Environment template (REF5)

Institution: Queen Mary, University of London (QMUL)

Unit of Assessment: D28A (Modern Languages and Linguistics: Linguistics**)**

a. Overview

The department of Linguistics consists of two research groups, in Formal Linguistics (FLRG) and Sociolinguistics (SLRG), with much interaction between them. The department is organisationally and strategically part of the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film (SLLF), which itself is one of 8 Schools in QMUL's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). Linguistics has a Research Director who reports to the Head of SLLF and the SLLF Research Director and attends SLLF Research and Graduate Student Committee meetings. This Committee, chaired by the SLLF Research Director, supports and monitors research activity in the different School departments, manages the graduate programmes and develops and implements research strategies. General research strategy within HSS is overseen by a Faculty Dean for Research who holds 5 meetings per year with School Research Directors to discuss cross-faculty research issues and strategic priorities. A Vice-Principal for Research attends to the strategic direction of QMUL's research.

Linguistics has PhD supervision links with individuals in other SLLF departments, but significantly differs from those departments in its research aims, methodologies, training and infrastructure. Linguistics has strong additional links with the Psychology Unit in the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences and with the Cognitive Science research group in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. We are founder members of the QMUL Centre for Mind in Society, a research group bridging the humanities, sciences and medicine. QMUL is a constituent member of the University of London and we have research links with other London colleges (e.g. co-funded research projects, the Collaborative QMUL/Goldsmiths ESRC Doctoral Training Centre, ACTL Research Training Consortium on Formal Linguistics).

b. Research strategy

Summary: Since RAE 2008, when QM Linguistics received a GPA of 2.95, placing it at the top of the *THE* league table for Linguistics, the department's development has been characterised by:

- strengthening of existing research foci (syntax/semantics and sociolinguistics) and elaboration of the relationship between them, with developing methodological strengths in experimental approaches to both sociolinguistics and syntax/semantics;

- substantial increase in research-active staff from 4.45 to 8.0 FTE, reflecting major College investment in Humanities and Social Sciences (see section c.i);

- major increase in external research funding, from £356,500 expenditure in the RAE 2008 period to over £1 million in **new** awards since Jan 2008, and expenditure including ongoing pre-2008 awards well in excess of that (see REF4b);

- appointments of funded postdoctoral researchers rising from 2 in RAE2008 to 6 in REF2014 (5 funded by ESRC, 1 funded by AHRC);

- numbers of PhDs awarded over the period almost doubled, from 6 in RAE 2008 to 11.5 FTE in REF 2014, with an increase in studentships (external and internal) from 6 to 11 including a successful AHRC block grant bid (4 studentships), and ESRC DTC membership (1 studentship);

- a new MA in Linguistics focussed on the department's research strengths and feeding into the department's PhD programme;

- enhanced research infrastructure, with £17,938,925 institutional expenditure for HSS including, for Linguistics, an enhanced Linguistics Laboratory and Phonetics Recording Studio (see section d)

Achievement of strategies outlined in RAE 2008 Although we continue to champion high-profile

individual research and publications, as in RAE2008 individuals in the department constitute two broadly-based research groups: formal linguistics (FRLG), especially morphology, syntax and semantics and their interfaces (Adger, Borer, Elbourne, Harbour (0.5FTE), Martí) and quantitative and qualitative sociolinguistics (SLRG: Cheshire (0.5FTE), Cotter, Levon, Sharma). Since 2008 our strategy, as planned, has been to increase the department's impact on the field of linguistics in our two focal areas and to begin to bring these areas together in novel ways. Our major intellectual contributions have included foundational work on the syntax and semantics of definites and reference to context (Elbourne, Martí), the syntax and semantics of nominal configurations (Adger, Borer), the syntax of non-configurationality (Adger, Harbour), the theory of syntactic features, (Adger, Harbour), the morphology-syntax interface (Adger, Borer, Harbour), the syntax-semantics interface (Adger, Borer, Harbour, Elbourne, Martí), sociophonetics (Levon, Sharma), understanding social mechanisms of language change in multilingual populations (Cheshire, Sharma), mechanisms of language learning in bilinguals (Sharma), fundamental mechanisms of language change (Cheshire, Levon, Adger), new insights into the effects of social practice on language use (Cotter, Levon Sharma, Cheshire) and how language use is shaped by and shapes identity (Levon, Cotter). We have also contributed novel insights into how formal models of linguistic knowledge connect with the deployment of that knowledge in situations of language variation and change (Adger, Cheshire, Levon, Sharma).

