

Institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
Unit of Assessment:	36: Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management
a. Overview	

Having celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2013, Goldsmiths' Department of Media and Communications is one of the oldest and largest media departments in the UK. It is also **unique in its diversity of approaches to, and articulations of, the disciplinary conjunctures around media and culture**. The Department has equal strengths in media and communications and in cultural studies research, in humanities and in social sciences approaches, and in theory- and practice-driven work. Its work spans a wide range of topics and modes of enquiry – from philosophical studies of technology and human life to sociological investigations of media production and use; from issues of identity, embodiment and becoming to post-feminism, queer theory and critical race studies; from global screen studies and transnational investigations of media and culture to news' role in contemporary democracy. The preservation of this cross-disciplinary diversity and methodological pluralism is important for the Department's mission.

Four research groupings exist in the Department: (1) Media and Democracy; (2) Media Futures; (3) Gender, Feminism and Contemporary Cultures; (4) Screen Cultures and Media Arts. The Department co-hosts four interdisciplinary research units (Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy; Centre for Feminist Research; Topology Research Unit; Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre). Avoiding narrow vocationalism, our pedagogy is very much informed by our research practice. We run 5 undergraduate degrees (our flagship programme being a 50/50 theory-practice BA (Hons) Media and Communications), 17 MAs and a PhD programme for over 70 students.

b. Research Strategy

1. The Department's research strategy is shaped by its commitment to **maintaining its lively research culture, which has grown organically**, and which is consolidated into **four research groupings**: (1) *Media and Democracy*: building on the work of the Leverhulme programme on the media's contribution to democracy, including the changing nature of journalism and political communication; studying globalisation in relation to issues of diaspora and nationhood (e.g. Curran, Fenton and Freedman's involvement in Hacked Off and Media Reform Coalition; Bourne's investigation of PR industry; Phillips' study of the ethics of journalism; Khiabany's work on blogging in Iran); (2) *Media Futures*: bringing together humanities and social sciences approaches to understanding the changing role of media technologies and global media flows in society, economy and science (e.g. Henriques' events on topology at Tate Modern; Kember's work on photography in the digital age); (3) *Gender, Feminism and Contemporary Cultures*: connecting the long tradition of work within the Department on culture, representation, embodiment and affect to its specific strengths in gender, race, sexuality and labour in national and international contexts (e.g. Ahmed's critical study of diversity in the UK; McRobbie's analysis of women's business start-ups in Berlin); (4) *Screen Cultures and Media Arts*: consolidating the long-standing focus on screen cultures within the Department, as concentrated within the Leverhulme programme, combined with an exploration of media arts such as photography, video, digital imagining, sound and performance (e.g. Cubitt's research on video art history; Valiaho's study of film via neuroscience).

Following the results of RAE 2008, a Department-wide consultation was launched to produce a 'bottom-up' research strategy. Drawing on the Department's methodological and conceptual diversity as its unique strength, it establishes a coherent research culture which is more than the sum of its parts. The inclusive groupings point to **large shared questions**. Each grouping provides a supportive context for research – through debates, symposia, reading groups and developing grant proposals (e.g. Media Futures held a conference on Media and the Senses in 2011; Media and Democracy had a debate on the future of the local press in the Houses of Parliament in 2010 and a conference 'Media, Power and Revolution' in 2012).

2. The Department **has significantly fulfilled its strategic aims outlined in its RAE 2008 submission.** It has taken further steps towards strengthening its international position (internationalisation of research student body and staff expertise beyond the Anglo-American nexus; intense programme of international research fellows; collaboration with NYU and McGill; recruitment of Barassi, Bourne, Cubitt, Khiabany, Madianou and Valiaho). (See section c for more details on staffing.) In 2010 the Department moved into the purpose-built New Academic Building designed to enable a better collaborative dynamics on a day-to-day basis amongst staff, researchers and students (see section d). Existing research has been consolidated into four groupings (see section b 1), while new research areas (photography and media arts; topology; branding and promotional cultures) have also been developed. The then new Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy and the Leverhulme programme have both produced many publications and conferences and held numerous public events (Leverhulme closing conference included a launch of five books arising from the programme). The Department has continued to seek major sources of external funding (MacDonald's MediaCity project; Kember's leading role in the AHRC consortium on the future of publishing CREATE).

