

Institution: The Open University

Unit of Assessment: D29 English Language and Literature

a. Overview

The Open University (OU) leads the UK higher education sector in the production of distance-learning resources for more than 250,000 students and millions more informal learners who access free online content. To fulfil its role as a national and international higher education institution, the OU strives to inform its teaching by producing research of the highest standard. Since a well-resourced and dynamic research environment is fundamental to the OU's mission, staff receive dedicated institutional support. Most researchers in this submission are based in the Department of English in the Arts Faculty (18), and three work in the Centre for Language and Communication (Faculty of Education and Language Studies).

The environment for research in English Language and Literature at the OU has improved on all fronts since RAE 2008. There have been increases in the amount of external research funding, as well as in the numbers of published outputs, completed PhDs (up 50%), and research groups (up from three to five). Researchers in English have embraced the OU's commitment to 'be open to people, places, methods and ideas' by contributing to more than 60 public events, numerous BBC television and radio programmes, and research-based online learning materials. English has continued to host the journal *Wasafiri. International Contemporary Writing* (four issues a year), expanded the Reading Experience Database (RED) internationally, and supported the new journal *Katherine Mansfield Studies*.

b. Research strategy

The English Department's research strategy since the 2008 RAE has been to maintain the international excellence of its two long-established and world-leading research groups (Book History and Postcolonial Literatures), to encourage the emergence of new clusters of research interests, and to nourish the work of individual researchers whose work spans the early modern period to the present.

To deliver this strategy, research is led and managed by the Research Steering Group (RSG) for English, taking into account both University and faculty-level objectives. In co-ordinating research at departmental level, the RSG aims to foster a supportive and collaborative research culture, alert to the needs of researchers at different stages of their career development. As well as steering the work of individual researchers via one-to-one meetings and annual research plans, the RSG supports all the research groups. It also advises on and co-ordinates individual and collective external funding bids. Mentoring is provided for new colleagues and research associates, and regular report-and-feedback discussions at department meetings embed the RSG's priorities within the English Department's work. The RSG also oversees the recruitment, training and provision for PhD students, and pursues the OU's commitment to public education by trying to maximise the impact of our research beyond the university sector.

The RSG has prioritised two strategies for the next five years:

- to increase the number of bids for external funding, with the RSG providing focused advice and feedback for prospective bidders, and
- to develop more collaborations with national institutions (like the BBC and the British Library) and other higher education institutions.

This second strategy has been aided by the OU's membership of CHASE (Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts South-East England), which offers opportunities for collaboration with other CHASE members (Essex, Kent, Sussex, University of East Anglia, Goldsmiths and The Courtauld Institute of Art). The announcement in October 2013 of a £17-million grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to CHASE for doctoral training partnerships and studentships adds momentum to cross-institutional postgraduate research in English.

The success of the RSG's strategies for enhancing the research environment for English since 2008 can be gauged by the productivity of the two leading research groups, the consolidation of three new groups with interdisciplinary strengths (Literature and Music, Romantic Period, and Contemporary Cultures of Writing), and the achievements of individual researchers.

The Book History Research Group brings together 13 researchers with common research interests, six based in the OU English Department (**Fraser, Gibson, Haslam, Katritzky, King, Towheed**), two from elsewhere in the OU (**Allington** in the Centre for Language and Communication and **Crone** in History), and five from other universities in the UK. The Book History Group was first constituted in the 1990s by Bob Owens and Simon Eliot, with **Towheed** taking over from Owens as director on the latter's retirement in 2011.

The Book History Research Group has attracted substantial external funding, which has been used to enhance the research environment in several ways, most notably by paying for the appointment of research associates, for the organisation of many research events (including inter-disciplinary events), and for maintaining and expanding the infrastructure of RED. During the REF period, the Book History group bid successfully for further external funding for RED (£101,000 from the AHRC); extended RED-UK to international partners in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands; and through RED engaged over 120 volunteer-contributors from outside academia as active participants (see the impact case study on RED).

