

Institution: Brunel University
Unit of Assessment: 29 – English Language and Literature
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>English at Brunel combines two subject areas, English and Creative Writing. Following the strategic expansion to 17 staff in 2008, there has been further growth to 25 staff (see c.i. below) with 17 situated in English and 8 in Creative Writing. 24 staff will be returned for assessment in 2014. We aim to establish English at Brunel as a leading research department with a high proportion of excellent and world-leading research and a diverse range of interests and approaches. Our research is organized within two major research centres: the Brunel Centre for Contemporary Writing (BCCW), and the Brunel Gender and Sexuality Research Centre (BGSRC). Since 2008, staff have published 56 books, 171 chapters and journal articles, 28 edited volumes, and 40 other quality publications, and has generated £761k in external research income.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>English at Brunel is characterised by a diverse range of critical approaches to major literary periods, geographies, and movements, with particular emphases on marginalised forms and groups and on critical methods and topics that engage with contemporary intellectual and social issues. Our methodologies offer novel models of interdisciplinary research and foster interactions between creativity and critical endeavour.</p> <p>Brunel continues as a leading research centre for contemporary literature and theory, with the Brunel Centre for Contemporary Writing having developed into a major institutional presence in the field. Brunel has one of the strongest UK concentrations of researchers working in this area (Gaston, Hubble, Knepper, Lynch, Mondal, Morrison, Spurlin, Tew and Watkin). Strengths in Creative Writing have been reinforced by the arrival of three major contemporary writers – Self, Zephaniah, and Evaristo – who have joined Brayfield, Thorne, Kinnings and Penny; all have made significant contributions to the UK and international literary scene. Evaristo initiated the Arts Council for England <i>Free Verse</i> report into the lack of publishing opportunities for poets of colour in the UK (2006, commissioned by the Arts Councils of England, Scotland and Wales and produced in association with http://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/). <i>Free Verse</i> resulted in the creation of a national development programme for black and Asian poets funded by ACE (see http://thecompleteworks.net/). More recently, Evaristo has established the Brunel University African Poetry Prize (http://www.africanpoetryprize.org/), funded by the University, the Africa Centre, and the Commonwealth Foundation. Zephaniah has, of course, been a major voice in black British poetry for many years.</p> <p>The arrival of Betteridge, Knowles, and Trevisan has deepened strengths in the field of early modern studies, and they join Leahy and Evenden in constituting an interdisciplinary research cluster with important external partnerships. Methodological innovation is fostered through the interdisciplinarity of the centres, our interest in literature and philosophy (Gaston, Watkin), and our commitment to combining social science methods and approaches with literary methods and topics, supported by a recent university-funded ‘New Humanities’ seminar series which integrated researchers in Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, and Engineering and Design.</p> <p>Centres and Clusters</p> <p>Our research structure facilitates engagement with a wide range of areas and sub-specialisations within English studies and embeds innovative and interdisciplinary approaches. We host two university-funded and approved research centres:</p> <p>Brunel Centre for Contemporary Writing (BCCW) examines contemporary writing including prose, poetry and poetics, popular genres and fictions, and postcolonial literatures and theory. Through its programmes (notably the Fiction and the Cultural Mediation of Ageing Project), publications, and networks it fosters connections between creative writing and practice-based research and pioneers innovative forms of literary and socio-cultural research. Its research combines narrative techniques with qualitative social research and unites intellectual enquiry with everyday life, especially through the study of ageing and inter-generational relations (allied to the Brunel Institute of Ageing Studies).</p>

Brunel Gender and Sexuality Research Centre (BGSRC) explores the significance of gender and sexuality as categories of social understanding and intellectual analysis in different historical periods, geographical arenas, and intellectual and disciplinary contexts illustrated in English through a strong comparative and postcolonial research cluster, work in medical humanities, and through historically-oriented research in masculinities and sexualities (linked to the Centre for Biomedicine & Society).

Recent appointments have created the **early modern studies research cluster** with particular interests in identities (Evenden, Knowles, Leahy), literary geographies (Betteridge, Knowles, Trevisan), and dramatic and ceremonial cultures (Betteridge, Knowles, Leahy, Trevisan), informed by strong comparative interests (Evenden, Trevisan), work on religion and culture (Betteridge, Evenden) and textual transmission including authorship studies (Betteridge, Evenden, Knowles, Leahy). A fourth, hybrid, centre, the **Creative Enterprise Centre**, part of the Creative Industries Research Network, promotes links between our Creative Writing team and the wider creative industries, especially the publishing industry, benefitting our creative writing MA and doctoral students (see c ii) but also undergraduate employability.

