

Institution: University of Sussex

Unit of Assessment: UoA 29 English

1. OVERVIEW

Since RAE 2008, English at Sussex has expanded the range of its research. Continuing Sussex's reputation for interdisciplinarity, our research embraces literary and cultural criticism on writing in English from the Middle Ages to the contemporary, English language and linguistics, critical theory, creative writing, and engagements with film, drama and other visual and performative media. Welcoming the opportunities offered by collaboration within Sussex, with other universities both in the UK and abroad, and with cultural institutions outside the HE sector, we remain committed to a model of research innovation that sees projects driven by the intellectual curiosity of individual and collaborating members of faculty and post-doctoral researchers. We have developed organisational structures to ensure that such projects are effectively delivered and disseminated, enabled by support mechanisms that allow faculty at all career stages to have access to time and resources. We have benefited from substantial investment in staffing, with 14 new appointments since 2008, the majority being early-career researchers or ECRs. Our large community of doctoral students (many supported by AHRC BGP1 funding, AHRC collaborative funding, and international awards) reflects our commitment to developing a new generation of researchers.

2. RESEARCH STRATEGY

• Aim

English at Sussex engages in curiosity-driven research across literature and other writing in English from the Middle Ages to the contemporary, English Language and Linguistics, and complementary areas in critical theory, creative writing, drama, film and other visual and performative media. As is familiar among Arts disciplines, the majority of our endeavours emerge from individuals substantially defining their own projects and their outputs' scope (from 7,000-word articles to 100,000+-word monographs). Such projects are aided by individuals' participation in research clusters and in formal collaborative groups. Our research strategy is grounded on establishing and maintaining the conditions that enable both the pursuit of individually-defined work and participation in collaborative projects of the highest quality, leading to internationally excellent and world-class publications and other disseminations. This strategy's success is evidenced by the notable growth in the volume, conceptual range and quality of our publications since 2008: 32 monographs; 11 novels, books of poetry and radio plays; 8 scholarly editions; 33 edited collections; 321 articles and contributions to edited collections. Our work's diversity is highlighted by six notable successes:

- Hadfield's biography of Edmund Spenser (winner of the Isabel McCaffery and Dietz prizes);
- Wood's *Black Milk*, exploring responses to slavery during the 18th and 19th centuries;
- Bailes' *Performance Theatre and the Poetics of Failure*, investigating how staging failure reveals theatre's potential to engage political and everyday realities;
- Boxall's *Twenty-First Century Fiction*, that highlights how novels engage new technologies to challenge ideas of democracy, humanity and national sovereignty;
- Newell's *The Power to Name*, nominated for the Herskowitz Award, the research for which underpins her recent €2.3 million ERC grant on African cultural politics; and
- Sutherland's *Stress Position* and *The Odes to TL61P*, poems that are generating a body of criticism and being taught in leading British and American universities.

• Strategic context

In 2009, Sussex reorganised both its academic units and the University's research support mechanisms. A School of English was established, bringing together groups in Literature,

English Language and Linguistics, American Studies and Drama to create a new administrative, teaching and research unit. Simultaneously, the decision was taken to redirect our research and teaching away from comparative literature and linguistics not focused on English. The School of English has become the locus (with all faculty now in one building) of researchers in this assessment unit and provides a coherent organisational configuration to plan, promote and manage research in English. The University has committed new resources to further research, including the appointment of a dedicated Research Development Officer for the Arts. English has benefited from investment in faculty, with 14 permanent appointments since 2008. Using the School's devolved finance model, we have invested in research support (£45k to £65k annually from 2008–2013) for faculty, post-doctoral fellows and post-graduate students, as well as maintaining a generous research-leave scheme.

