

<p>Institution: University of Greenwich</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: (UoA 29) – English Language and Literature</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The 7 full-time and 2 0.5 members of staff in unit of assessment (UoA) 29 are drawn from the Literature And Drama Research Group (LAD) which in total comprises 13.25 full time equivalents. Members of the Group are engaged in both traditionally academic and practice-based research: the UoA English reflects this, comprising creative writing as well as evidence-based submissions in verbal, film and visual history and interpretation.</p> <p>LAD is located in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The majority of staff in the Research Group teach on the BA courses in Creative Writing, Drama, or English Literature; an MA on Literary London and a PhD programme. One member (Secomb) teaches Philosophy and Sociology in the School. One member specialising in Drama (Lilley) is being entered in UoA29 as co-writer in an impact case study but not for outputs, though her co-writer (Derbyshire) is being entered for outputs.</p> <p>The UoA and LAD are headed by a coordinator (King) and aided by a deputy (Derbyshire). LAD meets formally three times a year to formulate and update plans and to track progress. To ensure democratic responsibility and staff development, various other members of LAD serve or have served on School committees and fulfil roles outside the group. These include the Research and Enterprise Committee (Jones, King, Lee, Secomb), the Learning and Quality and the Employability Committees (Morton), the School Board (Baillie). These members ensure that the UoA and research group know and implement the University-wide policies relating to probation, early career researchers, postgraduate support and research ethics.</p> <p>The School underwent radical structural change in 2008/9 when new departments were formed and in 2012 when a new University Strategic Plan was issued. The research group has taken advantage of the latter to refocus research direction on ‘Community and its Limits’, a broad theme that not only unifies the diverse interests of the team but allies them to the new University strategy and to funding council priorities.</p> <p>The group’s research direction has been guided and sustained throughout by Directors of Research and Enterprise at both School and University levels. Both the School and the University conduct and offer training in research and development activities, especially through the Greenwich Research and Enterprise (GRE) unit.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The research group has been radically reconfigured since 2008RAE, its main strategic aim having been to refresh its research base through the employment and development of early career researchers (ECR) and to appoint a new strategy lead. Almost all the staff whose outputs are entered in REF2014 are appointments since 2009. As a result, not all the specific activities planned in the 2008RAE have materialised. Instead, new areas of research have been developed in emerging areas of the discipline: transnational Shakespeare, early eighteenth-century networks, nineteenth-century periodicals (especially professional) and popular fiction, neo-Victorian studies, African drama, and ethics and emotion. Focusing on developing new and recent ECRs, we have formulated a strategy different from those helpful to more established research groups.</p> <p>The theme ‘Community and its Limits’ was formulated in 2012 to respond to and unite the diverse research interests of the group, highlighting its common exploration of the nature and extent of ‘community’ in various forms (audience, network, friendship, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality). The theme has also created mutually beneficial collaborations with external organisations, in particular through the impact case studies ‘Activating the Reminiscence Theatre Archive’ and ‘Shakespeare in Hong Kong’, one towards the local, and the other to the international.</p> <p>At the same time, the group revitalised its series of externally advertised research events (14 during the year 2012–13, excluding Impact events) to include not only traditional research seminars, readings and invited lectures by staff members and external speakers, but also</p>

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experiential research events characteristic of drama. The diversity of events is designed not only to be inclusive but to increase cross-fertilisation between areas of the discipline and beyond it. Postgraduate students are strongly encouraged to attend as part of their personal development programme. All such events are open to communities beyond academia. They have not been confined to the campus but also take place in, and in collaboration with, local cultural institutions: the Greenwich Theatre, the Greenwich Maritime Museum, the Stephen Lawrence Gallery, and other venues such as Made in Greenwich and the Poetry Café.

Linked to the research events (but not dependent on them) are three blogs to which members of the group contribute, with additional invited contributions from members outside the group. (<http://blogs.gre.ac.uk/shakespeareinhongkong/>; <http://blogs.gre.ac.uk/andrewking/author/ka31/> ; <http://blogs.gre.ac.uk/english/>). Quality and sustainability are ensured by the blog officer, an annually rotating post (Jones 2012–13).

