

Institution: University of Warwick

Unit of Assessment: 29 English Language and Literature

a. Overview

This unit of assessment carries out research on literature and on literary and cultural history from the Middle Ages to the present day. The work embraces a diverse body of interests: scholarship and textual editorial work; engagements with original literary work and its attendant bodies of criticism; studies in literary histories across diverse geographical and linguistic domains, including consequent engagements with the nature and boundaries of the discipline as such; innovative critical approaches to well-documented fields designed to shift our modes and methods of critical engagement; theoretical and philosophical reflections on individual works, writers, and the field more generally; contributions to cultural history relating literature to other arts and to broad aesthetic, social and political movements or periods; interventions in cultural policy; contributions to pedagogical practice aimed at providing sustainable modes of education in our discipline, designed also to have a percussive effect in adjacent and cognate schools and in the domain beyond the university itself; and both theoretical reflections on translation and the translation of particular texts.

Increasingly, and especially over the current review period, the unit has broadened its scope and ambition to include considerations of world literatures and the world literary system. One of our central and major institutional priorities has been to take the leading role in reinvigorating the conceptions of comparativism that lie at the traditional core of a Department titled 'English and Comparative Literary Studies' (one of the few such named in the UK). We are determinedly taking a leading role in what is essentially a re-configuration of the discipline itself, demanded, as we see it, by emergent modes of globalisation and the necessity to provide a cogent critique that will sustain the importance of the literary, imaginative, and aesthetic field in an age of mass and marketised higher education.

The unit also evidences a substantial growth in the area of creative writing following our policy of expanding the staff complement in this area since the last exercise (appointing writers of fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, journalism, and translations). The unit is thus diverse in intellectual composition and formation and its work continues to cover all mainstream literary genres. However, in a shifting era of advanced technology, with its attendant different modes of cultural production and reception, we have also extended our interests in media other than print. Unlike many who have seen this as a requirement to sustain the discipline's future viability, our own approach has been to see it as something other than merely contemporary or responsive. Our considerations of the relations between technology and the traditional literary field are such that we combine an interest in new technologies with a more general study of cultural environments in a broad sense (the history of media, including books, performance-history, visual and plastic arts, film and TV). Hence, we have been able to bring together into productive synergy work in emergent technologies with a broad eco-criticism. This has given new strength to our work in technologies of culture which, for us, has been more invigorating than the more standard 'new media' work, because of the previously unforeseen possibilities of collaborations that it has afforded colleagues within the Department. Recent hires will sustain this development and extend its reach yet further.

In sum, the unit's view is that we need to extend our research into English as a major constituent of a historically-changing world-system of literary and cultural commerce. Such an approach, in our view, sustains the discipline by extending its ambit, and by aligning our research with urgent world-wide demands for academic responsibilities that extend beyond the academy.

b. Research strategy

The idea governing our research culture is that we remain organic, dynamic, and adaptable. We can thus shift direction, as emerging research demands it, so as to move into innovative areas of promise. Accordingly, we have two main ways of organising ourselves as a research community. The first of these is a traditional organisation according to our recognised expertise in specific traditional fields (early modern, long eighteenth century, American writing and culture, literary and cultural theory, and so on). The second, running alongside and in some ways across this organisation is a grouping into research projects. The organisation by field serves to encourage the emergence of organisation by

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project; and it is in this latter area that our substantive research activity often takes its most visible forms. Those forms change across time, as the projects grow and mutate, but the aim is to enable projects to emerge, to offer a serious (because organically developed) and sustainable basis for productive research, and to make a realistic call (where and when appropriate) on external funding.

Under this framework, recent and emerging developments include: our AHRC-funded interdisciplinary and collaborative work on Beckett and the Brain, through which we have extended research into cognitive psychology and science more generally; our research cluster on Comparative Religions and Literatures (CoRaL) from which we have seen the emergence of individual monographs as well as a book series; the Warwick Research Collective (WReC) which is developing new paradigms for the study of world literatures, grounded in materialist critique of uneven and unequal development in the global domain; and a series of interventions in pedagogy and in cultural policy designed to inaugurate new and critical thinking that will contribute to the sustainability of the discipline and higher education more generally.

We remain committed to the idea of the literary and the aesthetic as being at the core of our cultural research activity. That literature can be in many languages other than English. This approach is broadly consistent also with our history of interdisciplinarity, where we work with literatures from cultures other than those most familiar, and where we also maintain links with cognate disciplines such as history (e.g. the Eighteenth-Century Centre) or philosophy (e.g. the Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature, and the Arts) or social sciences, but also increasingly with the laboratory sciences as well (as in our departmentally-led CAPITAL Chemistry project; or Beckett and the Brain). Such globalised interdisciplinarity gives an important strategic place to issues of cultural and historical translation and 'translateability'.

