

<p><b>Institution: University of Leeds</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: UOA36</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>Media and communication research at the University of Leeds has been transformed in recent years by new strategy and management, and a significant number of appointments of research-active staff (20 in total since January 2008) including senior and early career staff. Leeds is now at the heart of developments in the field internationally. UoA36 research takes place in the Institute of Communications Studies (ICS) which was established in 1989, building on the work of Jay Blumler's pioneering Centre for Television Research (1963-1988). The Institute grew rapidly in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Since 2002, it has been one of five Schools in the Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communication (PVAC), one of nine Faculties at the University of Leeds.</p> <hr/> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>Our research strategy in RAE2008 aimed at making Leeds a leading media research centre by achieving critical mass in research groups and engaging with academic and socio-cultural challenges. It was based on three principal research themes (political communication, international communication and media industries) and a set of Research Centres. Our goal remains to put Leeds at the heart of media, communication and cultural studies and to do this by establishing a distinctive combination of strengths and perspectives that can contribute to an understanding of the economic, social and political changes shaping the media. But our strategy was revised in 2010, following extensive consultation and discussion with all research-active staff. Political communication and media industries research, already thriving and burgeoning, remain core areas of strength in future strategy for 2014-19. A new major area of strength concerns the relations between the visual and the digital, incorporating longstanding strength in film in ICS but going beyond it. International communication has been renewed and reconfigured. Journalism is a growing area of strength. As a result, we now have five key research themes, each of which corresponds to an active research group. There are also two Research Centres, which are discussed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political communication</li> <li>• Cultural production and policy</li> <li>• Visual and digital cultures</li> <li>• International communication</li> <li>• Journalism studies</li> </ul> <p>Most research-active staff operate in more than one of these areas. Indeed, one of the strengths of current Leeds research is that these are not fragmented areas of enquiry, but part of an integrated culture. These themes are discussed below, with a view to providing evidence of how research in each of them at Leeds has been transformed and how the research environment at Leeds is now conducive to producing research of world-leading quality. Our strategy for 2014 to 2019 is for Leeds to be a major international centre for research in each of these five areas.</p> <p>Leeds has been recognised as a major locus for <b>political communication</b> research since the 1960s, focusing upon studies of democratic communication within the public sphere. Current scholarship at Leeds seeks to ask critical questions about the changing meanings of political action, publicness and collective interaction. Exploring tensions between communicative innovation at the civic/horizontal level and inertia at the institutional/vertical level, and probing the affective dimensions of events and relationships that have tended to be understood in hyper-rational terms, Leeds researchers are now in the forefront of moves to expand the terms and methods of political communication research. Notable here are the following: Coleman's work on the internet and democratic citizenship (with Emeritus Professor Jay Blumler), on trust in the news (with another Emeritus Professor, David Morrison), on the first-ever televised debates (with Blumler), and on the cultural experience of voting; Barnhurst's influential work on the affective dimensions of political communication; and Voltmer's recent volume (co-edited with Brants) on postmodern political communication. In addition, researchers are breaking new ground on issues such as political communication in new democracies (Voltmer), the visual dimensions of political communication (Parry), cultural self-representation (Thumim), and the social construction of deliberative and participatory discourses (Moss). A key research focus of political communication researchers in</p>
--

ICS is the concept of 'digital citizenship', referring to the interaction between new technologies of social connectivity and emerging forms of reconfigured civic norms and behaviour, and ICS is home to the Centre for Digital Citizenship (see Infrastructure).

Media industries research was identified as a major area of expansion in RAE2008. The appointment in 2007 of Hesmondhalgh to a Chair in this area was a key development, and a number of further appointments means that Leeds now produces world-leading research on **cultural production and policy**. Leeds research in this theme draws strongly upon the longstanding European tradition of critical political economy, but conjoins it with cultural studies approaches to media industries, and with significant contributions to the burgeoning field of cultural and creative industries research, including work on cultural labour. Another key feature is that production research is linked to policy research. Examples include an AHRC-funded study of New Labour's cultural policy and an ESRC-funded study of copyright (see below). Oakley, a major figure in creative industries analysis, was appointed as Professor of Cultural Policy in 2012. ICS has become a locus of research in cultural production and policy, producing significant work on: the music industry (Hesmondhalgh, Klein, Meier); policy, the internet and digitalisation (Lax, Moss); the television industry (Hesmondhalgh, Lee, Macdonald, Zoellner); web design (Kennedy); copyright (Edwards, Hesmondhalgh, Klein, Lee, Moss); evolving public relations practices (Edwards); and race and ethnicity in relation to cultural production (Hesmondhalgh, Saha, Edwards). Leeds has also established itself as a major centre for the study of cultural labour (Hesmondhalgh, Kennedy, Lee, Meier, Oakley, Saha, Zoellner). In addition, there are synergies with ICS journalism researchers, including work on newsroom ethnography and the forces shaping journalistic coverage (Paterson), and with visual and digital culture (Kennedy on new media workers). The Media Industries Research Centre is an important forum for research in all these areas (see Infrastructure).

