

<p>Institution: University of Bedfordshire</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 36 - Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p><u>RIMAP</u>: The Research Institute for Media, Arts and Performance, oversees research in four divisions (Journalism and Communication, Media Production, Art and Design, Performing Arts and English). Its aim is to develop world leading and internationally recognized research. RIMAP has responsibility for research projects and environment, external funding applications, and research students, working with the Research Graduate School, which provides administrative support. The Research Institute is led by the Director, who, with the Research Institute Board members, has responsibility for devising and implementing strategies to support research development. The Board meets once a term. The Research Institute has <i>International Research Networks</i>, <i>Centres</i> and <i>Research Groups</i>. Research students are recruited in areas of research strength and supervisory capacity. Interdisciplinary research is encouraged in research groups and centres.</p> <p><u>International Research Networks</u>: Current networks are: <i>Journalism and the Olympic Games</i> (JOG) led by Professor Garry Whannel; the UNESCO network: <i>New Media Forms of the Book</i>, led by Professor Alexis Weedon; and <i>Journalism and Democratic Transition in Africa</i> led by Professors Ivor Gaber and Jon Silverman and involving universities in the UK, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Namibia.</p> <p><u>Centres</u> are in areas of established research led by a Head of Centre, with an annual programme of events and activities which include research projects, conferences, development of archives, research informed teaching projects, exhibitions and other dissemination events. Centres are given an annual budget to support their programme of activities. Current centres: <i>Centre for International Media Analysis Research and Consultancy</i> (Professor Gaber and Professor Silverman) and <i>Centre for Applied Research in Dance</i> (Professor Helen Bailey).</p> <p><u>Research Groups</u> are led by research active members of staff and develop collaborative research activities. Current research groups are: <i>Journalism</i>, <i>New Media</i>, <i>Middle East Journalism</i> and <i>Social Media</i>.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>RIMAP research activity is documented in the Annual Report, and in monthly reports to the Faculty. Our five point research strategy for 2008-13, was described in RAE 2008, and we have made excellent progress, enhancing our activity in all five areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>1. Seeking funds from a wider range of external sources</u> Since 2008, around 40 funding bids have been submitted to more than 15 organisations, including AHRC, ESCRC, the Leverhulme Foundation, British Academy, UNESCO, UKDPC, the Arts Council of England, HEA, NESTA, IRIS (Australian Research Fund), the Nuffield Foundation, Ofcom, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust. Among the successes were Joanna Callaghan's <i>Ontological Narratives</i> project, awarded £45,000 and subsequently another £48,000 by the AHRC, Ivor Gaber's <i>Changing television news agendas</i> awarded £55,000 from the Leverhulme Foundation (jointly with the University of Westminster) and Jon Silverman's <i>Role of Media Transitional Justice in Sierra Leone and Liberia</i>, awarded £25,000 by the British Academy. Our income from research student fees has risen by 372% since 2008. <u>2. Development of CIMARC as a base for collaborative international research projects</u> Exemplified here by the Journalism and the Olympic Games Research Group, started in 2005. JOG – a group of senior scholars of media sport from five institutions – commenced with analyses of sport journalism during the build up to the Beijing 2008 Olympics, and continued through the London 2012 Olympics. The group is co-ordinated by Professor Whannel and the members are

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established researchers of great experience and considerable reputation, recognised by their peers around the world as being central figures in the development of cultural and sociological analysis of media sport. Rowe and Whannel were awarded an IRIS research grant in 2008, enabling Whannel to spend a month as a Research Fellow at the University of Western Sydney. Boyle, Rowe and Whannel co-authored a chapter for *The Routledge Companion to News and Journalism* (2010). Boyle and Whannel were guest editors in 2010 of a special issue of *Convergence: the International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*, on the theme of Sport in New Media Technologies. Boyle and Whannel were invited speakers at the University of Malaga Summer School, in 2008. Horne and Whannel published papers on the torch relay and on sponsorship, and were co-authors of *Understanding the Olympics* (2011) and also, with Professor Tomlinson (University of Brighton) and Professor Kath Woodward (Open University) were co-authors of a new edition of *Understanding Sport* (2012), issued as part of a series for the prestigious ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change.

