Environment template (REF5)

Institution: Loughborough University
Unit of Assessment: D36b Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management

a. Overview

All research staff in this unit are members of the Department of Social Sciences at Loughborough University. In the four previous Research Assessment Exercises, staff from all subject groups in the Department (Communication and Media Studies, Social Psychology, Sociology, and Criminology and Social Policy) were returned to the Sociology panel (D41) as a single unit. Because of central developments in the Department's research trajectory, including several major new appointments and the decision to return social policy and criminology research to C22, the D36 Unit of Assessment now provides a more precise and inclusive category for the largest part of our research. Our research in communication, cultural and media studies is organised under the umbrella of the Communication Research Centre, which has below it two intermediary level research groups (the Discourse and Rhetoric Group and Cultural and Media Analysis Research Group) and then a variety of more informal research groupings (Cultural Communities, Cosmopolitanship and Citizenship, Loughborough University Help Line Research Unit, the Memory Studies Research Group, and Loughborough's Qualitative Digital Research Lab). The relationship of these elements is explained in greater detail below.

b. Research strategy

i. Our strategic aims

In RAE 2008, members of this unit were returned to the Sociology panel (D41). Research in communication, cultural and media studies formed a prominent element in that submission, and this aspect has been expanded and developed significantly since.

We will continue to enhance the defining characteristic of our work at Loughborough: namely, the investigation of a broad spectrum of communication informed by an extensive intellectual base. We range across interpersonal and small-group communication, social media and communication networks, political communication, media education, mainstream communications in all their manifestations, including digital and online media, and the analysis of other types of communicative work, such as tourism, popular music and memory.

This is possible because of the inter-disciplinarity we have fostered at Loughborough for many years. The Department of Social Sciences was established forty years ago specifically as an interdisciplinary department, and it has always sought to appoint creative academics from diverse disciplinary backgrounds. For this reason, the staff submitted to this unit include media specialists, cultural analysts, sociologists, social psychologists, historians, social theorists, conversation and discourse analysts, political scientists and visual anthropologists. Our core research strategy is to preserve this diversity and to encourage original inter-connections in order to encourage theoretical advances and innovative empirical research.

The publications submitted to this assessment demonstrate the range and originality of our empirical work in communication, which includes, but extends well beyond, textual analysis. As evidence of *range*, 81 percent of the 139 publications present original empirical findings, employing diverse research methods and approaches, with a substantial emphasis upon investigating the social dimensions of communication. Fifty one percent of the methods used generated primary evidence relating to *social actors* and/or *social interactional context.* Thirty nine percent were used to analyse traditional media (TV, press, radio, film, magazines etc.) and on-line content (social media, blogs, internet etc). The remaining 10 percent involved the primary analysis of historical archive material.

As evidence of *originality*, there are numerous examples of methodological innovation contained within this body of work. Notable examples include Downey and Stanyer's development of 'fuzzy set analysis' for comparative media research; Van-Zoonen and Mihelj's use of data mining and

network analysis techniques in investigating social media use; Saukko's application of auto-ethnography; Keightley and Pickering's development of self-interviewing methods, and Stokoe's Conversation Analytic Role-play Method (CARM) .

ii. Plans and aspirations 2014-2019

Our aim is to extend the reach and impact of our research by greater engagement with non-academic users and with international partner universities. There are four new developments that support this aspiration:

1) Loughborough University is undertaking a major review of its research strengths to identify areas where it can bring a unique and significant contribution to meet the Global Challenges of the future. 'Communication, Culture and Citizenship' has been identified as one of its six overarching research themes. Professor John Downey has been appointed to offer academic leadership for developing this core institutional research priority, which is intended to forge greater interdisciplinary research collaborations across the institution and with external HEIs and other partner organisations. Following extensive consultation, they have identified the challenges of achieving greater inclusivity (culturally, socially, politically and economically) as a focus for developing the distinctiveness of Loughborough's contribution. We anticipate future research developments to address: the *problematics* of inclusion (the structural and historical barriers that may obstruct its realization), the *performance* of inclusion (the complex ways in which communality is articulated through existing social relations and cultural activities) and the *practices* of inclusion (the development of innovative strategies, policies and products that promote greater opportunity, equality and participation).

