

<p>Institution: Middlesex University (UKPRN: 10004351)</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 36 – Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Research in this Unit is largely focused around three broad and overlapping strengths: media industries; cultural studies; language and writing. These groupings are flexible and dynamic, encouraging the emergence of new individual and collaborative activity and interests. A commitment to socially engaged research and the enhancement of professional practices in the creative, cultural and education sectors guides research in this Unit, which is conducted through the development of interdisciplinary, practice-led and problem-based forms of enquiry.</p> <p>This submission (of 22 staff members, or 19.6 FTE) consists of work carried out principally by researchers in the recently formed School of Media and Performing Arts (2012), under the leadership of Upton (Dean and Professor). The School houses two departments: this Unit correlates closely with the Department of Media. The formation of the School was part of a major University restructure, directing the strategic future of the institution toward high-quality research within an international context. The research profile of the Unit is matched by an established reputation for teaching and its diverse portfolio of degree programmes in Media at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and includes a successful and growing doctoral student community.</p>
<p>b. Research Strategy</p> <p>The research strategy for this Unit is framed by an ambitious institutional vision. This submission plots an energetic and purposeful trajectory since the 2008 RAE return to UoA66, building and diversifying from our historical strengths in cultural theory. From a modest base in 2008 we have made significant investment in staff and facilities and a far-reaching reorganisation of estates and infrastructure. All of these are markers of the University's long-term commitment to an ambitious programme of research, as articulated in its corporate plan, and are pivotal to its future success as a progressive, competitive institution.</p> <p>Major investment in research has enabled us to energise and strengthen research as part of a significant step-change throughout the University, enhancing leadership and adding depth and breadth to our research groupings. The campus development creates new possibilities for collaboration by bringing cognate subjects together on a single well-equipped site in Hendon, assuring the future ambitions for research at Middlesex. The principal aims and objectives of the School's research strategy are: to maintain a rich and productive balance between industry and professional practice and critical and scholarly analysis; to optimise the physical, administrative and intellectual environment for our subject areas; to build capacity through strong research-led appointments; to enhance research income and embed a supportive and enabling infrastructure conducive to a successful research culture, now and into the future. Key elements of the plan for achieving our objectives include provision of peer support, mentoring and training; facilitating collaboration through interdisciplinary and cross-sector forums and networks; increasing and enhancing doctoral provision; supporting research activity by negotiating resources and workload flexibly; rewarding research performance through promotion and appraisal; and prioritising support for activities which enhance our international profile.</p> <p>The research environment supports a mixed economy of student provision, including a diverse undergraduate portfolio and innovative postgraduate programmes. All Masters programmes prepare students for research degrees and several promote cross-disciplinary thinking, signalling the importance of collaboration in the future contours of our research environment: our new MSc in Media Management (2013), for example, spans Law, Media and Business, and an MA/MSc in Creative Technologies is offered jointly by Media and Science and Technology.</p> <p>Upton provides overall leadership and management as Dean of the School of Media and Performing Arts, supported by Cobley (Professor of Language and Media) as Director of Research, Middelgouw (Professor of Dance and Choreographic Practices) holding responsibility for Research Students, and Jones as Professor and Head of Department for Media.</p> <p>Our strategy in this Unit has been to develop a strong and sustainable research culture focused around three broad and overlapping strengths. The first concerns practice, and the analysis of policy and practice in <u>media industries</u> (film, print and TV, including journalism). This includes investigative reporting for BBC news (Barling), commissioning and production work in the sphere</p>

of religious programming for Channel 4 and the BBC (Ahmed), broadcasting of non-fiction programmes (ECR **Barnard**), analyses of both journalism and broadcasting, including evaluations of the current state of public service, independent television production and digital journalism (**Jones**), the nature of production in film and television, particularly with reference to documentary production (**Kerr**), practice in film sound design (ECR **Heinemann**), analysis of reputation management (**Arthurs**), and film distribution and the relations between producers and consumers of pirated media products (ECR **Crisp**).