3. The Department has **developed many new collaborative projects since last RAE:**

Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre

Involving a cross-departmental research team led by Curran and funded by the Leverhulme Trust, this five-year programme (2007-2012) was designed to illuminate how future changes in the technologies for communication will affect us all. Its five projects (news production, cultural ethnography of the screen, data systems, design and social identity) addressed a common theme: will new developments in the media connect people and ideas in ways that will improve society, or will they actually limit and obstruct communication? The team included academics from media and cultural studies, computer science, design, sociology, anthropology, screen studies and history. Each project has produced numerous publications and featured international speakers from industry and academia, e.g: Zygmunt Bauman, Michael Schudson, Dan Hallin, Rod Benson, Brian Cathcart, Nick Davies, Robert McChesney, Evgeny Morozov, Graham Murdock, Annabelle Sreberny, Rod Tiffen, John Naughton, Mark Deuze, Georgina Henry, Greg Elmer, Julian Petley, Lev Manovich, Bernard Stiegler and Ellen Seiter. The research has led to many further funded projects.

Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy

Set up in 2007, this interdisciplinary Centre brings together researchers from Departments of Media and Communications, Sociology and Politics. It hosts public lectures and debates, symposia and seminar series. It builds on existing research initiatives: Unit for Global Justice, Spaces of the News project (part of the Leverhulme Trust project), and Research Unit in Governance and Democracy. Recent ESRC-funded research by Centre members has investigated public connection and the construction of self through reality TV. Other topics explored include: digital media and the renewal of local democracy; democratic theory and the transnational public sphere; global social movements; advocacy organisations and new media; national media and the construction of 'the citizen'; media ethics. The Centre has hosted many high-profile speakers: e.g. Luc Boltanski, Nancy Fraser, Jodi Dean, Peter Dahlgren, Craig Calhoun, Jeremy Gilbert, Melissa Gregg, Gianni Vattimo, Aletta Norval, Douglas Kellner, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Tiziana Terranova and Baroness O'Neill. It ran a seminar series on Democracy From Below with speakers from Yale, École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, and European University Institute in Florence. It has welcomed many international research fellows (e.g. David Nolan from Melbourne, Salih Moustafa from University of Salahaddin in Kurdistan).

Topology Research Unit (TRU)

Set up in 2011, the unit explores two ways in which topology provides a conceptual language for understanding relationships, intensities and transformations, outside its original field of mathematics: as a methodological tool in social sciences and architecture for helping understand social, cultural and psychological issues and as a tool for performance across a range of arts and creative practices. The inaugural workshop was led by Professor Brian Rotman from Ohio State University. A sell-out event organised by TRU in November 2011 at Tate Modern comprised a performance programme, Knots & Donuts, an immersive sound sculpture for listening to shapes

drawn in three-dimensional space (conceived by Henriques); and Ordinal 5, which employed dancers to explore mathematical concepts (conceived by Rotman). In 2012 two further events took place at Tate Modern, involving artists, physicists and philosophers.

Work undertaken under the aegis of the **Creative Media Forum**

Led by Kember and Zylinska, the forum is a genuine attempt to cross over ‘theory’ and ‘practice’ in the study of media by bringing together ‘criticality’ and ‘creativity’. Kember and Zylinska’s co-authored 2012 monograph on the theory of mediation as the underlying dynamic logic of media – of which we are all part simultaneously as audiences and producers – and their 2010 edited special issue of the open-access journal *Culture Machine* on Creative Media (with each article averaging over 3500 downloads) encapsulate this approach; as do the 2011 ‘Media and the Senses’ conference and the 2013 ‘Critical, Creative & Radical’ 35th anniversary symposium, which included exhibitions of works from Goldsmiths staff and PhD students.

