

Institution: University of Bristol
Unit of Assessment: 29 — English Language and Literature
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Department of English successfully combines core values of literary scholarship with cutting edge expertise in the critical and theoretical analysis of cultural and literary texts. It has a leading international research presence in Medieval Studies, in Romantic and Victorian Studies, and in the twentieth century, together with internationally recognised expertise across the full range of English Literature. While fully endorsing and actively promoting research conducted within large scale funded projects, the Department is equally committed to supporting the individual research on which our core reputation for scholarly achievement ultimately rests. We have seen significant developments since the last RAE in terms of key personnel, major research projects and publications, research funding, and the shape of the department's research groupings.</p> <p>English is one of four subjects in the School of Humanities, with Historical Studies, Classics and Ancient History, and Religion and Theology. The School is one of three within the Faculty of Arts, along with Modern Languages and Arts. The Head of School is responsible for overall management, and the School Planning and Resources Committee is the principal forum for executive decision-making. Research degree programmes are administered by the Graduate School of Arts and Humanities. At undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and in our research activity, these structures encourage the department to think and work across disciplinary boundaries, ensuring that research remains challenging and innovative.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>(i) Developments since 2008</p> <p>In RAE 2008 we identified three principal objectives: the consolidation of major areas of research expertise; the development of our work at the border between Late Medieval and Early Modern literature; and capitalising on our excellence in the long-nineteenth century, especially its poetry. These objectives are being successfully met, both by replacement and expansion posts. The appointments of Karlin (Winterstoke Chair) and Matthews (Senior Lectureship) have made Bristol a world-leading centre of expertise in 19th century literature and made possible the creation of the Centre for Romantic and Victorian Studies. A new post (from 09/14) is currently being advertised that will specifically link the Late Medieval and Early Modern periods.</p> <p>In line with a doubling of undergraduate student numbers over three years, staffing is projected to increase from 17.5 in 2011 to 28 by 2015-16. English at Bristol has performed exceptionally in recent years, given its relatively small size; we now have the critical mass to support colleagues' scholarly energy and enthusiasm. We are seizing the opportunity of this unprecedented expansion to strengthen and diversify our research. Batt (appointed 2013) brings a radical new perspective on 18th-century working-class and women's writing; Publicover (also 2013) is our first designated lecturer in Shakespeare Studies and is engaged in innovative interdisciplinary research on literary geography and the literature of the sea, congruent with the work of Badcoe and Pite, and making possible fruitful collaboration with Bristol's School of Geographical Sciences.</p> <p>The appointments of Krishnan, Maude, and Savvas all take us in exciting new directions in twentieth and twenty-first century literary studies: Krishnan joins Punter as a postcolonial theorist and adds expertise in contemporary African fiction in English; Maude's research into the relations between literature and medicine complements that of Lee, and she brings an added dimension as a theorist interested in philosophies of embodiment and as an established scholar of Samuel Beckett; Savvas's specialism in postmodern American fiction, as both historian and theorist, brings focus to a field in which Bennett, Cheeke, James, and Karlin all have particular research interests. The appointment of Wootten to a part-time (0.5) lectureship in Poetry and Creative Writing opens the way for productive collaboration with colleagues across the Faculty, especially in conjunction with the newly-founded Bristol Poetry Institute (see below, iii.3). Further appointments (see ii.1) will both diversify our research strength, and connect with dynamic areas of activity in the University.</p>

We have greatly improved our grant-capture (see d.1), with a fourfold increase in yearly income (£66.2k in the period of RAE2008, £264k in REF2014). Research grants have built significantly on our existing excellence, and allowed us to expand our public engagement: the Penguin Archive Project has been hugely successful in this regard and is the foundation for one of our Impact Case Studies; Matthews's British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship resulted in workshops and public lectures for the Wordsworth Trust based on her research into Romantic period albums.