There is much interaction between the two groups and our interests overlap e.g. Adger and Cheshire jointly supervised a successful PhD project (Ciarlo, 2010, AHRC) and applied Adger's Combinatorial Variability approach to an emerging language change in London (Cheshire Adger and Fox 2013; see REF2). Our new MA programme is specifically geared to training students to understand the research concerns and methodologies of both sociolinguistics and formal linguistics and to be able to bridge these two disciplines (e.g. via a research training course that includes formal approaches to sociolinguistic variation). In addition, there are many interactions between members of our groups and research groups external to QM supported by various schemes within the institution (see section d: organisational infrastructure) covering areas as diverse as ethnicity and language (Stanford, Paris-X, Toronto, Zurich), language processing and artificial language learning (George Mason), sexuality and language (NYU), sociophonetics (Copenhagen), argument structure (CNRS, Paris, NYU,Tromsø) and language and the media (Ghent). We also have close links with experimentalists in the QMUL psychology unit and at George Mason, NYU, and UMass at Amherst.

Developing areas and strategic plans Both research groups are now incorporating experimental methods into research in sociophonetics (e.g. Levon 2012, NWAV 41, Indiana), the syntax-semantics interface (Martí), and artificial language learning (Adger and Culbertson 2012, Mind and Language Workshop, London). Further work and publications in this area are targeted for REF 2020.

Our strategy includes encouraging the growth of connections between the research groups within linguistics and other disciplines, for example by expanding our robust links with psychology at QMUL, which now include joint conference organisation (Adger, 2010, 'Integrating Genetic and Cultural Evolutionary Approaches to Language' and subsequent joint editorship of a special issue of *Human Biology* 2011, vol. 82.3), 1 joint PhD studentship (Sharma), co-investigator on a joint ESRC application (Sharma), connections via the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre, many joint seminars and shared lab resources. We also aim to expand our existing links with Cognitive Science in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at QMUL; during the REF period these have included joint PhD supervision (Cotter) and leadership of the cross-Faculty interdisciplinary Centre for Mind and Society (http://mindinsociety.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/; current Director, Adger, Linguistics; co-Director, Pearce from Cognitive Science). The Centre was set up with Faculty funding in 2012, in line with QMUL's overall research strategy.

Our overall strategic aim for the period 2014-2020 is to build and consolidate three areas of recent success, all as planned in our 2008-14 strategy: (i) we will strive to make focal contributions in sociolinguistics and formal linguistics (especially morphology, syntax and semantics), and (ii) seek to further understand how to integrate these two perspectives as part of a wider attempt to bring together the cognitive and social sciences through our understanding of language. Members of FLRG (Adger, Borer) and SLRG (Cheshire, Cotter) have already secured EU funding (Framework 7 AthEME, 2014-2020, 'Advancing the European Multilingual Experience') to join

European colleagues in a consortium that will combine formal and sociolinguistic methods to analyse language change and urban multilingualism. Further, (iii) we will continue to develop new methods of tackling these issues, especially importing experimental methods as a means of asking new questions about foundational theoretical issues in both sociolinguistics (including bilingualism, sociophonetics and acquisition) and formal linguistics. We will endeavour to maintain our high level of engagement with the development of the discipline at national and international levels (see section e).

Achievement of our research objectives is monitored internally by the Linguistics Research Director and SLLF Research Director and through QMUL's annual Planning and Accountability Review, which assesses progress against key performance indicators set out in the QMUL Strategic Plans 2010-2015 and 2015-2020.

c. People: i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staffing strategy Our ambition to make key contributions in our specific research foci has guided our academic appointments. Levon was appointed in 2008 to strengthen the sociolinguistics research group, his work focussing on connecting quantitative methods with concerns that have traditionally been treated qualitatively. This allowed a connection to be made between the quantitative work of Cheshire and Sharma and the qualitative work of Cotter, strengthening the cohesiveness of the group. The appointment of Borer to a chair in theoretical linguistics in 2010 consolidated and enhanced existing expertise in theoretical syntax and served to create even stronger links between the various subdisciplines in FLRG. Martí was appointed in Sep 2013 to reinforce our research in semantics, her work complementing Elbourne's.

