Institution: University of South Wales

REF 2014 Research Excellence Framework

Unit of Assessment: D29

a. Overview

Strongly rooted in its local community, the English Research Unit at the University of South Wales (USW) draws much of its vibrancy from the fact that it brings together scholars and writers from the two subject areas of Literature and Creative Writing. The longstanding synergies between the two areas produce a thriving research culture with a commitment to the publication of both critical and creative work, and to engagement outside as well as inside the academy, both locally and globally. Three members of the Unit (**Desmond Barry**, **Professor Philip Gross** and **Professor Christopher Meredith**) are primarily novelists and/or poets, four (**Professor Jane Aaron**, **Dr Alice Entwistle**, **Dr Nicholas Dunlop** and **Professor Diana Wallace**) are literature scholars, while **Dr Kevin Mills** is both a critic and a poet.

Within the new University of South Wales (formed in April 2013 through a merger of the University of Glamorgan and the University of Wales Newport), English is located in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Research leadership at University level is provided by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Student Experience) who works with the Research Office to provide core support on all research-related matters. The University has been awarded the HR Excellence in Research Award by the European Commission for our work to implement the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. This award demonstrates USW's commitment to meeting the needs of researchers and improving opportunities for them. Support for research was strengthened in 2013 by the creation of four Research Institutes: English sits within the Research Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSOC). The University's commitment to sustaining and enhancing research has been implemented through the 'University Research Strategy 2009-14' and supported by a comprehensive programme of investment through the 'University Research Investment Scheme' (RIS), from which English has benefitted. In 2011 a new Postgraduate Centre was launched and in 2012/13 the University funded twenty Glamorgan Centenary Doctoral Scholarship Bursaries of which two were awarded within English. The University's position within the St David's Day Group of the five major research Universities in Wales (Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, USW and Swansea), has also provided a supportive context encouraging collaboration with researchers in other universities.

b. Research strategy

i. Research Strategy 2008-13

As planned in RAE 2008, the Unit has continued to develop its distinctive research interests, building on the strengths of four established clusters: **Creative Writing** (Barry, Gross, Meredith, Mills); **Gothic Studies** (Aaron, Wallace); **Women's Writing** (Aaron, Entwistle, Wallace); **Welsh Writing in English** (Aaron, Entwistle, Meredith, Mills, Wallace). In addition to this, two new clusters have emerged: **Critical-creative Writing** (Gross, Entwistle, Meredith, Mills) is a pioneering interdisciplinary area which has developed directly from the synergies between creative and critical work in the Unit, while the emergence of **Textuality and Cultural Spaces** (Aaron, Dunlop, Entwistle, Meredith, Mills) was crystallised by the recent merger and brings together work on spatial politics, landscapes and literary geographies which range from Wales to postcolonial Australia. Several members operate within more than one cluster and this contributes to the cohesiveness of the Unit. This in turn has led to some members developing new interests since 2008: for instance, Aaron's research on Welsh Gothic, Mills's emergence as a poet, and Wallace's work on Welsh Writing in English. Formal research centres and structures, such as the cross-Faculty **Centre for Gender Studies in Wales** and the interdisciplinary and cross-University **BorderLines** initiative, have also been further developed to support research.

Planning for research development has been led through the **English Research Committee**, established in 2008, which comprises the UoA Leader (**Wallace**), the Head of English, the Subject Leaders for Literature and Creative Writing, and the Award Tutor for the MPhil in Writing. This committee formulates strategy, oversees the distribution of QR funds and the sabbatical rota, supports grant applications, and provides mentoring. A central strategy for enabling staff to work towards the production of high-quality, single-authored research has been the Unit's sabbatical



programme. Democratically run on a strict rota system, this allowed each research-active member of staff to plan research around the expectation of at least one period of leave during the review period. The rota was enabled by QR money from RAE 2008 but it also depended on flexible teamwork and the sharing of teaching and administration responsibilities as necessary.

Following RAE 2008, strategies were put in place to address the weaknesses identified in feedback: lack of research income; limited evidence of support for research students; and limited plans for the development of research at both departmental and individual levels. All staff have been encouraged to apply for grants to fund research leave, projects and conference attendance. Within the current difficult economic climate, there has been a proactive emphasis on collaboration with other HEIs and the use of formal research centres/structures to support grant applications for specific projects. Active and successful efforts have been made to recruit more doctoral students, using our MA and MPhil programmes to nurture potential candidates. Additional support has also been provided for postgraduates, notably through the new Postgraduate Centre.