The Book History Group hosted eight seminar series and two one-day symposia. Part funded by the OU, the Institute of English Studies at the University of London (IES) and the British Academy, all these events were held at the IES. Three of the events were organised collaboratively: with colleagues in the Postcolonial Literatures and Romantic Period groups for the two symposia, and with the Literature and Music group for one of the seminar series.

Some of the research outputs from the group's cross-disciplinary research project 'The Colonial and Postcolonial History of the Book', initiated in the RAE period (with a £230k award from the AHRC in 2003), appeared in the REF period, notably Fraser's monograph, *Book History Through Postcolonial Eyes: Rewriting the Script* (2008). Other publications by members of the group include five edited collections and a critical edition as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Looking to the future, the Book History Group has worked closely with the OU Music Department to extend RED to music. Using RED as the model, and with **Fraser** as co-investigator, a Listening Experience Database (LED) was initiated in 2013, with the OU collaborating with the Royal College of Music, and the AHRC providing £750k funding. Further plans include a major RED project on Reading in the First World War (a large AHRC bid for this project is in preparation), as well as the extension of RED to other international partners (a South African RED is under discussion).

The Postcolonial Literatures Research Group, formed in 1992 by Dennis Walder and directed, since his retirement in 2010, by **Tickell**, includes 15 members, with seven based in the OU English Department (**Fraser, Johnson, Nasta, Prescott, Tickell, Towheed, Walder**) and eight at other universities in the UK. The contribution of the Postcolonial Literatures Group to the research environment is reflected in the amount of external funding it has attracted, the numerous research outputs its members have produced, and the many research events organised, both directly and through the journal *Wasafiri* which is physically based at the OU's London office and receives financial support from the Arts Council England and the OU.

During the REF period, members of the Postcolonial Literatures group were awarded several external grants (Nasta as principal investigator was awarded £291,000 by the AHRC for 'Making Britain: South Asian Visions of Home and Abroad' and £121,000 for 'Beyond the Frame: Indian-British Connections'; and Walder as principal investigator was awarded £61,000 by Leverhulme for 'Performing Memory in South Africa'). The group also hosted numerous research events, variously funded by the OU, the IES, and external funding bodies including the AHRC and the British Academy. These included eight seminar series at the IES, two one-day symposia ('The Book in

Africa' in October 2012, and 'South-Asian Fiction: Contemporary Transformations' in November 2012), an international post-graduate conference ('Reading Conflict' in July 2010), and a two-day international conference ('Bharat Britain: South Asians Making Britain 1870-1950' at the British Library in September 2010).

Publications from members of the group include two monographs (Johnson's *Imagining the Cape Colony. History, Literature and the South African Nation* (2012) and Tickell's *Terrorism, Insurgency and Indian-English Fiction, 1830-1947* (2012)), three edited collections, a critical edition and numerous journal articles and book chapters. In addition, Johnson was the co-editor of the Postcolonial Literary Studies series (Edinburgh University Press) that published seven monographs between 2009 and 2013.

Looking to the future, the first strategic goal of increasing the number of research bids has been served by **Nasta's** Leverhulme bid to support further research outputs based upon the findings of the 'Making Britain' project, and by **Tickell's** participation as network partner on the successful Leverhulme bid, 'Planned Violence: Post/colonial Urban Infrastructure and Literature' (principal investigator: Boehmer of Oxford). The international profile of the group will be maintained and enhanced by the many activities of *Wasafiri*, and by **Johnson's** next series for Edinburgh University Press, 'Key Texts in Anti-colonial Thought'.