Staff development There is a rigorous mentoring system in place for ECRs, with Adger leading mentoring within the FLRG and Cheshire (latterly Sharma) in SLRG. New staff have a reduced teaching load during probation to ensure that they can maintain research whilst completing the Post-Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice. All staff are appraised yearly by a senior colleague to monitor and set research objectives; professors are appraised by the Head of School. Procedures for career progression are clearly stated by QMUL's Human Resources department and the annual promotions round is advertised to all staff. Promotions in Linguistics have ensured retention of staff and rewarded research performance: Elbourne was promoted to Reader in 2010, Sharma to Senior Lecturer in 2011, Cotter to Reader in 2012 and Levon to Senior Lecturer in 2012. That the college is committed to rewarding excellence regardless of particular circumstances is evidenced by Harbour's promotion to Reader in 2012 despite then being employed at 0.25 FTE (with the remainder of his salary funded by research income).

Relevant School policies that promote research include: (i) sabbatical leave for one semester/year in every seven for all research active staff, subject to the approval of the School's Research Committee and given on the basis of the research record and research plans; (ii) teaching timetables organised so that all staff have at least one day a week guaranteed free for research during term time. Apart from our two most recent appointments, all members of the Linguistics department have been awarded sabbatical leave during the REF period.

Research income has allowed us to employ 6 postdoctoral researchers: Khan, Knight, Fox, Sankaran, Smith (all ESRC) plus Harbour (AHRC), who participate fully in our research culture and impact-generating activities, and improve our research environment significantly. The College is committed to the implementation of the seven principles in the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, and provides an extensive programme of professional development courses and seminars from which our postdocs select those that are personally relevant. QMUL's programme has been awarded the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research award and in 2011 was shortlisted for the *THE* Award for Outstanding Support for Early Career Researchers. Postdocs, like academic staff, are appraised annually by senior members of the department.

QMUL is fully committed to the provision of equality of opportunity for all its students and staff, establishing 4-year corporate and local aims and objectives for each legally protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation). Linguistics staff attend equal opportunity training and refresher courses at regular intervals and staff involved in appointment panels are trained to ensure that they treat all candidates equitably and support diversity. We follow QMUL's Equal Opportunities Policy and Dignity at Work Policies

http://www.hr.qmul.ac.uk/equality/policies/index.html). Members of the department actively participate in *QM Out* (QMUL's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender staff network), the HSS Faculty *Gender Equality Network* and the QMUL *Women into Leadership* programme. Staff in linguistics have benefitted from full-time cover for maternity leave and short-term paternity leave.

Procedures to facilitate exchanges with non-academics include media training for academic staff, which 5 of us have undertaken. The College's Business Development Services provide training and financial support for connections with organisations outside academia, and until 2011 its Prospects fund provided competitive funding to help develop such connections. Cotter succeeded in obtaining Prospects funding in 2010 to develop research links at MA level and beyond with organisations that include the BBC Pronunciation Unit and the British Library. In 2011 a Vice-Principal for Public Engagement was appointed and Prospects funding replaced by the QM Centre for Public Engagement, launched with a £1 million budget to 2015 to support work with external partners on a larger scale. Linguistics has won funding from the Centre, as reported in REF3a.

People: ii. Research students

Our strategy has been to expand the quantity and quality of research students through a highly selective admissions process. During the assessment period we secured 6 AHRC awards (including 4 in the QMUL AHRC block grant), 1 ESRC PhD studentship through our membership of the QMUL/Goldsmiths Doctoral Training Centre, and 1 ORS award, plus 4 competitive QMUL internal studentships. Award of studentships falls within the college's Equal Opportunities Policy discussed above. We have also recruited 2 students from the China National Scholarships programme, and others from international public and private programmes including the A.G Leventis Foundation and the Thai Chamber of Commerce. Since RAE2008 14 PhDs were awarded (11.5 FTE), 13 within the 4 year registration period. A further 2 PhDs in Spanish and Catalan Linguistics were awarded; these students were registered in the School's Iberian and Latin American Studies department and worked in the Linguistics Lab with Linguistics students to form an integral part of the Linguistics research culture. We currently have 12 research students registered.