In planning our research as a unit, we encourage collaborative work where appropriate, yet a good deal of our work is based in independent inquiry. We maintain the utmost respect for the research integrity and autonomy of individual colleagues and accord it full priority. Alongside this, we encourage reflection on each others' work. This is achieved structurally through our departmental research seminar programmes and through a dedicated and formally timetabled research-meeting slot every week. These allow for both happenstance and directed collaborations to emerge. Our departmental research seminars, attended by established staff, postdoctoral researchers and the general graduate community allow us to showcase our work-in-progress to each other, ensuring thereby a good continuity of interest and activity between academic staff and postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers. In addition, we have inaugurated our weekly formally timetabled research-meeting slot, to be used by groups of colleagues as and when required, allowing us to share ideas without formal directorial requirement and without the pressures of immediate accountabilities. Most recently, a new project on 'Modern Commons' has taken shape through this; and we expect more such groupings to emerge. Thus, as projects emerge from fields, so also shared work and ideas emerge from a culture of engaged conversation. It is important to us that this conversation formally welcomes the emergent ideas of the next generation of researchers.

This more organic and dynamic approach is something that has developed significantly since the 2008 exercise, when our research groupings were relatively firm. Such groupings (often regarded as normative in our discipline) can become constricting, establishing hierarchies and priorities that do not necessarily suit every colleague's research developments. We have therefore enhanced the possibilities of a much more bottom-up approach over recent years. As a result, while we now think of ourselves as belonging to specific research groups, we also nonetheless advance our work either in 'solo-researcher' mode (but sustained through the conversation-culture) or through participation in highlighted research projects. This new collaborative and inclusive arrangement intrinsically avoids any tendency to sclerosis. Further, the strategy is itself open to annual review, and our Research Committee helps to give visibility, articulation and direction to key work as the years progress.

In 2008, we made a number of specific promises regarding outputs. These were fulfilled, though some slightly delayed by personal circumstances, such as maternity leaves. In some cases, new research projects grew beyond their initial scope due to specific research findings. For example, work that we expected on 'New British Isles', initially thought of as an aggregation of diverse works by individuals, has grown into an emerging research project on modernity and constitutional issues concerning literature and the modern State ('Modern Commons'). There has also been further strengthening of our work through some strategically planned new faculty appointments.

In the period under review, we have added significantly to our staff complement, appointing 11 permanent members of staff (9.5 FTE) and 8 postdoctoral fellows since 2010. Our medieval and early modern work has been enhanced through the appointment of Botley, whose editorial scholarship and work in the neo-classical Renaissance tradition extends the long-established expertise in our medieval and Renaissance European comparativism groups. Purcell has developed further our earlier work in Shakespeare and performance, which now advances our work in the cultural and material history of Shakespeare (engaging productively with Prescott on theatre history, Howard on performance and mediation of Shakespeare, and with Rutter on cultural and material histories of performances).

Lupton and Forman widen the ambit of – and bring further depth to – our work in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century research: Lupton through an engagement with material cultural history (in work cognate with our ‘Networks of Improvement’ project; and also cross-collaborating with work in WReC, for examples); Forman through a broadening of our historical world-literatures strand (WReC) and its relation to emergent new models of citizenship (in our ‘Modern Commons’ group).

Both of those foregoing strategic sets of appointments are directed towards our concerted work in the histories of cultural mediation, literary environments, and their divergent aesthetic forms.

A major expansion area is Creative Writing. Eaves, Moss, Sansom, Skinner and Vann add considerable depth to our Creative Writing roster. However, in addition, we have engineered cross-currents between Creative Writing and emergent areas of classical critical study through these appointments: Moss and Skinner deepen our eco-critical work (linked to Macdonald and Mukherjee on the environment, to Morley in eco- and bio-science in poetry, and to Mason in affect-studies); Sansom brings issues of material culture to bear in creative practice (as do Lupton, Shapiro, and WReC generally); Eaves and Vann add writing that is autobiographically inflected (adding to Freely in fiction, to Hulse in poetry; but also to Varma in criticism); and Eaves crosses interests with Forman or Katz (in relation to Spicer) on sexualities and queer studies. All of our writers have an impressive range of prizes and translations, giving further purchase to our critical work in world-literary study. The expansion has allowed us a strategy of developing the intimacy of the links between our creative and critical practices in research.