The Literature and Music Research Group exemplifies the commitment to interdisciplinary research, and has made a significant contribution to this emerging field. The group is co-convened by **Da Sousa Correa**, and has 14 members – three from English (**Da Sousa Correa, Fraser and Towheed**), six from Music, and the balance from other disciplines at the OU. In addition to conceptualising the extension of RED to the AHRC-funded LED, the Literature and Music research group has hosted and co-organised two international conferences ('Purcell, Handel and Literature' in November 2009, and 'Silence, Absence and Ellipsis in Literature and Music' in August 2013), and a one-day event, 'Don Juan: An Inter-disciplinary Symposium' in September 2011. The international links already established by members of the group are guiding future plans for external funding, beginning with an AHRC network bid, and building up to an EU Framework 7 bid.

The Romantic Period Research Group was constituted in 2010 under the directorship of **Watson**, and has eight members, with four from English (**Benatti, Howell, Johnson, Watson**), one visiting research fellow, and the balance from other departments at the OU. In addition to its published research outputs, the group has organised five seminar series and co-organised a one-day symposium at the IES ('The Romantic Book', June 2011). External funding during the REF period includes **Watson's** British Academy small research grant (£7,000), and **Howell** has advanced plans for bids in collaboration the National Library of Wales and other Welsh higher education institutions.

The Contemporary Cultures of Writing Research Group has emerged following the rapid growth of Creative Writing as an element in the OU English curriculum since 2006. Five Creative Writing PhDs in English have registered since October 2009, and the Contemporary Cultures of Writing research group was formally constituted in 2011 with eight members, four from English (**Anderson** – convenor, **Doloughan, Greenwell** and **Neale**) and five from Language and Communication at the OU (**Demjen, Donohue, Lillis, Seargeant** and **Swann**). The group has hosted four very well-attended seminar series at the IES and an international panel of writers at the British Library. Further collaborations with the British Library and with *Wasafiri* will provide opportunities for the research group to continue its upwards trajectory. While members of this group continue to build their reputations through print outputs (such as Neale's novel, *Book of Guardians* (2012), Greenwell's poetry collection, *Ringers* (2011), and conventional journal articles), they are already actively exploiting the potential of broadcast and online forums and digital outputs (notably Greenwell's history of *New Statesman* competitions and satirical poetry, nscompendpoets.wordpress.com).

In terms of the second strategic aim of developing collaborations with national institutions, negotiations undertaken by **Neale** with the BBC World Service and the British Council and

Commonwealth Writers were successfully concluded in 2013, and English at the OU will now be the co-producer of a biennial International Playwriting competition, with the first competition concluding in January 2015 and the winners' plays to be broadcast on the World Service.

Interdisciplinary initiatives. Fruitful synergies among the English research groups have led to interdisciplinary events such as the seminar series 'Romanticism and Postcolonialism', 'The Romantic Book' symposium, and 'The Book in Africa' symposium. There have also been further initiatives linking researchers in English with wider interdisciplinary projects. Both the Book History Group (through RED) and the Postcolonial Literatures Group (through 'Making Britain') have been major contributors to the OU-wide interdisciplinary research thematic, **The Digital Humanities**. Meanwhile, the interdisciplinary OU Arts Faculty research cluster **The Arts and their Audiences** (director: Watson) led by English has organised two one-day seminar programmes. The Arts Faculty has been awarded a tranche of AHRC Block Grant Partnerships for Capacity Building, which address the theme of 'The Arts and their Audiences', and one will be in English (in conjunction with the British Library).