The second research strength, in cultural studies, features work on gender and sexuality, film and philosophy, and cultural theory. In gender and sexuality, this includes research into representations of sex trafficking (**Arthurs**), research into pornography (**Attwood**), transgressive feminist representations in print and film (ECR **Hester**), and feminist strategies among young women, particularly in their use of new developments in media (ECRs **Keller** and **Winch**). Film and philosophy especially includes Deleuzian perspectives in the analysis of contemporary and classic films (**Sutton**, **Heinemann**). Research in cultural theory features work on the semiotics of communication and cognition (**Cobley**), postcoloniality and the contemporary urban landscape (ECR **Graham**), new media and cyberspace (**Sutton**, **Attwood**), popular narrative (**Arthurs**, **Cobley**), photography (**Sutton**), the urban environment and art practice (**Bendon**), neoliberalism and critique (**Little**), and holocaust studies (**Gibb**).

The third research strength, in language and writing, features creative writing and the analysis of language. This includes linguistic semantics and pragmatics as well as stylistics, including work on prosodic meaning (**Clark**), relations of language, modelling and narrative (**Cobley**), communication theory (**Cobley**, **Siebers**), interactions in healthcare and primary schooling in Europe (**Farini**) and postcolonial writing (**Graham**). In creative writing, research includes non-fiction writing and broadcasting on cultural issues (**Barnard**), fiction (**Butt**, **Wardle**) and poetry (**Butt**, **Wardle**, **Winch**), reflexive analysis of fiction and poetry production (**Butt**, **Wardle**), and creative biography of literary figures (**Gibb**).

The overall aim of this strategy has been to expand and promote a thriving research culture, and to enable further significant contributions to advance knowledge in the discipline both nationally and internationally. A research-led staffing strategy for appointment and promotion, complemented by focused training and professional development support, and an enabling research infrastructure at School and University level, with an emphasis on ECR and postgraduate development, are the key ways in which we are already building on the gains made since RAE2008. Our future strategy will prioritise:

- Further enhancement of leadership and research capacity, by making additional appointments in our three areas of strength at senior and ECR levels.
- The alignment of research, teaching and external-facing activities to ensure sustainability.
- Generating research with enhanced impact, by further strengthening collaborative partnerships with industry professionals and activity in the public realm.
- Supporting early career and doctoral researchers, through funding, training and mentoring.
- Attracting increased external research funding.

c. People

i. Staffing Strategy and Staff Development

Successive waves of new posts at senior and junior levels, coupled with investment in existing staff, have radically transformed the leadership strength, staff capacity and research culture in all three strands of Media research, with seven new professorships, two new readerships, and a significant number of new research-led lecturing posts. Ongoing development of existing staff has enabled individuals excluded from RAE 2008 (e.g. **Butt**, **Clark**) to be included in this REF submission.

In media industries, taking television as an example, the appointment of two professors (**Arthurs**, **Jones**), a senior lecturer (**Kerr**) and a lecturer (Glynn) has invigorated a skills-focused area with considerable research expertise. These researchers contribute to the development of new strategies to enable the purposeful integration of professional practice with high-level scholarship. To further support the University-wide strategy of bringing together high-profile professional practice and research, three new professorial posts have been created: Ahmed, Alibhai-Brown and **Barling** connect our research environment directly with the worlds of professional journalism and broadcasting.