Research in the Department has been invigorated by new faculty and inter-faculty clusters and networks: Lee is co-investigator on the multi-disciplinary research project 'A Matter of Life and Death: The History of Medicine in Bristol, past and present', which secured a People Award from the Wellcome Trust; Maude is developing a research cluster in Medical Humanities with colleagues in History and Philosophy, and in the Faculty of Medicine, leading to a workshop on 'Illness, Narrative and Phenomenology' held at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS — see below, iii.1) . Cheeke is co-lead (with Grace Brockington, History of Art) on the research cluster 'Art Writing/Writing Art'; Badcoe and Publicover are organizers of the new Arts Faculty Early Modern research cluster. Karlin and Lee are subject leads in the Bristol-Kyoto Symposium, a cross-Faculty initiative; Lee organized a seminar for visiting scholars in 2013, and he and Karlin will be taking part in the return visit to Kyoto in January 2014.

(ii) Planning for 2014-19

(1) Staffing

As of 1 October 2013 the department has 22 permanent members of staff, 20 full-time and two part-time (0.5), with 5 Professors, 7 Senior Lecturers, and 10 Lecturers. Staff numbers will increase in line with the last phase of expansion of student numbers in 2014-15, with lectureships in Late Medieval/Early Modern Literature, Black British Writing, Gender and Women's Writing, and Literature and Medicine. Most recent appointments have been entry-level posts (Lecturer B). The influx of new, younger staff has brought dynamic and innovative ideas both within the discipline and across disciplinary boundaries.

While most colleagues have research expertise in more than one period, the current research profile of the department can be characterised as follows: Medieval: 3 (Hume, McLune, Putter); Early Modern (including Shakespeare): 4 (Badcoe, Dawson, Lee, Publicover); 18th Century: 2 (Batt and McTague); 19th century: 6 (Cheeke, Karlin, Matthews, Pite, Punter, Wright); Modern and Contemporary (including American and Creative Writing): 7 (Bennett, James, Jones, Krishnan, Maude, Savvas, Wootten).

(2) Research

Our aim is to maintain and build on the research capacity that has been developed since the last RAE and to maximise the opportunities afforded by the introduction of new staff. We have the following specific aims:

- to increase the number of collaborative research awards, both from UoB, RCUK and EU sources, building on the success of Professor Pamela King (ret'd 2013), Maude, and Putter, and from individual fellowships (Matthews, Pite);
- to diversify the sources of funding to which we apply, guided by the University's Research and Enterprise Division;
- to focus on the mentoring of early-career colleagues, both internally and through the Faculty and University provision of training and advice on professional development;
- to maintain support for current and future research projects via research leave; to support publication of research, drawing on a range of resources including the Churchill Fund and the Head of Subject's fund; to support postgraduate research and professional development by grants for internal activities (e.g. reading groups, online journals) and external activities (e.g. research trips and conference attendance).

(iii) Support for interdisciplinary and collaborative research

(1) Bristol Institute of Advanced Studies

The IAS (of which Pite is currently Director) was formed to enhance research and intellectual life

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across the University by funding workshops; by staging distinguished lectures and debates; and by facilitating, through fellowships and endowed visiting professorships, interaction between Bristol academics and outstanding scholars from elsewhere. The IAS seeks also to extend the public reach of the University through dissemination activities and external collaborations. It is a distinctive and valuable element in the University's research support infrastructure. English took a leading part in the IAS workshops 'The Medieval West: Archives, Libraries and Material Culture' (2010), co-sponsored by the Centre for Medieval Studies (see below), and 'Medical Humanities and the Practice of Medicine' (2012).

(2) Bristol Institute for the Arts and Humanities (BIRTHA)

BIRTHA corresponds to the IAS at Faculty level; it endows and facilitates research initiatives across the Faculty of Arts, through a variety of flexible funding schemes. These help staff and postgraduates to run conferences and workshops, host distinguished lecturers, and organize interdisciplinary projects and events. The Distinguished Lecture Scheme assists colleagues in hosting renowned, external scholars whose work is interdisciplinary. During the review period, the English department ran events supported by BIRTHA which included: 'Following "The Absent-Minded Beggar"', organized by Lee in conjunction with the Conflict and Care Study Group and the Kipling Society (2010); 'Bob Dylan at Seventy', a one-day conference organized by Karlin and Craig Savage (research student) (2011); Professor Neil Hertz's seminars on W. G. Sebald and on 'Pastoral in Palestine' (November 2013) organised by Sperlinger and Pite are co-funded by BIRTHA and IAS. BIRTHA also supports the interdisciplinary Medical Humanities Research Seminar launched in 2013 by Maude and Dr Havi Carel (Philosophy).

