

<b>Institution:</b> University of the West of England, Bristol
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 29 - English Language and Literature
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>The English Literature unit at UWE is currently located within the recently constituted Department of Arts within the Faculty of Arts, Creative Industries and Education. It comprises 12.8 FTE staff: three Professors, <b>Jarvis, Rawlings</b> and <b>Greenslade</b> (the latter promoted during the census period), three Associate Professors, <b>Mulvey-Roberts, Butler</b> and <b>Greenham</b> (the last two promoted during the census period), five permanent, full-time, Senior Lecturers (<b>Boccardi, Davis, Martens, Robertson</b> and <b>Sinanan</b>) and three permanent Senior Lecturers on fractional contracts (<b>Alston, Ballinger</b> and <b>Ord</b>).</p>
<p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>The Unit's research strategy comprises a number of objectives designed to promote and support research of international excellence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encouraging the output of high quality scholarly publications partly through the use of internally funded research leave;</li> <li>• encouraging applications for external research funding;</li> <li>• enabling externally-funded collaborative activity with an increasing emphasis on application and impact, while respecting the successful and established tradition of individual scholarship which underpins much of the Unit's output;</li> <li>• raising the profile of the Unit's staff outside the University by the presentation of original work at international-level conferences and other public events;</li> <li>• supporting the research interests of emerging and early career researchers, for example by mentoring, by collaborative ventures between more and less experienced researchers in the unit,</li> <li>• fostering the development of research networks.</li> </ul> <p>In our RAE2008 submission we anticipated 'the publication of several monographs from lecturers whose plans are currently well-advanced'. It is pleasing to report that nine monographs have so far appeared since 2008, along with two edited collections and one major scholarly edition. As detailed in RAE2008, our strategy for 2008-2014 includes giving support 'to our existing area[s] of strength in the Long Nineteenth-Century and Twentieth-Century Studies' and, additionally, giving meaning to new 'clusters' of individuals whose scholarship might benefit from collaborative activity. A case in point is the collaborative work carried out by two members of this unit, <b>Alston</b> and <b>Butler</b>, resulting in their co-editing the first ever collection of essays on Roald Dahl, (<i>Roald Dahl: A New Casebook</i>. Palgrave, 2012), with a substantial essay by <b>Alston</b> and an Introduction by <b>Butler</b>.</p> <p>Research by the Unit's staff is diverse and this is reflected in the range of outputs submitted including work in Renaissance, Romantic and Gothic literature. However, there are also strong synergies amongst staff including a strong interest in children's literature (<b>Alston</b> and <b>Butler</b>); Victorian Literature (<b>Ballinger, Davis</b>, and <b>Martens</b>); American Literature (<b>Greenham, Rawlings</b> and <b>Robertson</b>); and a significant interest in Twentieth Century literature (<b>Boccardi, Greenslade, Rawlings</b> and <b>Robertson</b>). This clustering in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century literature is reflected in the major grouping of staff: the Long Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture.</p> <p><b>Long Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture</b></p> <p>The Long Nineteenth-Century Network (LNCN) was established in 2010 (coordinated by <b>Greenslade</b>, in conjunction with a steering group) to take forward the work of this sub-group (comprising nine members of the Unit). Central to this objective is the intention of providing a</p>

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coherent focus for regional, national and international research activity by English staff in the Long Nineteenth-Century. Its wider aims are:

- i. to become a research grouping of international excellence, with a strong identity within UWE; to provide a forum for collaborative research activity across the Unit;
- ii. to establish a strong outward-facing identity within the SW region, with a regional membership and shared activity with e.g. University of Bristol, Bath Spa University, Plymouth University, Exeter University, University of Falmouth;
- iii. to explore interdisciplinary links with e.g. History, Film Studies, Cultural History and Drama; to develop work in conjunction with groupings such as the UWE's Regional History Centre; to provide a platform for partnerships with the local and regional museum, library and Creative Industries sectors;
- iv. to provide a focal point and stimulus for public engagement activity within Bristol and the wider region;
- v. to support research activity through generating external income from e.g. British Academy, AHRC, Leverhulme and other funding bodies.