We have also appointed de Medeiros, whose work on Europe and its relation to world literatures offers us new potential in research into modernity, as part of our developing ‘world-systems’ engagement. This is also further strengthened by the hiring of Lahiri, who adds considerable depth to our reflections on post-colonial study, especially as part of our engagement with diverse cultural media. She also augments a growing area of specialisation in the literature and culture of South Asia (Malhotra, Mukherjee, Puri, Varma). These broaden the scope and ambit of work related to WReC, and our investigations into the place of English within world literary and cultural systems.

All of these have also helped consolidate our nurturing of the existing staff complement, and advancing their careers. Since the last exercise, six colleagues (50% women) have been promoted to Professorial status; and a further six have passed probation, being promoted to our career-grade of Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer). In all cases, research has been central to the promotion case; and the value of the research is validated independently and externally.

A very significant new turn is the establishment of a large cohort of eight post-doctoral Research Fellows (seven of whom qualify as ‘Independent Researchers’ according to REF criteria). We are assuming a leadership role in terms of trying to ensure the future sustainability of the discipline and this is one of the reasons behind our determined strategic cultivation of a vigorous post-doctoral community within the Department. Four of these positions have been externally funded and all have been competitively gained. Post-doctoral work is now being carried out in postcolonial studies with special emphasis on ‘the ecological Caribbean’ (Campbell and Niblett), in World Literature (Gunn, as a Post-doctoral Fellow assigned to WReC, and working on African, South American and Irish writing), in Indian historical literary culture (Malhotra on the ‘Indianisation’ of literary culture, in archival work on nineteenth-century publishing), in nineteenth-century material culture and gender (Puri, examining nineteenth-century pattern books and clothing design books, and thus extending work on material history by looking at issues of dress, text, and gendered body), in American writing (Storey on urban modernism, extending Britzolakis’ work; and on relations of civic to rural life, engaged thereby with both cultures of conversation and with environmental issues in nineteenth- and twentieth-century America), and in early modern literature (Molekamp’s work on reading practices and female piety in seventeenth-

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century Europe that synergises with Clarke's). In keeping with our preferred norms, we establish a strong continuity between staff and doctoral research, and the Post-doctoral Fellows are a visible linkage here, promising new future developments in our discipline. As is evidenced by their publications and projects, all are extending existing departmental research, yielding a sustainable future for the discipline by extending the scope and ambit of existing work, and by a thorough renewal of critical and theoretical engagements in a field whose reconfigurations we are describing strategically.

Many innovations have arisen from our research-conversation: the processes of internal debates, dialogues and research developments that we have had both as a Department and as several/individual colleagues within it. For example, starting from a series of staff research seminars debating 'comparative literature', we built on what had been the intrinsic critiques of postcolonial studies that were a major aspect of our 2008 work (Lazarus, Parry) to develop a much larger and a more ambitious research/inquiry programme (WReC), which has now extended an international influence via many conference presentations. Alongside the major various international debates stemming from about 2000, we have taken a lead role in reconfiguring world-literary studies, as established institutionalised 'Comparative Literature' has gone into a mode of crisis or a moment of deep self-reflective analysis. WReC is now a fully established group of major international significance, with working papers and a series of major publications and interventions already made or planned. Yet we have sustained this alongside our long-running research in post-colonial studies and in studies of imperialist cultural history (Varma; Lazarus; Mukherjee; and also post-doctoral work being conducted by Campbell, Gunne, Malhotra, and Niblett).

In 2008, our work in Shakespeare had been at the centre of a link with the RSC which underpinned the CAPITAL Centre (2005-10) in and through which our research fed directly into our teaching at all levels. That work had a significant impact and purchase on the entire field of Shakespeare research and performance studies. It is now furthered by our new AHRC-funded project on *Multicultural Shakespeare in Britain: 1930-2010* (led by Howard). In addition, we have begun also to integrate this successful performance-based research with emergent work on materialist cultural history. This stretches from engagement with primary documentary and archival scholarship (Rutter's new work on Venice and diplomacy) through to Purcell (on popular Shakespeare and the making of audiences), and to Prescott (on a global construction of communities through analyses of performance histories). Shakespeare is also further integrated into general research on theatre and all kinds of performance-oriented theoretical work; and this ranges from the medieval and early modern (Grant) through to our modern and contemporary predicaments (Malhotra; and work in materialist cultural theory). One major effect of this is to see Shakespeare not just in Stratford but as a name consistent with our emergent priorities in world-literary study (the Renaissance after-life of the classical tradition in work by Bates, Botley, Mack, Whitehead) and in the materialist turn in theory (Docherty).