4. **Our plans include** strengthening the existing research groupings through joint publications, collaborative funding bids and public dissemination. We are **continuing the legacy of the Leverhulme project** through further collaborative research (within academia and civil society) on plurality, the public interest and alternative models of news. This involves working with scholars at Cardiff, Glasgow and Westminster universities to submit a £7.5m, five-year ESRC Centre bid to provide rigorous data on the news environment in the UK, and thereby foster better understanding of the changing nature of journalism – including the management and governance of news organisations and content, ownership, business models, consumption patterns and public attitudes. This bid will be followed by a further European bid to extend this work across Europe. Another bid will be submitted to Rowntree (with journalist Nick Davies) to investigate the popular presentation of policy debates in *The Sun*. We are also **developing the work of the Centre for Global Media and Democracy** through themed seminar series that will lead to a journal special issue and other joint publications. A funding bid to the ESRC on the relationship between media, think tanks and the cultures of elites will also be submitted. We are **supporting the recently launched Feminist Research Centre**, which will be a coordinating hub for feminist work at Goldsmiths. In addition to organizing seminars and conferences on feminist theory, the Centre will provide a symbolic and intellectual home for the interdepartmental MA in Gender, Media and Culture. It will work in conjunction with the Centre for Identities and Social Justice and the Centre for Caribbean Studies. Programming will include an Annual Feminist Theory Lecture and a Feminist Theory Workshop. We also aim **to strengthen our engagement between academic staff and PhD students** through the continued financial support of a PhD student-run annual conference and seminar series. We aim to **stimulate research that crosses the theory/practice divide** through taking on more Practice PhD students and developing further the area of Screen Studies and Media Arts. Here, Cubitt is coordinating work across the College relating to the environment and media. We plan to **expand collaborations with international universities** through joint funding bids to Horizon 2020 and through international workshops involving staff and PhD students. The recent appointment of a new academic member of staff (MacDonald), with 50% of his time dedicated to bid-support across the Department, is aimed to **develop further research funding applications**.

c. People

I. Staffing strategy and staff development

The Department prides itself on strongly supporting career progression and development, as well as promoting equality and diversity in terms of gender, sexuality and race (with Ahmed as equality officer at College level). We live what we preach: our research actively engages with critique of racism, inequality and heteronormativity (work by Ahmed, Blackman, Franklin, Khiabany, McRobbie), while 58% of our 12 professors are female. We have an equal and transparent workloads allocation scheme enabling every member of staff equality of research time. We actively oppose casualisation of labour and have successfully converted temporary and research contracts into early-career permanent posts (Barassi, Bourne, MacDonald), while helping many contract researchers gain employment elsewhere (e.g. Witschge at Groningen; Stephensen at the OU; Schlosberg at Birkbeck). We have a sustainable staffing strategy, which is supported by the effective use of

Goldsmiths' appraisal system (annual Performance and Development Review with HoD for all staff). Contract research staff also undergo appraisals: more frequently than on an annual basis if their contracts are for a shorter period. PhD students receive training on gaining post-doc funding.

We have a low turnover of staff, with many colleagues choosing to stay at Goldsmiths despite competitive offers. The Department has grown considerably in recent years, having strengthened its research environment through strategic appointments at all levels (Barassi, Bourne, MacDonald and Valiaho as Lecturers; Moor, Madianou and Khiabany as SL, Cubitt as Professor); through internal promotion of research-active staff (Valiaho to SL; Henriques and Phillips to Reader; Blackman, Davis, Fenton, Franklin, Freedman, Kember and Zylinska to Professor), through the full engagement of contract researchers and visiting research fellows in the life of the Department; and through strengthening research and teaching collaborations with the Departments of Sociology, Visual Cultures, Politics and the Centre for Cultural Studies. It is this latter aspect of Goldsmiths' life, formalised through shared grant involvement (Leverhulme), research centre work, and shared PG supervision and teaching, but also evolving naturally due to Goldsmiths' relatively small size, that significantly shapes our vibrant and collaborative staff culture.

We regularly have externally-funded Research Assistants in the Department and aim to give them continuity of contracts wherever possible. Since RAE2008 Dr Tamara Witschge and Dr Monika Metykova were Research Assistants on the Leverhulme programme on new media and society. Justin Schlosberg and Dr Metykova worked on a Media Trust funded project on the news needs of local communities. Witschge was part of a project funded by Carnegie TrustUK on civil society and the media; Schlosberg worked on an Open Society Institute funded project on Mapping Digital Media. The AHRC/BBC funded project MediaCityUK had a Research Associate Dr Richard MacDonald (hired in 2013 as permanent lecturer) and 2 Research Assistants, Dr Luke Dickens and Dr Wilma Clark. Schlosberg also worked as a Research Assistant on another Open Society funded project on Media Reform. We take great care in the professional development of our Research Assistants. They are actively engaged in authoring high-profile publications with members of the Department (e.g. Witschge co-authored chapters with Fenton and Curran in *New Media, Old News* and co-authored a research monograph *Changing Journalism*) and have secured academic employment at other universities after their contracts ended (e.g. Metykova at Sussex; Dickens at the OU). All of this demonstrates the Department's full commitment to the implementation of the Concordat to Support Career Development of Researchers.