• Strategic organisation

- Since 2009, English has promoted its research activities principally through our accredited Research Centres and our seminar series that foster the School's specialist research configurations. The Centres are: Creative and Critical Thought (CCT), Early Modern Studies (CEMS), Modernist Studies, The Study of Sexual Dissidence (CSSD), Visual Fields; the seminar series are: American Studies, Nineteenth-Century Studies, and Research on Language and Linguistics (ROLLS). We also run a weekly research colloquium during term-time, designed to stimulate interdisciplinary and broad conceptual thinking and to engage with future research directions.
- Faculty, post-docs and graduate students within the School belong to at least one of the research centres or seminars that mount a range of activities from discussion fora with visiting speakers, to hosting major conferences and festivals, such as the 600+ delegate Modernist Studies Association conference in 2013 and CCT's annual avant-garde poetry festivals since 2009, with 30+ poets reading in 2013 to a combined audience in excess of 750. The centres and seminars have organised and run 71 conferences, symposia and graduate colloquia since 2008. They direct research bids – e.g. Modernist Studies AHRC large grant on Modernist magazines and CSSD's Marie Curie Fellowship – and impact-related activities such as CCT's Quick Fictions web app with Myriad Editions and the Ethics in Performance events with the Medical School (2011–). They enable post-doctoral research, e.g. Pedlingham's AHRC Cultural Engagement Fund post-doc on 'The Life and Works of Richard Marsh' with Crawley Library. The centres host our visiting and honorary professors – Attenborough, Cixous, Josipovici, Nicholl, Prynne – and visiting scholars (e.g. Leverhulme Visiting Professors, Chinese and Turkish Research Council Fellows). As a 2013 graduate writes: 'The atmosphere of intellectual inquiry both in and outside the seminar room (the range of extracurricular lectures, symposia and seminars, is astounding) has been immensely inspiring'.
- The centres and seminars act as catalysts for interdisciplinary projects with other Sussex groups and external bodies that lead to significant outputs: e.g.
 - Modernist Studies and American Studies: *On Bathos* (Continuum, 2010), "'To Open Eyes": Black Mountain College into the 21st Century', *Black Mountain College Studies* (2012);
 - 'Elizabeth Bowen and Textual Modernity' with *Textual Practice* (2009, special issue of *TP*, 2013);
 - 'B.S. Johnson and the Possibilities of the Avant-Garde' with the B.S Johnson Society (2012, essays Palgrave 2014);
 - CCT and *The Oxford Literary Review*, *The Fiction of the World and Other Essays* (2013);
 - Visual Cultures: *World Pictures* conference (2012, with Oklahoma and Toronto), leading to a special issue of *WP* in 2014, and its annual Contemporary Directors Symposia (2009 – from 2013 with the BFI), with proceedings published by *Screen* from 2014.
- The Centre for Early Modern Studies (CEMS) illustrates how our centres enhance our specialist research configurations. CEMS is the principal research cluster for six faculty

Environment template (REF5)

(Dimmock, Hadfield, M. Healy, T. Healy, Porter, Walter). Their work involves both critical investigations (e.g. the interface between somatic and spiritual phenomena; Islam and the West; the performative within English culture; life writing) and editing – currently the Norton E-Shakespeare, Haklyut, Nash. CEMS is the research locus for English MA and doctoral students working on early-modern topics, with 18 completing doctorates since 2008 and 8 securing academic positions. Electing a director biannually (currently Porter and Walter are co-directors), CEMS arranges a termly programme of research papers and presentations from within Sussex and from invited external speakers. It organises an annual public symposium and a doctoral student colloquium, as well as larger conferences, many of these the kernel of published collections: e.g.

- *The Religions of the Book 1400–1660* (Palgrave, 2008);
- *Literature and Popular Culture in Early Modern England* (Ashgate, 2009);
- *Newton and Milton: Two Cultures* (2009, forthcoming CUP 2014);
- *Renaissance Transformations: the Making of English Writing* (Edinburgh UP, 2009);
- *The Intellectual Culture of the English Country House* (2012, forthcoming Manchester UP 2014).