English and Creative Writing is distinguished by outward-looking and socially-engaged research. We have a keen sense of the potent contribution of English studies and creative work to social issues and policy analysis, seeking an enhanced role for our discipline in the intellectual, social, and political fabric of our culture. Self was appointed by the School of Arts and the School of Social Sciences with a remit to foster public engagement and new thinking across disciplinary and institutional frontiers. Fiction and the Cultural Mediation of Ageing pioneered new research methods that led to the widely-cited DEMOS *Coming of Age* report. Will Self's digital essay *Kafka's Wound*, produced in collaboration with the *London Review of Books*, the BBC, and colleagues in Computing, Engineering, Music, and Theatre exemplifies our innovative creative approaches (see <http://thespace.lrb.co.uk/>).

Strategic Review (2008-14). After 2008 and a strong RAE performance our key aims were: (1) to improve the quantity and quality of our research and to be recognised as an internationally outstanding research centre. (2) To consolidate areas of strength defined in 2008 (contemporary literature and theory, creative writing, and marginalised and non-canonical writings) and develop new research areas (especially early modern). (3) To expand from our original research base through significant investment in both research-active staff and support facilities by obtaining substantial new posts and institutional support from the University. This investment has enabled us to extend our areas of research strength (gender and sexualities, early modern) whilst consolidating existing ones (creation of large-scale projects and teams in BCCW). We now have a more multi-dimensional research profile. Finally, (4) to grow our strong traditions in externally-oriented and socially-engaged research and to maximize "research impact".

Achieving Our Strategy. We have achieved our key strategic aims. Following the growth to 17 staff (2008), there has been further strategic expansion to 25 staff (see c.i. below), all but one of whom will be returned for assessment, demonstrating our approach to employing high-quality research-active staff. Six new chairs have been appointed to provide research leadership (Betteridge, Gerzina, Knowles, Spurlin in English; Self and Zephaniah in Creative Writing) and support the current research professors (Tew, Watkin). We have increased our outputs and improved their quality, we have achieved substantial grant capture. Our centres and networks have made major contributions to national and international debates (FCMAP's work with DEMOS), enhancing our profile through internationally significant events and conferences, and through supporting innovative and creative activities such as *Kafka's Wound*. We have developed important projects round our library resources, especially South Asian Diaspora Literature and Arts Archive (SALIDAA), which has received substantial university investment and external (HLF) funding (see d below). More recently, the appointment of Betteridge has brought the large-scale 'Staging and Representing the Scottish Court' project (AHRC funded, with University of Edinburgh and Scottish Heritage) to the School (<http://www.stagingthescottishcourt.org>).

New appointments have enabled research collaborations and cross-fertilisations to develop in relation to and across the established centres and clusters: in gender and sexuality studies (Spurlin, Knowles, Cox, Knepper), which fostered the creation of BGSRC; and in post-colonial studies (Zephaniah, Gerzina, Evaristo, Mondal, Morrison, Knepper and Penny), where there is also

a significant overlap with the gender and sexuality group in the work of Knepper and Spurlin, who works on north African-Arab queer identities. Comparative and international frameworks are also common across the work of early modern scholars (Knowles, Trevisan, and Evenden), the trans-Atlantic perspective of Tew (co-editor of *Symbiosis*), Gaston and Watkin's work on continental philosophy, and the global perspective of the post-colonial cluster. Synergies have emerged between Betteridge, Evenden and Mondal, all of whom are working on religion and literature; and between the Tew, Hubble and Morrison team working on the fictional mediation of ageing with Lynch's work on youth and childhood in life-writing.

For a recently created unit in a new School of Arts (2004) we have achieved major success in grant capture. Personal fellowships have gone to Evenden (EU) and Mondal (AHRC), Betteridge is Col for a large AHRC research grant, and the Fiction and the Cultural Mediation of Ageing (FCMAP) team (Tew, Morrison, Hubble) is one of 4 projects within the research portfolio of the Brunel Institute of Ageing Studies funded by the ESRC New Dynamics of Ageing Programme, the largest concentration of such grants in any UK university. FCMAP received follow-on funding in 2012.

