Institution: Canterbury Christ Church University

Unit of Assessment: Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management (36)

a. Overview

The Unit is based in the Department of Media, Art and Design, which is located within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The Department was established in 2011 when the Department of Media merged with the Department of Art. The merger was in recognition of the converging research and teaching interests of the two hitherto separate Units. The Department operated over three campuses (Canterbury, Broadstairs and Folkestone) until September 2013, when staff and programmes based at Folkestone transferred to Canterbury, accelerating the process of integrating teaching and research activities across the department.

b. Research Strategy

There has not been an entry by the Unit into any previous research assessment exercise, though four members of the Department entered RAE 2008 as part of other submissions of the University (**Blackman** in Education; **Butler** and King (left in 2012) in English; and **Gulyas** in History). A new research strategy was introduced in the Department of Media in 2008 which aimed to build capacity and strengthen the research base in order to foster an environment which supports the development of high quality research. Over the last five years the strategy has evolved to include the identification of, and support for, priority research areas, recognising that through them a stronger, collaborative research culture could be fostered, leading to sustainable research activities. The merger of the two departments in 2011 provided further impetus to refresh and augment priority research areas, namely (1) practice-based research in media, art and design; (2) digital transformations in media and cultural practices; (3) film studies; and (4) cultural studies.

Headline indicators of the assessment period show a significant expansion of the Department's research base. The number of quality research outputs has grown, which is reflected in the fact that fifteen members of staff are entered in REF 2014 compared with four in RAE 2008. Three members of staff (**T. Long, Meades,** Goulimaris (left in 2013)) completed PhDs during the assessment period and another four (**McLean,** Hall, Howe, Vale) are currently registered for PhDs. The number of research students has also increased. While there had been no PhD completion by research students in the Unit during the previous RAE period, six PhD students completed between 2008 and 2013 and a further thirteen are currently registered. Knowledge Exchange activities have expanded considerably, which is evidenced by a significant increase in income amounting to £98,272 awarded during the assessment period from external sources and £101,631 from HEIF (Higher Education Innovation Fund) through competitive bidding within the University. The Department's enhanced research profile is also shown in the increased number of international conferences it has held (e.g. "Work and Leisure, the 43rd Annual Conference of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals" in 2011 with over a hundred participants) and the international visiting fellows it has hosted (Rankin from Illinois State University, US with fellowship from Fulbright Senior Specialist Programme in 2011 and Hammer from Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary with Leverhulme fellowship in 2011-2012). These achievements and overall research aims were realised through the following strategic objectives:

   a)   Develop an effective structure to lead research
Major changes were introduced in terms of enhancing the structure of research management. A five-year research strategy with annual priorities was established, mirroring the Faculty and University research strategies. A Research and Knowledge Exchange (KE) Executive Committee was set up to lead and manage research matters. The committee assigned roles to its members, each linked to specific objectives, namely: Coordinator of Research Environment (**Birtwistle**), Coordinator of Research Support and Funding (**Gulyas**), Coordinator of Research Students (**Blackman**) and Coordinator of Knowledge Exchange (**Fox**). There is also a departmental Research and KE Committee, which is the forum where research matters are discussed and planned with members of the Department. There are, in addition, Faculty and University research committees to which the Unit contributes within a thriving group of arts and humanities disciplines.

b) *Enhance research culture and increase the number of quality research outputs by targeted support and widening the pool of research-active staff*

A targeted support system was developed which included financial support for priority activities, peer mentoring and staff development. The Department received a total £132,500 Quality-related Research (QR) funds from the University during the assessment period to support its strategic aims and objectives. These funds were mostly allocated through competitive bidding in different forms, including study leaves, shorter teaching remissions, small research grants, support for research events (including conferences), seminars and visiting speakers, as well as research internships. Quality research outputs were supported through study leaves and small research grants, while study leaves were also used to support staff at final stages of a PhD. Each of the four priority research areas listed above received support in these ways, including awards for practice-based outputs in media, art and design (**J. Long, T. Long, Shepherdson, Stefanovski, McLean**); digital transformations in media and cultural practices (for outputs by **Meades** and **Gulyas** and a research project by Bartlette); for book or peer reviewed journal articles in film studies (**Birtwistle, Fox, Butler**); and in cultural studies (**Blackman, Butler** and King).