Individual researchers. The English Department continues to recognise the value of individual research, and the substantial contributions made to research in English at the OU. Generally grouped by period to facilitate links between teaching and scholarly activities, individual research spans the early modern period to the present, and includes the work of some key researchers, from Katritzky's *Healing, Performance and Ceremony in the Writings of Three Early Modern Physicians: Hippolytus Guarinonius and the Brothers Felix and Thomas Platter* (2012) to Gupta's *Imagining Iraq: Literature in English and the Iraq Invasion* (2011) and Seargeant's *The Idea of English in Japan: Ideology and the Evolution of a Global Language* (2009). In addition to their considerable published outputs, individual researchers have raised external funding (for example, Gupta and Allen received £36,000 from the AHRC for 'Anglophone Studies in India and the UK'), launched a new journal (*Katherine Mansfield Studies*), and contributed to projects and events run by the five research groups. The Department's future strategy in this area involves continuing support for individual research within a collaborative culture that enables all staff to contribute to the objectives of increasing external funding and increasing collaboration with partners beyond the university sector.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Research priorities are a major consideration in all staffing appointments. Three professors, Allen, Owens and Walder, retired in the REF period replaced by researchers at lecturer level (Lavery, Doloughan, Howell, Gibson, Tickell). Promotions of Fraser, Johnson and Watson to Professor, and Haslam, Neale and Seargeant to Senior Lecturer have maintained an appropriate balance across grades. New appointments are fully supported: senior colleagues with similar research interests are allocated as mentors to new appointees; workloads are designed to ensure that they are not over-burdened with administration and teaching; and newer members of staff are enabled to take their full allowance of research leave from the start. Maintenance of the two main research groups and support for emerging research groups are factors taken into account in deciding upon all new appointments. Specifically, Gibson was appointed to augment Book History, Tickell Postcolonial Literatures, and Howell the Romantic Period group, while Doloughan's appointment facilitated the emergence of the Contemporary Cultures of Writing group.

The OU's research leave scheme is appropriate for an excellent level and quality of research activity; OU funding enables staff to attend conferences and travel on research; and there are numerous opportunities for further training in professional skills. The unique nature of the OU teaching model enables considerable flexibility as to when research leave is taken. This flexibility facilitates long-term planning, with research leave scheduled for all individual researchers with an eye to the collective best interests of research in English.

Research associates attached to the collective research projects have made major contributions to

the research culture: Crone and King on RED, and Ahmed and Stadtler on Making Britain. All research associates have been supported by the English Department and Arts Faculty in the development of their careers and, as a consequence, three have progressed to permanent jobs outside the OU English Department. At transitional moments in the provision of external funding, the OU has provided crucial bridging and even longer-term funding to support continuity of employment for research associates - both Stadtler and King were funded for extended periods between external grants. Also attached to the English Department are five research affiliates, who are drawn from the OU associate lecturers in English, and one visiting research fellow (Hindle) with the Romantic Period research group.

ii. Research students

Skills training, infrastructure support and funding. A full programme of skills development and career preparation is available for research students at University level, and the Arts Faculty provides full-time students with a desk on campus, a laptop and IT support, and a full skills training programme. Full-time students are allocated £1000 and part-time students £500 annually for funding their research trips and conference attendance. The high standard of provision for graduate students was recognised in 2013 when the OU was awarded the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research Award. The Faculty funds two full-time studentships per year, and is extending its externally funded studentships through its participation in CHASE and via bids to the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards Scheme. Under the CHASE AHRC Block Grant Partnership scheme, the members of CHASE will receive 232 fully-funded studentships over five years, with the first cohort starting in October 2014. CHASE institutions have committed to sharing postgraduate research student training programmes and supervisory expertise, thus enhancing the environment for doctoral students at all member institutions, and opening the way for broader collaborative research projects.

Recruitment. The recruitment of PhD students is overseen by the postgraduate officer (**Doloughan**). Applicants are drawn both from the OU Masters programme and from other universities. Since 2008, 481 students completed the MA in English, with between 90 and 100 studying the MA in each presentation. Eight of 17 PhD graduates during the REF period completed the OU Masters in English, and the others were recruited from other universities.