2) Loughborough University is opening a new campus on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London (formally the Olympic Park) recruiting new staff from 2013 and new postgraduate taught and research students from 2015. Loughborough wishes to enhance its reputation as a major centre for communication research by establishing a research institute in London for media and creative industries. The new institute will attract postgraduate research students and will recruit world-leading staff, in order to collaborate internationally with other world-leading communication research centres. This will further develop our impact on industry, institutions, professionals and policy-makers at both national and international levels. The new institute will be integrated within the existing research centres described below, and there will be considerable cross-campus collaboration and mobility amongst staff.

3) Over recent years, members of the Discourse and Rhetoric Group have been developing ways of applying insights derived from their work to achieve more effective communication and interactional practices in a wide range of institutional and workplace settings (e.g. mediation services, health helplines, police interviews). Examples of the value and impact of this work are presented in our accompanying impact narratives. Following recent strategic appointments of internationally recognised analysts, working in legal, governmental and medical contexts (see section c for details), the unit can claim to be a significant focus for 'applied conversation analysis'. It is hoped that the recent establishment of the *Loughborough University's Helpline Research Unit (LUHRU)* (see below) will lead to the creation of a formal research centre enhancing established links with external bodies, such as NSPCC, College of Mediators, the Department of Work and Pensions, the Metropolitan police and the NHS. At the time of writing, a bid for a £4million ESRC research Centre for Communication in Service Delivery (CCSD) has successfully passed through the first round application process and is currently under review (decision January 2014). The long-term aim is to create a step-change in the way we study how service provider (SP)/ service user (SU) interaction works and to generate new knowledge of communicative practice.

4) In the areas of media, communications and cultural industries, a range of collaborative research projects, co-authored publications, and interchange of research staff, are being developed with leading international Communications/ Journalism schools in China and India (Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, East China Normal University, Nanjing University in China and Jamia Millia Islamia University in India). These relationships will continue to be enhanced through regular face-to-face interaction with research staff at partner institutions and to be formalised by bilateral Memoranda of Understanding at an institutional level.

iii. Support for interdisciplinary and collaborative research

The unit has developed a scholarly infrastructure that enables the nurturing of research in the subject areas previously listed, supporting research, allowing staff and students with compatible interests to interact, share information and collaborate on inter-disciplinary research. Overall co-ordination is provided by the Communication Research Centre (CRC), which Professors Peter Golding and Michael Billig established in 1991 with two principal aims: (a) to accommodate emerging strands of research and teaching in areas such as political economy of media, audience research, cultural policy, cultural studies and political communication; and (b) to link with the work of the *Discourse and Rhetoric Group* (DARG) which had been formed in 1987. DARG was already known internationally as the home of discursive psychology and for pioneering the use of discourse and conversation analysis within psychology. The 25th anniversary DARG was celebrated in 2012 by the publication of a special edition of the British Journal of Social Psychology. The *Cultural and Media Analysis Group* (CAMARG) was established in 2002 to integrate existing media and communication research with the new developments that followed a series of appointments in Sociology. The additional areas of expertise that connected with and extended research strengths, include *inter alia* ethnography, nationalism, tourism, visual anthropology, cultural policy and cultural sociology. DARG and CAMARG now represent the two research 'arms' of the CRC, each meeting weekly throughout term time.