There is a rich provision of research training for PhD students. Members of the department contribute to the QMUL/Goldsmiths ESRC Doctoral Training Centre and to the ACTL Consortium on Formal Linguistics (see section e). Our students also attend our own Linguistics Research Training programme, delivered through the Postgraduate Discussion group and our research group meetings (each student is assigned to either FLRG or SLRG, although many attend both), plus a series of RT workshops led by internal and external specialists. A small selection: RBrul (Daniel Ezra Johnson, NYU, February 2010); corpus linguistics methods (Adam Kilgariff, Reading University, December 2011) ELAN transcription program (Naomi Nagy, University of Toronto, March 2103). Linguistics PhD students also attend methodological and theoretical courses from our MA to fill any gaps in their knowledge or skills. They receive training in Knowledge Exchange activities and can contribute, under supervision, to the department's two blogs. We run an annual postgraduate conference where our research students present their dissertation work under conference conditions. Further, the College provides a comprehensive series of training events via the Centre for Academic and Professional Development to prepare students for their future career (e.g. interview training, teaching and learning training, CV improvement). QMUL has instituted a points-based system so that students, with their supervisors, can monitor their participation in research training.

Research students are assigned a primary and secondary supervisor, with the percentage input of these flexible so as to take account of the students' needs for different expertise. The second supervisor, together with a third member of staff, is responsible for reviewing student progress and upgrade. In addition, the progress of all research students is monitored via yearly reports and reviews to the School Research Committee to ensure that broader issues of policy can be taken into account. Our joint supervision system means that all staff supervise PhD students; both new and experienced supervisors receive appropriate training and updates from the Centre for Academic and Professional Development. Linguistics has a Director of Graduate Studies who reports to the School Director for Graduate Studies and attends the School Committee for Research and Graduate Studies. A full-time School Administrator deals solely with all aspects of

the postgraduate student experience.

All research students have desk space and computing facilities in the Linguistics Research Centre (see section d). They are integral to departmental research culture. They engage in closely monitored and supported UG teaching support and help with the organisation of research seminars and international conferences (see section e). They attend international research student conferences as well as the usual mainstream conferences. We encourage them to publish in our online working paper series, *OPALs* (see section d, organisational infrastructure: Department), in conference proceedings such as *CAMLING* and, in the later stages of research, the usual linguistic outlets (e.g. Kleeman-Krämer, *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 2010; Secova, *Journal of French Language Studies* 2013; Vessey, *Discourse in Society* 2011, *Multilingua* 2013*, Corpora 2013*). This structure of support has led our students to secure academic lectureships and industry positions e.g. Abdel-Razaq (Amman, Jordan); Ciarlo (Reading); Gimenez (Nottingham); Kircher (Liverpool John Hope); Kleemann-Krämer (Potsdam); Levey (Ottawa), Vessey (Newcastle), Law (the *Guardian*), Clark (Civil Aviation Authority), Bacchini (British Library).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income Since 2008 we have obtained more than £1,000,000 in new external research awards from 10 grants awarded by AHRC, British Academy, ESRC, the Leverhulme Trust and an external charitable body. Our awards have allowed us to work with users of research as detailed in REF3. In addition to appointing postdoctoral researchers we have used our research income to run conferences on dialect and social change in urban diasporic communities (Sharma, 2010) and on the morphosemantics of person and number features (Adger and Harbour 2011), and to present our research at numerous international conferences. For the 7 staff members involved, the funded research has so far directly led to 24 journal articles, 4 monographs/edited volumes and 39 presentations at international conferences.

Operational infrastructure We have been assisted by the College's Joint Research Management Office, which supplies information, costings, expert advice and administrative aid on funding mechanisms, working closely with individuals who are developing grant applications. QMUL's Business Development unit provides in-depth help with proposal writing including pathways to impact plans for funding applications. Within SLLF there is a financial officer whose work is dedicated to the administration of research grants and the support of research. Linguistics has a Research Ethics Advisor who was a founder member of the QMUL Research Ethics Committee. The School provides and regularly upgrades (on a three to five year basis) appropriate and comprehensive computing resource for research staff, who also benefit from the presence of two dedicated IT technicians in the building.

Following a series of successful Science Research Infrastructure Fund bids, we now have a sound proofed recording studio and a new Linguistics Research Centre (a suite containing a PhD workroom, a seminar/meeting room that doubles as post-doc hot desk space, a separate office for visitors, and two experimental rooms, one for eye-tracking and one for general behavioural testing, with associated computers).