A significant database comprises academics and research students in the South West region: (Swansea, Cardiff, Bristol, Bath Spa, Exeter, Falmouth, Plymouth and Gloucestershire). Research Paper Series have been established: 2010/2011 (3 papers); 2011/2012 (6 papers). A Research Student Paper Series was established in 2011/12 (7 papers). For 2012/13 an integrated Staff-Student Research Paper Series was initiated (11 papers). Contacts have been made with research student groups in SW universities and links established with M-Shed, Bristol, Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol Festival of Ideas and the Arnolfini. There has been significant Public Engagement activity as detailed in REF 3a.

A major editorial activity for the LNCN is the international journal, *Women's Writing*, whose editor-in-chief is **Mulvey-Roberts**. Focussing on work on women writers before 1918, it is the leading journal in its field, established over twenty years. Special issues range from canonical to obscure women writers, women and place as well as thematic areas. As a mark of its success from 2011 its publisher, Routledge, increased the number of issues from 3 to 4 to meet an increased demand; it also sponsored a conference at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge (2010). The journal is distributed to over 60 countries and to UNESCO countries at a discount and to others, such as Iraq, *gratis*. The journal has the highest European Science Foundation classification (INTI) for "international publications with high visibility and influence among researchers in the various research domains in different countries, regularly cited all over the world".  
<https://www2.esf.org/asp/ERIH/Foreword/search.asp>

### ***Collaborative relationships with other research groups/centres***

Six members of this Unit staffed four panels on the 'Writing and the West' international conference (M-Shed, Bristol, 2012 – organised by the UWE Regional History Centre) one of whom, **Mulvey-Roberts**, gave a keynote lecture. Brennan, **Butler** and **Mulvey-Roberts** (founding and executive committee member) belong to the UWE Gender Studies Group, a multidisciplinary group comprising scholars from across UWE that has a strong and active international network. A conference, co-organised by **Mulvey-Roberts**, 'Reporting from the Front Line: A Transdisciplinary Conference on Gender', was held at UWE in 2011.

### **Aspirations and Plans**

The LNCN has been active in encouraging the setting up of a Faculty-based Centre for Cultural Research in the recognition that the work of many research active staff in the Faculty, including staff in this Unit, falls outside the existing research centres and would benefit from the heightened profile and potential for collaboration which being part of a University-recognised centre would offer. LNCN is preparing a bid (in conjunction with UWE's Regional History Centre, with which we now have close and developing links) to the AHRC's *Research Networking Scheme* on the theme of the contribution of Nineteenth-Century writers/literary heritage to the cultural economies of cities

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or places in the South West. A short series of workshops would bring together academics and representatives from local government, arts organisations and the cultural sector to explore the nature and value of that contribution, the reasons for its health or otherwise, and the potential for further development. If successful, the network will have three regional workshops and will inform cultural/arts policy and practice of local authority and heritage-led organisations (Coordinator: **Jarvis**).

A bid will be made to the British Academy, in association with Knebworth House, Hertfordshire, for transcribing the papers of the suffragette activist, Constance Lytton. The outcome would be a LNCN symposium at UWE, leading to publication. There would also be a public engagement event at Knebworth House, involving the participation of school pupils and prior project-led work on the suffragette movement (Coordinator: **Mulvey-Roberts**).

**Butler** will lead the recently established *Childhood Studies Research Group*, indicative of the move towards more collaborative activities and relationships, by drawing on other staff from the Unit (**Alston**) together with colleagues from History, Film Studies, Linguistics and Education to promote a cross-disciplinary research and public engagement forum that will consider childhood from a wide variety of perspectives. These will include the cultural representation of childhood, children's literature, children's cultural identity and language acquisition. Plans are in place to establish a regional seminar series and to establish partnerships with cognate groups within academia, schools and other external institutions and agencies.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staff research in this Unit is supported in a number of ways. As part of our staff development strategy, significant support has been given to one early-career researcher, Dr Cato Marks, employed on a full-time, one-year contract (2011-12). He received a programme of mentoring from within the Unit, was given timetable remission to complete the UWE Advanced Professional Development course, was invited to give a paper, alongside other colleagues, at a public engagement event ('Writing the West' Event M-Shed, Bristol, 2012) and to contribute to a book emerging from it. UWE operates an Early Career Researcher Grant scheme designed to support new researchers.