During the one-year probation period new staff in the Department have a reduced teaching and administrative load. They each have a mentor identified to support their first few years at Goldsmiths. Career guidance and other development opportunities (e.g. our highly-praised Postgraduate Certificate in the Management of Teaching and Learning, which uniquely combines pedagogic training with discipline-specific topics and politico-ethical focus) are available to staff *at all levels*, including research staff. The Department has a policy of awarding one term in nine as research leave. The Research Committee keeps under review the effectiveness of this scheme, alongside the more difficult practical issues around sabbaticals for those who lead the highly labour-intensive taught MA practice programmes. In 2012 staff involved in professional practice (rather than research) joined the sabbatical scheme. All academic staff have a set annual research budget. Additional allocations are available on a competitive basis via two departmental funds: a Research Fund and a Teaching and Learning fund, for which applications are made to respective committees. The Research Fund has recently resulted in the Critical Ways of Seeing symposium and PhD masterclass with Philippe Rekacewicz of *Le Monde Diplomatique* and in Biomediations symposium, featuring a keynote from Australian performance artist Stelarc.

II. Research students

One of the distinctive features of the Department is its large, lively and multicultural PhD programme, with its more than 70 students coming from countries ranging from Algeria, through Brazil, China, Denmark and Egypt all the way to Zimbabwe, and researching topics as diverse as social networks in Arabic and Western contexts; community information centres in Bangladesh; the reporting of wars in the Middle East; new social movements in Chile; vernacular photographic practices; secularism and the 'headscarf affair' in France; queer alternative comics; postcinematic affective spectatorship; broadband accessibility in the Canadian north; narratives of opposition in video game culture;

reporting in Africa; bioart and spam. Many overseas students are supported by grants from their own governments (Mexico, Portugal, Middle East) as well as the British Council and the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission. International students contribute substantially to the energetic, intellectual debates which take place in the Department and there is good cross-fertilisation with home and EU students – as evidenced in the active and student-led seminar series, student-led international conference ‘Besides the Screen’ and the biannual postgraduate workshop (all sponsored by the Department).

Goldsmiths is the host institution for AVPhD – a training and support network for all those doing, supervising and examining audio-visual practice-based doctorates. The Department has pioneered a PhD programme partially by audio-visual practice. We encourage applications from candidates who wish to submit as part of their thesis a portfolio of practical work (such as photographs, video, film or other audio-visual material) alongside a reduced textual component. The Department has an extensive (and constantly expanding) bank of technical resources for digital media production, including HDV and DVCam production, AVID, Final Cut Pro and a range of photographic and digital imaging equipment. These resources are managed by a skilled team of Technical Advisers. Supervised topics include autobiographical documentary and video diary making; archiving; and collective media production.

We are constantly exploring ways of enhancing available funding for PhD students. The creation of two doctoral scholarships in 2010 in the Department is a step in this direction, as are the ESRC scholarships under DTC (with matched funding from the College). Despite reductions in overall RCUK funding and limited quotas for entry into the ESRC studentship pool, the Department has gained 2 AHRC studentships for postdoctoral research each year. Since 2012 we have put forward 3 students for consideration for ESRC awards from the new Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) with Queen Mary and the ongoing AHRC funding for PhD research we have secured. Goldsmiths is also part of the newly awarded £17m AHRC DTC Consortium for Humanities and the Arts South-East England (CHASE), along with the Courtauld Institute of Art, Open University, and the universities of East Anglia, Essex, and Kent. With additional institutional funding, this will provide about 370 studentships, of which about 65 will be at Goldsmiths. Studentships will be allocated by a competitive process open to all eligible departments, one of which is ours: this will allow us to attract even more high-calibre candidates. All research grants are also encouraged to include funding for PhD students. Two of the departmental funded research projects (via the Leverhulme) have had PhD studentships attached to them.

