

**Institution:** University of Kent

**Unit of Assessment:** 28 – Modern Languages and Linguistics

**a. Context**

The principal non-academic user groups, beneficiaries, and audiences for our research include: museum and gallery administrators, curators, and visitors; those working with linguistic minorities; and participants in the public discourse on the recent and current politics in Latin America. The main types of impact relevant to our research over the assessment period have been:

1. **Enhancing the public's cultural understanding of art and literature** through direct involvement with museums, galleries, and archives in the planning and delivery of exhibitions, especially in the fields of French, German, and Hispanic culture.
2. **Developing the public's appreciation of the value of linguistic diversity** through the documentation and analysis of minority linguistic varieties, as well as direct involvement with relevant linguistic communities.
3. **Transforming the public's national memory and political understanding** through interventions in public discourses on democratic procedures and gender equality (in Latin America, especially Peru).

The ways in which these types of impact relate to the range of our research and our two research centres – the [Centre for Modern European Literature](#) (CMEL) and the [Centre for Language and Linguistic Studies](#) (CLLS) – include the following:

1. Holmes's research on Austrian literary biography and Viennese salon culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries led to invitations to contribute to a study day (open to the public) on the people behind the paintings in the exhibition *Facing the Modern: The Portrait in Vienna 1900*, at the National Gallery, London (Oct. 2013–Jan. 2014), and to advise on the 'literary salons' section in Vienna's new Literature Museum (due to open in 2014). Hutchinson's research on W.G. Sebald led to his being invited to contribute to the exhibition catalogue for the 2008 exhibition *Wandernde Schatten: W.G. Sebalds Unterwelt*, at the German Literature Archive, Marbach. Schaffner's research for the AHRC-funded 'Poetry Beyond Text' project led to her involvement in exhibitions in Dundee and Edinburgh. Read's research on Guillaume Apollinaire, Alberto Giacometti, and Pablo Picasso led to invitations to contribute to catalogues for exhibitions held at the Musée d'art moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Van Gogh Museum (Amsterdam), the Picasso Museum (Barcelona), and the Centre Pompidou (Metz), as well as invitations to deliver public lectures at the Musée d'Orsay (Paris) and the Musée Picasso (Antibes).
2. Hornsby's research on linguistic diversity in Kent led to invitations to appear on the BBC's *One Show* and on BBC radio. Janke's British Academy-funded research on 'Complex Grammar and Primary Pragmatics in Autism and Specific Language Impairment' will add a new type of impact to our Linguistics research group in 2014–15.
3. Rowlandson's work on Cuban history and politics, and on US–Cuban relations, has led to invitations to speak on national radio and television, and he has also contributed to the *Guardian's* 'Comment is Free' pages on the subject of the Guantánamo Bay and Gitmo detention centres. Sobrevilla Perea's research on Peruvian political history has informed her contributions to the public debate in Peru on the country's national identity, as well as on the sterilization programme during the Fujimori government.

**b. Approach to impact**

Given the range of research groupings across Modern Languages and Linguistics at Kent, we have adopted a flexible approach to the support and enabling of impact over the period 2008–13. The guiding principles underlying our approach have been:

1. **Infrastructural support.** Since RAE2008, research in Modern Languages and Linguistics at Kent has benefited significantly from impact-enhancing support at both School and Faculty level. In 2010, the [Kent Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities](#) established a [Public Engagement Fund](#) (£2K per application) to support the establishment of pathways to impact for both individual and collaborative projects. All of our case studies received support from this fund. Our two research centres, CLLS and CMEL, have facilitated the impact of research in their respective fields by making that research widely

available through the podcasting of their research events, their contributions to the School of European Culture and Languages 'Popular Lecture' series, and the publication of an electronic annual bulletin. Working with doctoral supervisors, the two research centres have established mentoring schemes to ensure that ECRs and PGRs reflect on the relationship between research and impact from the beginning of their academic careers. This mentoring has contributed to the development of various doctoral research projects, including a thesis on the ways in which victims of forced sterilization in Peru during the 1990s have coped with the consequences of government policy (Ruiz, Hispanic Studies, supervised by Sobrevilla Perea), and a thesis on the challenges posed by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as these pertain to the introduction of Arpitan and its impact on the vitality of Franco-Provençal (Kasstan, Linguistics, supervised by Hornsby).

2. **Collaboration with non-HEIs.** Since RAE2008, many of our research projects have been designed in such a way as to include events held at non-HEIs, with the aim being to ensure that the broader public can benefit directly from the research in question. Events of this kind have included the conference on poetry and sculpture funded by the Centre for Modern European Literature and held at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds (Hutchinson and Read, 2009); participation in exhibitions (on W.G. Sebald and 'Ordnung') at the German Literature Archive, Marbach, with accompanying catalogue contributions (Hutchinson); the 'Repetition/ Repetition' symposium at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (Lázaro-Reboll, 2012); and the 'Paris/Tokyo/Paris: La réception de la culture japonaise en France depuis 1945' conference at the Maison Franco-japonaise in Tokyo (O'Meara, 2013).
3. **Internationalization.** Given the international nature of much of the research undertaken in Modern Languages and Linguistics at Kent, and in accordance with the University's [Internationalization Strategy](#), our staff have been helped to achieve impact internationally as well as nationally, with continental Europe and Latin America being the two geo-political regions beyond the UK in which our research has achieved the greatest impact. The multi-lingual nature of our research (as evidenced by outputs written in French, German, Italian, and Spanish) has ensured the feasibility of this aim, and the impact documented in our case studies is demonstrably international in nature. Support has included the covering of international travel costs for our staff, and the hosting of events at our [Paris campus](#).
4. **Engaging with the public via the media (newspapers, radio, television).** In order to ensure that our research fully realizes its potential for impact, our staff have been supported by a mentoring scheme to engage with the media (especially newspapers and radio). Several members of staff write regularly for the national and international press; highlights include Hutchinson's *Times Literary Supplement* 'Commentary' on the Suhrkamp Archive (2010), Read's reviews on French literature and the visual arts in the *TLS*, and Sobrevilla Perea's articles on the Peruvian presidential election (2011). These members of staff have in turn introduced other colleagues to relevant media outlets. This mentoring scheme, alongside the support of the Faculty's Press Officer, has led to numerous other members of staff (including Cooper, Holmes, Hornsby, Novillo-Corvalán, Rowlandson, Weller) writing for the mainstream media and/or speaking on national (BBC) and international radio (Australia, France, Germany). This media activity has helped to increase the profile of our research considerably, and to facilitate the greater reach of the impact achieved by it.