The success of the Unit in fostering research during the review period can be seen in the fact that between January 2008 and the present returned members of the unit published **15 single**authored books, **4 edited or co-edited books**, **4 short works**, **21 refereed journal articles** and **35 chapters in books**, as well as **38 non-refereed journal articles and interviews**, **3 short** stories, **151 single poems in periodicals/books**, and **16 encyclopaedia/biographical entries**. In addition, they have given **42 keynote/invited lectures**, **22 guest lectures**, **48 conference papers**, and over **150 poetry/prose readings and talks**.

ii. Research Strategy 2014-19

In the period 2014-19, the Unit is committed to further developing the strengths of current and emerging research clusters. While it has not always been possible to replace staff lost since 2008, the cohesiveness of the Unit and the fact that most members contribute to more than one cluster means the quality and range of research outputs have been maintained as a basis for future development. Using the core research clusters and current Centres, the Unit will identify and support significant research and increasingly link it to an impact agenda. During the period 2008-2013, the Unit's Research Centre for Literature, Arts and Science (RCLAS), then co-directed by Dr Martin Willis and Professor Andy Smith, proved successful in gaining external grant income and this offers a model for the future. The newest research clusters, Critical-creative Writing and Textuality and Cultural Spaces, offer exciting potential and supporting these will be a priority. The Unit will aim to continue to develop collaborations with other HEIs, organisations and individuals to maximise the capture of external grant income.

Research leave through the sabbatical rota has been the single most successful route to the production of high-quality, single-authored or co-authored research. Given current financial restraints, this will be continued from 2013 under the aegis of the HUMSOC Research Institute which will run a competitive research leave scheme. Individual staff members are already working on a range of projects: Aaron is collaborating with Sarah Prescott (Aberystwyth University) on a co-authored book, Welsh Writing in English 1536-1914, vol. 3, The Oxford Literary History of Wales, series ed. Damian Walford Davies (OUP, 2014 submission); Barry is developing the 'Aurora Australis' project and writing a new novel; **Dunlop** is finalising a monograph, Pedagogy and Postcolonialism in Science Fiction (contract under negotiation with Palgrave); Entwistle is preparing a monograph on *Gwyneth Lewis* (University of Wales Press), and a book of interviews with Anglophone Welsh women poets (Seren): **Gross** is collaborating with Welsh National Opera and composer Gareth Peredur Churchill on a workshop opera Cold Call, and negotiating an exhibition and collaborative book on the Taff river; Meredith is writing a novel set in south Wales in 1923-4, and a book-length work of non-fiction combining mid-twentieth century historical research with contemporary travel/politics; **Mills** is working on a new poetry collection and, with Entwistle, co-authoring After Ciaran Carson: Between Criticism and Creativity (Sussex Academic Press, 2016); Wallace is researching a monograph on modernist historical fictions (internal research leave secured, 2013-14) and preparing an edition of Margiad Evans's Autobiography (Welsh Women's Classics, Honno).

A further priority will be the recruitment and improved support of research students in the Unit. The establishment of the new PhD in Creative Writing, with one student already completed (in June 2013) and four others (including poet Paul Henry and novelist Tom Bullough) currently enrolled, is a key area the Unit will be aiming to develop.



c. People

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The atmosphere of collegial community which has been a defining feature of English at USW together with the sense of purpose inspired by our commitment to the local student population (many of whom are from areas which are among the most economically underprivileged in the UK) has enabled the Unit to remain productive through a period of considerable change. The merger between Glamorgan and Newport in April 2013 brought a new member to the team, Dr Nicholas Dunlop, with specialisms in contemporary and postcolonial literatures. During this period, four senior members of staff reached retirement age (Prof Jeremy Hooker, Prof Tony Curtis, Prof Gavin Edwards, and Sheenagh Pugh). They have, however, maintained close contact with the University and Hooker, Curtis and Edwards have been appointed as Emeritus Professors. All have remained active researchers and they have been generous in offering mentoring and supporting collaborations. Work by current Creative Writing staff and students features in Tokens for the Foundlings (Seren, 2012) an anthology of poetry about childhood edited by Curtis, for instance, while Hooker is involved in BorderLines. Professor Jeff Wallace, now at Cardiff Metropolitan University, is a Visiting Professor. Other staff at Glamorgan who left during the review period include Professor Andrew Smith (-2012), Dr Martin Willis (-2012) and Dr Tiffany Murray (-2013). One Research Fellow, Dr Rachel Hewitt (2007-9) and one Research Assistant, Dr Richard Marsden (2010-11), were employed on fixed-term contracts. The unit also hosted an Erasmus visiting scholar, bilingual poet Dr Piotr Zazula, from the University of Wroclaw, Poland, in September 2010.

