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Institution: Swansea University
Unit of Assessment: 28a – Modern Languages and Linguistics
a. Overview

Internationally leading research in Modern Languages and Linguistics has been carried out at Swansea since the University's foundation in 1920. The Department of Languages, Translation and Communication today conducts distinctive work spanning European Film Studies, French, German, Hispanic Studies, Italian, and Translation Studies. The growth of the Department's activities is reflected in **the 50% increase in the number of completed PhDs per annum** compared with the last census period; grant capture is also increasing: according to HESA data, research income for 2011/12 was **£2,650 per academic FTE** (compared with the sector median of £2,200). The Unit publishes in English, Welsh, and the languages researched.

The Unit comprises 17 FTE research staff (12 submitted, with 3 Early Career Researchers appointed since RAE 2008). Part of the College of Arts and Humanities, we benefit from a well-resourced environment supported by the College's Research Institute for Arts and Humanities (RIAH) and five research centres run either from within the Department or in collaboration with colleagues from other areas in the College or University. Their remits are: The Comparative Study of the Americas (dir. Davies); Contemporary German Culture (dir. Preece); Gender, Culture and Society (dir. Haines, 2007-09); Medieval and Early Modern Research (dir. Williams); and Migration Policy Research (co-dir. Cheesman).

b. Research Strategy

The Department's vision is *to be a highly interdisciplinary, research-led, internationally focussed centre of excellence that enhances, supports and sustains modern languages research of the highest calibre*. This is in line with the University's mission to be a research-intensive Top 30 UK University by 2017.

The strategy aims to: (a) develop staff to enable them to achieve international excellence; (b) secure research income from a range of sponsors to contribute to the sustainability of the environment; (c) nurture a strong postgraduate community; and (d) maximise impact by focussing on research at the edges and intersections of the Department's constituent disciplines.

Through this strategy, which is fully supported by the University's Senior Management Team and precisely aligned with the University's strategic ambitions, the Unit will continue to:

- complete individual and joint publication projects of the highest calibre;
- change perceptions of the literatures and cultures of the languages we study through publication of **high-impact research and other forms of public engagement**, such as translation, blogs, events, and literary journalism;
- be **a regional and national hub**, linking the local translation industry with international networks to ensure translators benefit from the applications of our research;
- capitalise on our generic expertise to supervise an increased number of PhDs in cross-over fields such as Translation and Media Studies, thus enhancing our Environment;
- exploit the momentum of Cheesman's 'TransVis' project to cement our reputation as **a world-leading centre for the application of digital technology** for studying literary translation.

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Performance since RAE 2008

Researchers were returned to RAE 2008 as French, German, Hispanic Studies, Italian, and Media Studies. Most were already in a Department of Modern Languages and used to cross-language collaboration in areas such as comparative and contemporary literature, crime fiction, gender and memory studies, the study of the Americas, and translation. Key ambitions set out in RAE 2008 were to increase recruitment of research students and grant income from external sources, and grow collaborative research between areas. The success of the strategy can be seen in:

- the **50% increase in PhD completions per annum**;
- the wider range of funders and higher number of individual grants and funding applications;
- the appointment of three Early Career Researchers since 2008;
- the emphasis on interdisciplinary research that has led to the consolidation of the Department as a **cohesive, cross-language research unit**.

The establishment in 2009 of RIAH as the College's knowledge transfer arm has facilitated collaboration with internal and external organisations. RIAH has improved communication between researchers, enhanced support for PGRs and ECRs, and assisted staff in developing funding bids.

Sustainability and future plans

The primary objectives for the Unit's development over the next five years are to deliver a truly **integrated, interdisciplinary research environment** that continues to attract talented staff and research students; to increase further the quality and quantity of research with international reach and significance; and to foster even stronger collaborative links with the translation industry. Research will continue to be aligned to AHRC and other major funders' priorities, with a key aim of attracting significant (£1M plus) research grants, for instance through bringing the 'TransVis' initiative to completion. Grants for the next period have already been secured from the AHRC, British Academy, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA).