Conferences organised by members of the group have taken place annually throughout the assessment period, the most recent being 'Literature, Community and its Limits' in 2013 at the Institute of English Studies, University of London. Organised by 2 experienced group members and an ECR, it attracted speakers from the USA, India, France, Russia and Poland, as well as from the UK. The resultant networking has led to invitations to speak overseas as well as in the UK.

Funding from the University has been used for conference attendance, research costs and, more recently, teaching remission and Impact work with the aim of generating high-quality outputs, external funding bids and engagement with local and international communities. To increase the quantity and quality of outputs and research bids, mentoring and internal peer review schemes for publications have been set up within the research group. In addition, the University operates a series of writing workshops throughout the year, as well as peer review for external bids.

The above actions have revitalised the research group through the employment and systematic development of active researchers in emerging fields of enquiry, encouraging the generation of future leaders in their fields.

Future strategic aims 2014–19

The group's main aim is to foster future leaders in the emerging fields identified above, expanding and thereby ensuring the sustainability of extant research areas in line with University, Faculty and Departmental priorities. To that end, key aspirations will be to

1. increase the quantity of applications for and successes in obtaining external research bids to a minimum of one application per member per year, and, for the research group as a whole, at least three major international bids over the assessment period
2. increase the proportion of research group members who submit outputs to REF2020 to 80%
3. increase the number of PhD completions over the assessment period by 300%
4. increase the visible collaboration and contribution to the discipline and beyond of all staff, but especially of ECRs and recent ECRs

To achieve this we shall bid internally for funds

- to appoint external research mentors for individuals' research plans and bids
- to attend external bid-writing workshops
- for PhD studentships, focusing on priority areas of interest, twinning ECRs and experienced supervisors
- for delivering papers at conferences and other networking activities

Additionally we shall

1. continue the system of internal research mentoring with the addition of targets (one output and one external bid per year).
2. collaborate more closely with the University's History Research Group in bidding both internally and externally for joint PhD projects (on topics such as nineteenth-century military periodicals) and on joint projects with external bodies such as the 'Memorialisation' series of events with the Greenwich Maritime Museum (including an exhibition, creative outputs and

conference) marking the centenary of one of the greatest tests of the possibility and value of community, the Great War.

3. promote Erasmus and other staff exchanges to extend networking and collaboration for funded projects with international scholars. International projects at the planning stage include 'Public Wellbeing and the Fictional Communication of Finance' with the universities of Galway, Ghent, Macerata, Nijmegen, the Open University and Timișoara.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

There are currently 7 members of the English programme team comprising 1 Professor, 4 Senior Lecturers (1 very recently promoted) and 2 ECR Lecturers. Together their research specialisms cover all periods from the Renaissance onwards. The Drama programme team, which also forms part of the LAD research group, comprises 1 Principal Lecturer specialising in theatre history, 1 Senior Lecturer (community theatre) and 2 Lecturers in devised theatre and in African theatre. Creative Writing consists of 1 x 0.5 Senior Lecturer and 1 x 0.75 Lecturer. There is, in addition, 1 senior lecturer in Sociology (a subject area within the School). The group is supported by a shared departmental administrator and 6 School administrators.

All staff follow the University's staff development policy, which involves a minimum of one formal appraisal per year. Since 2012 formal research mentoring has taken place through individual twice-yearly meetings with the research coordinator (**King**) to check progress and set goals. The coordinator in turn reports to the Dean of School. In addition, general training and planning meetings are held once a term. Meetings concerning specific projects have been held with the research coordinator at least three times a term.

The School Director of Research and Enterprise runs School-wide ECR networking events to share best practice, as does the University which runs an annual Research and Enterprise conference to which staff members contribute.

To track the development of the UoA's research and to ensure transparency, reports on research-related activities and outputs are collected on a dedicated departmental Research and Enterprise virtual learning environment (VLE) to which all members of the group have access.