An annual competition for research funding is organised through the Faculty. Since 2008, six English staff **Butler, Davis, Greenham, Jarvis, Mulvey-Roberts** and **Robertson** have enjoyed success in bidding for funds under the Research Leave Scheme (allowing one full semester of leave). **Butler** produced a monograph, *Reading History in Children's Books*; **Davis** wrote two articles: 'Consciousness and Evolution in Hardy's *The Return of the Native*'; **Greenham** produced a monograph, *The Transatlantic Romantic: Ralph Waldo Emerson and European Thought*; **Jarvis** authored the monograph, *Romantic Readers and Transatlantic Travel; Expeditions and Tours in North America*; **Mulvey-Roberts** edited a scholarly edition of *The Collected Letters of Rosina Bulwer-Lytton*; and **Robertson** wrote a monograph, *Southern White Poor in American Literature*. These represent substantial outcomes from a modest outlay of time. In addition, staff are eligible to apply for funds for research purposes not supported elsewhere: these can include travel costs, the production of publications, indexing and transcription. Under the Research Conference Allowance Scheme, staff are supported if they are presenting a research paper up to £900 per annum. A number of research groups are funded (up to £2,000 p.a.) for a range of seminar activities, including the Long Nineteenth-Century Network and Childhood Studies run from within this Unit.

The Unit's researchers are encouraged to make full use of the University's programme of research skills and development training, a series of workshops and seminars closely allied to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework. These cover a wide range of topics, including project management, bidding for external funding, working with business and public sector institutions, ethics and data management. The Researchers' Forum shares good practice and common

concerns across the University. UWE implements the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, as recognised by the European Commission's award of HR Excellence in Research in January 2012 acknowledging UWE's 'outstanding work in developing and supporting its research staff' and in providing 'a stimulating and favourable working environment for researchers'. One aspect of this provision is a £1.5m investment in Early Career Researcher (SPUR) awards. UWE, third-ranked university in the Stonewall Equality Index, works actively towards creating an environment in which all staff and research students are treated equally and fairly. For instance, the Women Researchers Mentoring Scheme supports the professional development of women researchers, providing senior research mentors to give advice and help staff to develop projects.

## ii. Research students

### *PGR Culture in English*

Since 2011-12 the majority of English Literature PhD (PGR) students have become members of the LNCN and have received regular invitations to attend two research paper series, one of which (the PGR Student Research Paper Series) is an entirely new initiative, specifically designed with the needs of PhD students in mind, and organised by one of our doctoral students. Of the seven papers given in the 2011-12 series, three were from UWE research students (one of them an historian) and four from research students from other universities in the South West. English research students have an additional opportunity to attend and present their work at the Research Student Seminar organised through LNCN to which PGR students from South West universities (Cardiff, Bristol, Bath Spa and Plymouth) contribute and are regularly invited (as members of the network). In 2012-13 research student papers were integrated within the academic staff research series in order to give a higher profile to the work of English research students and to foster a more active research student culture. Eleven papers were given in 2012-13 (three of them from UWE research students). The National Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (2013) showed overall student satisfaction with the Faculty's Research Degree Programmes is 94.3%, compared with 82% nationally.

### *University Support*

Each English PGR student is a member of and benefits from the UWE Graduate School, established in 2012 which has made a £1m investment in PGR scholarships. The Graduate School provides an overarching, supportive environment for doctoral students – from admission through to graduation. It offers a range of services tailored to meeting the particular needs of PGR students; these include a training and development programme for students and supervisors. Advice is available on studentship funding, careers and other issues, signposting to other professional services where appropriate.

Many of our research students in English are part time and experienced professionals who work between academic and professional contexts. This is reflected in the range and scope of the doctoral work undertaken within the Unit. Current PhD topics include 'The Translation of Children's Literature: Ideology and Cultural Adaptations' (using *Captain Underpants* as a case study; Director of Studies: **Butler**); 'Language, Emotion and Imagination: Personal Identity in T.S. Eliot and Ernest Hemingway' (Director of Studies: **Rawlings**); 'The Uses of Tragedy in Thomas Hardy's Fiction' (Director of Studies: **Greenslade**); and three critical editions of works by Sarah Grand, Caroline Elizabeth Norton and John Buchan, supervised by **Greenslade**, **Mulvey-Roberts** and **Greenslade** respectively. Most of the other staff in the Unit are engaged in PhD supervision and there is an active culture in encouraging new or less experienced staff to become part of supervisory teams and so gain valuable experience.