In cultural studies, the strategic professorial appointment of **Attwood** has enabled the development of an emerging area of distinctive strength in gender and sexuality (with **Arthurs Hester, Keller, Winch**). In language and writing, **Cobley** brings international expertise in biosemiotics and provides research leadership across the school. He is supported by linguistics researcher **Clark** (promoted to Reader, and coordinating this Unit). With a view to sustainability, senior appointments have been balanced by our commitment to early career and postdoctoral colleagues, who contribute significantly to our lively and forward-looking research community. Eight of our ECR appointments over the period are included here (**Barling, Barnard, Crisp, Graham, Heinemann, Hester, Keller, Winch**). The recruitment of core staff is complemented by a purposeful strategy to ensure a fully integrated team by reducing the use of hourly-paid teachers and by a judicious review of the use of part-time posts. **Gibb**, McGorrian, Vodanovic and **Winch** have progressed from hourly paid lecturing positions to core academic posts. This staffing strategy envisages the long-term development of a research-led academic environment and enables the essential integration of research, teaching, knowledge exchange and impact.

Development and support for new and existing staff is essential to the future health of the Unit. All staff are involved in research and teaching and are encouraged to aim for excellence in both, in accordance with the University's emphasis on their symbiotic relationship in its statement on Research (<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/research/index.aspx>). We expect the percentage of fully research-active staff in the coming period to rise well above the c.50% included in the present submission, as we develop all staff to achieve their professional goals as researchers.

Staff development is provided centrally for teams and individuals, and includes a specific and detailed programme of researcher development alongside School and Department events. External speakers have recently included Professor Paul Kleiman of the Higher Education Academy, on research and teaching. Internal funding enables staff to undertake research training and developmental activity externally, and all staff in the School have access to the 'Rules of Engagement' series of networked research training events through our membership of The Culture Capital Exchange (TCCE). Full fee waivers are available for full-time staff undertaking doctoral study with us, including the PhD, ArtsD, PhD by public works and DProf, and our staff (including several from practitioner backgrounds) are encouraged to avail of this opportunity. New staff at all grades are assigned a mentor. All staff must complete probation and undergo annual appraisal; both processes always include customised research objectives, supported by development opportunities. In line with the Concordat principles (see 'Infrastructure' below), we have transparent working practices that support and sustain research careers, and operate at all stages from strategic decision-making to implementation: i) recruiting high quality academics and committing to permanent appointments through fair and equitable processes – as noted above, ii) ensuring all staff are valued and recognised through development and promotion processes (e.g. **Crisp, Graham, Little** promoted to Senior Lecturer, **Clark** to Reader, **Sutton** to Professor), iii) offering career development and training, across the key areas outlined in the VITAE researcher development framework, iv) empowering researchers to succeed and providing personal development activities (including preparing for research leadership, a peer support network for grant applications and a research mentor system) and v) ensuring diversity and equality as outlined in an institution-wide strategy (<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/Assets/edstrat6.pdf>) and Equality and Diversity Policy statement (<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/Assets/HRPS8.pdf>).

The university has generous policies on maternity and paternity leave, flexible working, study leave, abolition of compulsory retirement age ahead of legislation, alongside a clear progression and staff development strategy. As a reflection of our commitment to equal opportunities, it is noteworthy that four of our seven current professors carrying out research in Media are female (**Arthurs, Alibhai-Brown, Attwood, Jones**) as are the Dean and Deputy Dean (Upton, Henderson), representing a far higher proportion of women in senior posts in this environment than in the sector as a whole.

University policy (<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/Strategy/staff/index.aspx>) makes sabbatical leave available to staff. Time for research is built into staff work programmes; additional time can be allocated for specific projects. Wherever possible, new appointments are made in advance of the academic year, allowing incoming staff to focus initially on research, ahead of their teaching commitments in the following academic year. Early career staff receive mentoring from senior colleagues through the School-based and/or University-wide schemes. For example, a research

studentship funded by the Unit allowed **Little** to complete a PhD under the strategy set out for the former HEFCE Research Capability Funding. Now a member of staff, **Little** has been supported from his doctoral programme through his early career to produce a series of mature research outputs and public interventions.