Great emphasis is given to involving the Department’s research students in its research culture. Our first-year students participate in a College-organised research programme and two departmentally-run methods courses. The Department (in collaboration with Westminster, City University and the LSE) runs termly workshops at which students from all years of the PhD programme present recent work and receive feedback from staff and other students. We seek student input to the programme through the Departmental Postgraduate Committee. We involve PhDs in Departmental events, both as organisers and presenters (help with running the Centre for Global Media and Democracy; organising the Radical Media Forum seminar series; organising, speaking and exhibiting at the Future of the Senses and Beyond the Screen conferences); as well as inviting them to departmental meetings. Departmental funding is available to support PhD students in organising conferences and other events. The Department encourages students to gain recognition for their own work and has financed students to present papers at conferences in Europe, Australia, Canada and US as well as UK: e.g. MeCCSA, ICA, IAMCR, Screen, British Sociological Association and Political Studies Association conferences. Students also have the opportunity to give papers at conferences organised at Goldsmiths, including the annual Graduate Festival. In 2012 the fourth in an ongoing series of international PhD workshops was held in Naples, organised jointly between our department and the Communications section of the English Department at the Orientale Institute in Naples. The theme of the workshop was Media Geographies. The collaboration also involves facilitating regular participation of visiting Orientale students in the Goldsmiths Graduate Festival – in 2013 joined by students from the Charles University in Prague and from Madrid. In May 2013, 6 PhD students joined two members of staff in a fully funded workshop in Stockholm arranged jointly by Södertörn

University, Bremen University and Goldsmiths to discuss the history of media research and reflect on milestones, canonic research and texts.

Our successful postgraduates are now making a contribution to the discipline through teaching and research, and have gained academic posts on a worldwide basis. Appointments in Britain include Leeds, City, Essex, London School of Economics, Middlesex, University of East Anglia, Open University, South Bank, Oxford Brookes, King's, University of East London, Sussex, Birkbeck, Cardiff and Goldsmiths. Overseas appointments include: University of Bahia, Brazil; Centre for Critical Psychology, Sydney; Chinese University of Hong Kong; Central European University, Budapest; Galatasaray University, Turkey; NYU; Yuan-Ze University, Taiwan; University of Windsor, Canada; UDLAP, Mexico. Work by postgraduate students has appeared in journals such as *Screen*, *Popular Music*, *Communication Review*, *Media*, *Culture and Society* and *Feminism and Psychology*; in edited collections and as single-authored monographs.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Department's research culture is supported by multi-strand funding from research councils, foundations, charitable trusts and industry. Externally funded large grants are an important part of our research income: e.g. Leverhulme Trust award (£1.24m; awarded in 2007, with the bulk of work carried on in 2008–2012; see section 3) and AHRC/BBC grant (£723,000; awarded to study digital storytelling). We have also received funding from JISC to develop Living Books About Life: a series of 20+ online open access books situated between humanities and sciences; ESRC to study public service broadcasting and public knowledge; MediaTrust to investigate the news needs of local communities; Open Society Institute for a project on the mapping of digital news media; Carnegie Trust UK on civil society media and alternative models of news; as well as from British Council, British Academy, Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust and the Kikiwada Foundation.

The Department receives ongoing support from the College Research Office in the preparation of research bids. A College newsletter with funding and fellowship opportunities is distributed monthly; opportunities are also identified by the Chair of the Departmental Research Committee with individual staff members encouraged to apply for relevant grants. Staff regularly attend training workshops organised by the College and external bodies in the run-up to grant application deadlines. On the departmental level, support is provided in the form of administrative assistance as well as via a specially designated 0.5 academic post, whose focus is research support – both supporting existing funded projects and developing new intra- and cross-departmental bids. The Department's Research Committee (chaired by Zylinska) has representatives from all academic ranks and areas. Its task is to actively manage the needs of individual researchers as well as develop and implement the overall research strategy. Chair of the Research Committee meets twice-yearly with each research grouping (described in section b1) to discuss its activities and their development, and possible synergies and debates across groupings. While the Committee offers support to all staff in the development of funding applications and collaborative projects, it also encourages blue-sky thinking which may not lead to funding bids but which helps maintain the vitality of the research culture 'beyond the bid'.