The School is committed to supporting external bidding by granting time to enable the development and submission of bids. A Business Development Manager based in the University Research and Enterprise unit facilitates the development of appropriate activities and supports applications for external funding.

The University has committed to the goals established by the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers* developed by Vitae. It is a signatory of the Concordat and has created a comprehensive Researcher Development Framework which has been promoted across the institution. The University has made substantial progress towards addressing and embedding the principles of the Concordat (see <http://gre.ac.uk/hr/concordat>) and has successfully applied for the HR Excellence in Research award of the European Commission.

The group's commitment to nurturing ECRs remains fundamental in line with University priorities as a signatory of the Vitae Concordat. ECRs are allocated lighter teaching loads so as to accelerate research trajectories at a critical stage, and, in accord with University policy, receive £1,000 towards research expenses for the first two years. They also take part in University-

organised training and networking opportunities tailored to their needs.

The University ensures equal opportunities in the recruitment and support of research staff. Following the Equality Act of 2010 and subsequently guided by the REF, the university carries out Equality Impact Assessments on its policies and procedures to ensure compliance with best practice. These are monitored by the Equality Impact Assessment Committee which reports to the University Secretary and Registrar and liaises with the Equality and Diversity Steering Group. The gender balance of submitted members of the UoA is slightly weighted in favour of men, women comprising 3 full-time and 1x 0.5 members of staff out of 8.5.

The group's ambition, in alignment with the University's, is to maintain broad disciplinary coverage while matching collaboration with external bodies to internal interests and expertise. The group is already orientated towards both external and academic communities: a key aim in future will be to integrate extant and emerging links into the process of staff development itself by providing opportunities for external mentoring and training in research bidding and management that the young research group itself does not currently provide.

ii. Research students

There have been 3 PhD completions since 2008, with 5 research students currently enrolled. All research students have a supervisory team of three: first and second supervisors who undertake the University Supervisor's Development programme, and a chair. In order to monitor progress and ensure timely completion, meetings are held 4 times a term (once a week in the first year) to review work undertaken and establish goals. Further meetings are held once a year between the students and the entire supervisory team. All progress reports are reviewed by the School Director of Research.

University investment in postgraduates that recognises their contribution to a thriving research culture ranges from individual studentships to the provision of a suite with computing facilities dedicated to Humanities postgraduates. Since 2005, PhD students have been integrated into the wider research community through School-wide annual conferences to which they and ECRs are particularly invited to contribute. They are also strongly encouraged to complete the University's Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education.

The group aspires to increase the number of its MA students and successful PhD completions by continuing to develop the robustness of its admissions procedures, by collaborative supervision with other Departments in the Faculty and by successful applications for bursaries to the Vice Chancellor's PhD scholarships scheme (which it has already done in 2013). External funding will be sought for PhD students in areas of strategic priority: Community Theatre; Professions and the Press; and the Literary Industries.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

In keeping with University strategic aims, external funding has been sought to build capacity and ensure sustainability. In 2008–9 the Emerald Fund awarded £1,234 towards the running of the group's then literary magazine, *Brand*; follow-up awards of £310 and £6,012 were made in 2009–10 and in 2010–11. A Drama and Community project run from within the group was awarded HEIF3 funding of £3,827 over 2009–10 and £634 over 2010–11. Since 2009 there has been major turnover of staff with a focus on ECRs; only towards the end of the assessment period has external bidding resumed.

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The success of English in generating research outputs is underpinned by a scholarly, organisational and operational infrastructure which has benefitted from substantial University investment since 2008. Print and online resources are fundamental to the research of the group. The English and Drama library budget has risen from £7,764 (2008–9) to £18,921 (2012–13), with an average annual spend of £15,072 over the assessment period. The University as a whole has invested heavily in electronic resources: the figure for digital provision, which includes major e-journal and digital archives used for the group's research, such as British Periodicals Online, EBSCOHost and Oxford Journals, has remained consistently around £550,000 (2012–13, £571,440).