The pool of research-active staff was also widened through the recruitment of early career researchers, implementing a mentoring system and supporting members of the Department to set up research groups in priority research areas in order to provide focus and vehicles for collaboration. Research groups which have been active during the assessment period include the Powell Research Group, Practice-Based Research Group and a cross-faculty, interdisciplinary research group on Social Media. To strengthen the research culture and identity of the Unit, broad interdisciplinary themes, such as 'Materiality and Ethics', were developed to foster collaboration. Although members of the Department carry out research in different disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas, what characterises the Unit is a shared sense of ethical responsibility to our objects of study and how this sense of responsibility translates into a repeated insistence on the objects' material existence in defined contexts. This theme has generated a number of research outputs (e.g. a series of lectures by internationally recognised figures in the field, such as Fred Inglis (22/06/2011), Joanne Finkelstein (13/05/2011) and Lyn Pykett (01/03/2011); the 'Angels and Demons' symposium (2010) and a related special edition of the journal *Critical Survey (*Vol 23, No 2)) and gave focus for two terms to our University-wide Theory Reading Group (open to staff as well as PhD students and was set up by **Ambrose** and King) which has explored interdisciplinary subject areas and key thinkers.

Departmental research funds have also been used to boost the research environment through subsidising conferences and symposia, holding vibrant seminar series (including invited external speakers such as Sam Belinfante (University of Leeds; 01/2013); Blanca Regina (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain; 11/2012); Mihaly Szilagyi-Gal (ELTE, Hungary; 10/2012); Vihra Barova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria; 04/2013)), and research labs and workshops (e.g. developing and funding practice-based research (11/2008), bid writing (12/2012), KE (12/2011 and 06/2012) and new research projects (01/2013)). Conferences and symposia have been hosted in each priority area including (1) in practice-based research in media, art and design: "Nostalgias: Visualising Longing" (2013), "Politics, Poetics and Practice: New Paradigms for Theory-Practice Interchange in Creative Media Production" (2011), "Reinventing the Dial: Explorations in Experimental Radio Practice" (2009), "Negotiating the Mediascape: Theory and Practice Interchange in Contemporary Media" (2008); (2) digital transformations in media and cultural practices: "Communities in the Digital Age" (2013), "Social Media, Journalism and Communication Professionals" (2012), "Audiences, Users, and Producers of Public Service Content" (2012); (3) film studies: "The Big Screen v. The Small Screen" (2011), "Nothing Happens: Narrative suspension in film and video" (2009), "Film and Pedagogy" (2009); and (4) cultural studies: "Work and Leisure, the 43rd Annual Conference of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals" (2011).

c) *Establish and support an active community of research students*

A variety of strategies were put in place to establish and maintain an active community of research students. The number of active PhD supervisors increased through mentoring and staff development from four in 2008 to seven in 2013. The Unit has been successful in securing at least one of the PhD scholarships offered by the University through competitive bidding every year during the assessment period. The Department also improved the environment for research students by providing opportunities for them to work as research assistants on projects run by staff members (e.g. McPherson on **Gulyas'** local communities project; Furze on Michael Powell archive;

Readshaw on **Gulyas'** social media and journalism project); assist with organising academic conferences and symposia; and joining Departmental research groups and the Theory Reading Group.

d) Increase the support provided for income generation to foster a sustainable research environment

Bid writing for research and KE income was supported in a variety of ways, including using QR funds to provide teaching remission, holding workshops about income generation and peer support. As a result applications for funding have increased. The Unit has been notably successful in securing KE income both from external sources (e.g. Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund) as well as HEIF funds offered within the University through competitive bidding. KE was targeted to underpin sustainability of research and enhance impact. KE projects have also helped to create formal and informal partnerships with external organisations (e.g. with Thanet District Council, Canterbury District Voluntary Alliance, Cision, Animate and Create), which in turn led to research projects and outputs.

Whilst the focus of the last five years has been on building capacity, the strategic aim for the 2014-2019 period is to foster high quality research with strong impact in the four priority areas within a vibrant research environment. To facilitate this two research centres will be established:

(i) a departmental research centre for media, culture and communities building on existing research and KE work in different priority areas on communities (e.g. **Blackman, Gulyas, Meades,** Bartlette**,** Jones) and aiming to build a beacon of excellence; and

(ii) a Faculty centre for practice-based research in the arts, building on the interdisciplinary expertise the Unit has developed in this area (e.g. **T. Long**, **J. Long, McLean, Stefanovski,** Hall) and aiming to act as a catalyst for and promoter of practice-based research.

