

<p>Institution: Liverpool Hope University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: English Language and Literature (D29)</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Liverpool Hope University is a prominent educational institution within Liverpool and has played an active part in the city and the region since its foundation in 1844. It has consistently created educational opportunity for all, and has always attempted to take scholarship and research into a wider community. Part of its mission is ‘to contribute to the educational, religious, cultural, social and economic life of Liverpool, Merseyside, the North-West and beyond.’ Thus, in many ways, ‘impact’ has always been part of the university’s life. The university believes that its students and academic staff should ‘throughout their time at Hope be stimulated to engage with society’ (Corporate Plan). For example, in June 2008 the institution organized ‘Big Hope’, a Global Youth Congress which enabled several hundred young colleagues from over 55 countries to participate in a conference programme on civic life. This included research-led workshops in which members of the English team were involved. In recent years, the university’s research profile has grown substantially and many new research-active staff have been appointed, expanding further the range and scope of its impact.</p> <p>The English department at Hope is relatively small and most staff have been appointed since the last RAE. With the increased attention to research in recent years, the department is now thoroughly research-active, and is now producing impactful research in several areas (there should be strong case-studies for REF 2020). It was decided that for the case studies we should focus on the impact of recent research by two members of staff producing high-profile research; but, nonetheless, these case studies are merely examples of a wide range of impact activities undertaken over the years and represent the whole department’s commitment to developing links with schools, museums, libraries and literary festivals. Dr Kinsley and Dr Rossiter both researched at Liverpool Hope across the duration of 2008 to July 2013. Dr Rossiter moved institution in September 2013.</p> <p>The two case studies should give a very good insight into the research and teaching of the department as well as the range of impact that the department is involved in. They each offer two rather different research specialisms and work on different literary periods. Dr Rossiter works on Shakespeare, whereas Dr Kinsley works on non-fiction and, indeed, on a writer who is not a household name (the eighteenth-century travel-writer Dorothy Richardson). Dr Rossiter asks ‘Is Shakespeare Good for Us?’; Dr Kinsley takes back to Scarborough and Manchester some travel accounts of Manchester and Scarborough that were produced two centuries ago. Dr Rossiter looks at the moral virtue inherent in studying Shakespeare’s works, enhancing his audience’s knowledge of the early modern ethical principles that underpin Shakespeare. Dr Kinsley enriches local understanding of Scarborough’s history as one of the first English seaside resorts, and furthers understanding of the role of North West manufacturing centres in Britain’s historic tourist tradition.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>As a department, we are committed to challenging imaginations and enriching lives, and our attitude of engagement has been reflected in our teaching as well as our research. We are interested in not only the impact of our research upon large audiences but also impact upon hard-to-reach groups (Dr Kinsley’s work with fishermen being a good example here). The department’s involvement with the wider public can be seen in the broad range of public lectures and conferences that have been held at Hope since 2008: for example, there have been talks by contemporary writers such as Julian Barnes (on 14 June 2008), and recently there was an Irish Literature lecture series (ten lectures between 14 October and 13 December 2012).</p> <p>Department members also regularly take part in literary and arts festivals. The department is actively involved in the university’s annual Cornerstone Festival (a multi-arts and cutting-edge public events programme). In 2013, the Department hosted a lecture series on ‘Time, History, and Memory’ as part of Liverpool’s city-wide ‘In Other Words’ literary festival. Dr Ria Cheyne’s work on disability in science fiction led to an invitation to present on this topic at an event in the disability arts festival DaDaFest. <i>Changing Capacities, Changing Identities</i> aimed to stimulate discussion ‘about the impact of changes on peoples’ day-to-day lives so that the lived</p>

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experience of life-limiting illness and related phenomena is not always one of loss' (DaDaFest 2012). Free and open to the public, the event combined academic presentations with art exhibits and presentations from disabled performers and artists exploring this theme.

The department also has strong links with the International Anthony Burgess Foundation: it funded several PhDs, two members of the Department are on the IABF Board of Trustees and Liverpool Hope has hosted the Anthony Burgess Symposium. The link with the IABF was part of an ongoing strategy of working with external bodies. English Department staff have been encouraged to connect their research to local institutions, by, for example, giving talks at galleries or museums. The department has a strong and formal link with National Museums Liverpool (the Walker Art Gallery, the World Museum, the Museum of Liverpool, Merseyside Maritime Museum, the International Slavery Museum, Seized! The Border and Customs Uncovered, the Lady Lever Art Gallery, and Sudley House).

The case studies are concerned with the impact of recent research and plans for impact were mostly developed alongside the production of the underpinning research. As a strategic decision, teaching relief was provided to Dr Kinsley and Dr Rossiter during 2012-13 so that they could work on their projects – the department requested a post-doctoral teaching fellow in English Literature to cover teaching, and this request was granted by the university. Assistance has also been given to Kinsley and Rossiter by an intern, IT staff, reprographics staff, and marketing staff, as well as academic colleagues. The university allowed Dr Rossiter to use a number of teaching rooms for his lectures and workshops.