Scholarly infrastructure QM Library holds most major journals electronically, and we have full access to the other libraries of the federal University of London as well as the London-based British Library. The remodelling of QM's library in 2011 includes Academic Reading rooms for staff and research students. QMUL has financed the purchase of multiple licences for major corpora such as the British National Corpus and the International Corpus of English; most other major digital corpora are available via QMUL's subscription to *The Sketch Engine*.

Organisational infrastructure: **School** The College's devolved system of financing allows the School significant latitude in the allocation of resources; 22 per cent of its annual consumables budget is dedicated to research support. All research-active staff are entitled to £300 annual research allowance and may apply for research expenses in excess of this amount up to £1200. Thanks to this arrangement, Linguistics staff have presented papers at over 150 international conferences over the period. Research students are eligible to apply to this fund: 2-3 Linguistics students per year have been sponsored to present papers at national and international

conferences. A new initiative agreed between the Faculty and the School allows holders of FEC research grants access to 10% of the overheads of these grants as pump priming funding for new research. This last policy has led, for example, to the new artificial language research that Adger is doing with Culbertson at George Mason, and to Cheshire's 2011 ESRC Follow-on-Fund award (she used this money to buy herself time to write the application). In addition, the School runs a yearly Research Environment Enhancement Competition with a budget of £5000 per annum; Linguistics successfully bid for funds to enhance PhD research training in advanced statistics (£1000, 2012).

Organisational infrastructure: Department Both FLRG and SLRG run an alternate fortnightly reading and discussion group, attended by all researchers in the group i.e. academics, postdocs, visitors and research students. We organize a research seminar series with external speakers, attended by all members of the department and funded by the School; speakers include e.g. Edwin Williams (Princeton) and John Rickford (Stanford). We also organize public lectures with major figures in Linguistics as speakers e.g. Noam Chomsky, Oct 2011; Peter Trudgill, June 2012. We all attend the weekly Postgraduate Discussion Group, organized by our graduate students for feedback on their ongoing work. In addition, we all attend ad hoc LingLunch meetings, where academic staff, visitors, and postdocs present their ongoing research results or future research plans. Discussion groups and LingLunches serve as a mechanism for cross-fertilization of ideas, allowing us to develop more rounded proposals. Harbour edits *Queen Mary Occasional Papers in Linguistics* (linguistics.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/research/papers-and-publications/qmopal) where both staff and students publish working papers. This way of structuring our research activities ensures that all researchers gain both focus and breadth in their work. The contiguity of staff offices and the use of the new Linguistics Labs for these activities also contribute to a rich and supportive research environment.

The department's research environment has led to more than 30 academic visitors over the period, from Brazil, Pakistan, Canada, Japan, the USA, and the EU, with visiting PhD students and postdocs from countries including Brazil, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Spain Sweden and USA. Space permitting, visitors are given a workstation in the lab, and participate in our various events. The College's competitive Distinguished Visiting Fellows Scheme funds eminent researchers from abroad who wish to spend sabbatical time at Queen Mary: they receive expenses as well as accommodation in the new £45million Westfield Student Village. Linguistics succeeded in gaining funding from this scheme in 2013 with the election of Prof Naomi Nagy from U Toronto and Profs. Alec Marantz and Liina Pylkkänen from NYU. All three interacted informally with staff and students and joined our discussion groups. Marantz and Pylkkänen led 2 workshops with invited internal and external speakers. Nagy gave a Research Training workshop, a talk in our research seminar series, and was a panel member for the launch of *Multilingual Capital* (see REF 3a).

Strategy for achieving an appropriate balance between research infrastructures The Linguistics Research Director and Linguistics Director of Graduate Studies are members of the School Research and Graduate Studies Committee, which establishes and regulates different aspects of the scholarly, organizational and operational infrastructures that support research, in relation to the College's overall Research Strategy and Strategic Plan (overseen by the QMUL Vice-Principal for Research).

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Maintaining a high degree of engagement with the development of the discipline at national and international levels forms part of our research strategy. In addition to the research activities within the department, QMUL is a constituent member of the University of London, which increases the range of linguistics activities in which we engage as well as the number of participants in our own. We have funded research grants with colleagues at Birkbeck and Kings College London, as well as with colleagues at York, Durham and Paris-X. Beyond the formal links with international research groups mentioned in section b above, we all have international collaborators, too numerous to mention. We also have close links with users of research, as detailed in REF 3a.