The objectives to realise the strategic aim for the next assessment period are to:

a) *Increase the number of high quality research outputs* - by maintaining support for high quality individual research using research support funds and staff development mechanisms but prioritising collaborative research in priority areas and support for early career researchers;

b) *Enhance the sustainability of the research environment* – by focusing on increasing research and KE income through the research centres, as well as through, remissions from QR funds, staff development, supporting collaborations, mentoring and peer support;

c) *Grow the community of research students* – by strengthening support for and recruitment of research students through the validation of a new PhD subject area in Film Studies, launching an MA by Research and incorporating studentships in research bids;

d) *Foster high impact research* - by establishing the two research centres, developing strategic partnerships with non-academic organisations, and building on current KE activities.

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c. People, including:
I.   Staffing strategy and staff development

The main research-related aims of the Department in relation to staffing and staff development have been to attract, recruit and retain researchers; ensure that they operate productively; and offer an effective support system especially for newly appointed and early career researchers. Most staff are engaged in recognised research and the number of staff whose outputs are being submitted has increased from four in RAE 2008 to fifteen in REF 2014, evidence of a staffing strategy supportive of research. With the growth in undergraduate student numbers during the assessment period, academic staff base has increased from 28 to 36 FTE in the Department. Most staff appointed have been research active and were recruited specifically to ensure the vitality and sustainability of the prioritised areas. A strategic aim was to recruit early career researchers active in one of the priority areas, these included **McLean,** Ball, Ikoniadou (left in 2013), Vale (practice-based research); **Smith,** Bartlette (digital transformations); **Sanz Sabido** (cultural studies); and **Pallant** (film studies). The employment of these early career researchers has brought innovation and flexibility, boosting the research culture in the Unit. Alongside new appointments a number of colleagues have taken up research leadership positions, with **Birtwistle**, **Gulyas** and King all being promoted to Readerships during the assessment period, as well as **Blackman** and Bradshaw to Professorships. There are clear procedures and criteria for promotion to Reader and conferment of the title Professor, and applications are invited on an annual, open basis, directly to the University's Promotions Panel or Professorship Committee.

Staff are supported in their research through Departmental and University-wide policies and frameworks. The latter include wide-ranging training and development opportunities aimed at supporting and enhancing the personal, professional and career skills of emergent and established researchers. The Researcher Development Programme, facilitated by the Research and Enterprise Development Centre (RED) and the Graduate School, is organised around the four main domains of the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF). The programme offers specialist training and bespoke individual support to facilitate the on-going development of researchers. These include training in research ethics and governance, project management, presentation and publication, dissemination, bid writing and PhD supervision. The Department has also organised in-house workshops and training events to meet the specific needs of research staff and groups. These include practice-based research workshops, research and KE labs, and sessions on how to enhance the impact of research and write funding bids. The Unit has increased the number of active PhD supervisors. This has been achieved through the mentoring system within the Department as well as through the University's Supervisor Development Programme. The latter consists of eight weekly seminars facilitated by experienced academics, and an annual supervisory conference. There has also been an increase in the number of staff who have examined PhDs at other universities, including both in practice and non-practice based research (e.g. **Birtwistle, Blackman, Butler**).

Early career researchers are supported in the above mentioned Researcher Development Programme through a series of 'getting started in…' sessions covering a range of research related topics. In addition, all new staff are appointed a mentor from within the Department who typically has specific expertise in a cognate research area and experience in balancing the demands of research, teaching and administration. This provides opportunities to discuss research aspirations, and the support available within the Department and the University. Early career researchers are allocated a reduced teaching load in their first year, which is reduced further if they are undertaking the University's PGCLT-HE programme (required of all academics without two years' teaching experience). New staff have been invited and joined one of the research groups as well as participated in peer support activities.