As well as English, the centre's activities attract participation from faculty and graduate students in Art History, History and Philosophy, plus other local HEIs, especially Brighton and Chichester, and non-HEIs – e.g. Whitting, the chief archivist of the East Sussex Record Office, is an Honorary Research Fellow. Independent scholars and emeritus faculty also participate – e.g. the writer Charles Nicholl, Honorary Professor in the School, organised a CEMS symposium, “‘Interponed as on a Sheet of Waste Paper’: Writing Early Modern Lives”, that included James Shapiro (2013). In 2009, CEMS' association with the West Sussex Record Office directed Dimmock and M. Healy to 144 unknown early-modern drama quartos at Petworth House in the care of the National Trust, leading to an AHRC-collaborative doctoral award (2011–14) to work on this collection. CEMS' collaboration with Petworth has grown to include joint events aimed at the general public as well as academics, examining the rich but little-explored literary and cultural nexus of early-modern Sussex: e.g. dramatic performances in country houses, library use, and patronage among centres such as Arundel Castle, Chichester Cathedral, Parham House, and Cowdray. In 2011, CEMS secured Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) support for a 0.5 FTE postdoctoral position for 2012–15 to help organise a 2015 exhibition ‘The Art and Culture of Early Modern Sussex’, in collaboration with Chichester Cathedral Library. CEMS has annual postgraduate research and teaching exchanges with Venice and Granada and, in 2010 and 2011, participated in week-long intensive doctoral summer schools with Basel and Frankfurt on *Shaping Europe: Imagined Spaces and Cultural Transactions 1450–1700*. Andreani from Padua will join CEMS in 2014 as Marie Curie Fellow to undertake research on Meredith Hanmer (1543–1604).

- **Strategic implementation**

- The creation of the School of English in 2009 enabled a strategic review of our research policies. We established new transparent criteria governing expectations and accountabilities: for research leave, for research and conference funding, and for grant-application support. We now have an effective framework for the planning of research and the establishment of research priorities.
- Research strategy and management in English is principally under the supervision of the School Research Committee (RC) directed by a senior professor (currently Hadfield). The Head of School (HoS, currently T. Healy) devolves an annual budget to the RC (£35k in 2009 to £50k in 2014) for allocation to School research centres and seminars – who make annual bids for proposed activities – and to individuals applying for funded conference participation, archival visits and other research support. The RC encourages large-grant bids by funding visits to collaborators and time to finalise preparation. Application to the RC is by written submission, detailing performance indicators for which centres, seminars and individuals are held accountable. An analogous structure exists with the School's Doctoral Studies

Environment template (REF5)

Committee (DC, Smith is currently Director) with £15k devolved annually to further post-graduate research and career development. Additionally, the HoS reserves a discretionary fund annually (£15k) to support initiatives, e.g. seed-corn funding where immediate action is required.