ii. **Research Students**

The School is actively seeking to expand its provision at doctoral level and to rebalance its student portfolio from undergraduate to postgraduate programmes. Since 2008, 15 students have successfully completed doctorates in this Unit and there are currently 16 registered doctoral students in Media and 24 in Performing Arts. The strategy to develop research student numbers and the graduate research culture is enacted through studentships, facilities, training, and interventions by the School's Research Development Group. New appointments build supervisory capacity and attract new students. Students in both Art and Design and Media and Performing Arts have access to a dedicated and well-equipped doctoral lounge in the Grove as well as an area for University research students in the Sheppard Library and each student is provided with a personal laptop computer. The University competitively awarded 30 doctoral studentships in 2013, 5 of which were to candidates in the School, including 2 in Media. The School has complemented these awards by providing fee waivers to a further 2 candidates. MA scholarships are offered annually and Masters programmes are all designed to encourage and enable candidates with the potential for doctoral study. An MRes is available specifically for this purpose alongside subject-specific provision.

Middlesex is a partner in the New London Graduate School (NLGS), a consortium of five universities providing a research hub for doctoral study in arts, humanities and social sciences. The consortium (Anglia Ruskin, East London, Greenwich, South Bank, Middlesex) is funded under the AHRC block grant partnership capacity building scheme. One current student in this Unit is supported by this scheme.

The Research and Knowledge Transfer Office (RKTO), in conjunction with Midgelow, as Director of Research Degrees, oversees PGR students and programmes. Students are monitored bi-annually through formal appraisals, and taken through a well-staged and rigorous process of registration and transfer by internal review panels to test the quality of the work presented and prepare them for the viva. The University-level Research Degrees Board meets bi-annually and is responsible for all matters related to the award of research degrees, reporting via the University Assurance Committee to the Academic Board.

Student training is offered centrally, supplemented in the Unit with a series of seminars, workshops and networking events jointly organised by the two related Schools and with cognate research groups as appropriate. The University follows up an induction for all beginning students by training in career planning, time management and generic research skills. Doctoral students can apply for financial support through the School in the same way as staff, for external research activity, including conference attendance, that will advance their career. Throughout the period the Unit has enjoyed strong links with Visual Arts and Education, including seminars and conferences such as 'On Liquidity' (<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/research/events/liquidity/index.aspx>). Doctoral students may attend taught professional doctorate and/or Masters modules, plus, through the NLGS, modules from consortium partners, to develop bespoke research training where needed. We also encourage students to take part in external training activities (e.g. **Clark's** students have attended 'Advanced Core Training in Linguistics' courses at UCL; others have participated in TCCE network events).

We are actively growing our supervisory capacity through new appointments and by developing existing staff: all supervisors undergo compulsory formal training, with sessions provided by the RKTO on regulations, ethics, supervisory approaches, intellectual property, governance and examination processes. New supervisors are coupled with experienced supervisors who coach them through the process, as well as ensuring excellent supervision for the student. Our researchers examine research degree submissions across the UK and beyond and contribute to wider policy discussions. **Bendon** is a member of the Locative Arts Network for PhD research students (in collaboration with Pervasive Media Studio Bristol, Watershed Bristol and the University of the West of England). Strengthened leadership brings expertise to guide our plans to enhance doctoral provision: for example **Cobley** - member of the International Committee for Evaluation of Doctoral Training (Humanities), University of Helsinki and a Docent appointment

committee member at the same institution, and the Dean, Upton – member of the AHRC's Postgraduate Review Group and Postgraduate Panels.

Our research students have won awards and published their own significant outputs. For example Zaki (completed 2011) has published two articles and a book based on her thesis. She is now employed at Sharjah American University in the United Arab Emirates. Togame was a member of the ESRC-funded 'X-Prag UK' network for early career researchers from 2009 to 2011, which provided her with support for conference attendance.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