The strategy for the next five years is therefore to build on current strengths and successes, developing the research base through further targeted appointments as necessary to maintain and grow specific areas. Sustainability will be secured through fostering **new, interdisciplinary collaborations** and further developing interdisciplinary areas, such as our work with Computer Science. Other objectives include:

- exploiting international links, especially with partners in France, Germany, and the US, to produce publications of lasting value to the research community in the UK and abroad (e.g. Large and Preece's work on editions of Nietzsche and Grass);
- building on PhD Translation projects to have **impact** (locally, nationally, internationally) through developing technology for distance-learning in the languages;
- enhancing our **outward-facing profile** by engaging with regional cultural organisations on collaborative projects, such as Jones' AHRC-funded 'European Travellers to Wales'.

These aims will be achieved by **drawing on the academic strengths of established research clusters**, in particular those associated with *Romance Studies*, which is edited from within the Department (and was founded in Swansea in 1982), and our largest research centre, that for Contemporary German Culture (the CCGC, founded in 1993 as the Centre for Contemporary German Literature and re-launched in 2009). The Research Institute will continue to assist in strategy implementation through overseeing the distribution of sabbatical leave, disbursement of funds, including a scheme for new initiatives, and advice in the formulation of grant applications.

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

The Department was restructured in 2010-11: this resulted in the expansion of Translation (with the appointment of Fernández Parra to Translation and Spanish in 2012, and a further post in Translation to come) and Welsh-medium research (the appointments in 2011 of Price in Film, S. Smith in French, and Lublin in Latin American Studies). We place great emphasis on the recruitment, development and promotion of research-active staff and ECRs. Researchers are supported by language tutors, most of whom make contributions to research or are reading for PhDs. From 2013 staff have the option of moving to teaching and scholarship contracts, enabling researchers to intensify their efforts. In this sustainable research environment ECRs thus work alongside established leaders. In the next period, we aim to re-focus further into the areas of Translation and Film Studies.

The University's **Performance Enabling** process provides clarity on support and training in order to assist staff in reaching their own and the Unit's goals, establishing individual staff KPIs in a Professional Development Review conducted by a senior academic. In 2012 the University won a *Times Higher Leadership and Management Award* and a UHR Excellence award for this initiative. **Twelve staff have enjoyed sabbaticals** of at least one semester in the REF period. Four also won externally funded leave from the AHRC (Brown, Dunnett (deceased Oct 2013), and George) or the Wellcome Trust (Williams). Since 2008, Davies, Hall, and Jones have been promoted to Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor; Cheesman was made Reader in 2009.

The University is committed to the implementation of the **Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers**, being one of the second tranche of HEIs to be awarded the *HR Excellence in Research Award* from the European Commission (retained in 2013). A cross-institutional training unit coordinates a comprehensive skills development programme. Aligned to the *Vitae Research Development Framework*, it is a large investment in tailored support for ECRs in a post-Roberts environment. The contribution of ECRs is this fully recognised by the University.

We have a stimulating and mutually supportive **balance between experience (most staff were in post for RAE 2008) and ECRs**. ECRs are supported in numerous ways: by the Department through mentoring and reduced work-loads, and by the College and the University through training courses. Colleagues with no experience of PhD supervision are partnered by an experienced co-supervisor. *Romance Studies* provides invaluable experience of reviewing, refereeing, and editing for ECRs in the Romance languages. As *MLR* Editor for French, Connon has also mentored ECRs in French through assigning reviewing and refereeing tasks.