- The RC's and DC's statutes guarantee representation across the School, including ECRs. Each committee meets six times a year and is supported by a senior School administrator. The RC and DC directors meet termly with their counterparts in other Schools on University-level committees, enabling co-ordination of research strategies across the institution.
- The English School's research centres and seminars, operating under a committee with well-defined responsibilities, enable the School to maintain its objective of empowering researchers to enact well-conceived, ambitious projects that lead to high-quality dissemination. Sustaining collaborative groupings that stimulate good research ideas within an organisational framework that demands accountability and acts supportively to shape ideas into realisable goals, English has established an effective strategic model to underpin the self-directed projects that remain the basis of our most successful accomplishments.
- **Future strategy**
 - English remains committed to supporting curiosity-driven research leading to dissemination through publication and other modes of public engagement. We will maintain an environment that intellectually stimulates and practically supports staff and graduate students in defining, exploring and completing research projects. The University's new strategic plan (2013–18) has designated English as an area of growth, with investment planned in Drama, American Studies and African Studies that will augment recent appointments in medieval, early modern, nineteenth-century and contemporary literature, in English language, and in critical and creative writing. Central to our future strategy is developing a series of planned initiatives that are underpinned by our current research investments and successes during this REF period.
 - An essential part of the future strategy of English rests in our growing collaborative work with CHASE (Consortium of Humanities and Arts South East England: Sussex, Kent, the UEA, the Courtauld Institute, Goldsmiths', Essex, the OU). Led by Sussex, English's Lebeau co-ordinated CHASE's successful £17 million AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership bid. With English's commitment to match fund all awards to the School, we are able to continue and grow our graduate community. CHASE's DTP further underpins growing research projects with our partners, including CSSD's AHRC Research Networking award on Global Queer Cinema; Dimmock's lead on staging early-modern Turk plays with the Globe Theatre's new Jacobean indoor theatre (a CHASE external partner); and explorations of the avant-garde through the significant archival holdings of Sussex, the UEA and Kent.
 - Newell's €2.3 million ERC grant on *The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa, 1880–present* (September 2013–18) brings four funded post-docs and PhD studentships to English and resources to mount conferences, including the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUUK) 2014 conference with 500+ delegates. Newell and Green (whose expertise is West African creoles) are developing a British Academy bid with the University of Cameroon to document local African Englishes. Masterson's 2013 appointment to a new post in South African writing further enhances our research on Africa, as will Ochiagha from Madrid joining English 2014–16 on a Royal Society Newton Fellowship to examine *Nigeria Magazine* under its British editor E.H. Duckworth, 1933–53. This corresponds with the University's strategic decision to make Africa a Sussex research focus, including the appointment of JoAnn McGregor in Global Studies to head a new University Africa Studies Centre. CSSD re-launches its MA with Global Studies in 2014/15 to focus on the developing world. This will include a substantial African emphasis, encouraging future post-graduate work.

A new University Centre for American Studies with Kane as Director became operative in

September 2013, expanding opportunities for interdisciplinary work with the Americas. Two 2012 appointments, Jonik and Wright, prompted Sussex's lead role in founding the British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (BrANCA) with Oxford, Warwick and the UEA, whose inaugural symposium was held at Sussex in Nov 2013.

English is consolidating its reputation as a leading creative and critical force in contemporary poetics: e.g. Sutherland gaining a Chair in Poetics, Solomon's appointment and Marriott joining us from UC Santa Cruz as Leverhulme Visiting Professor (2014). The University Library has acquired the papers of the late avant-garde poet, Anna Mendelssohn; these are the focus of a large AHRC bid with Crangle as PI. Our work in text and performance will be further enhanced with the opening of the University's Attenborough Centre for Creative Arts (ACCA) following a £7.2 million refurbishment of the former Gardner Arts Centre.

- Sandpit sessions at research away-days identified other notable areas we are expanding. English has growing strengths in Health and Humanities, exploring innovative ways of understanding patient stories: e.g. Eckstein's BBC radio dramas (2008–2013) and her Ethics in Performance series; Lebeau's 2013–15 HEIF-funded Kick Start Network grant with FutureHealth (a Brighton organisation of GPs) to examine the Arts in the development of healthcare policy; M. Healy's new project on representations of mental illness, using 19th-20th Century asylum records from Sussex's pioneering Lady Chichester Hospital (currently a Wellcome bid). Thurschwell is CI in a £1.4 million AHRC Care for the Future bid on sexuality and youth studies, exploring the transformation of intimacy among young people as a result of 21st Century demographic and technological change. English's work in these areas has stimulated wider thinking, with additional faculty (Boxall, Porter, Walter) on prosthesis from the Middle Ages to the future, extending its associations with disability to engage bodily augmentation – from medieval armour to technological extension – as well as less evident somatic enhancements from amulets to genetics. An inaugural conference in 2014 will address writing's functions in shaping cultural responses to prosthesis from medieval '*lèpres*' to science-fiction cyborgs.

Packham, with her expertise on literary culture and economics (Mary Wollstonecraft and the writing of political economy was her 2012–13 Leverhulme Fellowship topic) and Adelman, a 2012 appointment, whose research explores 'idleness' in the 19th Century, are running a project on leisure and economy in collaboration with the University of Freiburg (with funding from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). This venture will be extended, becoming the focus of an AHRC Research Network bid, 'Beyond Economics', that will explore challenges to dominant economic assumptions across history, with planned conferences, symposia, blogs and interactive websites leading to both scholarly publication and public engagement.