This multi-dimensional framework has produced, and will continue to generate over the next five years, research that addresses some of the major questions facing contemporary societies, particularly round ageing, communities, social marginalisation and identity, and the role of religion. In the last five years, the unit has established the basis from which to do just that: Tew, Hubble and Morrison's work on social and cultural gerontology, as well as Lynch's on childhood in life-writing and cyber-identities bespeak the need to examine health, well-being and the digital economy; Mondal's work on contemporary Muslim identities, the crises of multiculturalism and freedom of speech controversies addresses global uncertainties, as do Knepper (precarity, globalization and the state of exception) and Gaston (Derrida and war). Social inclusion and the interactions of different communities and values in a multicultural world are central to our research. Recent work by Penny using dramatherapy and storytelling to counter female genital mutilation in Africa and the UK, initially supported by University KT funding, has been awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship (2013-14) and a Wellcome Trust grant.

Developing the strategy (2014-2020). We will utilise Brunel's established frameworks and strategies to support excellent, interdisciplinary, and collaborative world-class research (c, d and e below), by the continued appointment of high-quality staff, by strengthening mentoring and support systems, and by expanding postgraduate and post-doc numbers. We will have three focal points:

1. *New cross-disciplinary research clusters:* current work in the medical humanities (Spurlin) and early sexualities (Knowles) will collaborate with the BGSRC and the Centre for Biomedicine and Society to frame new research projects. Recent collaborations with the Schools of Social Sciences and Health Sciences and Social Care to develop new perspectives on multiculturalism and contemporary Muslim youth identities (Mondal) will be directed towards a taught masters and doctoral research programme in multiculturalism with Social Sciences (in 2014).
2. *New methods:* we will develop the FCMAP approach alongside Social Sciences where a new centre in methodology is planned. In parallel, we will make greater use of creative outputs in the critical research process (e.g. Penny's FGM project). Stimulated by the multi-disciplinary *Kafka's Wound*, the Creative Industries Research Network will be reshaped with new inputs from Creative Writing, Computing, Engineering, and Design, to expand the interplay between critical and creative practice.
3. *Extramural Partnerships:* aligned with University's partnerships review, English will develop its Sorbonne links, identify major European research partners to augment postgraduate and early career researcher numbers and seek project-based collaborations in the EU and US. We wish to increase the number of doctoral and postdoctoral students on short-term placement, and also expand our visiting professoriate to enrich the research culture of the School. The projects and partnerships will contribute to strategic income generation which already targets post-doctoral funding (we have 6 pending Marie Curie applications submitted in 2013).

English and Creative Writing will, therefore, situate its research more firmly in interdisciplinary

Environment template (REF5)

networks and international collaborations to stimulate world-leading research. We will expand our methodological expertise and create new ways of 'public-oriented thinking' especially around identities, sexualities, and inter-generational justice. We will 'hard-wire' research impact into the ethos and practice of English research, and more robust School level research planning and improved training and mentoring will strengthen our grant capture. We foresee a substantial increase in grant income (especially EU) to support this ambitious research development programme.

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

The *staffing strategy* 2008-13 has consolidated identified areas of strength while adding extra dimensions through the recruitment of early career academics demonstrating world-leading research potential and senior researchers at professorial level to provide research leadership. Excellence in research has been the key criteria at all levels. Four lecturers have been appointed – Knepper in contemporary/post-colonial; Cox in C19th literature; Lynch in contemporary writing, especially Irish studies; and Trevisan in early modern. English has benefitted from four new professors recruited as part of the University's research leadership strategy (Betteridge, Knowles, Spurlin, Gerzina); in Creative Writing, a further two professors were also recruited as part of this scheme (Self, Zephaniah). Knowles leads the early modern research cluster, whilst working with Spurlin in developing the unit's research on gender and sexuality; Gerzina leads both C19th literature and the existing post-colonial research group; and Self and Zephaniah lead Creative Writing following Weldon's departure.

Researcher development is integrated into a range of formal policies and procedures and supported by the University through a comprehensive training programme, facilitated by Staff Development, with one-off training sessions (research ethics, intellectual property, open access, impact generation). The Research Support and Development Office (RSDO) provides training and assistance in the completion of funding bids and other initiatives. Mid-career staff are trained for leadership roles by the ASPIRE programme. University researcher support procedures have been awarded the European Commission's 'HR Excellence in Research' (2011) in recognition of its commitment to the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*, and have introduced an Athena SWAN Research Award for women returning from maternity leave. As part of the promotions process, the University organises workshops, led by the University Equality Champion to support women applying to promotion (three of the nine promotions since 2008 have been women: Evenden, Knepper, Lynch). At School level research is supported by a Deputy Head of School and a research and postgraduate office (3 FT staff), and the DHoS runs staff training sessions in collaboration with RSDO, such as a research development package for ECR staff focused on project development, as well as an early career mentoring group.