Alongside this, we have also consolidated and extended our 1750-1900 work. Here, the emphasis has been on two things: a) a deepening of our characteristic identity as a Department whose interests situate literature in materialist cultural activity (examples include Lupton's work in forms of mediation, Shapiro's on economic commerce and the American novel); and b) a geo-political broadening of our range (Forman's work on China or Hong Kong; Mukherjee and Malhotra on the Victorian orient). In all these areas, we see these two innovative turns as essential for the future viability of research in this historical period and cultural moment.

We retain a fundamental commitment to archival, textual, and bibliographical work to underpin and sustain research across our field. The review period has witnessed the publication of several newly edited texts – a number of them major, multi-volume, landmark editions – from across the historical periods, including the fifteenth-century translation of an early medieval devotional treatise (Whitehead), the letters of Joseph Scaliger (Botley), the novels of Charles Brockden Brown (Shapiro), the poetry of Elizabeth Jennings (Mason), the psychoanalytical writings of Laplanche (Fletcher).

We have developed new work in cultural history, extending earlier successes in critical and cultural theory, and offering an intimacy between academic research and matters of cultural policy. A major strain of this work, examining the relevant issues from an earlier period, is in our Leverhulme-funded *Networks of Improvement* project, which considers the emergence of the literary field from an eighteenth-century 'public sphere', and focuses on the question of the civic and the civil, the shared space of the public environment, and the new technologies that further such associations (Lupton). This, combined with work considering the contemporary public sphere, has also taken us into the area

of public engagement, as we have encouraged work that is aimed at contributing to cultural policy debates, especially with regard to literary, aesthetic and cultural studies in the present HE climate ('Modern Commons': Docherty, Forman, Gardiner, Katz).

Our earlier work in women's writing reached a stage where we could take stock of new developments, and has produced new synergies with other fields. First, the *Perdita Project* (led by Clarke) is now established as a major e-resource for scholars in early modern women's writing; and royalties from sales of the database fund a rolling PhD studentship to further archival recovery and research in early modern women's writing. Research in this area is also being taken forward by Molekamp. Work by Varma and Gunne on transnational feminisms and rape narratives put feminist issues at the centre of studies of gender identity in a transnational context. At the same time, research by Forman and Bates investigates alternative constructions of masculine subjectivity across a wide historical and geographical range.

We have started to mine a major seam of inquiry with emergent work in Comparative Religions and Literatures (CoRaL, including Clarke, Mason, Whitehead, and with a major body of doctoral and postdoctoral students). CoRaL has already secured competitive funding to enable organisation of conferences and colloquia, thereby both attracting international guests to the Department while also promulgating the work that is done here. It is also home to a Bloomsbury book series (ed. Mason, in an international collaboration with Toronto), *New Directions in Religion and Literature*, through which the research can be distributed worldwide.

Our work in American writing and culture continues to make an impact in two ways. First, we have extended our historical and cultural ambit yet further, with both scholarly editorial work (Shapiro on Brockden Brown) and innovative turns in critical and cultural history (Shapiro on the eighteenth-century Atlantic; Katz's studies of new archival materials that underpin work on Spicer and San Francisco poetry in the modern post-Pound era). The work from 2008 that set us off on a trajectory of new investigations of the nature of 'America' as a modern material reality and cultural construction are thus extended, based on a combination of scholarly archival work and contemporary materialist understandings of the constitution of modern nations. Secondly, some of the work begun earlier has found its proper remit within the development of our world-literature strands, through which American Studies are now better sustained by relevant research in Atlanticist and 'world-systems' theory. In this way, American Studies become yet more firmly integrated into the whole literary field, no longer a mere niche area, and thus allowing of new collaborative work in previously unlikely modes (examples would include the conceptual overlap regarding the materiality of the medium, between Lupton on the materiality of the book in the eighteenth-century and Katz on Spicer's insistence on serial form in modern American poetry; or Gardiner's work on historical relations of Scotland and Japan as a counterpart to formations of Atlanticism and world powers).

In the period 2014-19, we aim to extend yet further our leading role in world-literary systems studies; to advance the research groupings in science (Barry, Morley, Moss) and in environment/ecopoetics (Skinner, Lawrence, Macdonald). We now house the *Ecopoetics* journal, edited by Skinner; and in addition will expect further work in the area of bio-politics, techno-politics, and the histories of environments (Forman, Grant, Macdonald, Lupton, Mukherjee, Malhotra). We will also extend work in the relations of culture to policy ('Modern Commons' group); and this will also further the work of colleagues in literary and cultural history 1750-1900.