(3) Bristol Poetry Institute

The Bristol Poetry Institute was launched in October 2012, with a reading by the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, to an audience of almost 800 people; the reading for 2013 was given by Sir Andrew Motion and attracted a similarly impressive audience. Karlin is Director and the poet Rachael Boast is Deputy Director. Wooten was appointed with a brief to develop its remit as a focus for the study of poetry within the Faculty of Arts and as an outward-facing organization engaged with the wider community in Bristol and the south-west. In its first year the BPI has organized well-attended readings (Ciaran Carson, Alice Oswald), a poetry competition for local schools, and a 'performance poetry' evening initiated by an undergraduate student. There is an emphasis on cross-disciplinary activity: Oswald's visit was organized with the Department of Classics and featured a complete performance of her poem *Memorial*, a 'response' to Homer's *Iliad*. As part of the InsideArts festival in November 2013 the BPI is sponsoring a study-day on translating poetry, concluding with a public debate. A Poet-in-Residence scheme was inaugurated in spring 2013 by Rachael Boast, followed in autumn 2013 by Andrew Jamieson; both are highly regarded Bristol-based poets, and this local emphasis is also present in links with arts organizations and publishers in Bristol: the BPI co-sponsored *The Echoing Gallery* (2013), an anthology of poems about artworks in Bristol, edited by Boast with Adam Hanna and published by Redcliffe Press, and will be taking over sponsorship of Park Street Poetry, an established series of poetry readings run by Bristol poet David Briggs.

(4) Centre for Medieval Studies

The Centre for Medieval Studies offers medievalist staff and graduate students from across the Faculty a range of activities in which they can exchange ideas and generate new research. The Centre runs an interdisciplinary MA programme, facilitates joint supervision of postgraduate research, and runs a reading group for staff and postgraduates, seminars led in turn by invited speakers and Bristol medievalists, regular half-day conferences, and networking lunches. An international virtual seminar programme will launch in January 2014. Medieval postgraduates organise a long-established annual conference, which attracts participants from overseas as well as the UK. The Centre has its own publications series, Bristol Publications in Medieval Cultures, in collaboration with the publishers Boydell and Brewer. It is a member of the executive committee of CARMEN (Co-operative for the Advancement of Research through a Medieval European Network) a worldwide network of medievalists, affiliated to the Worldwide Universities Network, of which Bristol is a member. The impact of the Centre is demonstrated by individual medievalists' consistent success in bidding for funds to run interdisciplinary projects and workshops. Equally, the

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Centre looks beyond academia: in 2010-11, it hosted a series of workshops on The Medieval West which attracted the attention of museum curators and other stakeholders in the West of England. The Centre is also active in building relationships with the cathedral libraries of Hereford and Wells, whose unique collections offer further fruit for collaborative research and familiarise postgraduates with the varieties of source material medievalists work with. The appointment to a Chair of Medieval Studies (replacing Pamela King) in 2014-15 confirms the Centre's interdisciplinary focus.

(5) Centre for Romantic Studies

During the review period, the Centre for Romantic Studies (CRS), located in the Department of English, with Pite (2007-11) and Bennett (2011-) as Directors, contributed to the lively Romanticism research community in the department, providing a forum for staff and research students and for students following the Romanticism pathway on the MA in English Literature. Events included a series of colloquia on 'Romantic Afterlives' (e.g. on film and new media, 2010, and on poetry, 2011) together with conferences and study-days ('Romanticism and Place', 2008; 'Romanticism and Secrets', 2012) which research students took the lead in organizing and facilitating. From autumn 2013 the CRS has been re-launched as the Centre for Romantic and Victorian Studies, recognizing the shared expertise of colleagues working in this area (Cheeke, Karlin, Matthews, Wright among others). Planned events include a workshop on 'Public Drinking in the Nineteenth Century' (February 2014) and a conference on 'Romanticism and Self-Destruction' (May); a Gothic Reading Group has been set up by research students, who will continue to play a major part in the life of the Centre as convenors and contributors. A programme of Visiting Research Fellowships will be inaugurated by the visit of Graham Allen (University of Cork) in January-June 2014, working on Mary and P. B. Shelley.

c. People, including:**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

This section concentrates on staff development. For current staffing levels and recruitment strategy, see above (b.ii.1).