There are several other research groups in the unit that operate underneath DARG and CAMARG and that cement links with other academics and research groups across the university. The *Cultural Communities, Cosmopolitanship and Citizenship group (*CulCom**,** established in 2013) provides a forum for the development of a research culture addressing cultural communities. The *Memory Studies Group* (established in 2012) emerged from research work conducted within CAMARG and DARG. *Loughborough University's Helpline Research Unit (*LUHRU**,** established in 2013**)** directly applies DARG work to that topic. The *Loughborough Qualitative Digital Research Laboratory (the LiQUiD Lab,* established in 2009 in partnership with the Department of Geography and School of Sports Exercise and Human Sciences*)* links the qualitative methods of CAMARG and DARG with other broad-based social science traditions.
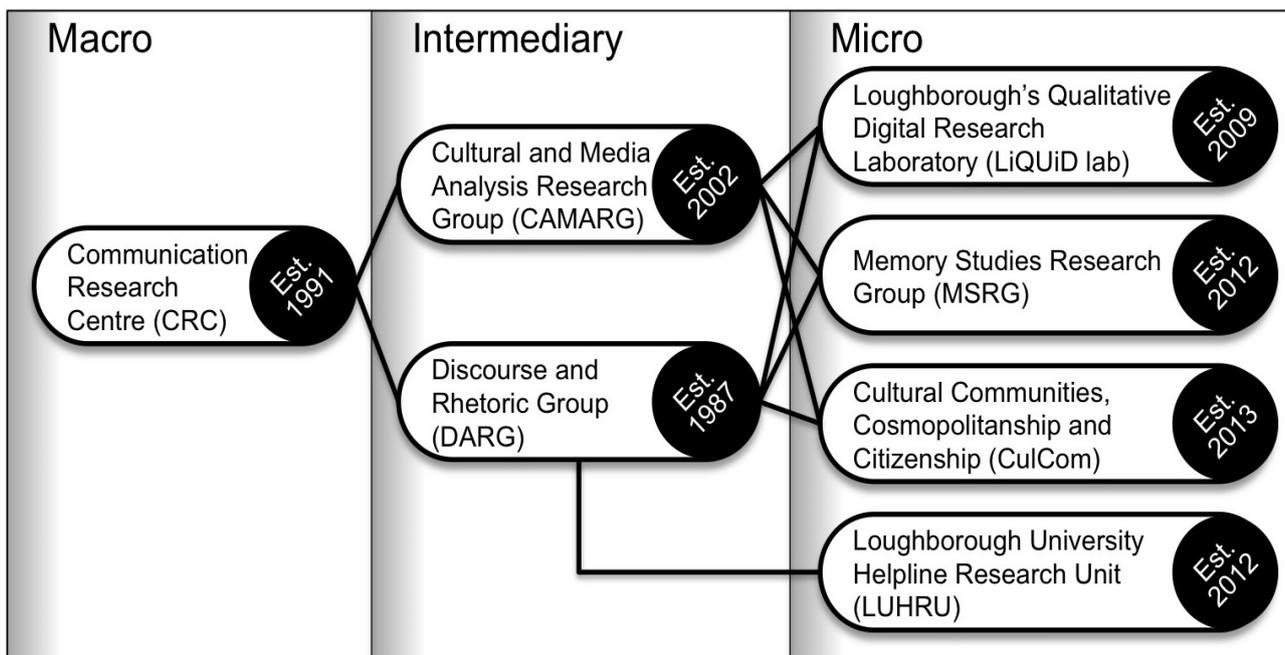
The relationship between these different components is set out diagrammatically above. The longevity of CRC, DARG and CAMARG provides evidence that our research activity in these fields has been sustained. The recent development of the new interdisciplinary specialist level groupings demonstrates the *vitality* of this research work. Significant support for our interdisciplinary and collaborative research is demonstrated by five new strategic appointments since 2008 in the fields of Communication, Media and Cultural analysis. These are detailed below in section (ci).

c. People, including:

i.   Staffing strategy and staff development

Thirty-five members of staff are being returned in this unit, amounting to 30.7 FTE. The unit appoints all new staff on the basis of their performance as outstanding researchers and over the last three decades has appointed and retained internationally renowned and promising early stage scholars in the fields of communication, cultural and media analysis. The unit also has an excellent record of rewarding research performance through promotion. Since the last RAE, four internal candidates connected to this UoA have been awarded personal chairs, seven have been promoted to Readerships and six to Senior Lectureships. The unit encourages study leave for all FTE staff. Since January 2008, 27 periods of study leave have been granted to staff connected to this UoA, totalling 36 semesters of study leave. We are a focus for visiting scholars, and since 2008 have welcomed a total of 12 academics from Spain, Romania, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Denmark, Bulgaria, China, Korea and Japan.