3. Fostering of interdisciplinary research initiatives that link the University with the regional, national and international media and civil society agendas

CIMARC was established to develop international initiatives such as JOG (above), and is further exemplified by developments from consultancy work by Professor Ivor Gaber, setting up, in Uganda, new media networks and the country's first national news agency for commercial radio stations (ugandaradionetwork.com); and, in Nigeria, an election reporting network based on mobile telephony (iwpr.net/programme/nigeria-election-news-report). Professor Jon Silverman has been creating training projects in human rights and post-conflict reporting in Sierra Leone and Liberia. In 2012 they established the *Africa-UK Journalism Education Exchange Network*, (www.unesco-ki.org/ipdcprojects/content/africa-uk-journalism-education-exchange-network) involving African and British journalism schools, with an inaugural conference at the University. The event was jointly organised with the Polytechnic of Namibia, and funded by UNESCO, the Association for Journalism Education (AJE) and the University of Bedfordshire. Gaber is also the UK representative on the UN's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC: www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/intergovernmental-programmes/ipdc/) and is on the organizing committee for World Press Freedom Day (www.unesco.org.uk/world_press_freedom_day).

The UNESCO Chair on New Media Forms of the Book, awarded to Professor Weedon, was established at the University of Bedfordshire to improve access to knowledge, provide multiplatform resources, and to contribute to the objectives of *Education For All*. The UNESCO Chair is working with partners at the University of Utrecht, Jadavpur University, Monash University, and the Communications University of China. The project is developing cost-effective and borderless means of sharing book resources, providing knowledge transfer, focusing on the cultural implications of the book's adaptation, and developing models for understanding the role of the book. This work is contextualised by research on the history and development of the book and publishing by both Weedon and Owens.

4. Greater co-ordination of research activity to develop some of the core methodologies of applied and practice-led research

Exemplified here by film production: Dr Piotrowska's work (*The Unfinished Portrait of Lech Walesa, The Engagement Party*), which raise questions about documentary, ethics and subjectivity; the pedagogic-based short films of Garrabost Jayalakshmi; the AHRC-funded work of Joanna Callaghan, (*Ontological Narratives, PS* based on Derrida's *The Postcard*) which investigates the relation between narrative form and ontology; and the developing *River Lea* project, bringing together the University, schools, local history projects, and the local council.

5. Nurturing of new and young researchers particularly through participation in larger collaborative projects in the NMRG and CIMARC

RIMAP encourages new and young researchers through a range of means – participation in the regular RIMAP seminars and conferences, involvement in our Centres and Research Groups, and in funded research projects. One example is the relationship between the New Media Research Group, and the regular staging of the gaming and gamer conference, *Under the Mask*. The Group

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co-ordinator and conference co-ordinator Dr Gavin Stewart undertook his PhD at UoB, became a Research Fellow, and is now a senior lecturer. Former Research Fellows Dr Jason Wilson (University of Wollongong, NSW) and Dr Alison Gazzard (University of Hertfordshire) also worked on *Under the Mask*, and continue to maintain network contacts with us in their current institutions. Dr Steven Conway, now lecturing at Swinburne University, Melbourne, gained his PhD with RIMAP, became a Research Fellow and is now, in partnership with NMRG, organising an Australian conference linked to *Under the Mask*. Two current PhD students are also working on *Under the Mask*.

Research strategy 2013-2019

1. Increase numbers of research students and integrate research students more effectively into research groups.
2. Seek external funding from wide range of sources and develop research projects in conjunction with other institutions.
3. Further develop our established areas of interest – journalism, politics and the new media, interactive media and games, practice-based research, and new media forms of the book.
4. Strengthen existing external links and development of new links, networks and collaborations.
5. Focus our research priorities beyond the academy: around the theme of making connections – with appropriate local, regional and international organisations and projects.