The strategic drive to enhance research leadership has strengthened our capacity to attract competitive research funding, and enabled us to demonstrate significant progress in generating income. We aim to continue along this trajectory and have also built up a strong infrastructure to support this aim. In addition to pre- and post-award support from the RKTO, the School has established a Research Development subgroup to provide focused mentoring and internal peer review for grant applications, led by colleagues who have experience of holding grants from and reviewing applications for funding bodies (AHRC, ESRC, IRCHSS). We aim to substantially increase our research funding, building on successes in this REF period. **Attwood's** research leave in 2012-13 was funded by the AHRC (£70,427). **Butt** has recently been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant (£59,400) in partnership with Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust, to support production of a film and mobile app on the use of Alexandra Palace as a prison camp during WWI, and **Gibb** has won a grant from the Old Possum's Practical Trust (the T.S.Eliot estate) to support research for her next book. **Clark** received support for three HEA research projects (£1000 in 2011, £1500 in 2012, £2000 in 2013) and \$1500 to support collaborative research (with Anne Furlong) from the University of Prince Edward Island. **Clark** is a member of the UK Linguistics Olympiad committee and the steering group for the UK Linguistics Olympiad research project, which received £10,000 from the British Academy. Drake (Reader 2012-13) received an AHRC European Support Grant in 2013 (£8,000). **Kerr** was co-investigator for the AHRC-funded project (£180,000, 2010-12), 'Multi-platforming Public Service Broadcasting'. **Little** received awards from the Intergenerational Foundation (£1300) and the Lipman-Miliband Trust (£500). Shaw received an ESRC project grant (£96,063). **Arthurs** secured an AHRC Connected Communities award in 2012, **Attwood** has previously been awarded grants from the AHRC, ESRC, Wellcome Trust, JISC and the British Academy, **Farini** from regional funding bodies in Italy, **Jones** and **Kerr** from the AHRC. **Siebers** has been supported through an IGRS fellowship (Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, London), EU Framework 7, and multiple AHRC awards. The figures in the table showing recognised income in REF4a demonstrate the success of our strategy. Income towards the end of the period is significantly increased and includes funding from the AHRC, ESRC, British Academy and Wellcome Trust, amongst others.

The QR-funded research budget supports capacity building through a regular programme of seminars and events including external speakers, symposia and conferences, alongside work-in-progress presentations from staff and research students. The School supports remission from teaching for research activity and development, as well as seed funding and match funding for research projects, particularly in cases where there is the possibility of a subsequent external grant application (e.g. **Clark**, **Gibb**). Bids for internal funding are made formally and competitively, and reviewed by a subgroup of senior research staff in the School. Selection criteria include the requirement to have an appropriate research methodology, secure high-quality public output, and impact strategy. Consideration is given to the consolidation and development of a research profile, and projects pairing experienced staff with emerging researchers are especially welcomed. The budget also generously supports conference attendance for staff, including international research activity, with no formal limit per application and no per capita restriction.

Infrastructure

As noted above, since RAE2008, the University has brought researchers together on a single site, with outstanding facilities, supported by an academic restructuring designed to enhance intellectual coherence and facilitate cross-disciplinary working. The new academic structure is designed to facilitate research development and collaboration and there has been a streamlining of processes and functions to enhance time for research and other academic activity.

The School provides the main context for management and coordination of research across

Media and Performing Arts, from determining strategy to realisation (see 'Research Strategy' above). The Research Development Group works to enhance and develop all aspects of research activity across the School, also coordinating individuals and sub-groups working on specific areas: income, publication, events and networking activities, impact and public engagement, collaborations, ethics, mentoring and training. This is an open forum with a distinctive focus on enhancement activity and capacity building: its remit is to promote actions to enable the fulfilment of the research potential of the research units. Echoing the open and transparent principles of the senior management, and providing research leadership experience, this group is staffed by colleagues at differing stages of their research careers, promoting wide participation in the research culture and building leadership capacity for the future. One of its first major focal points will be the organisation of a major international conference on the relationships between professional practice and research across our discipline areas, led by the School's Centre for Research into Creation in the Performing Arts (ResCen) and scheduled for Spring 2014. The University has already granted strategic funds for this initiative.