The equal and automatic inclusion of all Unit members in the sabbatical rota has been a crucial factor in enabling the production of time-intensive research outputs such as monographs and novels. Reflecting USW's commitment to implementing the 'Concordat to Support the Development of Researchers', early career researchers and new members of the Unit have been integrated into this rota and have a lighter teaching load wherever possible. Teaching and administrative tasks are shared evenly across the Unit and this egalitarian approach ensures the sense of collegiality. All Unit members can expect a minimum of one research day per week and there is a 'Research Activity Day' system whereby staff can block out clear periods for research.

Mentoring and appraisal continue to foster research and career development. Career progression among established staff included the promotion of **Wallace** to a personal chair in June 2011. Staff development includes a range of activities: **Barry** has completed a PhD (2013), for example, while **Wallace** attended the week-long residential Senior Research Leaders Programme run by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (July 2013). On an informal level, constructive feedback is exchanged both within and across the core research clusters on new projects, funding bids and publications. The development of the new Critical-creative Writing research cluster is evidence of the energy and fertility of such exchanges.

ii. Research students

English has a rising number of research students. Overall, the number of PhD degrees completed has increased substantially from three in RAE 2001-8 to nine in the period 2008-2011, two of whom had AHRC funding. (Two of those nine students, John Kuntz and Michelle Wright, completed before 1 August 2008 and are not therefore included in the HESA data in REF 4A.) The Creative Writing PhD launched in 2009 is an exciting new development. Developing organically from USW's flagship MPhil in Writing, it has opened a pathway for gifted students to proceed to doctoral study. A landmark moment was the completion of the first PhD in Creative Writing, awarded to Shauna Busto-Gilligan in June 2013. Her novel, *Happiness Comes from Nowhere*, was published by Ward Wood in July 2012. An additional eleven doctoral students are at various stages of their research, one with AHRC funding. The two Glamorgan Centenary PhD Students recruited in 2013 (fully funded, £15,000 p.a.) are embedded within core research clusters: Jayne Bowden is researching Anglophone Welsh women's historical fictions, and Jessica Lewis is researching theoretical constructions of space/place in Victorian literature. Four students are on the Creative Writing PhD pathway.

In addition to this, sixteen students graduated from the MPhil in Writing in the review period. There are currently 35 part-time students registered on this Award. English also runs a taught MA programme: MA Literature, Culture and Society, which includes a Gothic pathway. The MA

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(currently with 11 students) has helped to nurture potential Literature doctoral students. Any English doctoral student who has not previously completed a literature MA is required to take the two core Research Skills modules which form part of this programme. As a distance-learning programme, the MPhil in Writing makes imaginative use of online forums. Creative Writing staff run a well-attended series of readings by established visiting writers as part of the MPhil Residencies (recent speakers include Tessa Hadley and Emma Darwin), and convene an annual week-long symposium for postgraduates at Ty Newydd. Literature postgraduate students are encouraged to present papers at the research seminar series convened by English and by the Centre for Gender Studies in Wales. English postgraduates also play a full part in the wider life of the University; for instance, Literature PhD student Bethan Coombs established the University Postgraduate Research Forum.

USW English postgraduates have an excellent track record in achieving publication. Former Literature PhDs Harri Roberts, Hywel Dix and Claire Flay have all published books based on their theses during this period, while Alyn Webley has published a chapter in an edited collection. Flay has also produced an edition of Dorothy Edwards' novel *Winter Sonata* (Honno). Dix has been appointed to a lectureship at Bournemouth University. Almost without exception, the MPhil in Writing/PhD in Creative Writing students have gone on to publish successfully. Notable publications and successes by current and past students in the review period include: Rosie Shepperd's *That So-Easy Thing* (Smith Doorstop, 2012), winner of the Poetry Business Competition, and 'A seedy narrative or moments of lyrical stillness?' shortlisted for the Forward Prize single poem (2013); Tamar Yoseloff's *Formerly* (Hercules, 2012), shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry Award); Maria McCann's *The Wilding* (Faber, 2010), longlisted for the Orange Prize; Joanna Preston's *The Summer King* (Otago University Press, 2010), winner of the Mary Gilmore Prize for best first book published in Australia); and Mike Thomas's *Pocketnotebook* (Heinemann, 2010), longlisted for Wales Book of the Year.