The Unit's staff development strategy uses both the formal annual appraisal system to identify researchers' staff development needs as well as the utilisation of QR funds and departmental resources to support a wide range of staff development activities. The Department's Research and KE Committee invites bids for QR funds which it allocates against agreed published criteria through competitive bidding, with priority given to activities and research that address strategic objectives, such as income generation and high quality research outputs. Study leaves have been granted either for specific research outputs or to complete major staff development activities, such as gaining a PhD. Support is targeted at priority subject areas as the following illustrative examples show: (1) practice-based research: research grants for **Shepherdson, T. Long, J. Long, McLean,** Hall and Ball to support the creation and/or exhibition of practice-based research outputs; study leave for **T. Long** and Hall to complete PhDs; teaching remission for bid writing for a design project for Ikoniadou; (2) digital transformations: teaching remissions for **Gulyas** to complete journal articles on professions and communities in the digital age; teaching remissions for **Shepherdson** for completing research outputs as well as bid writing for a community based photography archival project; a small research grant for Bartlett for an exploratory pilot project on a digital media related health risk in communities; (3) film studies: study leave for **Birtwistle** to complete a book, *Cinesonica*; teaching remission for **Butler** to write up *Solar Flares: Science Fiction in the 1970s;* and (4) cultural studies: teaching remissions for **Blackman** to write peer-reviewed journal articles and a book chapter on youth culture as well as for King (left in 2011). Typically, the Department has funded two study leaves per year and granted three to five shorter teaching remissions for targeted research objectives. Staff are funded to attend at least one conference a year and the Department supports the hosting of conferences and symposia from the Departmental budget.

All staff follow the appraisal system consisting of a minimum of one formal appraisal meeting each year. The appraisal enables individual staff members to reflect on their contribution to the Department and the University; agree objectives for the coming year; and identify relevant training and staff development needs. In relation to equality and diversity, the University is committed to providing an environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. This commitment is embedded in all activities and is evidenced by the fact that the University has held Investors in

People status since 2004, been awarded the two ticks symbol for its commitment to the employment of disabled people and for its role as a Stonewall Diversity Champion.

c. II.   Research students

Building an active research student community has been a strategic objective throughout the assessment period. PhD student numbers have increased significantly as a result of a strategy to strengthen the supervisory team, enhance the research-student support structure and improve the research environment. Six PhD students completed between 2008 and 2013 and a further thirteen are currently registered. Five PhD students have been successful in winning University studentships in the assessment period. Research students in the Unit have worked in Media and Cultural Studies or Sociology, but the current objective is to validate a new subject area in Film Studies to cover a priority research field.

Students are admitted to the MPhil/PhD programme after an interview with two senior members of Department and after approval of their proposal by the University's Research Degree Sub-Committee. The recruitment and progress of all MPhil/PhD students is overseen by the Departmental Coordinator of Research Students, currently **Blackman.** Students are appointed a First and Second supervisor and a Chair. There are regular meetings with the supervisors and there is an annual review with the whole supervisory team in order to monitor student progress and to ensure timely completion. The annual review process requires the student to provide detailed evidence of engagement with generic and subject-specific research training. Upgrade from MPhil to PhD asks for demonstrable and substantive engagement with the processes of research training, while allowing for considerable flexibility in the individual forms in which such engagement takes place. For the upgrade, students are required to make a formal presentation of their research findings and submit two completed draft chapters.

PhD students are integrated into the research culture of the Department in various ways. They present and participate in the Department's research seminar series and are appointed as Research Assistants on staff research projects and staff-led conferences. PhD students are invited to attend the Departmental Research and KE Committee as well as encouraged to join one of the research groups. The Department supports the development of its PhD students through conference grants and bursaries. University funded postgraduates also receive an additional £500 per annum to support their research. In addition to the Department's own resources (see below), all research students have access to a dedicated, fully-equipped study area open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Research students have the opportunity to teach a controlled number of hours on undergraduate modules relevant to their studies. Staff (e.g. **Blackman** and **Ambrose)** contribute to the Graduate School's Researcher Development Programme through undertaking workshops as part of the PhD Research Training Programme. Cross-institutional workshops are also organised to give a richer research student experience. **Blackman** has run collaborative PhD workshops in the subject area with the University of Kent since 2011. PhD student support has also involved wider mentoring about academic activities and some research collaborations. For instance, **Blackman** has published articles with Commane, Doherty and McPherson (latter forthcoming) and delivered conference papers with Commane and McPherson.

The Graduate School's Researcher Development Programme (see above) is offered to all postgraduate research students. It provides research skills training and development, including in-depth modules in quantitative and qualitative research methods, generic sessions on research design, methodology and theory, data collection and analysis techniques, project management skills, specialist software training (e.g. SPSS & NVivo), presentation and publication activity and Viva preparation. The Researcher Development Programme works within the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, the QAA Code of Practice for research degree programmes and the 'Roberts' recommendations for postgraduate researchers and research staff. All research students belong to the Postgraduate Research Association (PGRA), organised by research students with the backing of the Graduate School. The PGRA represents the interests of research students in liaison with University authorities and other relevant bodies, and leads an annual conference based around student presentations as well as a number of social events. The Unit's PhD students have organised PGRA conferences hosted by the University (Doherty and McPherson in 2011 and Dragonova in 2012) and have played important roles as PhD student representatives for the whole institution.