The **visual and digital cultures** theme continues a long tradition of historical research on film and photography at Leeds, including high-profile work on film archives by Enticknap and Pople. Such research is now integrated into a more general concern with the visual and the digital, reflecting the fact that ICS researchers are now producing world-leading research across these areas. This is reflected in the fact that the Institute is home to a RCUK Digital Economy Network on Communities and Culture (1.5 million pounds funding from 2012-15, led by Thornham) and in the appointment of Kevin Barnhurst, an internationally renowned visual communications scholar, in 2012. Other colleagues attached to this theme (such as Aiello, Kennedy, Nash, Parry, Taylor and Thumim) work on film, television, radio, advertising, photography and the internet, and less traditional areas of 'media' such as the built environment, design, branding, performance, and databases. The theme also provides a home for the growing interest in practice-based research within ICS.

Leeds was at the forefront of **international communication** research from the early 1990s, pursuing an agenda led by the late Phil Taylor's work on public diplomacy and strategic communication. A new generation of Leeds scholars, some of whom worked alongside Taylor up to his death in late 2010, now focus upon a critical analysis of international power relations, increasingly drawing theoretical and methodological insights from cultural studies (particularly apparent in the work of recent appointments such as Aiello and Parry). World-leading research here includes that of Voltmer on international comparative media studies, and Paterson's studies of international news agencies. Leeds, then, has a renewed and reshaped international communications research agenda.

A strategic decision was made in 2010 to develop a research group in **journalism**, to build on existing strengths, such as Paterson's internationally recognised work on news agencies. Recent appointments (such as Barnhurst, Firmstone and Parry) mean that journalism research at Leeds is now a rising area of strength, and is set to contribute to key debates about digitalisation and globalisation of news. This includes work on the form of online news, and on time in journalism (Barnhurst), the representation of the European Union and the image of Muslims in the UK press (Firmstone), representations of war (Parry) and the roots of British journalism studies itself (Quinn). Journalism research at ICS links closely with established strengths in all four other themes.

Indications of the success of our strategy so far include the following:

- Research grant expenditure during this REF period is £1,697,916, a considerable increase

over the £755,889 reported in RAE2008. In addition, over 1.5 million pounds of research grants have already been awarded for research to be conducted after the REF research income period.

- Postgraduate activity has increased significantly, with 30 PhD awards made between 2008 and 2013, three times the number during the RAE2008 period. Current levels of registration and applications indicate that growth will accelerate, with 8 to 10 completions per year projected for 2013-14 onwards.
- There has been a proliferation of research activity, with numerous conferences, symposia and internal research groups bringing together academic staff, external users and PGR students, and a lively and well-attended fortnightly research seminar which brings leading researchers from around the world to speak in Leeds (see below).

That this vitality is sustainable is indicated by the major investment on the part of the University in new staffing, discussed above and below, and in facilities. ICS moved in 2010 from three dispersed buildings into a fully refurbished building at the heart of the Leeds campus, at a cost of £3.5 million. This building has excellent research and teaching facilities, a cinema, a new media lab, television studio, lecture theatre, conference room and seminar room, and excellent shared working space for doctoral researchers. All academic staff, researchers, PGR students and support staff are now housed under one roof.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

As indicated in the Overview, twenty appointments have been made of research-active staff during the REF period. Two of these were Chairs, in the research areas of cultural production and policy (Oakley) and in visual and digital culture (Barnhurst) – though the latter also makes significant contributions to journalism and political communication research. Two of the other new appointments are now Senior Lecturers (Kennedy and Klein). There has also been significant investment in early career researchers, who have contributed impressively to the flourishing new research culture.

