

<p><b>Institution: University of Westminster</b></p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment: UoA 28; Modern Languages</b></p>
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>Research in Modern Languages is principally based in the subject area of French, which includes Francophone Studies. It has been submitted to the RAE in the 'French' Unit of Assessment since 1992. Research activities take place within the Department of Modern and Applied Languages (DMAL), part of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages (SSHL). The University of Westminster is committed to high quality practice-informed research with global impact. At School level, research strategy is led by the Dean and School Research Director, and overseen by its Research, Enterprise and Knowledge Transfer Committee (REKT). REKT oversees the steering and monitoring of staff research activities and of the research degree programme, while day-to-day research management is overseen by DMAL's Research Management Group.</p> <p><b>B.1 Research strategy</b></p> <p>Research strategy is set at University and then School level and flows logically through to Department level with individual objectives for each of the French research areas. The overall strategy is governed by the SSHL's Research and Knowledge Transfer Strategy (2010-2015). This defines School-wide strategic aims and objectives and specific key performance indicators for Modern Languages, relating to staff research and postgraduate research students. Since 2007 the main focus of the current School research strategy and related support activities has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consolidation of individual and overall staff research quality profiles;</li> <li>• enhancement of staff and student research environment;</li> <li>• increasing external research funding and knowledge transfer activities.</li> </ul> <p>For French and Francophone Studies this strategy has been delivered through the following objectives, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• foster an environment in which scholars in French and Francophone Studies are supported to produce a variety of high-quality individual and collaborative research outputs;</li> <li>• enhance individual, collaborative and interdisciplinary research to ensure a national and international profile;</li> <li>• facilitate participation in conferences and seminars in the UK and internationally to develop collaborative research and support funding applications for research and knowledge transfer activities.</li> </ul> <p>These objectives have been achieved through three research areas: 1) <b>Francophone Studies</b>, a pioneer department in the field in the UK, now focusing primarily on Sub-Saharan Africa and Sub-Saharan communities living in Europe; 2) <b>War and Culture Studies</b>, established in 1995 and led from Westminster as an international inter-university research group; and, 3) <b>French and Francophone Migration and Diasporic Identities</b>, a new research area developed during this research period which includes research both into London's French and Francophone migrant communities and work into representations of the Sub-Saharan diaspora in Europe. French has also strategically developed its research relationship with the internationally recognised Contemporary China Centre which was integrated within DMAL after RAE2008 (cf UoA 27 Area (Asian) Studies).</p> <p>In each of these research areas French has developed and sustained a collaborative research culture and has consolidated its recognised areas of expertise and reputation. It has achieved plans set out in RAE2008 to ensure a continuing national and international profile, as well as an expansion of research activity, networks and fields of interest with new approaches developed in French and Francophone Studies. With 100% QR funding returned to the School, French has supported its commitment to its three research areas through workload planning and support for</p>

## Environment template (REF5)

research seminar, conference and public engagement activities. Publication and research networks have been sustained and enhanced through this funded support.

Since 2008, staff entered in REF2 have published one monograph, edited two books, published over 30 book chapters and journal articles, and given a similar number of papers, including two keynotes and a series of talks and workshops. These projects are described below and in the Impact Case Studies. DMAL is committed to supporting international and multidisciplinary research agendas, notably through its regular research seminar series hosting internal and external speakers from the UK and internationally. This encompasses work in other cultural areas [besides French] – Chinese, Arabic, German and Hispanic Studies – and other disciplines, including Translation Studies, a particular strength at postgraduate taught level. It also uses the unique combination of resources and primary material that London as a capital city yields in linguistic and cultural diversity.

### B2. Achievement of strategic aims

The strategic aims for each of DMAL's three research areas are to:

- ensure and enhance the quality of its research outputs;
- expand and develop the range of themes through encouraging collaborative links with other departments, institutions and organisations;
- continue to foster PhD-level research;
- increase external research income.

The first three of these targets have been fully achieved in the overall activities of the three research areas in French. There have been major funding successes across DMAL as a whole, notably for knowledge transfer activities (including a £1.5m contract with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for language testing, and another £0.5m in other funding). Initial funding for the 'London French' project will act as a springboard for further proposals, as will the work done on collaborative funding bids in Francophone Studies, notably on 'Francophone Cinema'.