Formal schemes which support directly the production of the research include Research Leave, a centrally administered competition open to all post-probationary staff, that provides funding for research leave for one to three terms in order to begin, consolidate, or complete a specific research project; it is awarded on the academic merit of the project and its potential contribution to the research strategy, rather than on a periodic basis calculated on length of service. Mondal, Watkin and Gaston have been successful under this scheme, enabling both to complete projects that were integral to the research strategy. In 2008-9 Mondal was awarded two terms to work on the discourses of 'the crisis of multiculturalism', which subsequently became the basis for a major project on Muslim freedom of expression controversies that was awarded an AHRC Research Fellowship in 2012-13.

The University's BRIEF award, which provides start-up funds for projects, is explicitly related to the personal development plan of young researchers. Hubble, Evenden, Penny and Knepper have received BRIEF awards since 2008. Knepper secured £4465 BRIEF funding for her 'Modernist Moves' project (2012), which produced several outputs (conference paper, proposed special issue of a journal, and an international symposium). Penny, awarded £8k to undertake a pilot project using dramatherapy and creative writing in Cape Town, has created a larger collaborative project in Kenya also pump-primed by a university knowledge transfer award, and has attracted Winston Churchill Trust and Wellcome funding. Plans are in place for a major grant bid which builds on this

work.

Administered by RSDO the Knowledge Transfer Secondment Scheme, designed to maximise the University's research impact and to facilitate exchanges beyond the HE sector, funded Brayfield's £14k project (2010-11) that enabled the Creative Enterprise Centre (CEC) to employ a consultant publishing analyst to produce a report that covered the entire London publishing industry plus related bodies (e.g. Skillset). This has led to postgraduate modules in publishing that have increased the employability of Brunel English and Creative Writing graduates, building on our success at Master's level where 30 publishers and agents offer internships. (See below ii).

Alongside these mechanisms, the Head of School and Subject Leader operate interlocking arrangements that relieve staff of teaching and marking duties for varied periods (normally one term) to enable the completion of significant research projects. The flexibility of such arrangements enables the School's research priorities to be met and also ensures that research momentum is sustained, especially: Thorne used 9 months teaching relief (2010-11) to complete his major biography of Prince; and Kinnings received three months to complete the novel *Sacrifice* (2012). The School also allocates mentors from their primary field of research and staff can draw on that wider and deeper disciplinary knowledge to further their research and career development (see 'case studies' of Evenden and Hubble below). Personal mentoring is designed to enhance the efficacy of formal processes.

The formal arrangements for research management include annual appraisal by the Subject Leader or Head of School with target setting for senior staff. During probation, the research skills and output of early career researchers are annually monitored. The structure of probation and appraisal corresponds exactly to the criteria for promotion so staff can understand how their achievements might translate into evidence for successful career advancement. In addition, senior academics also provide institutionally focussed research leadership that facilitates the career development of early career staff. The BGSRC, for example, originally conceived and established by Cox and Knepper as an interdisciplinary network, evolved into a University Research Centre (URC) with the arrival of Professors Spurlin and Knowles (URCs require leadership at professorial level); Cox and Knepper continue to work within the BGSRC, and their efforts have been recognised at University level. Tew's leadership of the BCCW since 2008 has enabled many newer scholars, such as Hubble, Knepper, Lynch, and Morrison, to develop their research through its projects (see section d for more details). Both URCs have enabled and facilitated projects devised by early career researchers, offering institutional and infrastructural support as well as access to designated research funds.