Supervisory support. Once accepted, graduate students enjoy the benefit of high quality PhD supervision arrangements and procedures: two supervisors are allocated to every student, and the supervisory team works to a common framework outlined in a 'supervision pack'. OU Research Degree Supervisory Training is a pre-requisite for any supervisor, and a regular Research Supervisor Forum offers further training. Students and supervisors submit twice-yearly reports recording the progress of PhD students, and all students have a third-party monitor as an alternative route of appeal. All PhD students in the Arts Faculty have access to an extensive training programme managed centrally by the OU's Research Careers Advisory Group, and can attend a three-day residential conference. In addition, the English Department organises a one-day conference each year for its PhD students. These annual events provide students with opportunities to present work-in-progress, to discuss research strategies in small-group discussions, and to listen to lectures by leading academics (these have included Professors Stephanie Newell, Stephen Regan, and Clare Brant). Beyond English within the OU, there is a line of support for and monitoring of PhD students, running from the Department to the Faculty to the Research Degrees Committee.

Contributions to the research environment. During the REF census period, there was an increase in the number of successfully completed PhDs in English, up from 12 in the RAE period to 17 in the REF period. Two of our PhD students' theses have been published as monographs: Jane Bownas's *Thomas Hardy and Empire* (Ashgate, 2012) and Caroline Davis's *Creating Postcolonial Literature* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), and many more individual thesis chapters have been re-worked and published in journals and edited collections. Several PhD candidates have worked closely with the large research projects in English, most notably Chambers with RED and Laursen with Making Britain. OU students also contributed substantially to the research environment

beyond the OU. Laursen, for example, was an executive member of the Postcolonial Students Association and the postgraduate representative of the European Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies. He also co-organised the international postgraduate conference, 'Reading Conflict' at the IES in 2010. Where appropriate, PhD students are integrated with one (or more) of the research groups and participate fully in the groups' research events.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income. The clearest reflection of the success of the research strategies adopted for English at the OU is the increase in external funding in the REF period, from £463,105 in the RAE period to upwards of £554,000. Major funding grants have been:

- £291,000 for 'Making Britain: South Asian Visions of Home and Abroad' (AHRC)
- £101,000 for Reading Experience Database (AHRC)
- £96,000 for 'Beyond the Frame: Indian-British Connections' (AHRC)
- £61,000 for 'Performing Memory in South Africa' (Leverhulme)

There has also been substantial financial support for research in English from the OU, both in providing seed funding for new projects, and in providing bridging funding between different stages in the development of long-term projects. OU support was essential in establishing the *Katherine Mansfield Studies* journal, with awards of £2,548 in 2009 and £4,800 in 2010 for editorial support for the first issues. Bridging funding was provided both to the RED and Making Britain projects, with the OU providing £80,000 to each project at transitional stages in their development. Without OU funding, all three projects would have been in jeopardy. With smaller sums involved, the OU has also co-funded all the IES seminar series, as well as the symposia and conferences organised by OU researchers in the REF period. In most cases, the OU has matched the financial input provided by external partners (like the IES) or funding agencies (like the British Academy). The OU supports individual researchers attending conferences and undertaking research trips to archives, with funding conditional upon (a) researchers having sought external funding, and (b) the ultimate production of research outputs. The Arts Faculty Research Sub-Committee adjudicates upon such individual funding bids, and has discretion with respect to enforcing these two conditions.

Organisational infrastructure. The key organisational committee for research in English is the RSG in English, which determines research strategy (see b. Research strategy). The RSG maintains lines of communication between researchers in English, the Faculty and the University, and comprises a chair, the head of department, the head of the REF submission, and the English postgraduate officer.

Administrative infrastructure. The OU Arts Faculty has a five-person Research and Enterprise Support Team, which supports for all externally-funded research projects. Further support is provided by the University's Research Office and Postgraduate Degrees Office.

Operational infrastructure. OU's IT unit is responsible for their construction and long-term maintenance for the digital databases produced by projects such as RED and Making Britain. The University also maintains a sector-leading Virtual Research Environment for research students.

Scholarly infrastructure. In addition to the RED and the online archives produced by the Making Britain project, the OU holds the *Wasafiri* archive at its London regional office, as well as the Athol Fugard archive in Milton Keynes (catalogued in 2011-12 with OU support).