### Francophone Africa

The planned and focused expansion of research interests during the assessment period has been successfully fulfilled, particularly the concern with visual culture. For example, **Bray** and **Gill**'s new collaborative work (including with colleagues at Roehampton: Chevalier, Levasseur) on postcolonial cinema in Francophone Africa and its diasporas is exemplified by their work on Mahamat-Saleh Haroun providing the first scholarly writing in English to date on a Jury prize winner at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival and yet little-researched African film maker. They also organised a one-year (2010-11) 'Shifting Trends in the New Century' research seminar series of high profile talks which highlighted and reflected on paradigm shifts at the turn of the 21st century with speakers on politics (Simms, Bayart), culture (Lewycka, Majumdar), economics (Frances Robinson, *Wall St Journal*) and social science research (Godin). The long-established *Bulletin of Francophone Africa* was re-launched in 2012, with support from the French Embassy in London, reflecting renewed commitment to a long standing publication outlet in the field. **Randall** is main editor of the new refereed journal (Bray and Gill are members of the editorial board), and the title *Transcultural Visions* reflects both the new research orientations of its founders and developments in Francophone Studies more widely. Randall has also taken on the role of Director of the Francophone Studies Research Group to ensure synergies. Recently-appointed Post-Doctoral Research Fellow **Bush** brings new perspectives on postcolonial book history in Paris and London, together with new research networks (in Paris and Germany), as does new appointment **Wilson**, whose current research focus includes French and Francophone representations of Egypt. **Kelly** continues an interest in Francophone Studies, notably as doctoral supervisor, and for other solicited work.

## War and Culture Studies

An important development is the comprehensive overhaul of the refereed *Journal of War and Culture Studies* (JWACS). The journal, founded in 2008 by **Kelly**, has seen its geographical and historical remit widened, and has moved to a new publisher (Maney). Kelly continues as editor, and there is a more frequent publication schedule from 2013 (quarterly publication instead of three issues a year). As a result, the reputation and ranking of the journal has risen rapidly with an ERIH ranking of INT2 and acceptance into Scopus. The journal forms a major focus of GWACS research planning, development and dissemination. Other developments include the 'GWACS Art Conversations', initiated by Research Associate (**Perret**) in 2011, with invited artists, art critics and curators in discussion about how war informs a wide range of contemporary cultural and artistic practices. This runs parallel to the GWACS Research Seminar Series which has contributed since 1995 to its well-established and discipline-defining reputation (for details of both seminar series, see the very extensive lists at [www.westminster.ac.uk/war-and-culture-studies](http://www.westminster.ac.uk/war-and-culture-studies)). More than 20 events have been held since 2008. Some highlights include: 'Through the Looking Glass: Shifting Perceptions of War', Professor Joram ten Brink, Director of the Centre for Production and Research in Documentary Film, Westminster on *The Act of Killing* (May 2013); 'Art and Society', Burmese artist Htein Lin, founding member of the Burmese language arts website and curator in 2010 of the first Burmese Arts Festival in London (June 2012); Professor Clare Woods, University of South Australia, 'Interactive Digital Archiving: the historical re-making and personal stories of an Australian WW1 battalion' (November 2010).

## French and Francophone Migration and Identities

**Kelly** has led a new research interest in the historical and contemporary experiences of French and Francophone migrant communities in London, initially funded by a British Academy Small Research Grant (firstly submitted from Westminster, then successful on resubmission by partner institution, the University of Birmingham). Of the approx £7.5k awarded, £4.5k accrued to Westminster to support the Project Researcher (Huc-Hepher) based here. The research is already recognised as breaking new ground both in its subject matter and its methodological approaches. Its outputs to date are a co-edited book (with Cornick, Birmingham); workshops, public/partner engagement activities and a large public dissemination event. This extensive multi-sector collaboration led to an AHRC large grant application (£900k) which received outstanding peer reviews but was not funded, although commitment to the project continues from all partners. A number of papers have been presented on the project, notably at an invited panel on 'French London' for the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France (ASMCF) Annual Conference, September 2013. The area has had a strategic impact agenda since its inception. **Huc-Hepher** (in her capacity as project researcher) gave a paper at the Society for the Study of French History (SSFH) and the ASMCF 2<sup>nd</sup> joint postgraduate study day ('Impact', Warwick, March 2013) on impact and public engagement in curating the 'London French Special Collection' digital archive for the UK Web Archive. This new research area has also (2011; 2012) attracted two doctoral projects; one on the Francophone Togolese Community in London and one (as above) on the digital presence of the significant contemporary London French population.