As part of this on-going work in sustaining the field, we will also broaden the scope of our previous work. Literature-and-Philosophy will now include religion and its geopolitical hinterlands, and affect-studies. Our AHRC-funded *Multicultural Shakespeare* project will yield publications and international conference activity. Activity here will consider Black British and Asian Shakespeare; and will consider this in relation to issues of immigration, conditions of theatre and representation in Britain in both the popular and classical houses. This work culminates in the first writings of a new history of Shakespeare in the emergent multicultural ideologies of modern Britain, a Britain that is now thoroughly 'post-national' in being shaped by global concerns and economics. One of the legacies that we expect from *Networks of Improvement* is further work on the modern cultural construction of identity: identity as something that exists in dialectical relations with communities. A major strand of future work is the identification of such communities in an era of so-called globalisation – attending fully to its discontents as manifest in literary and aesthetic production.

We have a lively departmental research culture, with guaranteed research-meeting slots timetabled formally; our departmental research seminar attracts major international figures and brings emergent researchers into dialogue with them; and we maintain our very successful graduate colloquia. Research is a clearly visible part of our weekly and daily work. It exists within the Department, but also reaches out to the wider international domain. The strategy is simply stated: research to make a material difference.

c. People:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

As a community of researchers, we aim to have 'leadership-without-hierarchy'. To achieve this, all colleagues, regardless of status, have a research mentor. This achieves a collegiality among staff who can mutually share their research responsibilities and who can collaborate genuinely on equal footing.

New-career colleagues and those appointed at Assistant Professor level are given a period of probation (normally five years), during which they are supported in their research by departmental and University structures (including departmental mentor and the assistance of our Research Development Manager, based in the University's Research Support Services, who advises on seeking external research funding). They are given up to 33% relief from teaching and administration roles to enable the development of an established research profile from an emergent research strength. Confirmation in post, only gained after rigorous assessment of research/publication and teaching strengths, brings promotion to our career-grade of Associate Professor. The senior professoriate (full Professors) meet at least once every year to help the HoD decide on promotions to Reader and full Professor status; and it is our expectation that many colleagues will normally be able to move to full Professor status, a position to be justified by (inter alia) an internationally visible research profile that shows clear evidence of sustainability.

Annual appraisal, where the appraiser is not the mentor, encourages the sustaining and developing of research performance among all colleagues. In this exercise, one of the tasks of senior Professors is to encourage high ambition, directing less experienced staff towards high-prestige journals and presses.

All colleagues are entitled to an annual departmental research allowance of £750. This money can fund participation in international conferences (often with expectation of subsequent publication, although not conditional upon that); or it can be used as seed money to help prepare a bid for external funding; or as resourcing to help establish networks either nationally or internationally, with expectation of substantive research developments and publications or collaborations in due course. This allowance can also be used as match-funding in bids to numerous sources of internal funding (including Warwick's Humanities Research Fund, Humanities Research Centre, Institute of Advanced Study, Institute of Advanced Teaching and Learning, the Research Development Fund, the Warwick Impact Fund) which are supported by the HoD.

We have a strong record of securing external charitable or Research-Council funding for study-leaves. All colleagues have a generous entitlement to apply for internally-funded leave. We propose a norm of at least one term after every six served; and such leaves can be 'banked' to allow for longer sustained periods of leave if colleagues wish to give more sustained time to larger-scale projects or for books that need a sustained period for completion. Leaves are granted on the basis of a research plan, assessed by Research Committee, and with clear indications of the likelihood of successful completion of the project and its publication, normatively in high-prestige locations.

A key part of the work of Research Committee is to help ensure that all colleagues find their research appropriately networked internationally. This sometimes entails advising early-career colleagues about the best places for publication, the most significant conferences and international networks, and the development of a research career. This is all the more important in a strategy of organic development of new work; and so, one of our priorities on Research Committee is to ensure proper awareness of each other's work across the Department as a whole.

The University's Research Development Manager for Arts works with us to prepare bids for external funding. The RDM can also advise on bids for internal funds that will help seed new initiatives. We compete for funds to help us develop external bids; and our RDM also advises, as appropriate, on the

relevant international funding possibilities from which we have had some significant success.

For Research Staff, the University has been implementing the Concordat to Support Careers of Researchers since 2009, and has been awarded the HR Excellence in Research Award, indicative of our alignment with the European Commission Charter for Researchers. Warwick provides additional support for Research Staff (and indeed, for all colleagues) through annual career-development conversations, transferable skills training programmes, and career pathway support structures. The success of these is measured through staff engagement surveys, and course feedback. There is also a Research Staff Forum, meeting several times annually to focus on the furthering of Research Careers. This combines also with the work of Warwick's Institute of Advanced Study, whose central strategic aim is the internationalisation of our research engagement, to ensure that our early-career Research Staff are provided with the strongest international platform for the support, development and networked presentation of their results and data. Early-Career staff have their own dedicated Network; and, less formally, our Wolfson Research Exchange provides a community space for our research-conversation culture.