The development of **Hubble** and **Evenden** demonstrate how our integrated policies enhance individual careers and facilitate world-class research. **Hubble** joined the School in 2007 as a Lecturer, and has worked closely with Tew, becoming Deputy Director of the BCCW (2008); together they have established it as a premier UK centre for research in contemporary literature. Through BCCW, Hubble developed several research projects (one of which was awarded a BRIEF award in 2010 – see d, e) establishing him as key figure in a number of international research networks (Intermodernism Network, AHRC Middlebrow Network, Modernist Studies Association) and which have resulted in significant publications (*The Decades Series: British Fiction*, 4 vols). In 2008, Tew and Hubble assembled the FCMAP project under the aegis of the BCCW, which was awarded £290k from the AHRC-ESRC, and has resulted in a co-authored book (2013). Promoted to Senior Lecturer (2010), Hubble was appointed as Subject Leader (2012). **Evenden**, appointed in 2007, was awarded BRIEF funding in 2008 to begin a project on the history of early modern Anglo-Portuguese relations and printing, including funding to learn Portuguese. This seed funding led to the award of a \$5k Folger Shakespeare Library Fellowship (2011) on early modern Luso-Hispanic and Anglo-Spanish relations. With the arrival of Knowles in 2012, and under his guidance, Evenden secured a Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship to undertake research at Harvard, producing a monograph, articles, and an online database. In 2012 she was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

ii. Research students

Since 2008 English has increased its taught postgraduate and doctoral recruitment: the subject has 46 registered PhD students (16 at RAE2008) and numbers have grown in investment areas

such as postcolonialism (8) and early modern studies (2) with 10 completions since 2008. University fee waivers now facilitate the progress of Brunel students to doctoral study. In 2011, the three specialist English MAs were consolidated into one MA in English Literature, which has recruited strongly (14, 2011; 16, 2012). An AHRC standard research training programme is integrated into the curriculum, and in 2012 two of the initial cohort (both Brunel BA graduates) registered for PhDs. Students on the two MA streams (Creative Writing: The Novel; Creative and Professional Writing) have progressed to doctoral status (6). The Creative Writing Master's integrated impact and employability into its work, so that alongside the numerous placements, Brayfield's CILLAS award (2009) initiated a programme of writers' residencies for MA students in Brunel (including ones with SALIDA and the Burnett Archive: see below, d) which led to, for example, a biography of Ayrton Senna following a placement with the Brunel Motorsport Team. On the MAs in Creative Writing one third of the cohort gains professional representation annually (figures that compare well with top benchmark departments).

This sustained expansion is underpinned by the institutional support for postgraduate research. Brunel has a dedicated Graduate School with six staff, £0.5M per year internal funding and well equipped 674m² facilities, and excellent, innovative doctoral training. The University has an outstanding track-record in early career researcher development (especially from EU Marie Curie programmes), and an established reputation in doctoral training. Graduate School staff have, for instance, led the development of Vitae leadership training programmes; and the model offered by the Centre for Biomedicine and Society research training centre (the only social science led group to receive a five-year Wellcome Trust Strategic Award, 2009-2014) is being adopted across the University.

At School level, formal procedures monitor the progress of doctoral students (Annual Progress Review) and record supervisions (at least 8 per year). The annual 'Researching the Arts' doctoral conference, at which students present their work-in-progress, binds together the graduate community, and is expanding into a joint venture with other HEIs who wish to nurture interdisciplinary research. Doctoral students may access School funding for courses and conferences (£40k pa) and University funding for travel expenses related to research (Vice-Chancellor's Travel Prize). Recent space re-allocations have provided more workspace and research training and networking makes extensive use of the new Antonin Artaud Centre.

The Brunel e-journal *EnterText* provides a platform for postgraduate students to gain experience of editing, developing and maintaining an editorial team, and peer-reviewing. Doctoral students have been regular contributors to and attendees at the many BCCW and BGSRC Research Seminar series (see section d and e below). In Creative Writing, doctoral students are the principal beneficiaries of the 'Writers Talking' series, which has drawn internationally-renowned authors to Brunel (e.g. Erica Wagner, Tim Lott, Victoria Hislop) to share their expertise. The CEC facilitates strong contacts with the publishing industry and literary agencies, and many of our doctoral students have directly benefitted from these institutional channels: students have been published by major publishers (O'Reilly with Myriad, Lefteri with Quercus) and Schwarz has a three book deal for steam-punk novels with Random House's new imprint (which her novels launch) in the UK, US, and Germany. Allison has published with Granta, and Holloway-Smith with Donut, as well as being short-listed for the Eric Gregory award.