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d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

A key strategic objective for the assessment period has been to increase the support provided for income generation in order to foster a sustainable research environment. Through targeted funding and Departmental as well as University support (including training, mentoring, specialised workshops and labs), the number of staff engaged in bid-writing activities has increased significantly. Applications are submitted regularly to a variety of funding bodies. Although HESA records show the Unit's research income for the assessment period as zero, members of the Department have been successful securing funding which directly or indirectly supported research. Notably, the Unit has been awarded £98,272 by external bodies for KE projects and a further £101,631 from HEIF through competitive bidding within the University. This reflects the Unit's strategy to use KE to underpin the sustainability of the research environment, enhance the impact of its research and foster formal and informal partnerships with external organisations. For example, **Shepherdson's** *South East Archive of Seaside Photography (*SEAS Photography*)* project gained funding of £75,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund in partnership with Thanet District Council and Margate Museum. The project conserves previously perishable and unique artefacts in a robust digital format and thereby preserving part of the cultural heritage of the South East of England. Impact has also been achieved through a variety of public engagements including an online archive, public talks, exhibitions and free short courses on digital tools and cultural preservation. The project also led to research outputs including the digital archive and peer-reviewed exhibitions.

Other external awards with a research dimension include **Gulyas'** social media and museums consultancy project funded by the Arts Council England through the Museum Development Service for Kent and Medway (£6,373); **Shepherdson's** *Get A Shot: New Vision: Promoting Progression in Photography* project funded by The Creative Way, Thames Gateway (£15,000); and **Gulyas'** international comparative study on social media and journalism supported by multinational communication company Cision (£1,700 income as well as administrative costs of the project). Members of the Unit have also run or participated in funded projects which were important for their research but where the award did not go through Departmental accounts. Examples include **Pallant,** who was a co-investigator on a British Academy funded project, *Storyboarding: A Critical History* (£9,900); Ikoniadou's project on the imagery of crisis funded by the Jan Van Eyck Academie in the Netherlands (£3,500); and Hall's Radio Arts Group project supported by Kent County Council (£1,500).

Research and KE income generation activities are supported by Departmental and University-wide infrastructure. At Unit level, research grant applications are supported, in the first instance, by a mentor and subsequently, for larger bids, by a peer review meeting that draws on expertise from across the Department and Faculty. QR funds were used to support income generation activities (e.g. teaching remission) as well as the Unit's own workshops to facilitate bid writing. The Unit's strategy is to ensure that organisational and operational support help direct the research ideas and plans of individual staff to the most appropriate application. The main University structure is the Research and Enterprise Development Centre (RED) which provides extensive research funding support and helps researchers with the sourcing and identification of funding opportunities, bid development support and advice, facilitation of peer review through to project set-up and ongoing project management support.

A well-equipped scholarly infrastructure is provided by the University, which made major investments during the assessment period in a £30m library and high quality online resources. The Unit's researchers also have access to the Department's extensive specialist facilities. These include art studios (Sidney Cooper Centre and Augustine Art Centre), gallery spaces (Old Lookout, Burton Gallery, Sidney Cooper Gallery), video-editing facilities, film and tv studios, sound studios, a photography dark room and studio, professional-level cameras, lighting and sound-recording kit and specialist computer labs with industry-standard hardware and software. The Department's specialist facilities have been supported by generous annual capital grants both at the Canterbury and Broadstairs campuses. The Department also employs six technicians who provide specialist support both for teaching and research.