## B.3 Plans and aspirations for developing research, 2014-2019:

### Francophone Africa

Future research planning focuses on concepts of displacement, diasporas and their representations in popular culture (film, fashion, fiction) relating mainly to Sub-Saharan Africa and to Sub-Saharan communities living in France and elsewhere in Europe. Following publication of her thesis (2010) on modern and contemporary Cameroonian theatre, literature and cinema as a monograph, **Randall's** current research is on fashion as a cultural marker for young Cameroonians at home and in the diaspora drawing on the unique data researched in residence in Cameroon, and further work on contemporary culture in Cameroon will be developed. Major future plans for **Bray, Gill and Randall** include a joint project on the notion of displacement in collaboration with Roehampton (Chevalier) and the Université Jean Monnet at Saint-Etienne launched in France in

2013 at an international conference, with a further conference in 2014 in London with the aim of creating an international research project on the theme. **Bush's** research interest is the revision of post-war French literary history and the mediation of African literary identities. Under the Research Fellowship, she plans a monograph based on her thesis ('Publishing Black Africa 1947-67') and a series of journal articles based on her comparative project on publishing in London and Paris, specifically on links between 'Black Paris' and Black cultural production in London. **Wilson** will continue work on the AHRC-funded collaborative project 'Ottoman Pasts, Present Cities: Cosmopolitan and Transcultural Memories' (2012-2014) for which she is the project advisor and on her own work on the French cultural memory of Egypt for which a series of articles is planned. **Kelly** will continue work on the London French/Francophone communities (as below).

### **War and Culture Studies**

**Kelly** will continue to direct the Group for War and Culture Studies (GWACS) and its journal focusing on the experience, representation and cultural memory of war, and on the production and the practices of cultural transmission in time of war. During the period of the centenary of the First World War the Group's chosen theme is 'The Cult and Culture of the Veteran since 1918' and two themed issues of the *JWACS* are planned over the period with colleagues from Bristol, Swansea, Newcastle, King's and Birkbeck London, and Veterans Associations, based on a series of seminars. The GWACS is also planning a major international conference for its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015 that will evaluate work achieved in War and Culture Studies to date. It is recognised that the Group has revolutionised this field and the conference will further set the agenda for future research. Two international conferences on 'War in Performance in Literary Creation' from antiquity to the present day and on avant-garde theatre and WW1 are planned for 2014 and 2016 respectively with the Université Paris 8. **Kelly** is an invited Plenary Speaker at the French Studies Annual Conference in 2014 and is asked to speak on war and culture studies. The 'GWACS Art Conversations' series is set to develop into a new research project for which funding will be sought to research the creative responses of national and international contemporary artists to war.

### **French and Francophone Migration and Identities**

DMAL's strategic aim to develop new, interdisciplinary approaches to French and Francophone Studies is exemplified in the more recent work on French and Francophone communities in London (Impact Case Study 1) directed by **Kelly**. Following the book, workshop series and public events 2010-2013, a series of exhibitions and events is planned in 2015 to highlight the contributions to the UK of the French as a migrant community (partners to date are Boughton House (Northants), Museum of London, Spitalfields Festival and the Huguenot Society). The research provides a new focus for varied research outputs, for public engagement and impact strategies, and for doctoral and post-doctoral work, as well as for new partnerships. In the short-term, the development of this work includes a comparative conference on the French in London and the British in Paris with the University of London in Paris (ULIP), and the Université Versailles-Saint Quentin to be held in the French Institute, London in March 2014. In the longer term a range of funding sources, including sponsorship will be sought. **Kelly** will also develop individual research on French cultural contributions to London, redirecting her work on Franco-British cultural relations. **Huc-Hepher** will complete her doctoral research into the digital presence of the London French, complemented by a series of journal articles and papers.

### ***Beyond French and Francophone Studies: sustainability and development***

Using the interdisciplinary and collaborative model of research developed, sustained, and planned in French, a strategic objective for DMAL is to continue to develop research in other linguistic and cultural areas across a number of cross-cultural research interests. These are identified as: cultural and cross-cultural transmission; migration and diasporic identities, research in translation and interpreting studies, and in HE pedagogy. DMAL has also outlined two research projects with Law (under a new faculty structure from 2013/14) around notions of agency and the use of the notion of 'translating' as a metaphor for a variety of theoretical practices. Greater strategic priority will also be secured through London's advantageous position as a collaborative city partner.