In 2009/10 Brunel invested £1.1M in its Isambard Scholarship scheme, awarding research studentships to students demonstrating the potential for research excellence in their chosen field. English and Creative Writing students have received three of these awards. In addition, 3 students have received fee waivers based on academic merit, drawing on a School budget for PhD fee waivers of £38k pa. These have increased the quality of our postgraduate research: an English PGR student won the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for best PhD dissertation in 2009. In Creative Writing, Schwarz won the Joan Hessayon Award for the best in new writing by the Romantic Novelists' Association (2013) for *Conspiracy of Alchemists*.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Increased research income, a strategic aim for the forthcoming REF period, has been achieved. External research income has reached of £761k in the REF period (£37k in the RAE2008 period). FCMAP acquired a £290,652 grant from the ESRC (2008) and was also awarded £97,381 in

follow-on funding (2012). This project demonstrates the value of Brunel's commitment to pump-priming research projects: the RSDO awarded £1745 in Research Development funds (which supports initiatives targeted towards research income generation) in 2008, augmented by £220 funding from the School of Arts. Knowles and Evenden were awarded £230,461 from the EU's Marie Curie fund (2012), which secured an International Outgoing Fellowship for Evenden; Mondal was awarded AHRC Research Fellowship for a project on Muslim-related freedom of speech controversies in 2011 (£75,750); and there have been several smaller grants and awards, such as Evenden's British Academy Small Research Grant of £7351 in 2008 and her \$5k Folger Shakespeare Library Fellowship in 2011; Hubble's £1975 British Academy Conference grant in 2008; and Evaristo's securing of £3k annually from Brunel, the Africa Centre and the Commonwealth Foundation for the Brunel University African Poetry Prize. The most recent addition has been Betteridge's large-scale AHRC project bringing a share of £750k.

Our success has been underpinned by strategic investment from the University which supports our work through numerous funds and initiatives. In addition to the BRIEF and Research Leave schemes, RSDO has supported the collaborative research infrastructure in English through the Research Development Fund and the resources to establish and maintain two University Research Centres (BCCW, BGSRC). URCs formally integrate the research undertaken by staff in the unit within the research strategies of the School and University; they also bind research teams and clusters together through infrastructural and organisational support. The RSDO has funded BCCW seminar series on the 'Decades' project (£2450), 'Narrative Lives' (£2359), 'New Humanities' (£2450), and contemporary experimental writing (£2496). The BGSRC received £2470 in 2012 for its seminar series. This success is driven by individual targets set as part of staff appraisal, personal mentoring, group training (RSDO grant workshops; ECR summer development programme), and by peer-review and the availability of pFACT, an online user-oriented costing tool that generates accurate budgets. The Research Incentive Scheme is a 'bonus' designed to reward successful major grant applications to the UK Research Councils.

English supports several archives that are housed in Brunel University Library's Special Collections Room, which was established in 2011, along with the appointment and training of staff to provide specialist research support – an investment of over £40k pa. The Burnett Archive of Working Class Autobiography contains over 230 autobiographical manuscripts by British authors writing between 1790 and 1945. The refurbished Special Collections room has increased requests for access to the archive, with national and international visitors initiating linked projects with Brunel faculty (Prof Florence Boos, University of Iowa; Dr Kirsti Salmi-Niklander, funded by the Finnish Academy). A Research Development fund grant to Lynch (£1800) pump-primed the establishment of a research network, the Archive of Working-Class Writing (AWW), a collaboration between scholars from Brunel, De Montfort, Liverpool John Moores, Manchester, Reading, to create an online archive of, and portal to, British working-class writing since 1700.

The South Asian Diaspora Literature and Arts Archive (SALIDAA), an independent charity, has been in partnership with Brunel since 2006, and another 5 year term was agreed in 2012. The School of Arts has invested £5k per annum in SALIDAA (£50k in total at the end of the renewal period). This funding has provided administrative costs and housed the archive in Brunel's Library. The development of the Special Collections room has enabled the next phase of the partnership strategy to be developed: full cataloguing of the existing archive, integrating it into the University's online catalogue followed by identification of new material and its acquisition. The quality of the Special Collections room was identified by HLF as instrumental in its award of £63,400 to develop one of SALIDAA's most important collections, the Asian Women Writers Collective (AWWC) archive, in 2012-13. This project engages the local community in Slough in a series of heritage activities to interpret and disseminate the heritage significance of the AWWC, and will involve partnerships between Brunel, SALIDAA, Slough Borough Council, community organizations, local libraries, and primary and secondary schools. Brunel's investment in SALIDAA demonstrates how a dynamic research environment can be sustained for the benefit of both the academic and external communities alike.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Increasing research collaborations and partnerships has been a key priority. BCCW has focussed on collaborative projects, using RSDO investment to become a hub for national and international