Having made significant advances in line with all five points in our 2008-13 research strategy, our strategy for the next five years is intended to focus and enhance our research quality and strengthen related external links. For example – the River Lea project, which involves film, photography, documentation, historical research and exhibition, is forging links with the Luton Borough Council, local schools, and local history groups. It will also develop connections with all our established areas of research – journalism and politics; interactive media, and practice-based research.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

In 2009 the University and its Board of Governors declared that research was vital to continued development. The University Research Strategy requires that every academic appointment panel for academic staff must consider the research potential of the appointee. Senior University academic leaders are responsible for mentoring and developing of junior staff, guiding their career development. The Research Strategy aims that staff are engaged as part of a research team with a clear research strategy (see *University Research and Enterprise Strategy 2009-2014*). The Research Graduate School provides research career oriented training programmes, and organises an annual conference at which early career researchers are encouraged to present papers. In May 2013, UoB's institution-wide Concordat implementation plan, which will be rolled out in the coming period, was awarded the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research Award.

In line with University strategy, RIMAP ensures the mentoring of staff serves to enhance their research activity and development, and the Research Group leaders provide support and encouragement for external funding bids. RIMAP provides funding and offers encouragement for the giving of papers at conferences, and ensures that we are represented at the major annual conferences in our field. Students, post-graduate fellows and early career staff are all included in research groups; are encouraged to contribute papers to conferences and to the weekly RIMAP Seminars, and to submit papers to refereed journals. In the last two years RIMAP staff have published 16 books, 21 book chapters, 38 papers in refereed journals, and 47 conference papers. The RIMAP research strategy encourages staff to become involved with the key associations of our area (e.g. MeCCSA, SCMS, IAMCR). Early career staff are involved in graduate student supervision as supervisors, but are always mentored by an experienced Director of Studies.

University policy aims to create an inclusive environment where equality and diversity, in all their forms, are visible and a way of life for students and staff, while within and outside the University. This policy is implemented by the Single Equality Scheme. The University values people from all

social backgrounds, irrespective of their age, gender, race or ethnicity, disability status, trans status, sexual orientation, religion, belief or non-belief. The Single Equality Scheme goes beyond statutory requirements to embrace good practice measures. The University Research Strategy aims to ensure that this commitment to equality and diversity will also be important in the implementation of key actions, such as providing appropriate guidance and leadership, developing the productivity of research-active staff and attracting, appointing and retaining high quality staff to meet the demands of the Strategy. In the media area 47% of academic staff are female and 26% have ethnic origins that are other than white-British. A comprehensive programme for supporting staff development in the context of research has been established by the University following the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Research Staff*. In May 2013, UoB's institution-wide Concordat implementation plan was awarded the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research Award, which will be rolled out in the coming period.

RIMAP encourages staff to continue their practice work, to establish links with outside bodies and has actively recruited staff on fractional posts to enable them maintain their professional or creative work in non-academic contexts. For example, Gaber and Silverman continue to work as journalists and to provide training and consultancy in association with CIMARC. Piotrowska combines film-making with research and teaching. Hockley has developed links between his theoretical work on Jungian analyses of the media and his work as a practising psychotherapist. Fisher and Randell are active within Torin Douglas MBE, the BBC Media Correspondent 1989-2013, joins us as a Visiting Professor in 2014. We have benefited from a continuity of research active staff since 2008 – of the nine people listed in RAE 2008, eight are still with UoB and six are included in this UOA.

ii. Research students

RIMAP currently has 46 students undertaking PhDs, Masters by Research and Professional Doctorates. . New research students receive a comprehensive week-long induction course which includes guides to the Research Graduate School (RGS), and its processes. The RGS provides monitoring of progress and completions, and also stages an annual conference in which all research students participate. At the RIMAP induction day, students meet their fellow cohort members, existing research students, and their supervisors and learn about the Institute. RIMAP has two physical bases – the CIMARC Room, and the RIMAP student room. The RIMAP Director, and Directors of Studies for individual students, conduct training needs assessments, and arrange specific training and support needs. All students are allocated a Director of Studies and a Second Supervisor, as a minimum. Where appropriate supervisory teams may be reinforced with additional members who offer specific expertise.