Monitoring and support mechanisms for the students are linked to evidence of progress and successful completions. Directors of Studies have compulsory training in processes and regulations and good practice in research student support. Students in our Unit enjoy access to support services: careers; counselling; disability service; student advice and welfare services;

health centre and wellbeing service. Each stage of the student's progress is monitored by the Faculty Research Degrees Committee (FRDC), which reports to the University's Research Degrees Award Board. The FRDC oversees the registration of the project, annual monitoring of progress, the compulsory progression exam, the selection of the examining team and the viva report and recommendations. Bursary schemes for full-time students were made available in 2009 and 2012, awarded, partly on a strategic basis, to areas of existing research strength.

All interviewers for PGR candidates have to undergo training in fair selection procedures. Compulsory training for Directors of Studies and supervisors includes advice on equality and diversity. From English, **Boccardi**, Brennan, **Butler**, **Davis**, **Greenslade**, **Mulvey-Roberts**, **Rawlings** and **Robertson** are either Directors of Studies or second supervisors. There is a strong collegiate culture within the Unit as evidenced by **Butler**, **Greenslade**, **Jarvis** and **Rawlings** acting as Independent Chairs for UWE PhD viva examinations. **Ballinger**, Brennan and **Robertson** have acted as internal examiners.

#### *Skills Development*

One of the requirements of a research degree at UWE is to obtain a minimum of 60 credits which provide a broad base of relevant training and skills development alongside the specialist expertise required to undertake a doctorate. PGR students have access to a credit-bearing Academic Development Programme for the development of teaching skills and orientation to the HE sector where students are engaged in tutorial, seminar or workshop teaching of undergraduates. The Graduate School also runs sessions on induction, preparing for the progression exam, writing the thesis and preparing for the viva. It also offers funds to students to present at external conferences in their own field as well as presentational skills workshops. Research students are able to present their work to their peers with invited expert speakers (e.g. the Department of Arts PGR Conference, UWE, 2012, Faculty PGR Conference, June 2013).

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

The following staff have been successful in generating external research income:

**Butler:** grant of 175,000 euros as Principal Investigator on a EU-funded Comenius project 'The Learning and Teaching of Children's Literature' (Project Number: 503589-LLP-1-2009-1-UK-COMENIUS-CMP);

**Jarvis:** AHRC Research Leave Award of £30,638 (2009);

**Martens:** £2621 (British Academy Small Grant, 2011); £400 (British Association of Victorian Studies Funding Grant, 2011); £950 (Modern Humanities Research Association Conference Grant, 2011); £1000 (Browning Society, 2011).

Bidding for these funds was supported by the RBI unit at UWE.

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

Indicators of the wider influence of the Unit's staff on the discipline, or its research base, include the following:

##### **Membership of National/International Committees**

**Greenslade** and **Jarvis** were appointed to the AHRC Peer Review College (2009-date); **Mulvey-Roberts** was an assessor for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2009).

### Leading Positions in Professional Subject Associations and Learned Societies

**Butler** was an Elected Member of the Article Award Committee of the Children's Literature Association (2010-13); **Jarvis** was re-elected to the Executive Committee of the British Association of Romantic Studies (2009-) on which he has been a (founder) member since 1989; **Mulvey-Roberts** is an executive committee member of the International Gothic Association.

#### Editorial Positions

**Butler** is co-editor of *Children's Literature in Education* (since 2011); **Martens** was co-editor of a special issue of *Victorian Poetry* (2012) (on Robert Browning); is co-editor of the *Journal of Browning Studies*, is on the advisory board of the *Victorians Institute Journal* and has been reviews editor of *Browning Society Notes* (2003-10); **Mulvey-Roberts** is a founding editor and editor-in-chief of *Women's Writing*.