networks. Each of 5 annual seminar series have consisted of 4 or 5 one-day seminars, with between 9 and 24 speakers from UK, Europe, Canada, Germany, Taiwan, and the US. Each has led to published outputs involving the participants (e.g. *The Decades Series: British Fiction*, 4 vols). The BGSRC 2012-13 seminar series involves staff exchange programmes with Université de Paris XIII (Nord), and Paris Sorbonne (Paris IV). In addition, Brunel hosts the Modern and Contemporary Fiction Studies Network, and many staff are engaged in other collaborations: Knepper in Caribbean Studies (with Sheffield and St Andrews for forthcoming special issues of *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* and *EnterText*); Lynch with AWW (see d above); Mondal with SOAS, York and Southampton on 'multicultural textualities'. (For Evaristo's partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation and the Africa Centre: see d). Brunel has also hosted many major international conferences: Hubble co-organised the 7th Annual Literary London conference (2008) and Brayfield organised the 'Creative Writing and how to teach it conference' (2008); Watkin ran the International Association of Philosophy and Literature (2009), one of the largest and oldest annual conferences in the humanities (400 delegates); in 2011, Cox co-organised the Feminist and Women's Studies Association (FWSA)'s biennial conference; in 2012 FCMAP held its 'New Cultures of Ageing' Conference.

Several staff hold positions in subject associations and learned societies: Betteridge serves on the research strategy board of Historic Royal Palaces. Spurlin is on the review boards of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies, and Member of the Executive Council of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) and chaired its Research Committee (2010-13). He is a member of the HEFCE Research Focus Group for English for REF2014, he is a member of the Scientific Committee for the Centre pour les études des nouveaux espaces, Paris XIII. Betteridge, Mondal, Morrison, Spurlin and Tew are AHRC Peer Review College members. Gerzina judged the Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 2010; Thorne the Somerset Maughan and Folio prizes (2010). Mondal is Chair of the Postcolonial Studies Association Conference Committee; Morrison sits on the CCUE Executive; Lynch is Secretary of the British Association of Irish Studies; Cox is Membership Secretary of the FWSA; and Knepper is Executive Committee Member of the Society for Caribbean Studies.

In terms of editorial contributions, Tew is co-editor of *Critical Engagements* and *Symbiosis*; Hubble is an associate editor of *Critical Engagements*; Spurlin is on the International Editorial Board of the *Journal of Social Semiotics*. Almost all staff have refereed articles for major journals such as *PMLA*, *Textual Practice*, *Interventions*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *Women's Writing*, *Contemporary Women's Writing*, *Life Writing*, *Feminist Review*, *Victorian Review*, *Studies in the Novel* as well as many smaller journals, and for major publishers such as Routledge, Palgrave, Continuum, Bloomsbury Academic, Duke UP, and Minnesota UP. Brunel staff have examined PhDs at King's, London, Leicester, Goldsmith's, Oxford Brookes, Royal Holloway, University College Dublin, and Deakin University, Australia.

Self, Weldon, and Zephaniah have spoken as keynotes too many times to be adequately addressed here: they are major figures in contemporary British cultural life. Recent keynotes include: Hubble at 'Recording Leisure Lives' (Bolton University, 2011), Watkin at the University of Oslo's Aesthetics Seminar (2012), and Thorne at By:Larm Festival, Norway (2013). In addition, Lynch delivered a Narrating Ireland Public Lecture at Wuppertal University, Germany (2012); Spurlin gave the Inaugural Lecture for the Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide (2012); and, as Eastman Professor at Oxford, Gerzina delivered the Eastman Professorship Lectures (2009). Mondal advised the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (Home Office) and the Community Cohesion Unit (Department for Children, Schools and Families) and spoke at the Wilton Park Conference (ACPO / OSCT, 2009) on 'Understanding Islamism' and 'Young British Muslim Voices'; Spurlin gave expert testimony to the All Party Group for Debt, Trade, and Aid (House of Commons, 2009) on development and sexuality. Honours and fellowships awarded include: Kinnings, Spurlin (FHEA), and Tew (FRSA). In 2008 Evaristo was awarded an MBE as a 'major voice in the multicultural panorama of British literature'.