The School provides generic administrative support and hires specialist assistance where appropriate e.g. two editorial assistants have been appointed to assist specific projects. This structure is supported by central university services through a business partnering model, in particular by the RKTO, which disseminates research-focused information/opportunities, ensures equality and diversity processes, offers pre- and post-award research project support, staff training (in areas such as knowledge exchange, consultancy and bidding), doctoral student management and training, and assistance with events. The University has a well-established Code of Practice for Research, which enshrines the highest standards of research conduct and integrity, based upon the Research Councils' *Statement on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice* (2000), and more recent *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* (2012). A longstanding University Ethics committee maintains oversight of School research ethics committees.

Researchers work with ResCen, redLoop (the University's Design and Innovation Centre), and other research-focused hubs including the Art and Design Research Institute (ADRI), and are building towards a new research centre in Gender and Sexuality. The Lansdown Centre, a flagship research centre since the 1980s is being reinvigorated and relaunched as a cross-disciplinary centre for innovative research into digital arts, led by researchers in Media, Art and Design, and Science and Technology.

Facilities:

As noted above, the University's move to a single modern campus has enhanced research activity with cognate areas, especially in Performing Arts and Art and Design. The co-location extends access to high-specification technical facilities in the bespoke Grove Building (£80m), home to Media since 2011. Facilities include professional standard broadcast and editing studios for TV and radio, a newsroom, camera and sound equipment, sound and recording studios, digital media and animation workshops, rehearsal rooms, multi-function teaching rooms, exhibition space and an extensive suite of art, craft and performance facilities.

Technical facilities are currently staffed by 52 (41.15 FTE) specialist technicians shared across Media and Performing Arts, and Art and Design, with the remit of supporting research, teaching and knowledge transfer. Significant capital investment annually ensures the currency of advanced specialist equipment and facilities, on a rolling plan (£470k approved for Media and Performing Arts in 2012, another £471k in 2013, with a further £450k still in the pipeline for 2013-14).

Along with opportunities for inter- and multi-disciplinary work afforded by consolidation of the physical estate, the professoriate inaugurated a successful University-wide conference ('Fairness', 2013) bringing together research expertise from across the disciplinary spectrum and signalling the University's potential as an attractive venue for large, public-facing research events. The library is well stocked and offers access to some 40,000 journals through a strategy prioritising extensive digital access; a specialist subject librarian works proactively with the School to ensure research and teaching needs are balanced; and our digital repository, with over 9000 research outputs, gives ready access to our research (www.eprints.mdx.ac.uk).

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base.

This Unit sustains a strong tradition of research in cultural studies, as noted in RAE 2008, with an enduring commitment to social transformation, and a strengthened emphasis on sexuality and gender. In this period creative and media industries research has flourished, adding a more

industry-focused dimension to the theoretical and conceptual base of the Unit. Latterly a multi-disciplinary focus on language and writing has achieved success within and beyond the confines of the discipline and the HE sector, notably in linguistics, education and creative writing.

Collaboration with a broad range of academic and non-academic groups and institutions beyond the University is integral to our strategy to develop a strong and sustainable research culture. Examples include: **Clark** with University of Prince Edward Island (Furlong), Westminster (Caink), Liverpool (Chapman); **Cobley** with Orebro (Machin), Lugano (Schulz), Copenhagen Business School (Brier), Tartu (Kull and Randviir); **Crisp** with Federal University of Espírito Santo in Vitória, Universidade de Sao and Goldsmiths; **Keller** with Leicester (Mendes) and Institute of Education, London (Ringrose); **Kerr** with Royal Holloway (Bennett and Medrado), Sussex (Strange). **Gibb** coordinates the interdisciplinary research project, 'Unheard Voices', on Roma narrative, with historian Schulze (Essex). In addition to traditional academic collaborations across disciplines and institution boundaries, we are committed to collaboration with industry/professional partners, enabling our research to address real and pressing questions and to plan pathways for impact. Instrumental in assuring this are the three innovative professorial appointments in professional practice (Ahmed, Alibhai-Brown, **Barling**). New appointments include former media professionals, who bring valuable industry perspectives into the heart of the Unit (**Jones, Kerr, McLachlan**). Our commitment to collaboration beyond HE is evident for example in the work of **Little** with the Labour Party and think tanks such as Compass, Shaw's advisory work with the Welsh and Scottish assemblies, **Butt's, Clark's** and **Phillips's** work with the secondary education sector, **Bendon's** work with visitor experiences at the RAF museum, and **Butt's** work with Alexandra Palace. The practitioner-research focus of ResCen brings together practising artists in the marketplace and academic researchers.