Over recent years, five additional strategic appointments have been made to extend our existing research strengths specifically in cultural, communication and media analysis. In 2008, Professor Liesbet Van Zoonen was appointed as Professor of Communication and Media Studies followed by Professor David Buckingham in 2012 (also as Professor of Communication and Media Analysis). In 2012 John Heritage and Paul Drew were both appointed as Professors of Conversation Analysis. In 2010, the university also funded an additional lectureship in Communication and Media Studies to support research and teaching activities in the field (Dr Frederick Attenborough). Aside from expanding our expert capacity, these appointments have also been used to develop productive connections across different research groupings. For example, Professor Heritage's work combines conversation analysis with research on news journalism and political communication; Dr Attenborough's research combines media analysis with discourse and conversation analysis.

All retired or departed staff members have been replaced permitting further outstanding appointments. In 2012, Professor Susan Condor was appointed as Professor of Social Psychology and Dr John Richardson returned to the Department as Senior Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies. These appointments strengthened our work in political discourse and national identity (e.g. in the work of Chernilo, Mihelj, Tileaga, Wigger and Billig). The unit also sustains links with retired colleagues through emeritus appointments (Professors Edwards, Gane, Radley and Smith, and Dr Ashmore). In 2011, we appointed Professor Anna Reading (also Professor of the Cultural and Creative Industries at King's College London) as a visiting Professor and Dr Nico Carpentier (also Associate Professor at the Communication Studies Department of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel) as a visiting Research Fellow. Both appointments reflect close, on-going research collaborations with staff in the unit.

The unit's staffing strategy and development is shaped by, and conforms to, those of the wider University. In 2009/10 Loughborough undertook a comprehensive analysis of our alignment with the Concordat to support the Career Development of Researchers, and it published an implementation plan in 2010, for which we received the EC's HR Excellence in Research Award. The plan was up-dated in 2012, as part of an internal review for the HR Excellence award. Specific outcomes from this plan include a continuing commitment to a University-wide Research Staff mentoring scheme, a revised Code of Practice for the Employment of Researchers, and the establishment of the Loughborough University Research Staff Association. Monitoring takes place through participation in the Careers in Research Online Survey, and through the 2012 University-wide Staff Survey, for which the Research Job family had the highest number of 'green' categorised responses (10% above the institutional average). Performance and Development reviews have been put into place for all staff. The staff development strategy specifically includes Leadership and Management, and programmes accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management are available to all staff, including PIs and research staff. Research staff can also attend courses run by the Graduate School, Careers and Employability Centre, and Staff Development courses.

Early career academic staff members undertake the New Lecturers Course, in which new colleagues are introduced to the University's research culture and support available from the

Research Office. Such staff are also covered by a probation scheme, typically three years in length, and they have lighter teaching loads for its duration (year 1: 33% of normal teaching load, year 2: 50%; year 3: 66%). The Research Office provides one-to-one support for staff writing grant proposals, which further enhances the research culture. Improvement of research performance across all disciplines has been a key priority, and all academic staff complete an annual Personal Research Plan (PRP) which facilitates discussions and areas for development for individuals and within Schools. This process embeds research in performance monitoring and reward systems and it is monitored by the University's Research Performance Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research (PVC(R)). Loughborough, which is committed to achieving equality for all, included mandatory recruitment and selection training which embeds Equality and Diversity policy. In 2011/12 Research Staff and early career Lecturers were eligible to apply to participate in the Developing Future Research Leaders programme, an EPSRC funded-initiative that saw research staff and early career lecturers compete for leadership development grants, with dedicated coaching, participation in Action Learning and 360° Feedback. Dr Butler was one of the recipients of these awards in 2011.

ii. Research students

The unit has sustained a strong track record of domestic and international PGR recruitment, with sixty doctorates being awarded since January 2008. Their subject matters reflect the unit's diverse expertise in communication, media, interaction and cultural research (some recent illustrative examples: 'The Mediated Debate of British National Identity Cards 1915-2008', 'The Mediation of Politics in an Ageing Society', 'Talk in Mind: the Analysis of Calls to a Mental Health Information Line', 'Constructing Community in a British Lesbian Magazine 1994-2004', 'Persuasive Argumentation in Systemic Therapy Interaction', 'Intrinsic and Instrumental Rationales in Contemporary UK Cultural Policy' and 'Continuity and Change in Hollywood Representations of the Middle East after 9/11').