We contribute to the infrastructure of the discipline as editors of journals (Adger, Editor of

Syntax since mid 2006; Sharma, Associate Editor of *Journal of Sociolinguistics* since 2011; Cheshire, Editor-elect of *Language in Society* since Jan 2013, Editor from September 2013) and as editorial board members of 16 international journals (*Biolinguistics*, *English WorldWide*, *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics*, *Journal of Language and Sexuality*, *Journal of Linguistics*, *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*, *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, *Language Variation and Change Asia-Pacific*, *Languages and Linguistics*, *Lingua*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Multilingua*, *Natural Language Semantics*, *Semantics and Pragmatics*, *Te Reo*). We also (co-) edit book series e.g. Adger and Borer, *Oxford Studies in Theoretical Linguistics* since 2001; Cheshire, Blackwell-Wiley's *Language and Social Change* series since 2006. We contribute textbooks e.g. Elbourne, *A Slim Guide to Semantics*, OUP 2011; and overview articles (a small sample: Elbourne, 2008 *Language and Linguistics Compass* article on the interpretation of pronouns; Levon, 2013 chapter in the *Encyclopedia of Human Sexuality*; Harbour, 2011 Kiowa-Tanoan Linguistics in *Oxford Bibliographies Online*).

The corpora we have compiled for our own research contribute to the research base of the discipline. For example, Adger and Harbour's collection of Kiowa texts is lodged at the Kiowa Tribal Museum, Oklahoma; transcripts from Cheshire's research in London are lodged with ESDS and also available as a corpus of London English via *The Sketch Engine* (used, for example, by Lucas and Willis (2012, *English Language and Linguistics* 16: 459-85 and for many MA and undergraduate dissertations (e.g. Sophie Holmes' MA, Glasgow University 2011).

We are invited members of research assessment boards such as the ESRC Peer Review College (Sharma), the Irish Research Council (Adger), the Royal Society Newton Fellowships (Adger); British Academy (Cheshire; elected Fellow 2011), national research assessment panels (UK 2014 and New Zealand 2012 REF panels, Cheshire). Between us, we have been external examiner for 25 PhD dissertations and *Habilitationen* in universities in the UK, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Spain, given 28 invited international keynote lectures e.g. Brazilian Formal Linguistics Association (ANPOLL) Maceió, Brazil, 2011 (Adger), West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), Los Angeles, USA, 2008 (Borer), International Computer Archive of Modern and Medieval English (ICAME), Santiago de Compostela, Spain, May 2013 (Cheshire), Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS), Chicago, April 2013 (Harbour), International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE) Spring School, Freiburg, Germany, April 2013 (Sharma), more than 40 invited international lectures and contributions to colloquia e.g. École normale supérieure, Paris, 2010 (Elbourne), University of Stockholm in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Mind in Nature, Oslo, 2009 (Martí) and many conference and invited research seminar presentations, too numerous to list. Levon was Distinguished Visiting Professor at U São Paulo, Brazil, June 2012. All of us, including all junior staff, regularly review for journals and book publishers, national and international grant awarding bodies, and abstracts for conferences. Senior members of staff all serve on professorial appointment and tenure panels in the UK and beyond.

As a founding member of the ACTL (Advanced Core Training in Linguistics) consortium (http://www.actl.ucl.ac.uk) we collaborate with linguists from further afield in graduate RT in London. We also take part in RT at national and international levels (a small selection: LISSIM, India Adger, Borer; ABRALIN, Brazil, 2011, Borer; LOT Summer School, Groningen, June 2013, Harbour, Summer School in Sociolinguistics, Glasgow, 2011, Levon, Sharma; LSA Summer Institute, 2009, Sharma. This benefits the wider research community, as do the international conferences that several of us have (co-) organised. These include major events such as the International Conference on the Linguistics of Contemporary English (2009, Cheshire and Sharma) as well as more focused workshops such as the German Research Council funded Joint workshop on pronouns and agreement with Universität Potsdam (2011, Adger, Harbour with former QMUL PhD Kleeman), a joint workshop on Phi Theory with the University of Cambridge (Adger, Harbour, 2010) and a joint plenary session at the 2nd Joint meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Université de Québec à Montréal, 2011 (Harbour).

The UoA as a whole has publications well in excess of the 4 per FTE required for REF 2014. For the assessment period we have, between us, a further 6 books and edited volumes, a special issue of a journal, 40 other journal articles and 36 book chapters. The research culture that is supported by our research environment will allow us to continue this level of achievement during the next assessment period.