Following RAE 2008 feedback, support mechanisms for research students have been made more robust. The new Postgraduate Centre has considerably enhanced the facilities available to postgraduates, giving them access to networked PCs, email, phone/fax, photocopiers and digitised research-resources, and providing a social learning space which encourages interdisciplinary contacts. Full-time students are supplied with shared offices, including computer facilities, while part-time students can hot-desk in a designated postgraduate room. Each supervisory team includes a Director of Studies and one or two supervisors (depending on experience and subject specialism), who make regular progress reports as part of the University's annual monitoring system. The Research Office runs training events for postgraduates and their supervisors as well as an annual research development conference. A new procedure for upgrading from MPhil to PhD, requiring a viva, has been put in place and supervisory teams work with students to facilitate career-development training. Within English, in addition to formal research skills training through the MA modules mentioned above, the English Subject Librarian provides individual support for postgraduates as appropriate. Wherever practicable, English postgraduates are offered teaching on an appropriate undergraduate module, agreed through consultation between the Subject Leader, Supervisor/Director of Studies and student.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

i. Generation of External Grant Income

The generation of external income has been a priority in the Unit's research strategy since 2008 and Unit members have applied for research funding from a range of sources. Increasingly fierce competition for research income in the discipline has meant that whereas four members of the unit secured AHRC research leave grants in the last RAE period, research council applications made in the current period have been less successful. The Unit has, however, successfully looked to other sources of funding, especially arts organisations. Internal funding has provided a platform from which to generate further funds: eg the seedcorn funding of £2,200 (2009) and RIS award of £14, 942 (2011) gained by Entwistle and Mills to set up *BorderLines*, and the RIS award of £5000 gained by Willis to conduct research on illness narratives with Cardiff University (2009).

External income has been secured as follows: **Barry** gained £2600 from Wales Arts International to pay for expenses incurred on research in Finland for the *Diario de un Retrato* exhibition in Montevideo. **Meredith** was awarded a HALMA scholarship worth approximately



£3,000 in 2012-13 which funded month-long writer-in-residence posts in Finland and Slovenia (HALMA is a network of 26 literary institutions across 20 European countries), as well as Welsh Government funding of £600 to attend the Edinburgh World Writers Conference (2012-13) in Brussels, and £1000 from Literature Across Frontiers and the Anna Lindh Foundation to speak at the 25th January Revolution Workshop at Ain Shams University in Cairo (20-22 October 2011). A series of grants were gained by **RCLAS**: Wellcome Trust Symposia Grant of £1940 (for 3 workshops in the medical humanities) in 2011; Wellcome Trust Conference Grant of £1500 to fund a conference on Phobias (2009); and a Strategic Insight Programme Partnership Grant of £4000 to work with the British Association for the Advancement of Science's History of Science section (2008). Dr Rachel Hewitt, RCLAS Research Fellow (February 2007 - June 2009), won a British Academy Award of £5885.85 to develop her PhD research and was awarded first prize in the Royal Society of Literature Jerwood Awards for Non-Fiction for the resulting monograph, *Map of a Nation: A Biography of the Ordnance Survey* (Granta, 2010).

ii. Organisational Infrastructure

The Unit currently hosts a collaborative research and exchange initiative, *BorderLines*, and staff play a major role in two of USW's most high profile cross-Faculty Research Centres:

- BorderLines: this interdisciplinary and collaborative research and exchange project, founded and led by Entwistle, Gross and Mills, stages innovative encounters/events, bringing together poets and critics to create outcomes including video and sound recordings, a database and published poems and articles. Its Wiki site has become a repository for new poetry, imaginative exchanges, reflective responses and critical insights: see http://borderlines.wikispaces.com/. BorderLines has hosted two events 'Estuarine Environments' (Chepstow, 24 January 2010), and 'Orpheus at Glasfryn' (Abergavenny, 17 November 2010) and led to the 'In-and-Between' project (see Collaborations below).
- The Centre for Gender Studies in Wales (Co-director: Wallace): established in 2008, the Centre provides a focus within USW for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in gender studies generally and in relation to Welsh history, culture and society specifically. It hosts the annual public Ursula Masson memorial lecture, which attracts a range of non-academic attendees. The Centre runs conferences (eg 'New Histories of Love and Romance', May 2012), and an annual seminar series.
- The Centre for the Study of Media and Culture in Small Nations (Co-director from Nov 2013: Entwistle): established in 2006, the Centre brings together staff researching the areas of media, culture, communication, theatre and performance, with particular attention to the economic, social and political contexts of Wales and other small nations. This collaborative context enabled the development of the 'In-and-Between' project.