Research students play a full and active part in all of the research clusters outlined in section 1.iii. Our postgraduate committee successfully applied to organise and host the 9th Annual Media, Communications, and Cultural Studies Association - Postgraduate Network Conference (MeCCSA), held on 17-18 September 2012. Since 2012, they have taken on responsibility for organising the weekly CAMARG seminars, while they have organized DARG sessions for a number of years. Loughborough's Qualitative Digital Research Laboratory has its own postgraduate committee that has used the Lab brand and facilities to create a community of qualitative researchers from across the university. They have developed this community through holding a number of informal events - 'coffee groups' - where students share best practice about using qualitative methods. Postgraduates have also held workshops on qualitative methods, such as interviewing, and have hosted a 'visual methods series' for learning about collecting and analysing visual data. Funding from the unit helped them organise a training day for students on how to use the Qualitative analysis software NVivo. Three of the members of the postgraduate committee published their experiences of running workshops through the LiQUiD Lab[1]. The unit is also a consortium member of the European Communication Research Association's annual European Media and Communication Doctoral Summer School, which involves the participation of our lecturing staff and the full attendance funding for at least one current research student.

Research students organise their own annual conferences where they are also expected to present papers on their research. At the unit's most recent PGR conference (31 May 2013), a keynote panel was held on 'Memory, Communication and Society' with staff presentations by Emily Keightley (*Remembering Research: Memory and Methodology*) and Cristian Tileaga (*Interdisciplinarity and conceptions of memory: Problems and possibilities*).

The unit is committed to achieving an educational and working environment with equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination. To this end, recruitment of all research students

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[1] Deakin, H. et al. (2012) 'An exploration of peer-to-peer teaching and learning at postgraduate level: the experience of two student-led NVivo workshops' *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 36, (4))

accords with the University's formal admissions policy, requiring all research students to have a good first degree relevant to their proposed area of research and to demonstrate their ability to undertake a sustained programme of independent research. Decisions on the admission of candidates are taken by two members of staff and wherever possible an interview is conducted, often by telephone or Skype for international candidates. Students are only recruited if appropriate supervisory expertise is available, and the Research Co-ordinator allocates supervisors to each student, taking account of research expertise, workload and supervisory experience. Research students are also encouraged to contact other members of staff should they need additional guidance and expertise and also to meet other members of staff by participating in research groups. The unit provides research and research skills training through academic supervision and access to modules on postgraduate taught programmes.

In recent years, the unit has encouraged joint doctoral supervisions combining staff with differing areas of expertise and levels of experience. This provides a range of benefits. It allows research students to benefit from inter-disciplinary input in developing and implementing their research. It also ensures greater evenness in the distribution of research supervisions across staff (NB to protect the quality of the postgraduate research supervision, the unit discourages staff from taking on more than 5 doctoral supervisions at any one time). Joint supervision allows more experienced staff to provide mentoring for early career staff with limited previous experience of doctoral supervision. Research student progress is monitored through regular supervisory meetings, which occur at least monthly but normally are much more frequent. Written records of these meetings are maintained by the department. In addition a major academic progress review, with published criteria, is held at the end of each year of registration and students are required to produce a significant piece of written work and in some cases publications, as well as undertake an interview with an independent assessor before being permitted to progress to the next year of registration. Records of these meetings are entered on the University's central student record and re-registration is automatically blocked following an unsatisfactory review. The unit has a member of support staff whose dedicated role is to administer the management of postgraduate degree programmes (Dr Daniel Chernillo).

Additional support services

In addition the University offers a wide range of support facilities, such as the Graduate School; the Student Advice Centre; the Research Student Office in the Registry; the Maths Education Centre; and the English Language Support Unit.

