institutions and scholars outside Oxford, both in the UK and abroad; it also increasingly helps to convey aspects of the Faculty's research to a wider public. The EHRC intends to use the recently refurbished main lecture-hall of the Taylorian Institution (the centrally located building where most MML lectures are held, next to the Ashmolean

Museum) for regular lectures addressed to a wide audience.

A new development promoted by MML, which among other purposes will seek to disseminate research to a broad public, is the Oxford German Network, an initiative established by MML in 2012, in cooperation with Magdalen College School and BMW, and directed by **Kohl**. The network is developing a focus for personal collaboration between the University of Oxford, local schools, and companies that have commercial links with Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Besides forging links with business, the Network has also secured a grant of £20k from the University's Higher Education Infrastructure Fund, plus smaller sums from private donors, with which to develop its activities further. Besides encouraging interest in German language and culture (something desirable in itself, necessary for the survival of the academic subject, and likely in the long term to produce measurable impact), it will enable academics to present outcomes of their research to wider audiences.

d. Relationship to case studies

Many of the case studies submitted arose organically, through academics' involvement with various beneficiary groups and through engagement with the media. They reflect the unit's long-standing approach of encouraging its members to address wider publics (as **Sheringham** and **Worth** have done), to edit and/or translate books for a broad public (as in the case study by **Robertson** and others) and to be actively involved with theatre groups presenting European plays (as with **Curtis** and **Kuhn**).

Wherever possible both Faculties have supported researchers in developing outward-facing research projects via the channels described above: directing applicants to research support officers, assisting with applications to the Fell Fund and external bodies, and finding funds from internal resources. The Fell Fund paid for interviewing work required by **Kelly's** research, while the MML Faculty contributed to the costs of her conferences and of editorial assistance for a Russian journal she co-edits, thus giving her more time to work on the funded research which led to impact. It also gave **Papanikolaou** funds for his 'Cavafy Week' (3-8 June 2013), an extension of the public discussion of 'Greek cultures of sexuality' forming his impact case study. The MML Faculty and the Fell Fund both supported the public events that form part of **Leeder's** 'Poetry' and 'GDR' case studies. The Faculty also helped **Kuhn** to apply to internal Oxford funding for the £5,760 to pay for the actors' workshops mentioned in his case study. LPP provided funds and space for the postdoctoral researcher who assisted **Dalrymple** with her work on Dusner and Biak.

Finally, our IT support team provides the essential infrastructure for the public to utilise the 100-million-word speech and text data of the British National Corpus, which is a substantial part of **Coleman's** work. For storing the data, we maintain an HTCondor* Cluster of up to 72 cores, each core having 2GB of RAM available.