**c. People, including:****i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

Research plans in the period have been achieved both by the continuity in staffing by one professor, and two principal lecturers, and support for early career researchers (ECRs). Research plans and outputs of experienced researchers are monitored on an annual basis, with an interim review every six months. DMAL operates a mentoring scheme for ECRs and has also successfully recruited post-doctoral students from the Institute of Historical Research to teach its French History and Politics undergraduate programmes with the aim of integrating young researchers into the subject area. DMAL appointed a Post-Doctoral French and Francophone Studies Research Fellow in March 2013. She is being supported to publish, to extend her research networks, and to develop future research plans and her career path. **Randall's** position in DMAL has been enhanced since her doctoral award (e.g. journal editor of *Transcultural Visions*; director of the Francophone Studies Research Group; teaching profile). **Wilson** arrived in post with an established research profile and is being supported to develop this and her collaborative projects. In addition to the published researchers submitted here, a Research Associate, **Perret**, an active and published researcher in the field of war and culture studies, organises the GWACS/Art Conversations seminar series and is key to their continued vitality. The GWACS Visiting Research Fellow (**Thatcher**) since 2008 has published in the field and organised a conference 'Charlotte Delbo's Testimony: Representation and Transmission' (March 2013, French Institute, London in collaboration with the Pears Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism at Birkbeck London and Theatre Nomad) with support from the GWACS. **Huc-Hepher's** profile has been significantly enhanced by her appointment as project researcher on the British Academy-funded 'London French' work and by support for her curatorial work on the UK Web Archive as part of her doctoral work funded by the University. She was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2013. DMAL takes a proactive view on diversity and equality. This submission is composed entirely of the work of female scholars, acting as counterbalance to areas often perceived to be dominated by masculine dynamics. It is also committed to a planned strategic emphasis, over the next five years as the staffing profile changes, on the appointment of younger staff starting out on their research careers. This will take place in combination with its commitment to fostering the research careers of existing staff in French and in other cultural areas to develop broader research activity.

**ii. Research students**

French and Francophone Studies continues to attract committed part-time (PT) research students whose work aligns with wider departmental interests. Since 2008 there have been two completions. The first (**Randall**) is now a full-time, research-active member of staff; the second (Bolfek-Radovani) is an HEI research project manager. There are currently three PT research students (one in Francophone Studies; two in French/ Francophone Migration Studies). There has been a significant enhancement of the PhD Programme in SSHL. Postgraduate research students are supported at University and School level by a cohort-based Doctoral Researcher Development Programme aligned with RCUK criteria providing a series of both generic and discipline-specific researcher development sessions for doctoral study and ECR development. Student progress with the key stages of the research degree programme is monitored annually by SSHL REKT, in line with the wider University Graduate School research degree programme and its Board, as well as monthly by the supervisory team. The SSHL Research Student Forum meets once per term to give students an active voice, allowing them to contribute to the development of the School's research culture, and they hold their own frequent 'Doctoral Researcher Colloquium' in which they share research findings and experiences. Doctoral students are further supported through the SSHL Blackboard site, where information/discussion is disseminated. Students in Modern Languages further benefit from the vibrant research culture across London, e.g. at the Institute of Modern Languages Research.

#### d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Since 2008, DMAL made 36 funding bids and received approximately £0.5m in funding (excluding the large MoD contract) with 11 bids submitted in 2012/13. External research funding activities are supported by 1.5fte School Research Development Officers (RDOs), guided by the School Research Grant Advisory Group. RDOs provide assistance in identification and preparation of funding applications. Research in French has benefited from the appointment of this dedicated personnel, and the number and scale of funding applications has increased. DMAL has a Research Office staffed by a 0.4 Research Administrator providing support with funding applications, editorial assistance for research outputs, and the organisation of conferences, research seminars and public events. She also acts as Editorial Coordinator for the *JWACS* and plays a key role in the success of the journal. Research resources in French have been substantially enhanced since 2008 with the re-housing of its unique Archive (overseen by the Research Administrator) of printed material pertaining to 1) Francophone Studies: including the Dorothy Blair Translation Archive; some 400 books, mostly in French, on subjects related to Francophone countries around the world, history, colonialism, postcolonialism, Francophone and local literature and culture, and the arts; about 100 French documentaries and educational and other films relating to French-speaking countries; collections of about 20 different academic journals, in English or French, produced in or about Francophone countries; and 2) the GWACS collection of rare journals and other printed materials with about 450 books, including several items published during WW2, and about 100 documentary and feature films. The archive offers research residences (recent researchers have come from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the University of Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain).