There is a rigorous system of support for staff and their research. ICS has a system of mentoring for all research-contracted staff. Each member of staff has access to a known and trusted individual who has greater research experience and is prepared to discuss issues, listen, ask questions, share experience and contacts. The policy was designed to be consistent with, and exceed, the university's guidelines on 'Good practice in mentoring', which can currently be found at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sddu/research/mentoring.html>. The relationship between mentoring and staff review and development (SRDS) is laid out in the university policy on staff review. New members of staff are provided with a thorough process of induction, and this is co-ordinated by the PA to the Head of Institute.

Research is overseen by a Research Committee which meets five times per year to steer the research strategy and to administer applications for research leave and funding. The Committee is composed of Research Director (chair); Deputy Director of Research, who is also Head of Innovation and Impact; Head of Institute; Postgraduate Research Tutor; a Head of a Research Group; and a further representative of academic staff. An 80 per cent FTE administrator supports the work of the Research Committee and the Research Groups and Centres within ICS, and this has allowed us to be extremely active in hosting events such as conferences and symposia. The Research Office of the Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications provides a full support service for making grant applications and maintaining awarded grants. All grant applications are internally peer reviewed to provide guidance for improvement, and to ensure that only high-quality applications are submitted to Research Councils and other funders.

Further key features of support for research include the following, at Institute level:

- A workload system, used to allocate teaching, research and administrative work as fairly as possible across all members of academic staff. This ensures the provision of 40 per cent of academic time for research, scholarship and research-related duties (such as peer review and examining of doctoral dissertations) for research-contracted staff. All appointments new to Leeds, including early career researchers, are also given a 10 per cent reduction in workload for the first 12 months of their employment.
- All researchers are encouraged to participate in the five research groups outlined above. (Indeed, some participate in several of these). Senior, mid-career and early career researchers in ICS all regularly present their work at the fortnightly ICS research seminar

mentioned above, as well as at Research Group meetings. The regular conferences and symposia (see below) organised by ICS provide opportunities to build crucial networks.

- All members of staff are entitled to funding for attending (at least) one international conference, and one UK conference (or EU conference at UK cost) per year, subject to the acceptance of paper proposals and a case being made to the Research Committee.
- A sabbatical scheme entitles all academic staff (whether full-time or part-time) on continuing contracts to a period of research leave every seventh semester, subject to a satisfactory case being made to the Research Committee.
- Research-active staff are asked to provide an annual analysis of their research achievements, aspirations and needs to assist support for and co-ordination of grant bids.
- Visiting and Emeritus Professors are given office accommodation and IT support, and play a full and active role in the Institute's research activities, especially Emeritus Professor Jay Blumler, John Corner (a Visiting Professor since 2008, who also acts as research mentor to numerous staff) and Sylvia Harvey (a Visiting Professor since 2010).

The local support mechanisms listed above are carefully co-ordinated with more general University support systems. A probation system is operated by the University, and probationers act as general mentors to new staff (who have a separate research mentor). All early career staff undertake a professional development course called the University of Leeds Teaching and Research Award (ULTRA). The university also has a Next Generation Researcher programme for the training and development of researchers at Leeds. The programme has been developed in line with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and the national Researcher Development Framework. For communication and media studies, the relevant training hub is LEAP: [www.leaptraining.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leaptraining.leeds.ac.uk). Skills developed through the programme include research project management, research management and leadership, grant proposal writing, and research dissemination. The University's Employment Policy for Research Staff describes how the University addresses the Concordat. Leeds was awarded the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research Award in 2010. Leeds also offers an integrated training and development service for all staff and PGR students addressing academic and professional development needs through its Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU).

**Systems in place to stimulate and facilitate exchange between academic researchers and non-academic groups and users:** These are described in greater detail in the Impact sections of Leeds' UoA36 submission, but here we would emphasise the CCI Exchange, a University initiative, established in 2011, that facilitates interaction with research users, operating across the PVAC and Arts Faculties. The CCI Exchange funds specific strategic initiatives and disburses funds to researchers on a competitive basis. ICS researchers have benefited from such funding to conduct pilot studies on social media monitoring (Kennedy) the teaching of speaking and listening in schools (Coleman) and carrying out public engagement work, such as the formation of a network of academics and activists concerned with quality of working life in the cultural industries (Hesmondhalgh and Oakley). Also notable is the PVAC Faculty 'hub', *Culture, Society and Innovation*, which brings together four URFs (University Research Fellows), including Thornham, the URF based in ICS, funded by £1 million of Leeds University money from its 'Transformation Fund', aimed at developing the public impact of key research strengths.