Our researchers are proactive in creating and leading research networks and collaborative projects.

Attwood and **Arthurs** have coordinated the Onscenity Research Network since 2010 and Sense about Sex since 2012. **Clark** established and leads the Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA) Pragmatic Stylistics Special Interest Group. Drakopoulou is a member of Cybersalon (www.cybersalon.org), a think tank on Digital Futures with support from the School.

Graham coordinates the Spectres of World Literature network and is a member of the Warwick Research Collective on World Literature (WReC). **Siebers** is vice-president of the Ernst-Bloch-Gesellschaft, Ludwigshafen and was founding vice-chair and chair, Section for the Philosophy of Communication, European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA).

Our researchers have been leading thinking in the discipline internationally by presenting keynote and plenary lectures all over the world.

Illustrative examples are **Arthurs** (3: UK), **Attwood** (6: Australia, Italy, UK), **Clark** (6: Canada, Slovakia, Germany, UK), **Cobley** (8: USA, Finland, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, UK), **Crisp** (Italy), **Siebers** (4: UK, Germany), **Sutton** (3: Sweden, Greece, UK). Invitations to speak have extended the reach of the research into a range of organisational contexts nationally and internationally. For example, **Attwood** has given lectures at universities in Cambridge, Brighton, Keele, Westminster, Sheffield and Adelaide, and at festivals in Bradford, Lisbon, and the ICA. She has been an invited speaker at a further nine universities, in Finland and across the UK. She has given presentations to the College of Sexual and Relationship Therapists, Northern School of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy and British Psychological Society. **Bendon** was invited speaker for the AHRC-funded project 'New Media, Audiences and Affective Experiences' at City University London, 2013 and at FACT, Liverpool, 2011. **Cobley** has given 15 funded papers in four countries. **Crisp** was invited to speak at Queen's University Belfast and at Cornerhouse, Manchester. **Gibb** has been an invited speaker at Sciences Po, Menton, and at Caux Initiatives of Change, Switzerland; **Jones** at the University of Central Lancashire; and Shaw at Dublin City University.

The Unit contributes expertise to research councils and other research bodies.

Arthurs, Attwood, Cobley, Shaw and **Sutton** are members of the AHRC or ESRC Peer Review Colleges. **Arthurs** sits on the AHRC Awards Panel and contributed to RCUK VITAE training events for researchers in 2010 and 2011. **Attwood** has refereed for Marsden Fund Council, New Zealand, FWOS, Netherlands, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada.

Cobley has refereed for the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Estonian Science Foundation and the Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca. **Siebers** is a reviewer for the European Science Foundation, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and AHRC. Our

researchers have carried out regular peer review for an extensive list of major publishers and journals nationally and internationally.

Leadership and esteem in the discipline is evident in the level of engagement by our researchers in professional associations. **Arthurs** is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. **Butt** is a former Chair of the National Association for Writers in Education (NAWE) and a member of the Management Committee. **Cobley** is Vice-President of the International Association for Semiotic Studies, Secretary of the International Society for Biosemiotic Studies, chair of panel of judges for *Semiotica*/Mouton d'Or Award (2012; panel member 2010-11), UK Executive Committee member, International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS), Fellow of the International Communicology Institute and a Partner of the Nordic Network of Narrative Studies. Both **Kerr** and **Arthurs** have served on the Executive Committee of MeCCSA, and **Arthurs** edited *3-D*, the MeCCSA newsletter. Peterson is internal auditor for the European Public Relations Education and Research Association in Brussels.