iii. Scholarly infrastructure/facilities

The USW Library has significant holdings in Welsh Writing in English in a dedicated section which supports research in this area. It also has some specialist Gothic material in digital form. The library is a member of the SCONUL (Society of College, National and University Libraries) access scheme enabling staff and postgraduates to use other university libraries, including the National Library at Aberystwyth, and it has an excellent inter-library loan system. A major refurbishment of the library will be completed by December 2013.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

i. Collaborations

A significant development in the period under review is the increase in collaborative research projects, both national and international. Examples include:

'In-and-Between': situated within BorderLines, this site-specific practice-as-research project is a collaboration between Entwistle, Gross, Mills, and members of USW's School of Creative Industries within the Centre for the Study of Media and Culture in Small Nations. Outputs include an interactive web-based poetry-film, 'Flow and Frame,' by Gross and Wyn Mason. The project has hosted two events drawing together participants from University of the West of England, Aberystwyth University, Swansea University and Lancaster University as well as independent writers and artists: a Colloquium (Glamorgan, 3 March 2012), and a public Symposium to showcase research, artworks and critical responses (Glamorgan, 2



Sept 2012). See <<u>http://culture.research.southwales.ac.uk/inandbetween/</u>> and the Wiki site at: <<u>https://in-and-between.wikispaces.com</u>/>

- The 'Bog~Mawnog' Project (2010-): A mixed media project with five visual artists led by Pip Woolf with Meredith as sole writer, this focused on the ecology of The Black Mountains, responding to landscape and environmental damage caused by fire to extensive peat lands. Outcomes included exhibitions in art galleries in 2011-12, print publications, lectures, readings and radio broadcasts. (See REF 3a)
- **Barry** has been involved in a number of international collaborations including **Diario de un retrato**, a prose and sound contribution to the Montevideo Biennale Installation (September 2011) (see REF 2). He is currently collaborating with Diego Vidart (Catholic University of Montevideo), Mark David Boden of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and Ranters Theatre (Melbourne, Australia) to develop *Aurora Australis*, a practice-led, high impact multi-disciplinary exploration of cross-platform narratives of migration among three nations (Britain, Uruguay, Australia) in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

ii. Contribution to the discipline or research base

a. Involvement on university research advisory panels, or national/international research strategy or review boards;

Aaron: report to the Leverhulme Trust on a major grant proposal (2011). **Gross:** member of consultative group on Creative Writing in Higher Education, Arts Council, England, and National Association of Writers in Education (2005-8).

b. Leading positions in professional subject associations and learned societies;

Aaron: Member of the Central Committee of the Learned Society of Wales (LSW, 2012-); Chair of the Humanities LSW Fellows selection committee (2011).

Dunlop: Treasurer and Executive Board Member of the Postcolonial Studies Association. **Gross:** Fellow of Welsh Academy (2010); member of steering committee, National Literacy Trust action research project into formative assessment and writing (2011-12); Member of Management Committee, Society of Authors (2011-); judge, Cardiff International Poetry Competition (2011); Fellow of English Association (2011), member of Board of International Poetry Studies Institute, University of Canberra (2012).

Meredith: Founder member of the panel of judges of The Roland Mathias Book Prize (2005-11); sole judge of the Bardic Writers' Circle Poetry Competition (2011).

c. Editorial positions

Aaron: Founding co-editor 'Gender Studies in Wales' series, University of Wales Press (2006-), Co-editor 'Writers of Wales' series, University of Wales Press (2006-); founding Co-editor and current sole Editor, Welsh Women's Classics series, Honno Press (1996 -); Editorial Board member for the *International Journal of Welsh Writing in English* (since 1994 when it was known as *Welsh Writing in English: A Yearbook of Critical Essays*); member of the Editorial Panel of the University of Wales Press (2007-).

Gross: Poetry Editor, *New Welsh Review* (2007-2010); editorial board member of Professional and Higher Partnership academic publishers (2010-); guest editor, *Writing in Education* (Oct 2011).

d. Examination of doctorates and HEI consultancies

During the review period, returned members of the Unit externally examined **23 PhD theses** in the UK and Australia.