### c. Strategy and plans

Building on the impact achieved by research undertaken by our staff (as documented above and in our impact case studies), and on the University's [Public Engagement \(Research\) Strategy](#), the Modern Languages and Linguistics Impact Strategy for 2014–19 includes the following priorities:

1. **Increased engagement with museums and galleries.** Several members of staff (Holmes, Hutchinson, Read, Schaffner) have established records of collaboration with museums and galleries across Europe. We will employ this collaborative mode as a paradigm for future research. A series of 'Impact Workshops' has already been run at Faculty level, and this will be matched by discipline-specific workshops in Modern Languages and Linguistics. In order to establish collaborations with non-academic partners, external speakers from museums and galleries will be invited to speak at Kent. Following on from invitations such as that of Ulrich Raulff, Director of the German Literature Archive, Marbach (2010), future invitees will include Penelope Curtis, Director of Tate Britain, who was present at the event organized

by our Centre for Modern European Literature at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, in 2009. Doctoral students will attend these events as part of their training in academic practice.

2. **Publication in electronic and print media, participation in radio and television programmes, and the writing of blogs.** Building on the experience and contacts of those members of staff who already publish regularly in national newspapers (Hutchinson, Read, Sobrevilla Perea) and who have appeared on national and international radio or television programmes (Holmes, Hornsby, Hutchinson, Read, Rowlandson, Sobrevilla Perea, Weller), workshops will be organized in collaboration with the University's Communications Office in order to share best practice. As part of their annual Individual Research Plan meetings with the School's Director of Research, our ECRs (over 30% of our submission) will be asked to develop ideas for ways in which engagement with a non-specialist audience via the media can be achieved, with this being seen as a constituent element of their career development.
3. **Public lectures and film screenings.** While the international focus of Modern Languages and Linguistics at Kent has led to on-going international collaborations with non-HEIs (for instance, with the German Literature Archive, Marbach), we also recognize the importance of engaging with the public at a national and regional level. The University has the facilities to make this possible. At the [Gulbenkian Cinema](#), which currently attracts a broad public from the East Kent region, our staff have organized film seasons (for instance, Rowlandson on Hispanic cinema) or introduced films and chaired debates with directors (Baldwin on French cinema, Read on Surrealist cinema). The professorial appointment of Triana Toribio in 2012 will ensure not only an increase in the volume of such activities, but a step change in the approach to the engagement with local and national film audiences, building on initiatives such as Lázaro-Reboll's 'Euro Horror' event at the ICA, London, in November 2013. This will be achieved through the establishment of a Hispanic film festival (by Triana Toribio and Lázaro-Reboll, co-directors of the [Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Film and the Moving Image](#)), in collaboration with the Gulbenkian Cinema.
4. **Impact funding scheme.** The Centre for Modern European Literature will add an impact funding scheme (up to £2K per application) to its portfolio. This scheme will support further collaborations with non-HEIs (especially museums and galleries) and the coordination of impact activities around the University's forthcoming 50th Anniversary in 2015.
5. **New consortia.** In 2012, the University of Kent, together with the Courtauld Institute, the Open University, and the Universities of East Anglia, Essex, Goldsmiths, and Sussex, formed the [Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts South-East England](#) (CHASE). This was followed in 2013 by the launch of the [Eastern Academic Research Consortium](#) (Eastern ARC). These partnerships have generated a new platform for PG and ECR public engagement training workshops, including the AHRC-funded [Becoming a Public Intellectual](#) (2013). CHASE and Eastern ARC will develop further cross-institutional programmes of this kind to support effective public engagement and impact-related activities.

#### d. Relationship to case studies

Our case studies have been chosen to reflect the breadth of impact achieved by research in Modern Languages and Linguistics at Kent since 2008. These case studies also indicate the range of non-academic partners with whom we have collaborated, and relate to the approaches to impact outlined in section B (above) in the following ways:

1. **Infrastructural support.** All of our case studies have received internal support through the Faculty of Humanities Impact Fund, enabling a 0.1 teaching and administration reduction for each principal researcher.
2. **Collaborating with non-HEIs.** All of our case studies include collaborations with non-HEIs (museums, galleries, national and local archives).
3. **Internationalization.** Two of our case studies (Read; Sobrevilla Perea) have demonstrably achieved impact beyond the UK – in France (Read) and Peru (Sobrevilla Perea) – and are underpinned by research written and disseminated in French and Spanish.
4. **Engaging with the public via the media.** Our case studies include the dissemination of research findings via the print and electronic media in order to ensure that these findings reach a non-academic audience – through newspaper articles (*Guardian*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*), blogs, and participation in national radio broadcasts.