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

OU researchers in English participated in a number of successful collaborations in the REF period, in many cases consolidating and developing already-existing relationships. Many of these collaborations have had extensive and significant impact beyond the higher education sector. The five research groups (Book History, Postcolonial Literatures, Contemporary Cultures of Writing,

Literature and Music, and The Romantic Period) have maintained long-standing connections with the IES, co-organising two international conferences, 21 seminar series, four one-day symposia, and one international postgraduate symposium. This is a substantial increase from the RAE period, when two research groups had collaborated with the IES on a more modest scale (nine seminar series). A second major partner in collaborative endeavours has been the BBC. Individual researchers have worked closely with the BBC in producing television programmes: Da Sousa Correa was the academic consultant on the three-programme television series 'In Their Own Words: British Novelists'; and Haslam was the academic consultant and an interviewee on the television programme, 'Who on Earth was Ford Madox Ford?' A third significant partnership, strategically brokered by the Arts Faculty, enabled the co-hosting with the British Library of a two-day international conference and a panel discussion, and has led to the co-supervision of two PhD students.

Conference organisation. The organisation of scholarly encounters is a prominent feature in the English Department's research culture. During the REF period OU researchers in English have been responsible for a total of 41 conferences, workshops, symposia and seminar series. This number includes the three international conferences described in the impact case studies; the examples below illustrate the range of the English Department's conference-organising.

In 2008 **Gupta** co-organised two workshops on 'English Studies in Bulgarian Education' in Veliko Turnovo and Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and **Towheed** co-organised the three-day international conference 'Reading the Evidence: Evidence of Reading' at the IES. In 2009, **Da Sousa Correa** co-organised with the OU Music Department the 'Purcell, Handel and Literature' conference at the IES, and the 'Celebrating Katherine Mansfield' Symposium in Menton, France. In 2010, **Haslam** co-organised the international conference 'Ford Madox Ford and America' in New York, while **Katritzky** co-organised the Theatre Without Borders Annual Workshop in Venice, and **Nasta** co-organised the international two-day conference 'Bharat Britain' at the British Library. In 2011 **Towheed** and **Watson** organised the symposium 'The Romantic Book' at the IES. In 2012, **Gupta** co-organised a workshop 'The Expectations of Employers/ Policy-Makers and English Studies Graduates' at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, **Seargeant** co-organised the workshop 'The Discipline of English Studies – A Global Perspective' in Milton Keynes, and **Tickell** organised the symposium 'South-Asian Fiction: Contemporary Transformations' at the IES. In 2013, **Doloughan** organised a panel discussion, 'Writing, Creativity and Translation' at the British Library, and **Gibson** organised a workshop 'Describing, Analysing and Identifying Early Modern Handwriting: Methods and Issues' at Merton College, Oxford University.

Contributions to professional bodies. **Da Sousa Correa** is on the executive of the Council for College and University English (CCUE); **Gupta**, **Haslam**, **Johnson**, **Nasta**, and **Watson** are members of the AHRC Peer Review College; **Gupta** is an adviser to the Erasmus Mundus Programme; **Haslam** is chair of the Ford Madox Ford Society; **Nasta** is on the advisory steering group for the AHRC 'Diaspora, Migration and Identities Initiative'; **Neale** is on the Higher Education Committee for the National Association for Creative Writers in English (NAWE); and **Watson** is chair of the British Association of Romantic Studies (BARS).