(1) Probation

A period of probation is mandatory for all newly-appointed permanent members of staff. Performance is reviewed after one year; normally any issues will already have been raised, either by the designated mentor (see below), or by the line manager (Head of Subject or Head of School as appropriate).

(2) Mentoring

All newly-appointed staff, including Post-Doctoral Fellows and Early Career Fellows, are assigned mentors to enhance their career progression, especially as regards publication. Senior members of staff, including those recently retired, are available to assist early- and mid-career colleagues to draft proposals and to place publishable material to best advantage.

(3) Annual Research Review

All permanent members of staff submit an ARR form in the autumn semester, listing achievements against objectives over the preceding academic year, and setting out objectives for the year ahead.

(4) Staff Review and Development

The annual SRD process, which is mandatory from the 2013-14 session, offers an opportunity for staff at all levels to engage in structured, confidential discussion of their research performance and goals, to draw on reviewers' experience and advice, and to address any issues or problems which may be preventing them from realising their full potential as scholars. SRD is kept strictly separate from the disciplinary side of performance management.

(5) Early-career staff

Particular emphasis is laid on supporting early-career researchers. In conformity with School policy, early-career staff are given only light administrative tasks, if any, in their first year. In some cases they may be granted leave outside the normal cycle if this will ensure completion or significant progress on a research project. Every effort is made to ensure that they are made aware

of the full range of research support available within the University, from conference grants to assistance with developing grant applications, and a significant part of their mentoring consists in helping them to establish a network of contacts at Department, School, and Faculty level. We have fostered early-career researchers via the Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship scheme and AHRC research projects: Dr Daniel Cook (Leverhulme ECF 2009-11) has a permanent post at the University of Dundee; Wootten, now on a permanent (0.5) contract, was Research Associate on the Penguin Archive Project. This support extends to Teaching Fellows; Dr Rebecca Yearling, a Bristol graduate and Teaching Fellow 2012-13, was appointed to a lectureship at Keele in 2013.

(6) Post-doctoral researchers

Post-doctoral researchers are fully integrated into the research culture of the department. They are encouraged to give papers at School and Department seminars and to keep colleagues in their field (especially the colleague who acts as their mentor) informed of the progress of their funded and independent research. Where appropriate they may be asked to advise postgraduate students thinking of applying for postdoctoral appointments; their recent knowledge and experience is of great value in such cases.

(7) Research leave

Staff on Pathway 1 (Research) contracts may apply for a year's leave in every five. Applications for leave must be approved by the School's Research Committee and by the Faculty of Arts and normally require the applicant to submit a bid for external funding; only rarely, however, is leave made conditional on the success of such a bid. Staff on Pathway 3 (Teaching) contracts are not entitled to apply for research leave, though such leave may be granted in exceptional cases. Staff on fixed-term contracts are not entitled to apply for research leave.

(8) Career progression

The progression of all staff within the School of Humanities is monitored by SPARC, which undertakes an annual review of staff who are eligible for promotion. Members of staff are contacted and invited to submit their CV and a letter of application; cases are considered by SPARC, which sends its recommendations to the Faculty of Arts. Members of staff may also put themselves forward for accelerated promotion without reference to School procedure.

ii. Research students

(1) Funding and research framework

The South West and Wales consortium to which Bristol belongs has been successful in securing an AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership award (250 studentships in 2014-19); Karlin, as Subject Lead, will be developing initiatives (especially in the area of co-supervision) with our SWW partners. The University offers scholarships for both home and overseas students, administered by the Graduate School of Arts and Humanities. The Bristol Doctoral College, launched in October 2013, acts as a hub for skills training and professional development across the University.