- The School of English has initiated research networks with overseas partners. In 2012, we gained 2 of 5 University/Santander Mobility Grants to develop a strategic research relation with NYU, including doctoral-student exchanges. English recently concluded arrangements for an annual joint exchange devoted to research-based activities with Cornell's Society for the Humanities, to start in 2014. These join existing links with the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Newberry Library, and Northwestern University (funded by Fulbright) in the United States; Kenyatta, Lagos and Witwatersrand in Africa; and with universities in Barcelona, Basel, Frankfurt, Freiburg, Granada, Padua, Porto, Rome, Uppsala and Venice in Europe (helped by ERASMUS staff exchanges). English believes that establishing sustained partnerships with select institutions enables us to build research collaborations that address the increasingly global dimension of our discipline and the transnational inquiries it stimulates.

3. PEOPLE

Staffing strategy

- With the exception of an external professorial appointment as Head of School, all 14 full-time permanent faculty appointments to English since 2008 have been made at lecturer level, a

Environment template (REF5)

strategic decision to promote the exceptional research talent found among new entrants to academia. Research priorities are crucial in appointments, developing connections within the School: e.g. Price in Drama whose research on popular American theatre links with that of Wright (another ECR), who examines rhetoric and morality in America and England; both connecting with existing concentrations on American popular art forms and literary culture (Currell and Kane). Robinson and Taylor build on our contemporary sociolinguistic focus in English language, while Porter's expertise in early-modern performance consolidates our Petworth House and Globe Theatre associations. New strategic initiatives guiding appointments, such as Adelman in Romanticism, Masterson in South African writing, O'Connell in sexualities, Solomon and Stevens in Creative and Critical Writing and Walter in the Middle Ages enhance connections within existing centre and seminar concerns and extend their scope.

- English has a proven record of developing its members' careers. Since 2008, we have made extensive internal promotions: Boxall, Dimmock, Lebeau and Sutherland to Chairs; Bailes, Barnett, Crangle, Currell, M. Healy, Kane, Murphy and Rhodes to Readers; Packham, Piazza and Uffmann to Senior Lecturers. Five of these were ECRs in RAE 2008. Furthermore, other faculty moved to take up Chairs in the USA, the UK and Europe, such as UC Irvine, NYU, Groningen and York, including Nicholls and Cummings, who began their careers at Sussex over 20 years ago.
- We recognise the importance of providing adequate time in which to pursue research. Teaching allocations acknowledge this, including a 20 per cent reduction for probationary appointments. The structural flexibility of our BAs and MAs enables faculty to teach to their research strengths, both established and emerging. All permanent faculty may expect School-funded research leave equating to one term every three years, with the RC assessing leave proposals for their viability. Faculty are encouraged to seek other forms of grant-aided leave, but external grant success does not determine decisions for School-funded leave and externally-funded leave is not viewed as a substitute. All appointments longer than a year enjoy the same arrangements for teaching loads, research support and mentoring as permanent staff. Post-doctoral fellows are treated as researchers with a teaching contribution to ensure their rounded career development.
- All ECRs are assigned a senior mentor to help guide their research careers. All faculty have an annual research appraisal with the Head of School. Where this identifies the need for further guidance, more frequent meetings occur: such support is employed as facilitating rather than remedial. Wakeford, the University's Research Development Officer for the Arts, also engages on a one-to-one basis with faculty preparing research bids. English organises regular events for staff to share best practice: e.g. using technologies, information resources and preparing grant applications. The University Research Office runs regular information events, including fortnightly 'coffee mornings' at which staff are invited to discuss funding ideas, however embryonic. The School holds an annual research away-day to consider research policy and to encourage collaborative activities. For example, a discussion around 'Affect' in 2010 developed into an international conference, 'Thinking Feeling: Critical Theory, Culture and Feeling' (May 2012) and a symposium, 'Low Affects/High Stakes' (November 2012).
- The University's Equality and Diversity Committee has responsibility for implementing the University's well-publicised policies. English regularly reviews equalities surrounding appointments, access to research opportunities, career development, research expectations and the conduct of day-to-day business in the School. The School management group addresses matters around gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity and family-friendly issues to ensure that policy and practice meet University norms and are experienced by staff as supportive. Lebeau chairs a School working party that reviews equalities on a termly basis.