Since 2008, in accordance with our research strategy we have increased research student numbers four-fold. We currently have 46 research students, a 27% increase on 2012-13. 25 are on MPhil/PhD programmes, 15 Masters by Research, and 6 on Professional Doctorates. The gender balance is 48% male 52% female. All research students are encouraged to attend weekly RIMAP Seminars and weekly CIMARC Screenings. RIMAP Seminars have featured over 100 guest speakers since 2008, giving our research students access both to senior scholars in the field and to new innovative researchers. Recent speakers in Autumn 2013 include Professor Christine Geraghty and Professor Paddy Scannell, and invited speakers for Spring include Professor Graham Murdock and Professor Richard Dyer. The seminars also enable our own staff and research students to present their work to colleagues. Where possible research students are linked to the work of a research group, and the active informal exchange of ideas is strongly encouraged.

The RIMAP director reviews student progress regularly, and the Research Graduate School monitor student progress on a monthly basis. There is also an annual monitoring process. Research students are encouraged to attend conferences, present paper and publish their research. In the last three years, three of our doctoral students have been funded by RIMAP to present papers at conferences in North America. Research students are encouraged to develop links between their research and possible end users in areas in which they may wish to work. In their last year before submission, research students are given support and encouragement to apply for post-doctoral research funding. We have a policy of recruiting our best Masters students

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to research degrees and we maintain links with our best research students after they graduate. Examples include: Dr Akmal (PhD > RIMAP Visiting Research Fellow, based in Cairo); Dr. Stewart (BA > PhD > staff, organiser of *Under the Mask*); Dr Conway (MA > PhD > Post Doc fellow > Swinburne University, contact for *Under the Mask*); Lisa Thomas (MA > Research assistant > PhD), Steven Dumbleton (MA > PhD > *Under the Mask*).

RIMAP funds at least one post-doctoral research post each year, and it is our policy to apply for post doctoral research funding and to encourage our doctoral students to apply for such posts. Since 2008 five of our post-doctoral research fellows (Wilson, Stewart, Conway, Gazzard, Miller) have all played an organising role in the *New Media Research Group* and in the staging of the regular conference *Under the Mask*. Dr. Stewart joined us as a lecturer in 2009

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Our income to support research is derived from external funding awards, Quality Research (QR) funding, income from research student fees, and general infrastructure support from the University. External funding awards have been gained from diverse sources, for example: AHRC (Cross Media Adaptations 2005-09 - £180,000, Re-locating choreographic practice £45,000, Ontological Narratives £60,000 and £45,000); Leverhulme Foundation (News Agendas (with University of Westminster, £25,000); British Academy (Media Transitional Justice £25,000); GLA Ethnic Media £28,200; HFEA £8000; B:Fest £11,200; Ofcom Community Radio Fund £8,605. The QR funding, each year, supports conference attendance, the staging of conferences, and other research activities. Research student fees income for RIMAP has increased every year since 2008 by a yearly average of 52% and last year brought in £147,000.

The RIMAP Students Room is a workroom for our research students, and during 2014 we will be moving into a larger workspace. The CIMARC Room, used for seminars, screenings, guest speakers, workshops and MA courses, contains a substantial collection of books, journals, papers and press cuttings. The media facilities include a television studio, radio studio, the community radio station RadioLAB, a newsroom, theatre, and digital editing suites. The University library contains the Manuel Alvarado Collection: In 2010 we were fortunate to receive the books and papers of our former colleague Professor Manuel Alvarado, who died in 2010. Alvarado was a key figure in the development of media education and was at various points editor of *Screen Education*, Head of BFI Education, and Director of the University of Luton Press. In 2011 we further augmented our resources with the generous donation of Edward Buscombe's collection of books, journals and papers. Buscombe, for many years head of BFI Publishing, is a leading world expert in the Western genre, and author of the definitive account of contemporary world cinema, *Cinema Today*. Together the Alvarado and Buscombe collections constitute a considerable enhancement of our research study resources.