(2) Numbers

The department has continued to attract good numbers of well-qualified research postgraduates during the period, with 33 currently registered as MLitt/PhD students (27 f/t, 6 p/t) and 4 as MPhil students (2 f/t, 2 p/t). Their presence is vital to our research culture, fostering its diversity and stimulating the 'conversations' which sustain and develop it. The increase in staff will enable us to develop and enhance our programme, enabling a broader range of research topics to be supervised, and more flexible supervisory arrangements to be implemented, both within the Faculty of Arts and in conjunction with our partners in the AHRC consortium.

(3) Supervision and progression

Supervision of research students is conducted by a principal supervisor, assisted by a secondary supervisor. Supervision takes place at regular intervals, with a minimum of ten meetings per session. At the end of each session the supervisor and student jointly review the student's research and writing, and set appropriate and achievable goals. Students are normally registered as candidates for the MLitt, with 'upgrading' to PhD status within 14 months of registration. The

upgrading exercise requires the submission of a substantial piece of writing, an outline of the thesis describing its central research questions, structure and methodology, and a research bibliography. This portfolio is assessed by two members of staff, neither of whom is the principal supervisor.

(4) Research activity

Research students are encouraged to attend departmental and University research-related events. Most, if not all, give a paper at the Departmental Research Seminar, generally in their second or third year, or at a one-day conference or study day; several have taken leading roles in organizing these events. In addition they run their own reading groups, e.g. the cross-Faculty Critical Theory Reading Group, largely organized by research students from English, and the Gothic Reading Group mentioned in 3(e), as well as postgraduate conferences and colloquia. Two online postgraduate journals were launched in 2011-12 with support from the Head of Subject's discretionary fund: the Bristol Journal of English Studies, and HARTS and Minds (the latter covers the Faculty of Arts but was the brainchild of postgraduates in English). One of our part-time research students, Craig Savage, has edited a special issue (on Bob Dylan) of the *Journal of Popular Music History* scheduled for publication in spring 2014.

(5) Support

A departmental staff-graduate student forum meets each semester, chaired by the graduate student representative. In conjunction with the GSAH, the department offers mentoring support to research postgraduates, in particular to assist with attendance at conferences (within UK and abroad), mounting of conferences and other collaborative research initiatives in Bristol, presentation of work for publication, and professional development, including CV writing and preparation for job interviews. Funding is available for all of these areas through Faculty and Departmental channels including especially the Head of Subject fund. Our PhD students have had success in securing academic appointments: Anne Baden-Daintree (PhD 2013) has a Teaching Fellowship at Bristol; Dr Jessica Gildersleeve (PhD 2010) is Lecturer in English Literature, University of Southern Queensland; Noriko Matsui (PhD 2011) teaches at Tokyo Medical University; after two years teaching at the University of Leeds, Publicover (PhD 2011) was appointed to a Lectureship at Bristol; Dr Rebecca Yearling, a Bristol graduate and Teaching Fellow 2012-13, was appointed to a lectureship at Keele in 2013; Dr Adam Hanna (PhD 2012) lectures at the University of Aberdeen; Dr Joel Hawkes (PhD 2011) at Thompson Rivers University, Dr Stacey McDowell and Dr Catherine Redford (both 2013) at Oxford.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

(i) Income from external research grants and fellowships

1. Professor Elizabeth Archibald, Baths and Bathing in Medieval Literature and Society (Leverhulme Research Fellowship, 2011-12, £15,399)
2. Bennett, Biography and Print Culture in the Long Eighteenth Century (2009-12, £45,918)
3. Dr Jo Carruthers (EPSRC/AHRC Fellowship, 2008-11, £51,088.34)
4. Dr Jo Carruthers, Performing Diaspora: Jewish Identity, Place and Nation in the Purinspiel Dramatic Tradition (AHRC, 2008-9, £198.83)
5. Dr Judith Jefferson, An Electronic Edition of Piers Plowman (AHRC, 2008-9, £487.73)
6. Professor Pamela King (Marie Curie Fellowship: Charlotte Steenbrugge, 2012-13, £30,458.92)
7. Dr John Lyon, Penguin Archive Project (AHRC, 2008-12, £518,495.23)
8. Matthews, The Album Poem and Nineteenth-Century Manuscript Culture (British Academy Mid Career Fellowship, 2011-12, £48,772.29)
9. Pite, Frost and Thomas (AHRC Research Fellowship, 2010-12, £79,714.75)
10. Putter, The Verse Forms of Middle English Romance (AHRC, 2009-12, £215,570.21)
11. Putter, The Dynamics of the Medieval Manuscript (HERA, 2009-12, £95,241.42)
12. Putter, Multi-Lingualism Seminars (Leverhulme, 2008-9, £24,987.81)
13. Wright, Sincerity: on Victorian Poetry, Literary Method and Trust (AHRC Research Fellowship, 2009-10, £22,873.07)