The Department runs several well-attended seminar series. One takes practice as its focus and invites key industry professionals to discuss contemporary issues in their discipline. Guest speakers have included leading figures from the BBC, the press and the documentary field (e.g. Steve Hewlett, Roy Greenslade, Paul Watson, Helen Boaden). Another is linked to the Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy and relates to current transformations in media, democratic governance and globalization. There is also the Radical Media Forum, run by PhD students for the whole Department and College, and funded by the Department. We also have a PhD forum that meets once a fortnight to discuss topical issues. Every second fortnight two staff are invited to debate a subject area of the student's choosing. This PG-student initiative came about to increase relations and interchanges between all staff and PhD students. Research activity in the Department (by staff and students) and its wider impact is regularly showcased on our public blog, *Spotlight*, launched in 2012, and via other social media. As part of its interdisciplinary collaborations between departments and programmes, the Department has introduced several new MA programmes that reflect its

changing research priorities (MA Brands, Communication and Culture; MA Promotional Media; Theory-Practice pathway on MA Digital Media; MA Digital Journalism – with Computing; MA Media, Gender and Culture – with Sociology). One of the most important aspects of the scholarly infrastructure is the cross-departmental speaker programme, which we share with Sociology, Cultural Studies, Politics and Visual Cultures (both in terms of co-sponsoring them and in offering our state-of-the-art facilities in the New Academic Building to host them). Notable talks, presented to full lecture theatres that sit between 200-500, have been given by Rosi Braidotti, Nicholas Mirzoeff, Judith Butler, Bruno Latour and Nancy Fraser. We have also hosted talks by acclaimed filmmakers and actors such as Gurinder Chadha or Noel Clark as part of the annual Olive Till Debate.

The Department has made significant investment of funding and time into developing and strengthening a number of its formal research units and informal research groupings – as described in sections b1 and b3. However, our goal is also to **take our work beyond academia**: e.g. via East London Lines (a local news site founded by the Department and run by our students) and the Goldsmiths' Skillset Media Academy endorsed by Skillset, the UK's body for monitoring media industry training. The Department maintains links with a great number of cultural and media industries and professionals (e.g. NUJ, Hacked Off, UN Nations Internet Governance Forum, Tate Modern; Open Society Foundations). We run a Media/Academic Partners unit, which provides training bodies in partner countries (recently Pakistan and Nigeria). Its tailor-made programmes are aimed at raising training standards for local media professionals with a view to helping partners improve the sustainability and global competitiveness of their own media industries. The Department also runs a regular research-based programme of meetings with Ofcom.

In recognition of its strengths, the Department has received much support from the College's senior management over the recent years. It is now consolidated in two state-of-the-art buildings. The Media Research Building, opened in 2006, houses visiting fellows, research staff working on fixed-term projects and a large networked PhD room, as well as a number of seminar and meeting rooms and three screening rooms, plus two additional computer facilities and four video editing suites to support both UG and PG Practice. In 2010 the New Academic Building (NAB), an architect-designed space partly funded through HEFCE's SRIF3, was launched with a series of conferences, exhibitions and public events. NAB allows for most of its activities to be based in one site on the Goldsmiths campus. The Department's facilities include two large dedicated computer rooms for journalism, a radio studio, radio newsroom and eight edit suites, TV/film studio and thirteen edit suites, plus two audio post-production suites, two photography studios, two darkrooms, digital printing and computer rooms for photography, computer rooms for postgraduate courses in TV/film and scriptwriting, animation and illustration studios, four animation rostra and two computer rooms for animation/image production. NAB also houses a 250-seat lecture theatre and a 120-seat screening room, as well as two large (60- and 70-seat) teaching rooms, many public seating areas and a large atrium which is used extensively for exhibitions. Support staff in the Department include ten technical advisers, with professional expertise across a number of creative fields, who support practice production from undergraduate to postgraduate.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

The Department sees itself as being at the forefront of both engaging with the established international traditions of doing research in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies – via the recognisable trajectories of political economy, cultural studies, film and screen studies, and journalism – and setting new trajectories for such research (Ahmed and Blackman's work on 'the affective turn', Blackman's leading contribution to body studies; Phillips' involvement in digital journalism; Kember and Zylinska's work on photomediations). In 2013 it celebrated its 35th anniversary, using this landmark date to reflect on its achievements and disciplinary transmutations its staff influenced over the years with a series of high-profile events, including a multidisciplinary symposium 'Critical, Creative & Radical' – as well as an overhaul of the undergraduate curriculum.