**Post-doctoral researchers:** ICS provides a culture in which post-doctoral researchers can thrive. For example, two prestigious post-doctoral ESRC research fellowships were awarded to researchers who were based in ICS during the REF period, one on race and the cultural industries (Saha), one on youth community music projects (Rimmer). Both researchers have gone on to full-time employment in leading universities, the former at Leeds, the latter at East Anglia. Other researchers are funded through research grants. Such researchers are treated as full colleagues, entitled to mentorship, funding etc, and are integrated into one or more of the five Research Groups. Postdoctoral researchers are given the opportunity to engage in teaching, as part of their professional development, fully mentored and supported by mentors and by module leaders. See also the section on 'Staff development' above.

**ii Research students** A now thriving community of postgraduate research (PGR) students is fully integrated into ICS and Leeds research culture, and students are treated as junior/trainee

academic colleagues. Research topics cover the full range of media, communication and cultural studies but research on the five themes identified above has been dominant in the REF period. Research students have their own dedicated area, appropriately equipped with computers and access to global satellite television channels, printing and copying facilities. They have access to funding to attend overseas and UK conferences. In addition to supervision tutorials, further research student training is provided by both ICS and the University, as follows. All PGR students undertake research methods training in year 1, by attending lectures and tutorials covering the full range of relevant research methods, and they also attend weekly seminars (22 sessions per year) addressing key issues facing PGR students (such as publication strategies, conference presentation, interdisciplinarity, responsibilities of researchers towards their subjects, debates about objectivity, and the social shaping of research). Seminars are held regularly which allow all academic staff to hear presentations by PGR students, especially those in year 3, and to provide constructive feedback. PGR students participate fully in research group meetings, presenting work, suggesting readings, and engaging in debate and discussion. These seminars are complemented by an extensive suite of seminars provided by the University's staff development unit on all aspects of postgraduate research, including the PhD process, managing research projects, presenting, writing and publishing, and academic integrity. Students assess their own progress using the University's 'audit-tool' which they discuss with their supervisors and mentors.

ICS achieved ESRC doctoral recognition in 2008 and is now part of the ESRC White Rose Doctoral Training Centre (jointly run by a consortium of the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York), established in 2011. The Institute's first two studentships under the new scheme were awarded in 2012 and 2013. ICS also has AHRC doctoral recognition under its Block Grants Partnership scheme and two awards have been made during the census period. From 2013, it is part of the White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (*WROCAH*), the Doctoral Training Partnership of the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, which will allow the new White Rose College to recruit and train more than 300 fully-funded doctoral students over five years, with the first cohort starting in autumn 2014. In addition, three ICS studentships are offered each academic year, equivalent to fees for home/EU students plus a maintenance payment in line with Research Council PGR scholarships. Eleven students have already been funded to completion by the ICS studentships. PGR students participate fully in research groups and centres, and where appropriate they work on conferences and symposia. First year PGR students organise an annual academic conference, with support and mentoring from academics. This allows research students to learn organisation and networking skills. Five such conferences have been held since 2007; keynote speakers have included Zygmunt Bauman, Natalie Fenton, Des Freedman, Monroe Price and Colin Sparks. ICS students have successfully bid to hold the MeCCSA PGR conference at Leeds in 2014.