Our staff complement has changed since the last exercise; and the Department has grown considerably as a unit. We have managed this transition to our benefit, using new hires to consolidate and extend some existing areas, establishing new strategic turns with others, and building a strong intermediate corps of postdoctoral researchers. Consistent with this, our postgraduate complement has also grown considerably and that cohort provides the basis for confidence in the on-going and developing sustainability of our new areas of inquiry, together with a renewed vigour for established fields of work. In this, we have been shifting the ecology of the Department as part of our strategic aim to build a large research community, ensuring inter-generational sustainability for the future of the Department and for the discipline; with the corollary of enhancing the relation of our growth in research capacity with a concomitant broadening of our teaching at both undergraduate and MA levels.

The development and enhancement of our staff is enabled by the fact that we are very diverse in constitution in terms of nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexualities, disability, and age (50% female; 31.03% part time; 6.9% BME; 5.17% disabled). Such diversity, we believe, is entirely consistent with – and is also a positive force for – research excellence in literary fields that are themselves more diverse, globally and locally.

Colleagues in the Department have made a significant number of interventions in our engagements with the non-academic world. Freely's work with PEN and with *Index on Censorship*, and her engagements in matters of political culture in Turkey are now central in many national and international debates on freedom of speech. That work is continued in Gardiner's on-line work with *OpenDemocracy*. Varma is founding Board Member and Secretary of the Centre for Secular Space, a think-tank set up to combat religious fundamentalism and to work for gender and universal human rights. Docherty has written numerous pieces for the national press and international media that situate the University institution in wider cultural and political questions. Purcell's work with his *Pantaloons* company reaches well beyond the University and academic audiences, bringing communities together through theatre. Hulse engages deeply with local communities in Staffordshire, and with the National Health Service (Hippocrates Prize). Morley has produced a writers' app for general use. We brought Dickens out of the academy with numerous podcasts around the centenary celebrations; and Prescott worked closely with the cultural Olympiad. More examples are furnished in our Impact template (REF 3a) and Impact Case Studies (REF3b).

ii. Research students

Graduate students have increased steadily in number and diversity. We currently have over seventy PGT students, now spread through four MA-level degree programmes: enrolments on our MA programmes have risen from an average of 46.8 for the previous research exercise to an average of 63.6 for the present exercise (an increase of 36%). Significant numbers of our MA cohort go on to undertake PhD study with us across almost all the diverse fields of research specialism in the Department. PGR enrolments have risen from an average of 26.2 for the previous exercise to an average of 39.8 for the present (an increase of 52%). Of our 73 new PGR enrolments since 2007/08, 37% have been international students. Since the University centralised the process of PhD funding applications in 2010, we have developed a robust system – undertaken by the HoD, Director of

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Graduate Studies, and a dedicated PG Funding Officer – for screening and nominating candidates. As a result, the Department has achieved a 93% success rate (average) in the institutional funding round for PhD students over the last three years.

MA, MPhil and PhD students participate in our research seminars (usually four occasions per term), and have the opportunity to present their work there. We also have our well-established annual Postgraduate Symposium, in which all new researchers are expected to present work in an internal colloquium, attended by the research community of staff and students. This helps develop confidence and presentational skills, and is part of our preparation of our doctoral students and colleagues for post-doctoral activity in HE or elsewhere. It provides colleagues with an opportunity for further networking and establishing of intellectual relations across broad areas of work. For many of our PhD students, this colloquium is the initial testing ground for what become their early publications. Departmental funding for the PG Symposium has been significantly increased from 2013 in order to extend the forum's scope and reach. In 2013, in response to growth in critical mass, we moved to make this a two-day event, and we expect further growth in future years.

In addition, the Department facilitates (and funds) informal research colloquia established among groups of research students working collaboratively. If required, full-time staff will also join these groups to offer guidance, networking and experience in facilitating the organisation of guest-visits, local colloquia, international networks, conferences and publications (indicative examples include: 'The London Irish and the Long Eighteenth Century', 'Picturing Women's Health 1750-1910', 'Japanese Literature and World Literature', 'Cormac McCarthy', 'Charlotte Smith and British Romanticism', 'Early Modern Representations of Virtue and Vice', 'Problems of English Republicanism').