Research students

- English maintains a large cluster of research students. We currently have 89 doctoral students, which includes 19 funded by the AHRC and 23 by overseas and other agencies. These undertake investigations that embrace archival research, language fieldwork, and creative writing, as well as critical explorations into aspects of literature in English, English language and

drama from the early-modern period to the contemporary. We have awarded 88 doctorates from the last RAE census to July 2013. English was notably successful in AHRC BGP1, enabling us to award 10 AHRC doctoral studentships annually by 2013 through matched funding, placing us 7th among UK universities for AHRC English doctoral awards 2008–13. The School attracted other awards, including Commonwealth and Fulbright-funded studentships as well as Sussex University Chancellor Scholarships. The recent Sussex-led CHASE success in securing an AHRC DTP to 2019 helps us to maintain our commitment to developing future generations of academic research excellence, including devoting School funds to match fund AHRC awards.

- Recruitment is managed by the School's DC and its Director is the recognised point of contact for all doctoral students' concerns. Selection is based on well-established norms – a detailed thesis proposal, writing samples and interview. At least IELTS 7 is required among non-native speakers. Through attentive monitoring, the DC ensures that equal opportunities are observed in the recruitment, selection and award of studentships. Each student has a primary and a secondary supervisor. Regular training courses for supervisors, which are compulsory for new appointments, are run by the University's Doctoral School. The DC oversees adherence to University policies on supervisors' training, supervision frequency and the maintaining of supervision records. Each student has a formal annual appraisal by a panel to ensure that appropriate progress is being made. Areas of concern raised by appraisal are acted on by the DC's Director and, in extreme cases, by the Head of School. Since 2008, 85.5 per cent of grant funded-students in English have completed their doctorates within four years.
- The University's Doctoral School provides research students with research and teaching training and career development and planning. The School additionally grants the DC an annual sum (£15k 2009–13) to fund further needs: e.g. language instruction and palaeography, archival and library visits, field trips, and conference attendance. English organises a year-long English Lecturer Training Programme (ELTP) for research students wishing to gain teaching experience and its successful completion is required to teach in the School. Organised by a senior academic (currently Newell) and with wide participation by faculty, ELTP matches fortnightly formal sessions – e.g. running seminars, giving lectures, marking – with a mentoring programme in which a student co-teaches a course with an experienced faculty member over a term. We are currently seeking HEA accreditation for this programme.
- English has supported conferences run for and by PhD students (14 since 2008). Most involved national participation, for example: *Proving It: The Use of Evidence in Early Modern Interdisciplinary Research*, co-sponsored with CRASSH (2010); *In-Sight: Theorising the Visual/ Visualising Theory* (2009) and *Picture This: Postcards from the Edge* (2011), both co-sponsored by the AHRC; *Digital Languages: Using Corpora for your Research Questions* (2012) with the University's Digital and Social Media Research group. Our graduate students won a £3,000 AHRC collaborative skills development award (with the UEA) for a project called *After the Archive* (2013). In 2010, English initiated the development of *Excursions*, an annual interdisciplinary, externally peer-reviewed online journal (www.excursions-journal.org.uk/). Doctoral students set up the Africa in Words blog in 2011 which, by 2013, averages some 5k monthly hits from 2,500+ people in over 100 countries.
- The strength of English's doctoral research culture is evidenced by our students' success in obtaining permanent academic positions. Since 2008 they have been appointed to: Anglia Ruskin, Bristol, Brighton (2), Durham, the UEA, KCL (2), Lincoln (2), QM, Northumbria, Nottingham Trent, Oxford Brookes, Sussex, Warwick, York (2) and York St John, as well as universities in Australia, Botswana, Cameroon, China, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, the USA (2) and Vietnam. In addition, 21 recent graduates have held temporary lectureships or post-doctoral fellowships in the UK, Europe, the USA and Asia. One of our doctorates in creative and critical writing has achieved notable writing success: in 2013 Ros Barber's (DPhil 2012) *The Marlowe Papers* won the Desmond Elliott Prize and the Author's Club First Novel Award, and was long-listed for the Women's Prize For Fiction (formerly the Orange Prize).