The Research Committee includes the PGR Tutor, ensuring integration of PGR student issues into the research infrastructure. A PGR Committee meets separately, four times a year, and includes two representatives of the PGR students. Discussion centres on ensuring an excellent research student experience and high-quality scholarship. To ensure high completion rates, PhD students must pass, before twelve months of registration, a rigorous upgrading process, involving assessment by two members of staff who are not their supervisors, before they can proceed to full doctoral registration. PGR graduate destinations during the period include the Ford Foundation, the European Audiovisual Observatory in Strasbourg, digital editor at *Publico* newspaper (Portugal) and positions at top universities in the UK, Italy, Spain, China, South Africa and elsewhere.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

As explained in the Strategy section above, five core themes provide the structure for our research environment in the period from 2010 onwards. These themes enable individuals and groupings to pursue their growing collaborations locally, nationally and internationally. Each theme is pursued through a research group of the same name. Political Communication and Cultural Production and Policy research are also supported by active Research Centres, involved in significant conference and research grant activity, as indicated below. Details are elaborated below under each theme. In addition, informal reading groups have flourished, including groups on race and ethnicity, critical theory and African media. All these developments are in line with our strategy of transforming media and communication research at Leeds in order to contribute to the reshaping of sub-fields in response to economic, political and social change. The operation of research in ICS is supported by a Research Support Secretary (currently 80 per cent FTE) who works with the Research

Director and group leaders to co-ordinate conferences and symposia. In addition, the PVAC Research Office provides extensive support for the submission and maintenance of research grant bids.

**Political communication:** The Centre for Digital Citizenship exists to promote collaborative research on political communication within and beyond ICS. This has led to funded projects such as Coleman's AHRC-funded *Road to Voting* project, conducted between 2008 and 2011, which explored voters' experiences and asked questions about new ways in which citizens access information; Ann Macintosh (now Emeritus Professor)'s project, *Integrated Method for Policy Making using Argument Modelling and Computer Assisted Text Analysis*, funded between 2010-12 by the European Commission; Coleman and Moss's recently-funded EPSRC project to design tools to visualise arguments in the 2015 televised election debates for different audience types; and *The Impact of EU 'Constitutionalisation' on Public Claims-Making over Europe* (ESRC funded, with Firmstone as Research Fellow). The Centre regularly hosts major events, such as the 2010 international conference on *Online Deliberation* (hitherto only hosted in the United States), with the European head of Facebook and the White House Deputy Director of Online Communication as keynote speakers. Another key locus of activity is the Political Communication Research Group, which meets fortnightly to read significant publications and discuss contemporary themes. In 2009, the Group organized, with the Centre for Digital Citizenship, a two-day international conference on *Mediated Citizenship*, sponsored by ECREA and featuring Peter Dahlgren as keynote speaker. The Group is outward-facing, seeking to influence public debate about the current state and quality of political communication. In 2010, for example, Stephen Coleman was invited to give the inaugural David Butler lecture, which was televised by the BBC. As part of the RCUK/EPSRC Network Plus (discussed under Visual and Digital Cultures, below), political communication scholars from ICS have led a series of studies exploring strategies available to Leeds City Council in developing what it calls 'a more dialogical relationship' with those it represents. Coleman is leading a project, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, on the performance of political speaking within citizenship education, in collaboration with the BAFTA-award-winning digital media company, Bold Creative.

**Cultural production and policy:** The Media Industries Research Centre, established in 2008, and directed by Hesmondhalgh, has been a forum for several major projects, including *Creative Work in the Cultural Industries* (PI: Hesmondhalgh), funded by the AHRC from 2006 to 2009; *Communicating Copyright* (ESRC funded, 2010-11, PI: Klein; CIs: Edwards, Lee, Moss); and *Cultural Policy Under New Labour* (PI: Hesmondhalgh; CIs: Oakley, Lee, AHRC funded, 2012-14). Among the international conferences and symposia organised by the Centre have been the following: *Moral Economies of Creative Labour* (Leeds, July 2011); in conjunction with the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC), keynote speakers Susan Christopherson, Russell Keat and Andrew Sayer; *Living Cultures: Contemporary Ethnographies of Cultures* (Leeds, March 2009), keynote speakers Georgina Born and Les Back; *'Race' and the Cultural Industries* (Leeds, September 2011; in conjunction with the MeCCSA Race Network); keynote speakers musician Mykaell Riley and playwright Tanika Gupta; *Creative Work* (Milton Keynes, April 2009; in conjunction with ESRC CRESC); *Music, Politics and Agency* (one-day conference, May 2011, London), in association with the Centre for Cultural Research, University of East London. The Centre has also organised two ICA pre-conferences in association with ICA divisions such as Popular Communication and Philosophy of Communication: *Placing the Aesthetic in Popular Culture* (Boston, May 2011) and *Analysing Media Industries and Media Production* (Montreal, May 2008). In addition, the Centre is home to ECREA's Media Industries and Cultural Production Working Group, established in 2011 by Hesmondhalgh and chaired by him. This Group organised its inaugural plenary panel on 'Effects of Digitalisation on Media Production' at the ECREA conference in Istanbul in October 2012, and its inaugural conference on *Making Television in the Twenty First Century* in Aarhus, Denmark, in October 2013.