We have a rigorous system of monitoring the progress of PhD students. In Year 1, candidates are on probationary status and are registered as MPhil. At the end of Year 1, the prospective PhD student must submit 10,000 words of proposed thesis work, with a revised synopsis and proposal, as part of an upgrading procedure, allowing them to demonstrate that they are operating at the required levels and that they have successfully established the viability of the project. This procedure also involves interview by at least two colleagues (one of whom is the student's mentor, the other a colleague with research interests cognate with the field) based on the submitted work and on the revised doctoral proposal/synopsis and a projected completion-timetable. This way, the student essentially has a supervisory panel (supervisor, mentor, at least one other interested colleague) and this gives her or him a solid structure within which to find support and encouragement. Completion rates are excellent: 97% pass rate; 80% submitted and passed within 4 years (or P/T equivalent). PhD graduates within the assessment period have gone on to secure permanent academic appointments in the UK (e.g. at Bangor, Cambridge, Durham, Kent, Warwick, York, Nottingham) and overseas, as well as funded research fellowships and fixed-term posts elsewhere.

Alongside our standard baseline (e-resources, secretarial and office support, and where possible office space), resourcing includes financial support for conference attendance, visiting archives and associated research expenses, to the sum of £250 per annum. The usual expectation is that students will avail themselves of this to give papers at conferences, in order to get them more fully established and networked internationally in their field (this allowance can also be used to match-fund bids to other sources of internal funding – e.g. Humanities Research Centre, Humanities Research Fund, Research Student Skills Programme – which are supported by the HoD). Publication during the doctoral research period is the normative expectation; and most of our PhD candidates will have at least one substantive piece of research published (article or chapter rather than review) by the time of PhD completion. In practice, many of our students already have such publications in hand at the time of applying for their PhD – something that counts largely toward their success in the University funding round – so in encouraging them to publish further we are continuing a practice already in train, but usually ensuring higher ambition in terms of the publication outlets or fora.

Research students are encouraged to benefit from engagement with the Warwick Portfolio, an on-line forum that enables them to access and to build a personal record of development. This, provided by the Warwick Graduate School, can be personally tailored, and it meshes with our Research Student Skills Programme of workshops, events and wider transferable learning opportunities for our research community. Our departmental Director of Graduate Studies assumes a central role in spreading these opportunities, and advising research students on how best to engage and benefit from them as part of career development.

We encourage applications to post-doctoral positions that are advertised both internally (IAS Early Career Fellowships, IAS Research Fellowships, IAS Global Research Fellowships), and externally (British Academy Post-doctoral Fellowships, Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships), and support the applications of our own PhD students and those from other institutions. The increase in appointments at this level since 2008 is testament to the success of this strategy. Post-doctoral Research Fellows are required by funders to meet goals year-by-year; and we measure and monitor this (the HoD provides an annual report for each post-doctoral colleague funded by an external funding body). Every Post-doctoral Fellow has a named established colleague as their Research Mentor in the Department; and, through this support and with the post-doc assigned to one of our research groups or projects, we can ensure that proper and adequate support is provided in order to ensure successful research outcomes and career advancement.

Every member of staff is invited to specify skills training they may need or benefit from on their Annual Review. A regular series of training sessions is provided by centrally by the Learning Development Centre (for example: on leadership skills, research-project management skills, and self-reflective career development activity). In addition, bespoke skills training is provided to Early Career Researchers by the Institute for Advanced Study. The Research Student Skills Programme (which sits within Careers and Skills) provides generic skills training to PhD students as well as bursaries for student-led projects and conferences. Further, the Faculty has a number of dedicated IT-specialist colleagues whose brief is to ensure that colleagues remain informed about IT possibilities for the enhancement of, or for the presentation of, their research.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income has shown a 42% increase since 2008 (year on year figures are: 2008/09 = £240k; 2009/10 = £200k; 2010/11 = £201k; 2011/12 = £390k; 2012/13 = £418k).

The total number of research degrees awarded within the assessment period is 80 (the equivalent figure for the last assessment period 2002-07 = 40): an increase of 100%.