PGR training and development is provided centrally by the Graduate School, which works closely with other internal support services such as the Careers and Employability Centre and the Library. The Graduate School offers a comprehensive training programme that is mapped onto the Researcher Development Framework. It also has a conference fund to support student attendance at national and international conferences and awards are match funded by the unit. The University Careers and Employability Service provide a specialist help for research students offering individual career consultations, and guidance for preparing job applications and CVs. It also has a dedicated careers advisor to support research staff and research students. The Service also organises an annual event for doctoral students to meet and network with employers who are seeking doctorally trained applicants.

Applicants with disabilities are invited to identify any special needs and/or requirements that they may initially have and they are supported in their programmes of study through the University's Counselling and Disability Service. Within the School, quality assurance of research degree programmes is provided by an Associate Dean Research who is a member of the University's Research Committee (chaired by the Pro Vice Chancellor for Research). At the institutional level, quality assurance is provided by the Dean of the Graduate School, who is responsible for considering and approving a range of research student business from admissions to examinations, as well as chairing all student appeals, thereby ensuring consistent and equitable treatment. The Dean of the Graduate School leads a cycle of regular research degree programme reviews as part of the University's quality assurance mechanisms. The last review for this unit was conducted on 24 April 2013 and our procedures were approved. The outcomes of these reviews are reported to the Research Committee.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The unit has attracted significant and prestigious research funding since 2008, totalling £1.941 million. The following examples illustrate the range of our funded research:

- *Identity Management: Public Responses to Identity Technologies and Services* (Liesbet Van-Zoonen et al., £1.3 million [for Loughborough £544k], EPSRC, 2011-2014).

- *Media of Remembering: Photography and Phonography in Everyday Remembering* (Michael Pickering and Emily Keightley, £106K, Leverhulme Foundation, 2009-2011)

- *Developing Media Literacy: From Research to Practice* (David Buckingham, 2012-13, £98K)

- *Screening Socialism: a comparative study of popular television, political change and memory in socialist Easter Europe* (Sabina Mihelj, £242K, Leverhulme Trust, 2013-2015)

- *Mediating and policing community disputes: Developing new methods for role-play communication skills* (Elizabeth Stokoe, ESRC, £48K, 2011-12)

- *Fitna, the Video Battle: How YouTube Enables the Young to Perform Their Religious and Public Identities* (Sabina Mihelj and Liesbet Van Zoonen, £100k, AHRC, 2008- 2009)

- *The national DNA database and newspaper debate in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 1991-2008*(John Downey, 2009-2010, ESRC, £72K)

- *Changes in British Election News Reporting* (1918-2010) (David Deacon, £39K, Leverhulme Trust, 2013-2014)

- *Lifestyle Migration in East Asia: A Comparative Study of British & Asian Lifestyle Migrants* (Karen O'Reilly, 2012-2014, ESRC and the Hong Kong Grants Council, £92K)

- *A content analysis of the BBC's Coverage of the Events Known as the Arab Spring* (part of the BBC Trust's fourth Impartiality Review (John Downey, David Deacon, Dominic Wring and James Stanyer, £75K, 2011/1)2.

- *Addressing Stigma and Discrimination Towards Recovering Drug Users: a Media Analysis* (James Stanyer, John Downey, David Deacon, Dominic Wring, the UK Drug Policy Commission, £12k, 2010)

- *The Nature of Health Inequalities Presentation in the British Media* (James Stanyer, John Downey, David Deacon, Dominic Wring, the Department of Health and Consumer Focus, £40K, 2009)

In October 2013, the unit was commissioned to conduct a content analysis to support the sixth BBC impartiality review, analysing the impartiality of BBC coverage of rural affairs (Stanyer, Deacon, Downey, Wring).