Aaron: External assessor on professorial promotions: Swansea University (2013), the Royal Military College of Canada (2011); External assessor on Readership promotion: Aberystwyth University (2010).

Gross: External Examiner, Master of Studies, Oxford University DCE (2009-); External Examiner, MA Creative Writing and Personal Development, University of Sussex (2009-).

Mills: external member, Postgraduate Research Review Panel, Kingston University (2013-).

e. Organisation of conferences and scholarly encounters

During this period the English Unit has hosted, organised and/or co-organised eleven

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conferences/events/encounters, two panels at international conferences, and several seminar series. These included 'Gothic Locations', co-organised with Cardiff University (Cardiff, 2008); 'Romantic Science', Wales and West Romantic Seminar, awarded £1,000 by the Wellcome Trust (2008); 'Poets Encounter Medicine' (Glamorgan, 2011); 'Medicine at the Margins', co-organised with History colleagues and awarded £1,000 from Wellcome Trust, (Glamorgan, 2011); and two conferences organised by RCLAS: Phobia Conference (2009); Pathologies conference (2007). Entwistle and Wallace co-organised 'Canons and canon-building in Wales', the annual conference for the Association of Welsh Writing in English (AWWE) (Gregynog Hall, 2010).

f. Refereeing academic publications or research proposals

Unit members have peer reviewed articles for journals including: International Journal of Welsh Writing, Oxford Bibliographies, Gwerddon, Critical Inquiry, Women's Writing, Studies in Romanticism, Working with English, Australian Literary Studies, Journal of Eighteenth-century Studies, Keywords, Literature Compass, Orbis Litterarum, Working with English, Contemporary Women's Writing, Journal of Literature and Science, Victorian Poetry, Christianity and Literature, Literature and Theology, PMLA, Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature, Modern Philology, Journal of Adaptation in Film and Performance, Victorian Review, Almanac: Yearbook of Welsh Writing in English, Journal of Victorian Culture, Studies in the Novel, Gothic Studies, Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts, Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies, Culture, Society & Masculinity.

Staff have provided reader's reports on proposals and/or manuscripts for <u>publishers</u> including: Edinburgh University Press, Continuum, Pearson Education, University of Wales Press, Cinnamon Books, Honno Press, Palgrave, Broadview Press, Manchester University Press.

They have peer-reviewed for <u>funding councils and bodies</u> including: the Welsh Books Council, and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), the AHRC and British Academy. Aaron was a Member of the Welsh Books Council grant-awarding panel for literary English-language periodical publications in Wales (2011)

g. Scholarly awards, prizes and fellowships

Aaron: Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales (2011); Roland Mathias Prize (2009). **Gross:** T S Eliot Prize (2009); winner of Wales Book of the Year (2010); Campaign for Literacy in Primary Education prize for outstanding children's poetry collection of the year (2011); People's Prize, Wales Book of the Year (2011); first prize in Scintilla Open Poetry Competition (Long Poems) (2009): Fellow of the Welsh Academy (2010); Fellow of the English Association (2011). **Meredith**: Fellow of the Welsh Academy; HALMA/Translator's House Wales scholarship (2012-13).

Mills: M Wynn Thomas Essay Prize (2012).

h. Invited keynotes, lectures and/or performances.

During this period, Unit members have given **42 keynote/invited lectures and 22 guest lectures.** Selected examples include: **Aaron**, "In 1985, my words they came alive": crisis and creativity', Plenary address, IWA conference, 'Crisis and Creativity', National Assembly, Cardiff (October 2010); **Entwistle**, 'Making Space: Gender and Dissent in post-war Wales's poetry', Inaugural lecture, First Poetry Jamboree, Hay Literature Festival (May 2009); **Gross**, Keynote speaker, 'Great Writing' conference, Imperial College, London (June 2011); **Meredith**, Lecture and workshop/panel/discussion participation in the 25th January Revolution Workshop on Literary Translation, Al Alsun, Ain Shams University, Cairo (October 2011). **Wallace**, 'Differences and Discontinuities: reading women's historical fiction', Keynote at 'Echoes of the Past', Newcastle University (June 2009).

i. Other contributions

Aaron: One of 25 living Welsh writers, artists and politicians featured in *25/25 Vision: Welsh Horizons over Fifty Years*, ed John Osmond and Peter Finch (IWA Publications, 2012). **Dunlop:** consultant on Australian aboriginal culture for Belfast festival at Queen's University. **Entwistle:** Advisory Board member, Centre for Women's Writing and Literary Culture (Aberystwyth University).