A member of the departmental Research Committee is tasked to help colleagues develop bids and plans for Research Grant Income. The Library is especially supportive and we have a dedicated Subject Librarian with whom we work closely to ensure that book and periodical purchase corresponds to the developing and established research activities of colleagues. For the period 2007-12, Library spend on resources for the Department has been £213.5k. We enjoy the benefits of subscription to e-databases (ECCO, EEBO, J-Stor, etc.) allowing us virtually unlimited access to all necessary published work in our fields. We also have important relevant papers held in Warwick's 'Modern Records Collection' (such as the Sivanandan papers; important papers on trade-union and other organisations, relevant to our work in cultural history and constitutionalism in the UK). We have also been able to take the lead in forms of research publication appropriate to an e-global environment, through the establishment of the 'Warwick Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities' book series, where we make work available in e-format in collaboration with Bloomsbury Academic publishers. Funding is available to enable colleagues to undertake archival research trips where necessary (as in Varma's visits to more remote areas of India for her work on 'Modern Tribal' culture), or, more routinely, to copyright libraries in London or Oxford. This funding is additional to our annual guaranteed minimum of £750 described above.

Our inter-institutional links are also instrumental in strengthening further our infrastructure. Colleagues work with partner institutions such as Monash in Australia, as part of Warwick's 'Global' strategic activity; and, through the development of joint research degrees, we are now able to share facilities, maximising infrastructural benefits to all partner institutions as we enhance our global collaborative research work.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

We participate in a number of partnerships and collaborations internally, nationally, and internationally. This extends beyond normative expectations of cross-institutional bids to Research Councils (Beckett and the Brain, for example, which links with colleagues at Birkbeck and Reading). We have taken a lead role in developing some structural global links, capitalising on the University's relations with

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Monash University in Melbourne and with QMUL, for example. The first link will allow us to offer joint international global PhD programmes as a structured part of our offerings; the second plays host to the Warwick/QM Classical Tradition research network, which forges and fosters classical reception studies across periods and disciplines. It has also made possible the establishment of 'Global Shakespeare': a unique partnership that will shape the future research agenda in twenty-first-century Shakespeare studies across criticism, performance, history, and media from television to digital reproduction. Collaborative research links with the Clark Memorial Library have led to interdisciplinary conferences at Venice and LA. Gardiner's Daiwa Foundation funded work links us to several Japanese institutions. Mason's collaboration with colleagues in Toronto has prompted a future Warwick-Toronto conference, with edited collection, on religion and literature.

Several colleagues act as international experts and/or consultants to Research Councils here and internationally. Docherty advises Research Councils of Australia, Netherlands, Ireland, Canada, Belgium and some incidental others, has acted as expert for AHRC and for Leverhulme, and is an Advisor to the British Council. Several colleagues have served as expert advisors for appointments to Professorial Chairs and similar appointments internationally.

Additionally, we have one FBA (Mack), FRSL (Freely), and several FEAs; Mack is seconded to the Directorship of the Warburg Institute; Varma is a founding member of a major think-tank (Centre for Secular Space); Sansom is on the Board of Publishing Ireland; Howard has advised the Treasury and PM's office on cultural affairs. Many colleagues serve on editorial boards of major international journals (including *Comparative Critical Studies*; *Journal of European Studies*; *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*; *International Journal of Scottish Literature*; *Textual Practice*; *Cultural Critique*; *Diaspora*; *Differences*; *Historical Materialism*; *Journal of Commonwealth and Post-Colonial Studies*; *Race & Class*; *Rhetorica*; *Literature and Theology*; *Literature Compass*; *Nineteenth-Century Literature*; *Miranda*; *Shakespeare Bulletin*; *Environmental Humanities*) or book series (*Bloomsbury WISH-list*; *New Directions in Religion and Literature*).

In the period under review, virtually all colleagues have given at least one major international conference keynote address. Many colleagues have won major international prizes, or been shortlisted (winners include: Freely, Lupton, Mason (x 2), Miéville (x 3), Morley (x 2), Vann (x 11, including, most recently, the \$50k St Francis College Prize) and A.L. Kennedy (Lannan and several other awards); shortlisted include: Shapiro, Katz, Freely, Miéville (x 2), Moss. Several have acted as invited judges for major international awards: (Freely for *Index on Censorship* awards; Katz for American Academy's 'Berlin Prize'; Hulse, on the Gunter Grass 'Albatross Prize' (German equivalent of Booker), and consultant to Adelaide Writers' Week); Morley (Foyles Young Poet of Year, T. S. Eliot Prize, Christopher Tower Prize, Cholmondeley Awards); Mukherjee (regional judge for Commonwealth Literature Prize).

Our work, from fundamental textual scholarship through to innovative re-directions of the entire modern and contemporary discipline, makes a serious and substantial contribution to the vigour and sustainability of English Studies in its twenty-first-century reformulations. The effect of work here is somewhat percussive, reaching out globally (as evidenced in our many invitations to present forthcoming work internationally, both by individuals and by research groupings), while also retaining a strong commitment to enlivening the national conversation in cultural affairs and policy.