The organisational infrastructure of this unit operates through the research centres and groups outlined in section biii. In terms of operational infrastructure, the unit provides significant dedicated resources to support the activities of these research groupings and general research activity. DARG has laboratory space allocated within broader Social Psychology teaching and research laboratories within the unit. The LiQUiD lab was established in 2009 with a £41K start-up grant. It is a physical research resource (manifested in computing, software and laboratory provision) as well as being a research grouping that engages in innovative approaches to qualitative research – including internet research, as well as visual and digital approaches - along with established methods including ethnography, narrative, conversation and discourse analysis. The opportunities for media analysis are supported by the investment in substantial investment in archive resources. In 2009, the Communication Research Centre received £18K of SRIF funding to develop a micro-film archive of UK national election press coverage from 1918. This has since been supplemented by university subscriptions to 'full view' digitalised archives for the *Daily Mirror*, *Guardian*, *Times* and *Daily Mail* (NB the university has subscribed to the text only digital press archive *Nexis* for many years). Opportunities for broadcast analysis have been recently enhanced by the recent provision of staff and student access to the Box of Broadcasts service that allows the on-line recording and retention of any free-to-air TV and radio programmes for study / research purposes

and access to an online archive of 50,000 programmes produced over the recent period. The unit has three highly qualified, full-time technicians who are responsible for providing full technological assistance to the operation and maintenance of all these research resources.

Strategic links between scholarly, organisational and operational infrastructures

The unit's strategy linking these infrastructures is based on recognizing that they exist in a hierarchical relationship, that is, operational structures are designed to service the needs of organisational structures, which in turn support scholarly objectives. In terms of the latter, the aim has always been to ensure there is sufficient space and opportunity for the organic development of research clusters, whilst recognising the value of spotting opportunities for focusing and organising research expertise in strategic ways, including supporting individual members of staff whose research does not fit with existing research clusters.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The research strategy pursued by the unit, and supported by the staffing and resourcing strategies outlined above have ensured that staff have been extremely productive. Between Jan 2008 and March 2013, the 35 departmental staff submitting to this UoA have published 70 books (monographs and edited collections), 307 refereed journal articles and 178 book chapters. Many of these publications have received outstanding reviews. To select a few examples, Stanyer's book-length analysis of *Intimate Politics* has been judged as 'the benchmark study for future scholarship into media coverage of politicians' private lives' (*Journalism* Studies, 2013). Billig's book *The Hidden Roots of Critical Social Psychology* has been described as 'a fascinating work of brilliant scholarship' (*Journal of Community and Applied Psychology, 2010*) and the *Times Higher Education* described Billig's *Learning to Write Badly* as a book that 'all academics (and their students) should read'. Mihelj's book on *Media Nations* has been described as 'important and meritorious' (*Global Media and Communication*, 2012) and 'theoretically ambitious and empirically rich' (*International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics*, 2013). Antaki's book on *Applied Conversational Analysis* has been welcomed as 'an excellent introduction to applied CA as well as an insightful volume for current applied conversation analysts to deepen their engagement with approaches to applying it' (*Journal of Pragmatics*, 2012). Deacon's monograph on the *British News Media and the Spanish Civil War* has been commended as 'a brilliant, concise and original study' (*European Journal of Communication*, 2009). Elder-Vass's book *The Causal Power of Social Structures* was the subject of an article-length discussion in the prestigious journal *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, wherein it was described as 'thought-provoking and well-written' and 'stimulating and rewarding'.

Interdisciplinary research collaboration with external HEIs and other organisations is valued and encouraged by the unit. This is most obviously demonstrated by several jointly-funded research projects that the unit either leads or contributes to significantly. For example, the £1.3 million IMPRINTS (Identity Management: Public Responses to Identity Technologies and Services) project headed by Van Zoonen is run in partnership with Essex University, Northumbria University and Dundee University, bringing together experts in design, computer science, political science, media, psychology, sociology and risk management. O'Reilly's research on life style migration in East Asia is also a multi-institutional investigation, involving the University of Western Sydney and the University of Hong Kong. There are also strong links with other Schools in the university. For instance, since 2009 Pink has worked with colleagues in Civil and Building Engineering, Computer Science, Design and Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering in a £1.9 million EPSRC project investigating ways in which digital media can be utilised in helping householders reduce their energy consumption. There are other examples of established external research collaborations that are less formally bound to research contracts. For example, Stanyer is the UK representative of the Network of European Political Communication Scholars (NEPOCS), an international network engaged in cross national political communication research. All staff contribute to the development of research by participating in and organising key academic events, including international conferences. Between Jan 2008 and March 2013, staff submitted in this return have presented 408 papers and organised 61 panels at international conferences, given 204 keynote speeches (127 at international conferences); organised 48 conferences and delivered 216 seminars to other departments and institutions. The unit hosts an annual international conversation analysis conference organised by Professors Stokoe and Antaki, which is now in its 7th year and