4. INCOME, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

- From 2008 to July 2013, English was awarded £1,255,406 in external grant income, including a large AHRC collaborative grant on Modernist Magazines. Grants to individuals include:
 - two 3-year Major Leverhulme Fellowships (Cummings, Wood);
 - three BARDAs (Barnett, Hadfield, Newell);
 - five one-year Leverhulme Research Fellowships (Currell, Dimmock, Hadfield, M. Healy, Packham);
 - four AHRC-matching leave awards (Barnett, Currell, Lauret, Packham); and
 - four BA small grants (Currell, Hadfield, Kane, Rhodes).

English also secured a Marie Curie Fellowship (Leszkowicz) and a Leverhulme Visiting Professor (Okome).

- Our research is supported by a well-stocked University library whose collections offer researchers access to a wide and expanding range of primary sources, digital archives, journals, books and databases. As part of a £7.4 million refurbishment in 2011, the Library established the Sussex Research Hive as a designated area for researchers, including doctoral students, providing private-study areas, bookable meeting rooms and space for collaborative work. The Hive runs an annual seminar series on interdisciplinary topics important to English, such as open-access policy, digital possibilities and the future of publishing.
- In Autumn 2013, the University Library Special Collections (USC) moved to The Keep, a new purpose-built £19 million facility next to the Sussex campus that brings together its collections with those of the East Sussex Record Office, The Royal Pavilion, and Brighton and Hove Museums (co-sponsors of the project with the University). English actively employs these resources with the USC's Leonard and Virginia Woolf, Charleston, and Monk's House papers in particular being central to the research of faculty and graduate students. The Mass Observation archive, along with the Charles Madge Collection, was the focus of a series of workshops at the 2013 Modernist Studies Conference; Crangle led USC's acquisition of the poet Anna Mendelssohn's papers in 2011 and she worked with USC and alumni in 2012/13 to raise £60k to acquire Virginia Woolf's engagement diaries.
- Our research on creativity and performance – notably in Drama and Poetics – has been aided by the University's refurbishment of the Creativity Zone (CZ). Bailes worked with Karen Christopher (Goat Island Company) in 2010/11, writing and preparing a performance for the CZ that was subsequently played at the Performance Studies international (PSi) 2012 conference and published in *Theatre, Dance and Performance Training* (2013). Furthering his work on popular theatre, Price curated the CZ's *Listening to the Material* workshops (2013). The CZ has enabled us to mount successful annual avant-garde poetry festivals since 2009 (in collaboration with Brighton's Nightingale Theatre), a First Fictions Festival in 2012 with Myriad Editions (with another in 2014), as well as annual advanced workshops on Shakespeare and performance with the director Michael Attenborough, Honorary Professor in the School. Eckstein used the CZ to run the 2013 SICK! Festival (in collaboration with Brighton's Basement Theatre) and Bailes developed workshops for both graduate students and artists (also with the Basement): e.g. with Cathy Naden and Forced Entertainment (2011) and with Bobby Baker's Wellcome-funded *Culture Cake* (2013). The University's development of the ACCA, which opens in 2014, will provide facilities for planned collaborative projects with the Live Arts Development Agency.