We regard staging conferences as a major element in our research environment. They enable our research students and early career research staff to gain early career experience of presenting papers and enable them to network with subject specialists from other institutions. The most significant milestone to date was our hosting of the 2012 Annual Conference of our subject association, MeCCSA. Other examples include: the annual conference of the Media and Politics section of the Political Studies Association (2012) and the Journalism Research Group's international conference *Media in the Enlarged Europe*, which resulted in an edited book featuring 24 international scholars (2008). This paved the way for a second international conference, *The End of Journalism? Technology, Education and Ethics*, in 2008, coordinated by Charles and Stewart, and supported by CIMARC. The conference featured more than 50 speakers, including journalists and academics from fourteen countries. In 2012 we hosted the first conference of the *Africa/UK Journalism Education Exchange*. In 2013 we staged *Spaghetti Cinema* a festival and conference, the first of a series on Italian popular cinema being organised by Fisher; launched the BEDS-DOC FEST series of events in collaboration with Birkbeck College, and staged *Embodied Encounters: New Psych-Analytic Approaches to Film*, at the Freud Museum.

Another element in our research environment brings together theoreticians and practitioners;

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analysts and creative workers. On the theme of cross-media work, the interdisciplinary colloquium, *Cross-media cooperation between the publishing, theatrical and media industries*, at the Institute of English Studies, University of London, was organised by Professor Alexis Weedon as a dissemination outcome of the AHRC project *Cross-media cooperation in Britain in 1920s and 1930s*. In 2009 Joanna Callaghan organised *Circularity, Narrative and Aesthetic Translation: Practice-based Symposium*. On the theme of new media and game studies: In 2008, the New Media Research Group staged the first *Under the Mask: Perspectives on the Gamer*. *Under the Mask* has become an annual event, and a significant component in the relation between games studies, the game design industry, and professional gamers. On the theme of creative writing: the 2008 conference *Is it Still a Paradox: Post-Graduate Creative Writing* was followed in 2009 by *Playful Paradox: Creative Writing on Campus 2009*. The third *Playful Paradox* was staged in 2010.

In addition we have staged several student-run film festivals, such as the *Chinese Film Festival* Feb 2009 (six film screenings, two guest speakers and a talk on the Chinese Creative and Cultural Industries by Mr Wenjun Zheng, Director of the Innovation Office of the China Guanghua Foundation. StudentScreen, a student run group, staged the 2012 festival, *Growing Pains – Images of Youth in World Cinema*, which examined the struggles of youth displayed in a variety of world cinema. As part of our commitment to make connections with local communities, an MRes on Arts festival organisation by Robyn Saklatvala in 2008 created *B: Fest* a new Arts Festival for Luton designed to showcase artistic talent in the town. B-Fest was staged again in 2009, and in 2010 B:Fest was renamed the Luton Arts Festival.

The Research Institute encourages research bids and consultancy contracts. The RIMAP director, advised by the RIMAP Board is responsible for managing an appropriate balance between the scholarly, organisational and operational infrastructures.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

1. Collaborative arrangements:

In addition to network activities described above, the UNESCO chair leads a research group in new media forms of the book, involving researchers from industry. Partners include University of Utrecht, Jadavpur University, Monash, and Communications University China. We also have partnerships with Griffith University and South Illinois University and have had collaborative research projects with Oxford University, Westminster University and the University of Sierra Leone. Whannel was an IRIS Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Western Sydney in 2008. RIMAP welcomes visiting scholars, and establishes visiting Professorships and Honorary Research Fellowships (e.g. Professor Torin Douglas, Professor Alec Gerlis, Professor William Baker, Dr May Witwit).

2. Membership of Research Council or similar committees:

Gaber is a UK Representative on the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication. Silverman is a Member of the African Peace Research and Education Association (APFRE).