Editorial positions. Three OU researchers are editors of journals or magazines: **Brown** is an editor of *The English Review*, **Da Sousa Correa** is general editor of *Katherine Mansfield Studies*, and **Nasta** is sole editor of *Wasafiri*. In addition, many more researchers are active members of editorial boards: **Johnson** (*Atlantis*, *College Literature*, *Wasafiri*), **Haslam** (*International Ford Madox Ford Studies*), **Katritzky** (*Commedia dell'arte: annuario internazionale*, *Early Theatre*), **Nasta** (*Journal of West Indian Literature*), **Neale** (*Short Fiction in Theory and Practice*), and **Tickell** (*Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Journal of Contemporary Literature*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*)

Peer reviewers for journals and publishers. OU researchers in English exert an influence in many and various sectors of the discipline by contributing extensively as peer reviewers to many international journals and publishers. Certain individual researchers in English review submissions for a number of journals. For example, **Allington** reviews submissions for *Applied Linguistics*, *Art*,

Design and Communication in Higher Education, European Journal of Cultural Studies, and Key Words. A Journal of Cultural Materialism, Johnson for Clio: A Journal of Literature, History and Philosophy, Historical Materialism, Journal of Postcolonial Writing, and Research in African Literatures, Neale for Katherine Mansfield Studies, New Writing: The International Journal for the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing, Short Fiction in Theory and Practice, and Tickell for Ariel, Journal of Commonwealth Literature, Journal of Narrative Theory, Journal of Postcolonial Studies, Journal of Postcolonial Writing, and Victorian Studies. In addition, many British and international publishers have been supported by the expertise of OU researchers via readers' reports. These publishers include Ashgate, Blackwells, Bloomsbury, Broadview, Cambridge University Press, Continuum, Duke University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Haymarket, Indiana University Press, Manchester University Press, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Princeton University Press, Routledge, University of Pennsylvania Press, Wits University Press, and Zed Press.

Scholarly awards and fellowships. Several OU researchers received prestigious awards in the REF period. **Fraser** was awarded the Jackson Brothers Fellowship to the Beinecke Library (Yale) in 2009-10, and was elected Fellow of the English Association in 2012; **Gupta** was awarded visiting fellowships at the State University of Campinas, São Paulo State, Brazil (2011-12), Wolfson College, Cambridge (2010-11), and the University of Delhi, India (2010), and is Honorary Research Fellow at Roehampton (2008-14) and Honorary Adjunct Professor at the University of Tehran, Iran (2007-10); **Katritzky** was awarded a nine-month Herzog August Library Wolfenbüttel Research Fellowship in 2008; **Nasta** is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (2002-) and was awarded an MBE for services to Black and Asian Literatures in 2011; **Tickell** was awarded a Visiting Fellowship at St Johns College, Oxford in 2010; and **Towheed** received the Edith Wharton Society Special Research Award in 2008.

Keynote lectures. A number of OU researchers were invited to deliver keynote lectures at universities in Britain and around the world: **Fraser** in Southampton, Gargnano (Italy) and London; **Katritzky** in Mainz (Germany); **Gupta** in Veliko Turnovo (Bulgaria), Skodra (Albania), Juiz de Fora (Brazil), Istanbul (Turkey), Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Birmingham, Nagpur (India) and Munich (Germany); **Nasta** in Lancaster, Leeds, London, Reading and Bern (Switzerland); **Towheed** in Reading; and **Watson** in Lisbon (Portugal).

Individual collaborations with other institutions. In addition to the collaborations outlined under the Research Strategy, several individual researchers have collaborated successfully with other institutions. A striking feature of these collaborations is the number of them with international partner-institutions. **Gupta** has followed up externally-funded research projects in Bulgaria, Romania and India by developing long-term collaborations with English Departments at universities in these three countries, and in addition has established links with the State University of Campinas (Brazil), the University of Peking (China), and the University of Tehran (Iran). **Katritzky** has long-established links with European research institutions, notably the Theatres Without Borders research collective, the Berlin DramaNet group, and the University of Trier; **Seargeant** with the Department of English at the University of Dhaka (Bangladesh); and **Nasta** with the National Archives of India (Delhi) and the University of Berlin (Germany), as well as with several UK institutions (Oxford University, King's College (London), the British Library, the South Asian Literary and Arts Archive, the British Council, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the British Museum).