Equality of opportunity: the University ensures equality of opportunity through its Strategic Equality Plan. Approximately 10% of the UoA's research staff and students are from overseas. Our male:female research-staff ratio is 7:11. In 2013 the University retained its Athena SWAN Bronze Award, which recognises excellence in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine for Women in HEIs. The University is committed to extending this across all disciplinary areas. The Department also has the support of the **Women in Universities Mentoring Scheme**, a Welsh initiative to enhance women's career progress. At present the UoA has one female reader and no female professors, whereas the ratio is the reverse for lecturers. However, we are addressing this imbalance by **encouraging female staff to take on positions in research leadership**, e.g. Jones (CI on the AHRC-funded 'European Travellers to Wales' project), Williams (dir. of a RIAH research centre), and Hall (see Impact Case Study).

All staff are able to take advantage of onsite nursery facilities and a childcare voucher scheme. Both initiatives offer working parents affordable childcare, from which five staff in the Unit have recently benefitted. All academic vacancies are advertised as suitable for job share, part-time or flexible working, enabling those with caring responsibilities to balance work and home requirements. Two staff returning from maternity leave worked part-time for a limited period.

c. II. Research students

Expanding PGR numbers and ensuring a sustainable recruitment base: There is a rich and varied postgraduate research programme. The number of PGRs and the disciplinary range of their projects have increased markedly over the period. At RAE 2008, while 14 PhDs had been completed over seven years (2 per annum), there were only 3.5 registrations across the four languages. The equivalent figures now (including co-supervisions) are 13 completions in four years (or 11.5 FTEs) and 16 registrations. PhDs have been submitted successfully in all the disciplines represented in the UoA (Film Studies, French, German, Italian, Latin American Studies, Peninsular Spanish Literature, and Translation). Most research staff have acted as supervisor, sometimes in tandem with colleagues from other departments (e.g. American Studies, Applied Linguistics, Computer Science, English Literature, Geography, and Welsh) or other institutions (e.g. Košice, Slovakia or the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa).

At RAE 2008 the development of collaborative MA programmes was identified as the means to improve PGR recruitment. Since 2008, PhD students have come from MA programmes in: German Studies; Latin American Studies; Literary Translation; Staging / Screening Europe; and Translation with Language Technology. From 2013 an MA by Research in European Cultures will provide a sustainable path from BA to PhD for students with literary, cultural, cinematic or historical interests.

Diversity of funding for PGRs: PhD students have received funding from a variety of sources:

- AHRC (6): Competitive (3); Block Grant Partnership (2); European Travellers to Wales project (1);
- College of Arts & Humanities (6);
- University of Wales / Swansea University (2); Staff bursaries (3);
- Saudi Arabian Cultural Bureau (1);
- Welsh-Medium Programme (1).

Other funders include the Commonwealth Commission (for a split-site PhD) and Spanish Embassy (for a Golden Age Drama project). A Sylvia Naish Scholarship was awarded by the Institute for Modern Languages Research to a PGR in German (2013). 5 PGRs won AHRC (3) and James Pantyfedwen Foundation (2) funding for MA study. Others received University bursaries. From 2013, PGRs in Romance languages may apply for fees-only 'Maney Bursaries', funded by the sale of *Romance Studies* to Maney Publishers.

Training, progression and supervision: PGRs and their two supervisors work with the College **Graduate Centre** which monitors progress under the direction of the University Postgraduate Research Board. To pass probation at the end of year one, PGRs submit a draft chapter of around 10,000 words to a probation board, along with a synopsis of their proposed thesis, a list of skills training courses attended, and a bibliography of works so far consulted. This board consists (at least) of their two supervisors and the Chairman of the **Graduate Centre**. At the end of years two and three, supervisors' reports are considered by the University Board; with support offered and remedial action taken as necessary. It is College policy that supervisors on sabbatical leave should continue in this role to ensure continuity of provision. First and second supervisors split the student FTE to encourage inter-departmental PhD projects.

The Academic and Professional Enhancement Centre co-ordinates a **comprehensive skills training and development** programme for PGRs, which is supplemented by activities run by the College of Arts and Humanities and the Department of Languages, Translation and Communication. Funds are available to attend conferences or visit libraries and archives abroad.