Members of the Department are actively involved in setting the agenda for their field. They are regularly invited as keynote and plenary speakers (altogether, over 40 UK-based and 80 overseas keynotes since 2008 – not just in English-speaking countries but also in places as diverse as

Argentina, China, Czech Republic, Finland and Latvia), at international conferences and other symposia where new work in the field of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies is mapped out (e.g. Ahmed at Association for Cultural Studies; Fenton at NordMedia; Zylinska at the Nobel Museum), as members of steering committees of leading organisations in the field (ICA; MeCCSA; Fembot; IAMCR), as advisors to international research and funding bodies (e.g. Academy of Finland; Norwegian Research Council; ERC) and as international mentors to early career researchers through Mentoring Deutschschweiz – a formal mentoring programme for the promotion of women in academic careers that targets female postdocs and advanced PhD candidates from all universities in German-speaking Switzerland, financially supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (Fenton). Many members of staff have held visiting positions at other universities (e.g. Ahmed at Cambridge, Morley at Northwestern), have given prestigious named lectures (e.g. Ahmed's Whidden Lecture at McMaster or Linda Singer Memorial Lecture at Miami, Morley's Van Zelst Lecture at Northwestern) and have received awards for their work (Curran, the C. Edwin Baker Prize for lifetime work on Media, Markets and Democracy, ICA 2011). Our work has influenced major media arts events (Cubitt's curatorial work at ISEA2011 Istanbul and Arte y Optica in Peru 2013; Zylinska's work as Artistic Director of Transitio, largest Latin American festival of new media arts in Mexico in 2013, on the topic of Biomediations arising from her two monographs). Several leading academic journals in the field are edited by members of the Department: *Body and Society* (Blackman), *Feminist Theory* (Kember), *Global Media and Communication* (Freedman), *International Journal of Cultural Studies* (Ahmed), *Subjectivity* (Blackman) and *photographies* (Kember). Via Zylinska's editorship of *Culture Machine*, one of the oldest online journals in culture and theory, and her involvement in the JISC- and HEA-funded projects on open publishing, the Department has taken significant steps towards the critical and practical engagement with open access academic research resources.

The work of the Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre has led to the establishment of the Media Reform Coalition (MRC) (formerly, Coordinating Committee for Media Reform). Founded by members of the Spaces of News research team and chaired initially by Curran, now by Freedman, the MRC has two specific objectives: (1) to co-ordinate the most effective contribution by NGOs, academics and media campaigners to the Leveson Inquiry and the Communications Review; (2) to stimulate research and campaign activities that focus on advocating policies to sustain the public interest and to develop a democratic media system. The organisation has been welcomed by many of the leading media reform groups, including the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, Voice of the Listener and Viewer, Media Standards Trust, National Union of Journalists, 38 Degrees, Open Society Media Programme, MediaWise, Compass, Coalition of Resistance and MeCCSA Policy Network. It is an independent coalition of groups and individuals committed to promoting a media system that operates in the public interest. MRC forges a relationship between research, civil society, media industry and media policy. It has developed a series of policy briefing papers around issues of ethics, plurality and funding, and seeks to lobby and campaign around these issues wherever possible. A Committee consisting of both organisation-based and individual members meets every two months; a steering group meeting more regularly is responsible for carrying out the programme of work decided by the Committee. The Committee elected a chair (Curran, then Freedman) and the chairs of the three workgroups (Fenton, Freedman, Phillips).

The Department has a number of international visiting fellows at any one time. These have included: Professor Andreas Hepp, University of Bremen; Dr Katja Valaskivi, University of Tampere; Professor Christina Schachtner, University of Klagenfurt; Dr Sirma Bilge, University of Montreal; Dr Alberto Lopez Cuenca, Universidad de las Américas, Puebla as well as Dr Eva Pujades; Dr Peter Berglez; Dr Arthur Huang; Dr Liv Sovik. In 2010/11 we hosted a British Academy funded Research Fellow, Ana Rosas Mantecon from Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico. We have also developed international research interchanges with institutions and departments that share our interests and approaches. These include New York University (building on staff seminars established in 2001); McGill University, Montreal (an initial group visit by McGill to establish common perspectives in February 2009 was followed by an individual visit by Kember in 2011 and by Zylinska being awarded the Beaverbrook Visiting Fellowship at McGill in 2011); and the Instituto Orientale, Naples.