(ii) Infrastructure

The department is based in the Arts and Humanities precinct, a series of converted Victorian villas in Woodland Road and Tyndall's Park Road. Although lacking the integrated design of a purpose built block, the human scale of the precinct, and even its somewhat eccentric layout, are popular with both students and staff. Lecture and seminar rooms are fully equipped with audio-visual equipment. A 400-seat Arts Lecture Theatre is scheduled for completion in autumn 2014. There has been a considerable expansion in study-space for postgraduate students.

Significant progress has been made since 2008 in developing the research capability of the Arts and Social Sciences Library. There has been major investment in electronic resources; research students benefit from a generous provision of inter-Library loans, and from technological advances such as the British Library's Secure Electronic Delivery service. In addition, new members of staff in 2012-13 and 2013-14 were given a substantial allowance from School and departmental funds in order to purchase books for the Library related to their research specialism. The Library's Special Collections include the Penguin Archive and the Hamish Hamilton archive; author-based archives include materials relating to Isaac Rosenberg and John Addington Symonds; topic-based archives include collections of children's books, early novels, and courtesy books.

The Theatre Collection, an accredited museum, is one of the world's largest archives of British theatre history and Live Art. At its heart is the Mander & Mitchenson Theatre Collection, containing records and ephemera of Britain's theatrical history from the 18th century to modern times. In December 2010 the collection was transferred to the University of Bristol Theatre Collection, whose holdings now form the second largest British Theatre History archive in the world. The Theatre Collection contributed to King's research project on Early European Performing Arts (the subject of one of our Impact Case Studies) and further exploitation of this rich resource is planned.

(iii) Organization of research activity

For research centres see above, b (3). The Departmental Research seminar meets throughout the academic session, and is the principal forum for staff and graduate students to present their current research. MA as well as PhD students are encouraged to attend, and the seminar is also open to students taking the BA in English Literature and Community Engagement. Each session there is a mix of speakers from outside Bristol, graduate students, and members of staff.

The department runs two prestigious lecture series: the annual Tucker-Cruse Lecture and the Churchill Lecture, both open to all members of the University. The topics of these lectures often bear directly on our research interests: the Tucker-Cruse lecture for 2011, delivered by Professor Christopher Page (University of Cambridge), was on 'Regency Medievalism and the Early-Romantic Guitar', and touched on several colleagues' research interests (Karlin on the relations between poetry and song, Matthews on Romantic poetry by women, Putter on medieval poetics). Staff and postgraduates regularly organize conferences and study days: in 2010-11, for example, events included the XXIIIrd Triennial Congress of the International Arthurian Society and study days on Literature and Friendship, Literature and Theology, Romantic Afterlives, Rudyard Kipling's 'Absent-Minded Beggar', and Bob Dylan. The Penguin Archive Project was inaugurated in 2008 with a poetry reading by James Fenton and concluded in 2012 with a conference marking the 50th anniversary of Penguin New Poets; events included an international multidisciplinary conference '75 Years of Penguin Books (2010)'. Recent events include a conference on 'Female fury and the masculine spirit of vengeance' (September 2012) and Early-Modern Paratexts (July 2013).

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Colleagues in English engage with their profession, and contribute to its wider public presence and impact, in numerous ways (we present selected examples here).