Seminars and conferences: PGRs take part in local, national, and international seminars, colloquia, and workshops. For instance, they present at the **RIAH Postgraduate Conference** held each October, and receive advice from staff outside the Department. Topics have been: Journeys (2009), Human Nature (2010), Telling the Truth (2011), Pushing Boundaries, Crossing Borders (2012), and Brave New Worlds (2013), from which selected papers are **published in our in-house journal**. In November 2010 the Postgraduate Conference in German Studies met in Swansea and will meet here again in 2014. PGRs in German have attended DAAD summer schools in Edinburgh (2011), Birmingham (2012), and Nottingham (2013). The CCGC ran a PGR symposium in 2011

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and 2012 with guest speakers. This was replaced by a Departmental Symposium in 2013. In 2012 a theory reading group was founded for PGRs and staff, meeting fortnightly in the autumn term.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income: Combined research income at RAE 2008 stood at a little over £600K (or approximately £86K per annum), over 75% of which came from one grant. Income has since been generated from a greater variety of sources for a wider range of activities. Seven staff have won grants over £15K. In total 21 were secured from the AHRC, Austrian Cultural Forum, British Academy, European Commission, MHRA, Wellcome, and Yr Academi Gymreig.

Recent and current funded projects include:

- AHRC:
 - (a) **European Travellers to Wales: 1750-2010.** A £420K three-year grant, 2013-16 (PI: Tully, Bangor; CIs: Jones, Swansea; and Williams, Aberystwyth). Outputs include a co-authored book, 2 PhDs, a journal special issue (*Studies in Travel Writing*), a touring exhibition that will be displayed at Ceredigion Museum, Bangor and Swansea, a digital database (to be taken over by the National Library of Wales), a website, a conference in 2015 on Minority Cultures and Travel, educational materials, and a Welsh Assembly briefing paper;
 - (b) **Translation Arrays (Cheesman, 2012-13, £30K FEC)**, which employed two RAs and an external consultant designer (see Cheesman, REF2);
- Wellcome Trust: **François Rabelais: Medical Humanist** (Williams, 2011-13, £43K);
- MHRA: **Günter Grass's Unkenrufe** (Preece, 2013-14, £18K);
- Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London: **Memory, Place and Space in Latin America** (Davies, 2013-14, £2K).

AHRC-funded research leave in 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively resulted in the following monographs not included in REF2: *Sergi Belbel and Catalan Theatre* (Tamesis, 2010 – by David George, now retired) and *Luise Gottsched the Translator* (Camden House, 2012 – by Hilary Brown, now at Birmingham). Haines was supported in 2013 by the DAAD for a Senior Study Visit to Potsdam to prepare her forthcoming monograph on Herta Müller (€4000).

Awards for 2013-14 already exceed £50K.

Infrastructure: Grant-capture activity is supported by **an effective institutional framework**. RIAH employs two dedicated research support officers to advise on funding applications. All prospective bids are scrutinised by a peer-review college, with members drawn from across the College. RIAH in turn works closely with the University's Department for Research and Innovation, which provides further support for grant applications and the management of external funding. RIAH nurtures research ideas over the longer term. For example, Cheesman was supported in 2010 by a grant of £13K to prepare 'Translation Arrays'; in 2012, he and Laramee (Computer Science) also won £3K from the ESRC-funded 'Bridging the Gaps' Fund for 'Translation Arrays (Version Variation Visualization phase 2.1)' and a further College grant of £7K to prepare a **£1.9M Theme Large Grant proposal** to the AHRC. This application reached the final round in 2013 and is now being reworked in bids to the AHRC standard route (£1M); the Google Research Faculty Awards (£50K); and NESTA/AHRC/ACE Digital R&D Fund for the Arts (led by Shakespeare's Globe Theatre; £175K). Through RIAH the Department is represented on the University Research Committee.