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e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

National and international collaborations help to underpin the work of the Unit's researchers. These include collaborative research projects from **Ambrose** (The Estate of Francis Bacon),

Birtwistle (Illinois State University, USA), **Blackman** (Goldsmiths, University of London; University of Kent; University of Teesside), **Fox** (University of Ulster and Dublin City University, Ireland), **Gulyas** (Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary), **McLean** (University of Manchester), **Pallant** (Bangor University), **Shepherdson** (Photography Archive Research Centre, LCC), **Sanz Sabido** (De Montfort University, University of Leicester, University of Seville, Spain). The Powell Research Group has assembled an archive of artefacts linked to the Canterbury-born filmmaker Michael Powell with support from the director's widow, Oscar-winning film editor Thelma Schoonmaker-Powell, who is an Honorary Fellow of the University. An important part of collaborative research has been with a variety of academic and non-academic partners in the South East of England. These have included art projects (Hawkins, **Shepherdson**, Frost), animation projects and events (**Pallant)**, archival film project (Jones), preservation of cultural heritage of communities (**Shepherdson**), media-practice projects for disadvantaged groups in the community (**Shepherdson**), local media and local communication projects (**Gulyas**). The Unit had two visiting fellows during the examined period (Rankin, US, on a Fulbright fellowship and Hammer, Hungary, on a Leverhulme fellowship) both of whom carried out collaborative research with members of the Department. This included Hammer and **Gulyas** co-organising an international symposium, "Audiences, Users, and Producers of Public Service Content" (2012) and co-editing a book of selected papers, *Public Service Media in the Digital Age: International Perspectives* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013). Collaboration has also included research with multinational commercial partners, such as **Gulyas'** work with Cision Germany and Cision UK on social media and journalism and **McLean's** work with International Flavours and Fragrances.

The contributions of members of staff to their respective disciplines is illustrated by the editorial positions held by colleagues: e.g. **Blackman** (Associate Editor for *Journal of Youth Studies*; Editor for YOUNG: Nordic Journal of Youth Research; and on the editorial boards of *International Journal of Youth Studies* and *Sociology*); **Butler** (Editor for *Extrapolation*; on the editorial board of *Science Fiction Studies)*; **Pallant** (Guest Editor for *Comparative American Studies*; Reviews Editor for *Journal of Screenwriting).* Several members of the Department act as peer-reviewers for academic publishers (e.g. **Shepherdson** for Routledge and Pearsons; **Butler** for Pluto, the University of Illinois Press, Weslyan University Press; **Birtwistle** for Manchester University Press; **Pallant** for Palgrave and University of Nebraska Press) as well as referees and reviewers for journals (e.g. **Ambrose** for *Film Philosophy*; **Birtwistle** for *Screen;* **Butler** for *Science Fiction Studies, Utopian Studies*; **Blackman** for *Sociology; Youth Studies; Sage Open; Sociology Compass;* **Gulyas** for *Digital Journalism, New Media & Society, British Journal of Management* and *Media, Culture & Society;* **Pallant** for *Journal of Screenwriting* and *inMedia;* **Sanz Sabido** for *Critical Contemporary Culture* and *Platform*). Staff are members of their respective specialised networks: North American Levinas Society **(Ambrose);** Digital Economy 'Communities and Culture' Network+ (**Gulyas)**; British Photographic History Network (**Shepherdson)**; Screenwriting Research Network **(Stefanovski** and **Pallant)**; British Fulbright Scholars Association (**Pallant**); MeCCSA Social Movements Network and IAMCR Emerging Scholars Network **(Sanz Sabido)**. **Sanz Sabido** was also a chair of the MeCCSA Postgraduate Network (2011-2013). **J. Long** is an elected Academician at the Royal Hibernian Academy, Ireland. Colleagues have been members of a large variety of subject associations and learned societies. The Department is or has been institutional member of MeCCSA, APHE, AOP, ECREA, BJTC.

Members of the Unit have served and sustained their disciplines through membership of high-level Research Councils or similar national and international committees: **Blackman** is a member of the ESRC Peer Review College and **Birtwistle** of the AHRC Peer Review College; **Pallant** is a Reviewer for the Fullbright Commission; and **Gulyas** is a Grant Reviewer for the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich and the ESRC. Staff have given a range of invited lectures, keynotes, screenings/performances including **Butler** (Science Fiction Across Media: Adaptation/Novelisation, KU Leuven, Belgium, 2009; Worlds Apart Science Fiction Conference, University of Hertfordshire, 2012); **T. Long** (European Art Research Network, Germany, 2012); **Birtwistle** (Pai Ching-jui at National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, 2010; Tunghai University Taiwan (2010); South Thames College, 2006-); and **Gulyas** (Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary, 2011). **Butler** was invited to co-organise the 'HG Wells: From Kent to Cosmopolis' conference with the HG Wells Society in 2010, and Ikoniadou co-organised a conference on 'Imagery of Crisis', Jan van Eyck Academie, Netherlands, 2012. The Department has hosted several conferences and symposia during the assessment period, as listed above in section b.