attracts a growing number of international delegates year-on-year. Since 2012, members of DARG, including Drew and Heritage, have run dozens of research workshops on social and medical interaction in Japan, USA, China, Italy, Sweden and Finland. In March 2012, Loughborough University hosted the 'Discourse Communication and Conversation' conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of DARG and the 10th anniversary of CAMARG. The conference attracted 377 delegates and 220 papers were delivered. All the keynote presentations were delivered by current senior staff within the CRC or by international figures in the field who have either previously worked in the unit or had close research collaboration (such as Professors Peter Golding, Angela McRobbie, Teun Van Dijk).

Staff members have received prestigious awards in recognition of the excellence of their academic contribution. For example, in 2009, Michael Billig was honoured as 'Samuel Becker Distinguished Lecturer in Communication Studies', by Iowa University and the following year received the Distinguished Contribution Award, Social Section of British Psychological Society (BPS). In 2011, Professor Elizabeth Stokoe received the inaugural 'mid-career award' by the BPS. In 2008 Professor Sue Wilkinson was awarded the 'BPS Qualitative Methods in Psychology Outstanding Research' Award and in 2013, the American Psychological Association's 'Distinguished Leadership Award'. Jonathan Potter and David Buckingham have both been invited to join the Academy of Social Sciences by virtue of their research eminence. Buckingham was also made Andrew W Mellon Scholar at University of Cape Town in 2012. In 2010, the editors of the *European Journal of Communication* selected Downey and Stanyer's article on fuzzy-set analysis as their 'article of the year'. In 2011, Graham Murdock received an honorary professorship from the Chongqing Technology and Business University in Central China for his 'outstanding contribution to scholarship'. Liesbet Van Zoonen's IMPRINTS research was selected by the ESRC Global Uncertainties Programme as a 'showcase project' for exhibition in the Houses of Parliament in December 2012.

Many staff also contribute to the interdisciplinary study of communication through their work as principal editors, co-editors or assistant editors for a range of internationally renowned journals. These include *Research of Social Language and Interaction* (Antaki, main editor), *Gender and Language* (Stokoe, main editor), *European Journal of Communication* (Van Zoonen, main editor and Pickering, Downey and Mihelj book editors), *Journal of Political Marketing* (Wring, formerly European Editor), *Media, Culture and Society* (Keightley, assistant editor), *Critical Discourse Studies* (Richardson, chief editor) and *Discourse Processes* (Drew, Associate Editor). There are 57 further instances of staff acting as guest editors or editorial board members since 2008.

Unit staff are also members of ESRC and/or AHRC peer review colleges (Hepburn, O'Reilly, Downey, Condor, McGuigan, Buckingham). Between 2007 and 2012, Dr Nyhagen Predelli acted as an invited member of the AHRC/ ESRC Religion and Society Programme Commissioning panel. Professor Condor was a member of the ESRC Benchmarking panel for social psychology. Staff participate in a range of academic advisory boards and research associations. For example, Dr Wring was until recently Chair of the Political Communication section of the International Political Studies Association and Vice Chair of the Political Communication Section of the International Association of Media and Communication Researchers. Professor Pink is an elected member of the board of the International Visual Sociology Association (IVSA). Professor Heritage was recently elected as vice-president of the International Society for Conversation Analysis, and Professor Drew, the vice president. Professor Condor is a member of the Governing Council of the International Society for Political Psychology. Staff also work as consultants with a wide range of governmental public and third sector organisations; this includes consultancy work and research for OFCOM, the BBC Trust, the European Commission, the College of Mediators, the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the UK Drug Dependency Commission, Relate, the Youth Media Agency, and the Advertising Association. A further measure of the scale and status of the contribution made by staff to communication studies is the number of times they have acted as external examiners for doctorates over the recent period. Since January 2008, the 35 staff included in this submission have examined 112 PhD theses for other institutions, 59 of which have been on behalf of non-UK based HEIs.