Facilities: we draw on extensive Library resources that have been built up over nearly a century, a dedicated University Archive, which holds the Raymond Williams and Richard Burton collections, and state-of-the-art electronic databases.

1. Large has acquired the *Nachlass* of Nietzsche's premier twentieth-century English translator R.J. Hollingdale which is now awaiting exploitation in research projects;
2. The Unit benefits from digitisation facilities (including a 'scanning lab') initially acquired to support Rothwell's AHRC-funded Anglo-Norman Online Hub project (2001-2007, with Trotter,

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Aberystwyth), including the latest Computer-Assisted Translation, Machine Translation, Subtitling, Concordancing and Text Analysis tools for use in creating translation memories, terminology databases and making and analysing subtitles.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

The Department makes a major contribution to the discipline with success evidenced by the range of international editions and journals edited, conferences organised, and roles undertaken.

International Editions

- Large is General Editor (with Schrift, Grinnell College) of *The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche*, Stanford University Press (2009-), a once-in-a-century philological project that provides new translations of all Nietzsche's works, including fragments and variants from Nietzsche's notebooks previously unavailable in English. One volume appeared in 2012, one in 2013, and a total of 19 volumes will be published by the end of the decade.
- Large edited (with de Berg, Sheffield) *Modern German Thought from Kant to Habermas: An Annotated German-Language Reader* (2012), a major textbook on German-language philosophy commissioned by Camden House.
- Connon is contracted to produce the first modern edition of Alexis Piron's *Gustave Wasa* for the MHRA Critical Texts series. This will be Connon's second contribution to the series.
- Preece is contracted to write the *Kommentar und Materialien* volume on *Unkenrufe*, forming part of the Steidl Verlag's complete works of Günter Grass (the Göttinger Ausgabe). The project will be supported by an MHRA-funded RA in 2013-14.

Editing Journals and Series

- Connon has been French Editor of *MLR* throughout the census period and from 2014 will be General Editor, while Williams takes over as French Editor.
- *Romance Studies* is edited by Davies and Elizabeth Emery (Montclair, NJ), Moss and Walters (both emeritus) are editors for Italian and Spanish respectively, while Jones, Rodgers and Rothwell are all associate editors (as was Dunnett until October 2013).
- Rodgers edits the Bulletin of the Société Internationale Marguerite Duras.
- Large has co-edited the MHRA / Maney Legenda monograph series 'Studies in Comparative Literature' since 2008, jointly overseeing the publication of 15 volumes.
- the CCGC sponsors the 'Leeds-Swansea Series in Contemporary German Literature' (launched in 2007) and 'Contemporary German Writers and Film-makers' (launched in 2012), both edited by Preece and Frank Finlay (Leeds).

We also edit special journal issues: *The Journal of Contemporary European Studies* (17:1, 2009, Jones), *The Journal of European Studies* (40:3, 2010, Preece), *Nottingham French Studies* (52:1, 2013, Jones and Morello), and *Oxford German Studies* (40:1, 2011, Preece). Haines is submitting an edited collection to *German Life and Letters* in 2014.

Other Statistics: Journals for which we have refereed submissions: **30**; Accepted invitations to speak at international conferences or seminars: **27**; Journals in which we have published reviews: **21**; PhDs we have examined at other universities in the UK and abroad: **21**; Publishers for whom we have refereed manuscripts or proposals: **13**; Memberships of Editorial Boards: **9**; Research Councils for which we have reviewed applications: **3**.

Distinguished Visitors: Nobel Laureate Herta Müller, a writer-in-residence in 1996, received an Honorary Fellowship in 2012 and gave a reading from *Atemschaukel*, followed by Q&A with simultaneous translation. Other CCGC visitors include Feridun Zaimoglu (2008), Zdenka Becker (2009), Peter Wawerzinek and Sissi Tax (2010). Jörg Bernig is visiting in 2013 (supported by the

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DAAD, in collaboration with Cardiff and Bath) and Andreas Dresen is expected in 2014 (in collaboration with Birkbeck). Paul Preston (LSE) lectured on his new book *The Spanish Holocaust* in 2011.