3. Involvement on university research advisory panels:

Five staff members are or have been AHRC Peer Assessors. Gaber is an ESRC peer assessor. Weedon and Gaber are both designated experts for the UK UNESCO National Commission which provides policy advice to government in the fields of UNESCO's competence.

4. Leading positions in professional subject associations and learned societies:

Fisher is founder and co-chair of the SCMS "Transnational Cinemas" Group; Hockley is Member of the Jungian Society for Scholarly Studies, USA; Gaber is Council Member of the Academy of Social Science and a Board member of the Campaign for Social Science; Weedon is Director, Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing; Charles is co-convenor of the Political Studies Association Media and Politics Group; Whannel: has been Convenor, IAMCR Popular Culture Group; Gordon is a member of the MeCCSA Executive Committee;

5. Editorial positions:

Weedon: Founding Editor of *Convergence*; Hockley: Joint Editor in Chief of the *International Journal of Jungian Studies*, and a member of the International Advisory Board for *Spring Journal*; Silverman: Editorial Advisory Group, *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*. RIMAP researchers are on the editorial board of twelve journals, including *British Journalism Review*, *Journalism Education*, *Journal of Media Practice*, *Journal of Arab and Muslim Media Research*, *Policy Review*, *Journal of Middle East Media (USA)*, *Transnational Cinemas Journal*, *Journal of Arab & Muslim Media Research (UK)*.

6. Examination of doctorates:

Our staff have conducted almost 40 doctoral examinations at more than 20 universities, including Oxford University, London School of Economics, Copenhagen University, University of Queensland, University of Newcastle, Griffith University, (all Australia) University of Waikato, NZ, Leicester University, Sheffield University, University of Reading.

7. Organisation of conferences and scholarly encounters:

In addition to the many national and international conferences staged at UoB, dept members have also been involved in organizing:

Annual conference for the Association of Contemporary Iberian Studies; International symposium of PRISMA (Pedagogia e Ricerca sui Sistemi Musicali Assistiti) (University of Plymouth); Understanding Islam conference (Kingston University); Arab Creative Women Conference (Kingston University); Annual Conference of Research in Jung and Analytical Psychology (New Orleans); The Jungian Society for Scholarly Studies conferences (Loyola, Chicago, and New Orleans); Jung's Analytical Psychology In Conversation With A Changing World Joint International Conference with the International Association for Analytical Psychology (IAAP) and the International Association for Jungian Studies (IAJS) (Braga, Portugal).

Also conferences on media and civil society (Liberia); on media reporting and war crimes trials (Sierra Leone); on the media and prejudice (Hungary).

8. Refereeing academic publications or research proposals:

Staff act as referees for the ESRC, the AHRC and the ADM; and as reviewers for over 35 journals, including the *International Journal of Communication*; the *Journal of Contemporary European Research, Media, Culture and Society*, and *Theory Culture and Society*; and act as reviewers for a dozen major publishers including the OUP, Sage, Routledge and Blackwell.

9. HEI consultancies; scholarly awards or fellowships:

Independent Editorial Adviser, BBC Trust.

Fellow of the Royal Television Society.

Two Fellows, Royal Society of Arts, UK.

Six Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

Gaber is a member of: Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Freedom of Expression Panel; International Advisory Board, Centre for the Study of Global Media & Democracy; Advisory Council Hansard Society for Parliamentary Government; and an Academician, Academy of Social Science.

Mellor is Programme reviewer for the Danish Institute for International Studies, 2010; and Programme reviewer for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

10. Invited keynotes, lectures and/or performances:

Staff have given over 75 keynotes or guest lectures in 70 different institutions, in 14 different countries, including Cambridge University, Oxford University, University of California, University of London (SOAS), Georgetown University, University of Copenhagen, Stockholm University, Lisbon University, University of Warsaw, Griffith University, University of Western Sydney, Queensland University of Technology, Polytechnic of Namibia. Staff members have contributed to conferences and other events in more than 40 countries since 2008.