We are members, fellows, and trustees of professional bodies and of literary and learned societies, ranging from the English Association to the Coimbra Group's Culture, Arts and Humanities Task Force; from the Institute for Contemporary Scotland to the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufacture and Commerce; from author-based societies (Beckett, Browning, Byron,

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Chatterton, Kipling, Lamb, Tennyson) to larger organizations such as the International Gothic Association. Such membership frequently carries active responsibility: Punter is chair of the RSA's West Region, Maude is a member of the editorial board of *The Journal of Beckett Studies* and is the journal's Review editor, Putter is a member of the Editorial Board of *Arthurian Literature* and of the Editorial Board of *The Yearbook of Langland Studies*. Particular areas of research expertise are recognized in, e.g., Cheeke's membership of the editorial board of *Word & Image*, Matthews's membership of the Founding Editorial Board of *Oxford Bibliographies Online* (Victorian Literature Module), and Putter's membership of the Council of the Early English Text Society.

We have a notable and diverse role in peer review and external assessment, both national and international. Colleagues have acted as assessors in promotion, tenure, and chair appointments, e.g. Bennett at Aberystwyth, Karlin at University of Nevada (Las Vegas), Pite at UMass (Boston), Putter at York; as assessors for fellowships and grant applications in the UK and Europe, e.g. Bennett and Putter for JRFs at Cambridge, Bennett for the Austrian Science Fund and the Research Council for Culture and Society at the Academy of Finland, Matthews for the Leverhulme Trust, Maude for the Australian Research Council and the University of Antwerp, Putter for the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme and the South African National Research Foundation. During the review period colleagues have acted as external examiners for MPhil and PhD degrees, or for MA degree programmes, at top-ranked UK universities including Cambridge, Durham, Sussex, University College London, and Warwick. Punter is a member of the Strategic Reviewers Group of the AHRC, as well as the Peer Review College. As well as the journals for which they are members of the Editorial Board, colleagues act as peer-reviewers for academic and university presses including Ashgate, Blackwell, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford, and Yale; for commercial publishers including Hodder Arnold, Routledge, and Polity; and for a wide range of journals including *European Romantic Review*, *Genre*, *Keats-Shelley Journal*, *Modernism/Modernity*, *Review of English Studies*, *Romanticism*, *Studies in Romanticism*, *Twentieth-Century Literature*, *Victorian Review*, *Victorian Studies*, and *Women: A Cultural Review*.

Our contribution to the discipline is recognized and valued in the numerous plenary lectures and keynote papers delivered by colleagues at conferences in the UK and abroad. These include:

- 2013: Japanese Association for English Romantic Studies conference, Hiroshima, Japan (Bennett)
- 2013: 'The Power of the Word: III', University of Gdansk (Jones)
- 2013: 'Kipling in America' symposium, Marlboro College (VT) (Karlin)
- 2013: Japanese Beckett Research Circle, University of Tokyo (Maude)
- 2013: 'Nineteenth-Century Albums', inaugural tripartite conference of Victorian Associations (NAVSA, BAVS, and AVSA), Venice (Matthews, panel chair)
- 2013: 'Ekphrasis: from *Paragone* to Encounter', Hull (Cheeke)
- 2012: Tennyson Society Annual Lecture, Lincoln Central Library (Matthews)
- 2012: Robert Browning Bicentenary Conference, Armstrong Browning Library, Baylor University (Karlin)
- 2012: 'Poetry and Prayer Conference', University of London (Jones)
- 2012: 'Reframing Ekphrasis', inaugural Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, King's College London, (Cheeke)
- 2011: Shakespeare and Early Modern Emotion, Hull (Lee)
- 2011: Tenth Medieval English Studies Symposium, Poznan, Poland (Putter)
- 2011: Stockholm Festival of Metaphor (Punter)
- 2011: International Gothic Association conference, University of Heidelberg (Punter)
- 2010: Focus Workshop for HERA-funded project on Authorship and Originality, Cambridge University (Bennett)
- 2010: British Academy Sir Israel Gollancz Memorial Lecture (Putter)
- 2009: Alan Marre Lecture in the Humanities, University College London, 2009 (Karlin)
- 2009: Renaissance and Gothic conference, University of Cologne (Punter)
- 2009: 'Romantic Hellenism and Roman Sculpture', Norwegian Institute, Rome (Cheeke)
- 2008: XVth Conference of the Study of Image, Madrid (Cheeke)
- 2008: International Conference on Middle English Literature, Sheshu University, Tokyo (Putter)
- 2008: First Colloquium on Literary Gothic, National Autonomous University of Mexico (Punter)