A major development in the **visual and digital cultures** theme and in ICS was the basing of the RCUK Digital Economy Network on Communities and Culture (2012-15, led by Thornham) in the Institute. This is an initiative which both conducts and funds research, supported by a full-time administrator and a post-doctoral research fellow (Gomez), both based in ICS. As well as funding an ICS project on *Digital Data Analysis* (led by Kennedy and Moss) the network has funded seven research projects involving partnerships across UK universities, industry and the third sector, leading to numerous publications. Other projects within this theme include *Open Archive: The*

*Miners' Strike* (PI: Popple) funded by the AHRC/BBC Pilot Knowledge Exchange Programme from 2007 to 2009, and the recently awarded *Pararchive: Open Access Community Storytelling and the Digital Archive* (PI: Popple), funded by the AHRC for £529,000 pounds, which began in October 2013. Colleagues working in this area have also been active in the organization of a number of conferences, exhibitions, and research events, including the 13<sup>th</sup> AOIR (Association of Internet Researchers) international conference in 2012 in Salford (Kennedy); a symposium at Leeds on practice-based methods for researching the visual and the digital in media and communication studies in 2012 (with keynote speakers Roshini Kempadoo and Mandy Rose); *Digging the Seam: Representations of the Miners' Strike*, Leeds, 2010 (Popple, Macdonald); *Visual Empires: the Fourth International Visual Delights Conference* held jointly with Sheffield University at Sheffield in 2009 (Popple).

**International communication:** As indicated above, this area has been reshaped and renewed during the REF period. Grants held by researchers working under this theme include Aiello's €100,000 Marie Curie Grant for the period from 2011-15 for her project on *Globalization, Visual Communication, Difference, and Transnational Television Cultures Reshaping Political Identity in the European Union* (held by Georgiou), both funded by the European Commission's Framework 7 Programme. Among numerous activities at Leeds were a major international conference on *Propaganda, Power and Persuasion* (2011) in honour of the work of the late Phil Taylor, at which the BBC foreign correspondent, Kate Adie, gave a keynote address, and *Mediations of Cultural Difference*, organised by the ECREA Diaspora, Migration and the Media section (2008, keynotes Marie Gillespie and Charles Husband). A sign of the reinvigorated dynamism of this theme is the recent award of 2.2 million euros by the European Commission to a project on *Media, Conflict and Democratisation*, led by Voltmer from within ICS, and involving eight partner institutions from across Europe, which began in November 2013.

The recently founded **journalism studies** research group comprises specialists and students working on both journalism practice and research, though most have experience in both areas. A one day international conference *Advancing Media Production Research*, was held in June 2013, featuring keynotes by Georgina Born and Philip Schlesinger.

ICS also organises a number of activities that brings all researchers together across these different themes, including a highly successful fortnightly research seminar series (without fail attended by over 20 people and usually double that), and conferences which transcend the different themes such as *Transformations in Broadcasting* (hosted in July 2012, with over 100 participants from 15 countries, keynote speakers included Lynn Spigel and Graeme Turner) and *Communication and the City* (June 2013, 100 participants from 20 countries, funded by the Urban Communication Foundation and the Catholic University of Milan). Also notable is the Annual Jay Blumler Lecture, a public lecture which in recent years has featured former *Financial Times* editor John Lloyd, Sonia Livingstone and Elihu Katz, among other notable speakers.