Editorial roles and series editorships are undertaken by both senior and more junior staff.

Attwood (with Clarissa Smith, Sunderland) has established a new journal, *Porn Studies*, is co-editor of *Sexualities*, and has co-edited four special issues of: *Sex Education*, *Popular Communication*, *Sexualities*, and *International Journal of Cultural Studies*. **Clark** edited a special issue of the *Journal of Literary Semantics*. **Cobley** is co-editor of *Social Semiotics* and associate editor of *Cybernetics and Human Knowing*. He has edited six collections of original articles and one collection of previously published articles. He guest edited three special issues of journals (two issues of *Semiotica*, one of *Journal of Applied Semiotics*). He is series co-editor of *Handbooks of Communication Sciences* (de Gruyter Mouton), series co-editor of *Semiotics, Communication and Cognition* (de Gruyter Mouton) and was series editor of *Routledge Introductions to Media and Communications*. **Farini** is editor of the RC25 Newsletter *Language and Society* and the journal *Language, Discourse and Society*. **Graham** edited a special issue of the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* in 2010. **Little** is co-editor of *Soundings*. **Siebers** is series editor of the *Bloch Bibliothek* (Brill), and editor-in-chief of *Empedocles: European Journal for the Philosophy of Communication*. **Arthurs, Attwood, Butt, Clark, Cobley, Farini, Gibb, Little, Sutton, Vodanovic** also hold various editorial board positions.

Conference and seminar organisation is a regular activity in this Unit, and the range of topics and partners involved provides an indication of the collaborative energy and outward-facing ethos of the research environment. Selected examples include: **Arthurs**: 'The Shadow of Thatcher: Women, Feminism, Culture and Politics' Arnolfini Bristol 2009; **Attwood**: Creative methods in gender and sexuality research and public engagement, Graeae Theatre, London, 2013; and events at the University of Salford, Birkbeck College, Open University, ESRC Social Science Festival, Graeae Theatre, Sheffield, Brunel University, British Academy, University of London Union, Women's Library, London. **Clark**: Pragmatic Stylistics workshops and panels at Middlesex, International Pragmatic Association (IPrA) Manchester, and Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA). **Cobley**: panels on 'Narrative and semiosis' and 'Biosemiotics as global semiotics' at the 11th Congress of the IASS in Nanjing 2012; 'Sign, information and graphics' symposium at London Metropolitan University 2012. **Crisp**: 'Besides the Screen' conferences, screenings and workshops at Goldsmiths, University of London 2010, 2012, 3rd event to be hosted in Vitória, Brazil, in 2014. **Graham**: Middlesex symposium and conference; co-organiser of World Systems Research Day at the University of York, 2013. **Kerr**: Cowboys or Indies, NFT, 2012. **Sutton**: College Art Association, 2010; (with Anna Burke, Middlesex) symposium 'Between Nature and Culture', Photographers' Gallery London, 2012.

Our researchers have been recognised with a number of prestigious awards and prizes. *Gender and Public Relations* (**Arthurs**) has recently won the Outstanding Book PRIDE Award from the NCA (National Communication Association). **Barnard's Book of Friendship** was a publisher's 'call-in' for the Samuel Johnson Prize, 2012. **Cobley** has been named 9th Thomas A. Sebeok Fellow of the Semiotic Society of America. **Gibb** won the Granta Garden Memoir competition 2013 for her story 'The Two Gardens'. **Little** was awarded the John A. Lent Scholarship for Outstanding Research, International Comic Art Forum, 2008. **Winch** received three awards for practice in 2013: Chawton Fellowship; Cove Park residency; Hawthornden Fellowship.