5. COLLABORATION OR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCIPLINE OR RESEARCH BASE

- English has long-standing research engagements with non-HEIs. Since 2008, we have furthered relations with Charleston House and the British Library (with whom we have completed AHRC-funded collaborative doctorates), the Globe (where we have an annual

Environment template (REF5)

doctoral intern), Basement and Nightingale theatres, the British Film Institute, Myriad Editions, the Duke of York Cinema, Mass Observation Archive, and Sussex Record Offices. We have also developed new collaborations with The National Trust at Petworth House, Lambeth Palace, Live Arts Development Agency, Brighton Museum, Chichester Cathedral Library, Regency House in Brighton, and the BBC Sound Archive.

- Our collaborative strategy is to start with an initial project with a non-HEI and broaden it to develop lasting partnerships. This is illustrated by connections between English's Centres for Visual Fields and CSSD and the Brighton Museum and Duke of York Cinema. CSSD secured a Marie Curie Intra-European Research Fellow (2010–12) to bring Leskowicz from Poland, who had extensive experience of curating exhibitions. Led by Rhodes, the centres organised 'Exhibitionism: A Symposium on Queer Curatorial Practices' (2011) and 'Queer Artists Speak Out: A Town Meeting on the Queer State of the Art' (2012) with Brighton Museum. These events gathered those working in museums, festivals and other cultural institutions – including the BM, the NFT, the Museum of London, and the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival – along with academics and artists, to stage debates for professionals and the wider public. This work was expanded by O'Connell (2012–13), who organised a series of screenings of queer cinema with the Duke of York Cinema followed by public discussions with the films' directors (both UK and internationally based). O'Connell and Rhodes are part of a 2013 AHRC Research Networking award on Global Queer Cinema and CSSD secured HEIF money to employ post-doctoral researchers (2011–14) to prepare an exhibition in 2015 at the Brighton Museum on Gay Lives in the Twentieth Century. This uses the Mass Observation Archive, which contains the largest gathering of materials on the lives of gay men and women in post-war Britain, and collections of the Brighton-based Lesbian and Gay News Archive and OurStory.
- Furthering our acknowledged role in challenging the boundaries of English, Sussex continues to stimulate interdisciplinary research. Edited by Sussex English since 1995, the journal *Textual Practice* (currently edited by Boxall) commands international authority for its investigations into texts, theory, politics and history. Co-founded and co-edited by Rhodes from 2009, *World Picture* has become a leading journal exploring interfaces of the verbal and visual in contemporary culture. Hadfield's editorship of *Renaissance Studies* until 2011, Eckstein's and M. Healy's of *Medical Humanities*, Robinson's of *English Today: The International Review of the English Language* and Royle's of *The Oxford Literary Review* further illustrates how Sussex English helps to extend our discipline through interdisciplinary and theoretical engagements. In all, faculty participate on the editorial/advisory boards of 43 journals and scholarly book series. Our global impact is also indicated by the extent of invited and plenary lectures given in the REF census period: a total of 419 papers in 27 countries, including Vance's Linen Hall Library lecture (2009); Rhodes' Tomás Harris Visiting Professorship Lectures at UCL (2011–12); and Hadfield's Folger Shakespeare's Birthday lecture (2013).
- Currell was elected Chair of the British Association for American Studies in 2013, having been Vice-Chair (2012–13). Newell was elected President of the African Studies Association of the UK (2012), having been Vice-Chair (2010–12). Hadfield became Vice-Chair of the Society for Renaissance Studies in 2013. Since 2008, eighteen other faculty held offices in, or were made Fellows of, professional organisations. Offices include the English Association, the Linguistics Association of Great Britain and the Society for Renaissance Studies. Fellowships include the Royal Society of Medicine, the Royal Historical Society and the English Association. Four members of the School served on the AHRC Peer Review Panel, while a further 15 acted as assessors for grants for UK and international research councils, including the British Academy, the AHRC, Leverhulme, ESRC, Arts Council England, Wellcome Trust, Canada's SSHRC, Irish Research Council, Austrian Science Fund and the Volkswagen Foundation.