#### **e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

Key collaborations, partnerships, networks and joint research projects during this period include the following:

- As mentioned above, the RCUK/EPSRC's Digital Economy research network on *Communities and Culture*. Led by Thornham, this is a major partnership with the Universities of Aberdeen, Kent and Sussex (as co-Is) and with (through its steering group) Kew, BFI, CogApps, British Library and Thexton Warlock. This network both carries out and funds research. This makes ICS the base for the distribution of £1.4 million pounds of funding during the 2012-15 period.
- The *Impact of EU 'Constitutionalisation' on Public Claims-Making over Europe* project, funded by a three year Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) grant, part of a European Science Foundation (ESF) three-country collaboration (PI: Statham, co-applicant Firmstone). European partner institutions included Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany; ARENA Center for European Studies, University of Oslo; Universidad de Leon, Spain.
- A highly successful partnership with the Amsterdam School of Communication Research, University of Amsterdam. Outcomes have included a 2-day conference *Political Communication in Postmodern Democracy* and a collaborative volume of the same title, edited by Voltmer with Brants, published in 2011.
- As part of the CreativeWorks hub in London (AHRC KE Hub) Oakley's successful joint

funding application with 15 other UK Higher Education institutions.

- From 2006-9 Coleman was co-applicant on the US National Science Foundation-funded network on Online Consultation and Public Policy-making, involving scholars from eight countries and resulting in the volume, *Connecting Democracy: Online Consultation and the Flow of Political Communication* (2012, MIT Press).
- Macdonald's leadership of an international research group has led to the formation of the Screenwriting Research Network, now a formal international association with administrative support (based in Helsinki) and a programme of annual conferences.
- From 2007-9, Voltmer led a British Academy funded project on *Political Communications in New Democracies*, involving colleagues from Leeds, Bradford, Germany, and South Africa.
- Coleman has worked closely with the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, contributing two studies to its publication series and chairing its Academic Advisory Board.
- Klein has collaborated with the BBC College of Journalism to run an event at the BBC's Broadcasting House on *Social Issues in Entertainment Television* as part of her ESRC-funded project of the same name.
- Zoellner and Lax have represented Leeds in a joint comparative project between University of Leeds, UK (ICS) and University of Leipzig, Germany (Institut für Kommunikations- und Medienwissenschaft) and Ohio University, USA (Scripps College of Communication) about regional and local broadcasting 2011-12), funded by the Sächsische Landesmedienanstalt, Germany with a total budget of 105,000 euros (Zoellner).
- Lax collaborates with colleagues at the University of Tampere, University of Aarhus and Dublin Institute of Technology in the Digital Radio Cultures in Europe group (Drace.org) and was invited to speak at conferences organised by the European Broadcasting Union; its work was cited by EBU in their 2007 publication 'Public Radio in Europe'.

In addition, Leeds researchers have assumed leading positions in professional subject associations and learned societies, including the following:

- European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA): Voltmer is a member of the Executive since 2012, and Chair of Political Communication Section since 2010 (and was Vice-Chair 2008-2010); Hesmondhalgh is founding Chair of the Media Industries and Cultural Production Temporary Working Group
- International Association of Media and Communications Research (IAMCR): Paterson was Chair of Media Production Analysis division 1999-2010, elected council member 2012 on
- International Communication Association (ICA): Aiello has been Vice-Chair of Visual Communications Division Vice-Chair since 2012; Barnhurst was Chair, Political Communication Division from 2008 to 2010 and has served the ICA in numerous other ways, such as chairing its Logo Redesign Committee and chairing the Local Host Committee for the 2009 main conference in Chicago.
- Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA, based in Los Angeles): Enticknap is on the Board of Directors.
- UK Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association (MeCCSA): Lax and Macdonald have both served multiple terms on the national executive

Membership of editorial boards and Research Council or similar committees include the following: ESRC Peer Review College (Coleman, Edwards, Klein); AHRC panel members (Klein, Thornham); Review Panel Member, Agencia Nacional de Evaluación y Prospectiva (ANEP), of Spain's Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (Barnhurst), referee for the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (Barnhurst); member, Expert Panel, 'New Era Economics, IPPR, 2010-2013 (Oakley); Member of the Steering Group for NESTA's Creative Clusters and Innovation Project, 2009 (Oakley); European Science Foundation (ESF) pool of reviewers (Voltmer); Chair of the UK's Radio Studies network from 2009 to 2012 (Lax); founding editor of *Early Visual Popular Culture* (Poppo), founding co-editor of *Journal of Screenwriting* (Macdonald). Current members of ICS research staff have externally examined some 37 doctoral dissertations (17 internationally) during the REF period and have been involved in the organization of dozens of academic events, many of which are indicated above.