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

- 1) **War and Culture Studies:** this collaborative network of national and international scholars has an exemplary track record of 18 years to date with Kelly as Director since 1998. An overview of the development of the discipline which it has led, and the place of the GWACS/*JWACS* is provided by **Kelly**, Cooper (Swansea) and Hurcombe (Bristol) in 'The Development of War and Culture Studies in the UK: From French Studies, Beyond, and Back Again', Lane and Worton, *French Studies in and for the Twenty-first century*, 2012.
- 2) **Francophone Studies:** research work has been sustained and consolidated for over 20 years, including publication of a scholarly journal; more recently (in 2011), for example, a study day was organized at Westminster with the Université de Cergy-Pontoise as part of on-going collaborations with colleagues in French universities; of note also is **Bray, Gill** and **Randall's** collaborative research on cinema with Roehampton.
- 3) **'The London French'** project was conceived as a multi-sector research project led by **Kelly**; partners include London museums, French Radio London, the French Embassy and Consulate; book project contributors are based in Cambridge, Newcastle, Birmingham, the Society of Court Authors, UCL, Queen Mary, Middlesex, Loughborough, Surrey, Massey University, New Zealand, Université Paris-Sorbonne, Université Paris Est-Créteil, the V&A Museum, the Huguenot Society and the French Embassy.
- 4) **Other work:** **Kelly** is Co-Director of the Routes into Languages London Consortium (HEFCE-funded) of 12 London universities which encourages language-learning in 14-19 year olds; and Co-Director of Network for Languages London (formerly DfE-funded Links into Languages), a national network of universities providing CPD for primary and secondary language teachers. Examples of her other co-organised activities include a) an AHRC-funded Collaborative Research Training Network (November 2010-October 2012), specifically for modern foreign languages: 'Use your Language, Use Your English' with Segal (former Director of IGRS, now Birkbeck) and Schwartz (Translators' Association of the Society of Authors); b) 'Translation as Art' conference (2010) with Renouard, Emeritus Reader in French, Birkbeck (leading to a co-edited book, Dalkey Archive Press, 2013); c) member of 2010 Organising Committee for conference and public events, French Institute commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of arrival of

de Gaulle in London. **Gill, Bray and Randall** lead pioneering employability work, see 'French Studies and employability at home and abroad' in Lane and Worton, 2012 (as above) for details of the professional focus of their work; they also organised a joint conference at the Université Blaise Pascal (Clermont-Ferrand, 2013) on HE and employability.

**5) Invited Keynotes (Kelly):**

- Living War, Reading War. Emotions and Responses to Life-Writing Narratives of the French Occupation' at 'Repräsentationen des Krieges. Emotionalisierungsstrategien in der Literatur und in den audiovisuellen Medien vom 18. bis zum 21. Jahrhundert', University of Aarhus, Denmark, September 2010;
- 'Not the Usual Suspects? Mapping the French Presence in Second World War London', Annual WAR-Net Conference, London, March 2012.

**6) Membership/advice to boards/committees, refereeing; professional positions.**

**Kelly:** Advisor to Bloomsbury's major publishing project: *A Cultural History of War and Conflict* (six-volume scholarly reference work from Antiquity to the Modern Age); Member of Advisory Board for Continuum's new series '*War, Society and Culture*'; External Member of Panel of Periodic Reviews at Birkbeck (European Languages and Cultures, 2011), Swansea (Politics and Cultural Studies, 2012); Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies (London); Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Palmes Académiques (member of AMOPA).

**7) Journal Editorship: a) Randall** *Transcultural Visions (TV)* **b) Bray** and **Gill** members of *TV* Editorial Board **c) Kelly:** i) *Journal of War and Culture Studies*; ii) Guest Co-Editor, *Journal of Romance Studies* (9.3, 2009), 'The Witness and the Text'.

**8) Research Funding Council Membership: Kelly:** full term served as a member of AHRC Peer Review College (ended Dec 2012); Reviewer for AHRC1st round BGPs.

**9) Examination of Doctorates (in the period): Kelly:** Birkbeck (2), Swansea (1), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (1); **Bray** (internal) Westminster (1).