We have been thinking in earnest about impact for some time now, and plans have been made for developing impact during both the current REF period and the next. In the spring of 2012 we invited Professor Dinah Birch to visit Hope in order to talk about impact and the REF; we invited other universities in the area (Lancaster, LJMU, Chester, Edge Hill) to attend the talk, and this was a helpful session for all the universities involved. Through the REF Steering Group and Research Committee structures, the university takes an active interest in impact and how it can best be achieved. These bodies have also allowed for inter-departmental dialogue about initiatives and best practice. Similarly, the university's interdisciplinary research centres, such as the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies, have facilitated impact-related discourse between departments.

c. Strategy and plans

Our research strengths are in historical contextualisation of literature and the problematic divide between the canonical and the non-canonical, and we have strong links to local institutions, museums and schools, developing partnerships through which we reach out to the public and enrich the cultural life of the city. We intend to develop and strengthen our links with museums and archives in the region – the relationship with the National Museums Liverpool is ongoing and will be developed in the future so that staff regularly collaborate with the NML, co-curating exhibitions and giving talks. Students are taken to the Walker Art Gallery every year, where staff from our department talk about the relationship between their research and the art in the gallery, and it is intended to develop this into a series of public lectures.

The connection with museums and galleries can also be seen in the department's work on the First World War. The department has two members of staff who work on the literature of the First World War, Dr William Blazek and Dr Guy Cuthbertson, and they are planning to take their research to a wider audience at the time of the war's centenary. Dr Guy Cuthbertson works on the First World War writers Edward Thomas and Wilfred Owen - his biography of Wilfred Owen for Yale University Press will appeal to a large audience when it is published in 2014. He will be co-curating an Owen exhibition at the Williamson Galley in Birkenhead. Dr William Blazek works on Modernism and the war, and is making plans to work with Tate Liverpool during the centenary. Both of these academics are members of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies, and they are currently planning a symposium on the war.

The department intends to continue to strengthen its contacts and involvement with local schools, and a series of lectures and study sessions have been planned for future dates. We are

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particularly keen to tie these events for schools to new and recent major publications by members of the department. The recent development of an Education and English MA, which is designed to enhance the subject knowledge and pedagogical knowledge of practising teachers, is evidence of a long-standing focus on schools and school-teaching in connection with the university's focus on teacher-training.

Other members of staff are developing projects in order to interact with non-academic users. For example, Prof Cynthia Hamilton's work dealing with the visual image of the kneeling slave seeks to have an impact on collectors of British medals, Wedgwood enthusiasts, and school-teachers and children. The impact is thus one of enriching the public understanding and appreciation of the visual culture associated with slavery and deepening the public understanding of the role played by anti-slavery culture in changing public attitudes. Impact will be measured by feedback either on-line or through surveys. Dr Linda McLoughlin has received British Academy funding for a project called "They used to call me gory which means white girl in their language": multivocal expressions of identity in a women's network', and the project follows on from an earlier study which applied critical discourse analysis to the multimodal representations of beauty in a contemporary magazine aimed at British Asian women. As a useful complement to the textual analysis, a small-scale pilot study was carried out to ascertain the subject positions adopted by the target audience of the magazine. The proposed research adopts a feminist perspective and aims to give significance to the voices and feelings of an ethnic minority group. The project will include the production of a magazine in collaboration with the participants of the focus groups.

The University will continue to offer teaching relief to staff in order to allow them time to develop and carry out impact projects. In the Research and Scholarship Development Plan 2014-19, impact is embedded in researcher development structures and programmes: the institution seeks to support individuals and departments at all stages of the impact life-cycle. Within the English department, we have an on-going dialogue about how our research can have an impact on the wider community – ideas continue to be put forward, and we hope that all research-active staff will take action to ensure that their research has an impact over the coming years.

d. Relationship to case studies

The department's close involvement with museums and archives in Liverpool has been paralleled by Dr Kinsley's impact project, in which she collaborates with, for instance, Wigan Archives Service, the John Rylands Library in Manchester and the Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre. Dr Kinsley's involvement in the Leigh and Wigan Words Together Festival, the Scarborough Literature Festival and Scarborough Seafest parallels the department's involvement in literary festivals in Liverpool. Indeed, Dr Rossiter gave a public lecture on Shakespeare's sonnets, delivered on the anniversary of his birth and death (23 April 2013), as part of the opening night of Liverpool City Council's 'In Other Words' literary festival.

Both Dr Kinsley and Dr Rossiter have continued the department's strong commitment to developing links with schools. Dr Kinsley has been working with Scarborough High School and Sixth Form in relation to an oral history project involving Dorothy Richardson's travel-writing and Scarborough fishermen. Dr Rossiter's case study involved a series of lectures, primarily but not exclusively aimed at local A-level students. Local A-level students from a varied demographic were invited to attend a lecture and workshop on Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies or sonnets, depending on the texts they were studying. For example, for the lecture on Shakespearean comedy on 28th February the schools in attendance were South Sefton College (40 students), Belvedere Academy (40 students) and Range High School (25 students).

Liverpool Hope places a strong emphasis on moral education: the University's distinctive philosophy is 'to "educate in the round" – mind, body and spirit – in the quest for Truth, Beauty and Goodness'. The University is concerned with 'the formation and, indeed, the transformation of its students into graduates prepared for making a difference for good in the world'. This approach is seen in Dr Rossiter's case study, which looks at the question of the moral virtue inherent in studying Shakespeare's works, and his lectures were written with a view to enhancing knowledge of the early modern ethical principles which underpin Shakespeare's texts.