#### Editorial Activity

Several staff are members of editorial boards of journals: **Butler**: *Journal of Children's Literature Studies*, **Davis**: *George Eliot Review*; **Greenslade**: *Thomas Hardy Journal*; **Martens**: *Browning Society Notes* (reviews editor), *Victorians Institute Journal*; **Mulvey-Roberts**: *Gothic Studies*, *Cauda Pavonis: Studies in Hermeticism*, *Dissections: the Journal of Contemporary Horror*

#### Examination of Doctorates

**Butler** – University of Newcastle (2010); **Greenslade** – University of St Andrews (2013); **Robertson** – University of Edinburgh, (2008), University of Ulster (2011), University of Essex (2013); **Mulvey-Roberts** – University of Canterbury (2012).

#### Organisation of Conferences and Scholarly Encounters

**Martens** was co-organiser of a international conference on 'Robert Browning and the Dramatic Monologue', Royal Holloway, University of London (2010) (supported by the British Association for Victorian Studies and the Modern Humanities Research Association and The Browning Society); **Mulvey-Roberts** was co-organiser of 'Celebrating Women's Writing' Conference, Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge (2010).

#### Refereeing Academic Publications and Research Proposals

**Ballinger** has read for Continuum Press; **Boccardi** for Palgrave/Macmillan and Manchester University Press; **Greenham** for Edinburgh University Press; **Greenslade** for CUP, Edinburgh University Press; **Jarvis** for OUP, Palgrave/Macmillan, Routledge; **Mulvey-Roberts** for Continuum Press, Longman and Palgrave/Macmillan; **Rawlings** for CUP, Palgrave/Macmillan. **Butler** is Guest Editor for a special issue of *The Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* (2011). Journal submissions have been reviewed by **Ballinger** (*English*); **Boccardi** (*Journal of Gender Studies*); **Davis** (*George Eliot Review*); **Greenham** (*Journal of American Studies*, *Literature Compass*); **Greenslade** (*Literature and Medicine*, *Victorian Studies*, *Gissing Journal*); **Jarvis** (*Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, *Studies in Travel Writing*, *Canadian Literature*, *European Romantic Review*); **Martens** (*Victorian Poetry*, *Victorians Institute Journal*); **Mulvey-Roberts** (*Bronte Studies*, *Contemporary Women's Writing*, *Gothic Studies*); **Rawlings** (*Journal of American Studies*); **Robertson** (*Mississippi Quarterly*). **Butler** reviewed a research proposal for the Israel Science Foundation, while **Greenslade** was assessor for a PhD application to the Wellcome Trust/University College, London (2010).

#### Scholarly Awards or Fellowships

**Butler** was a member of a panel selected by Booktrust to choose the Children's Laureate (2009-

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11), the recipient of the Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for Myth and Fantasy Studies (2009) (for her book *Four British Fantasists*) and was shortlisted for the Southern Schools Book Award (2008). **Mulvey-Roberts** was a judge for the Katherine Mansfield Society essay prize 2012.

**Invited Keynotes, Lectures and Performances**

Brennan gave a public lecture on Angela Carter (Central Library Bristol, 2013) as part of 'Writing Britain', organised by the British Library; **Butler** was invited to run workshops on UK literacy and Literature by the Turkish Board of Education (Ankara, 2010).

The following staff have given lectures by invitation: **Butler**: NCRCL Conference, Roehampton University (2010), University of Bristol Critical Seminar Series (2010), BristolCon (2009) (where she was also guest of honour); **Greenslade**: Thomas Hardy International Conference (2010) (keynote); **Mulvey-Roberts**: Bram Stoker Birthday Symposium, University of Hull (2012) (plenary) Gothic Publishing Symposium, Society of Young Publishers, Oxford (2012) (plenary); panel member for discussion on Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*, short story festival, Shortstoryville, Arncliffe, Bristol (2012); Writing the West Conference, M-Shed, Bristol (2012) (keynote); Damaging the Body: Victorian Psychiatry, Gender and Bodily Injury workshop Wellcome Institute, University of London (2010) (plenary); Gothic and Genre Conference, Swansea University (2010) (plenary), Third Gothic Congress Conference, University of Mexico (2010) (plenary), Women and Gothic Conference, Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge (2010) (keynote), Mothers and Daughters, Women's Studies Group, University of London (2008) (keynote).