External Conference and Panel Organisation: Cheesman with Matthias Zach (Nantes): workshop on Re-Translation at Shakespeare's Shipwrecks (Deutsche Shakespeare-Gesellschaft / European Shakespeare Research Association, Weimar, 2011); Haines with Anca Holden (Mount Holyoke, MA): 'The Eastern Turn in Recent German Literature' (NEMLA, Boston, 2013); Jones and Morello: 'Women at Play / Les Femmes s'amuse' for *Women in French Studies* (Aston, 2009); Large with Nicholas Martin (Birmingham): 'Nietzsche's *Ecce Homo* – A Centenary Conference' (IGRS, 2008); Preece with Dagmar Lorenz (University of Illinois at Chicago): 'Literarische und intellektuelle Zusammenarbeit' at the 12th Congress of the Internationale Vereinigung der Germanisten (Warsaw, 2010); ten Hacken (now Innsbruck): The Semantics of Compounding workshop for the 19th International Congress of Linguists (Geneva, 2013) and *Meaning and Lexicalization in Word Formation*, for the 14th International Morphology Meeting (Budapest, 2010).

Conferences in Swansea

- A conference on 'The Author-Translator in the European Literary Tradition' (hosted by Large and Brown) in June 2010 received more than 200 proposals, featured as keynote speakers Susan Bassnett, David Constantine and Laurence Venuti, and was attended by 140 selected contributors from around the world;
- *Romance Studies* holds biannual colloquia, alternating between the UK and the US. Recent themes have been 'Story-Telling' (2009) and 'Wilderness' (2011);
- The CCGC has hosted four symposia on the following topics: Religion (2008); Ilija Trojanow (2010); Text Crimes (2010), and the Nation (2012), all leading to edited collections.
- *The Society for French Studies*, *Women in German Studies* and *Women in Spanish Studies* all held their annual meetings at Swansea in 2010.

Welsh-Medium researchers organise pan-Wales colloquia annually under the aegis of the Canolfan Ieithoedd Cyfrwng Cymraeg (Welsh-medium languages Centre) and with financial support of y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (which oversees and develops Welsh medium provision in higher education in Wales): in 2012 this colloquium took place in Swansea. Articles are published in the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's e-journal *Gwerddon* as special editions (Modern Languages): the first in *Gwerddon* (15, 2013). Two further special issues are in preparation.

Distinguished Roles

- Cannon is a member of the MHRA Executive Committee;
- Large (2010-), Preece (2009-11), and Rothwell (2009-) are or have been members of the AHRC Peer Review College;
- Hall was elected to the Jury of the Petrona Crime Fiction Prize (2013);
- Large is Chairman of the Verein der Fellows des Kollegs Friedrich Nietzsche e.V.;
- Preece is a member of the Wissenschaftlicher Beirat des Medienarchivs der Günter Grass-Stiftung Bremen;
- Rodgers is Vice-President of the Société Internationale Marguerite Duras;
- Rothwell is a member of the Erasmus Academic Network 'Optimising Professional Translator Training in a Multilingual Europe'.

Future Highlights

- *Romance Studies* conference on 'Adaptation / Remediation: Intersemiotic Translation and Intertextual Transformation' (Davies / Dunnett, 2014);
- Monograph on Herta Müller (commissioned by de Gruyter, Haines, for 2016);
- Centenary Colloque international *Marguerite Duras: passages, croisements, rencontres* at the Centre culturel de Cerisy-la-Salle (Rodgers, 2014);
- An edited volume on Andreas Dresen (eds. Preece and Nick Hodgkin, Lancaster, for 2015).