During 2011–13 the specialist drama facilities on the site of an old public baths in Woolwich underwent a major refurbishment (£250,000 in total). The facilities are used not only by internal members of the University but also by collaborating external theatre groups (organised by Wallis).

The success of individual researchers and the research group is underpinned by a Subject and School organisational infrastructure managed by the UoA Coordinator and School Director of Research respectively. The group bids annually for internal research funds. Staff members apply for research grants supported, in the first instance, by a mentor and subsequently, for larger bids, by a peer review panel which draws on expertise from across the University. The School has an administrator who works with staff on grant costings and management. Further University operational support comes from Research and Knowledge Transfer, Research Accounting, and the Web Team. The organisational and operational support described above helps direct the scholarly vision of researchers to the most appropriate applications.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Joint research projects

Derbyshire collaborated with Dr Loveday Hodson on 'Performing injustice: human rights and verbatim theatre', *Law and Humanities* (2:2, 2008: 191–212); directed Emma Hutchins (writer and performer) in *NOT Stalking David Tennant* (2008). **King** was associate editor of the *Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism* and managed the central VLE for the 300+ contributors (2008); he was also on the International Advisory Board of the AHRC-funded *Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition* (launched May 2008). He co-edited a special edition of *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies* with Marysa Demoor (Ghent) in 2009.

Networks include:

Adeyemi: African Theatre Association, Classical Association, African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific, Society for Theatre Research; **Derbyshire**: European Reminiscence Network; **Jones**: British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies ; **King**: British Association of Victorian Studies; Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, Victorian Popular Fiction Association; **Lee**: AHRC Research Networks 'Filming and Performing Renaissance History, 1500–1660', 'Year of Shakespeare', and 'China in Britain'; Theatre Research Network 'Performing China on the Global Stage' (Leeds University); **Morton**: British Association of Victorian Studies; Neo-Victorian Networks; **Secomb**: Love Research Network (St Andrews).

Research partnerships

External collaborations include **King** with the publisher Victorian Secrets (*Victorian Fiction Research Guides*); **Lee** with, in Hong Kong, The British Council, Theatre Noir and Jessica

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Yeung of Hong Kong Baptist University; Lilley and **Derbyshire** with Pam Schweitzer of the European Reminiscence Network; **Smyth** with the Stephen Lawrence Gallery, Large Glass Gallery (London N1 1DN), and many other venues.

Derbyshire has **served and sustained the discipline** through his position as Chair of the European Reminiscence Network.

Leading positions in professional subject associations include **Adeyemi**, Membership Secretary of the African Theatre Association; **King**, Board Member of Research Society Victorian Periodicals; Advisory Board of the International Centre for Victorian Woman Writers; **Lee**, secretary of the Literary London Society; **Morton**, Board Member of Tennyson Society.

The group's contribution to the discipline and related disciplines is illustrated by the range of editorial positions held by colleagues:

Editors: **Adeyemi**, *Open Ifa Review*; **Jones**, Online Reviews Editor for British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies; **Morton**, Deputy Editor, *Tennyson Research Bulletin*.

Guest editorships: Adeyemi, *African Performance Review*; **King** *Victorian Periodicals Review*, *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*, *Critical Survey*; **Smyth** *Magma*, *National UK Poetry Magazine*

Editorial boards: **King**, *Victorian Periodicals Review*; **Lee**, *Literary London Society Journal*, *CITY Journal*; **Secomb**, *Derrida Today*.

Publisher's Series: **King**, Victorian Secrets: *Victorian Fiction Research Guides*.

Staff externally examined the following number of PhD theses 2008- July 2013: **King** examined 5.

International conferences and workshops are organised by staff members at least once a year in order to facilitate collaboration and encourage an interdisciplinary mode of enquiry. In 2008 and 2011, **King** organised the 40th and 43rd annual conferences of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals with Ian Haywood (Roehampton) and Clare Horrocks (Liverpool John Moores) respectively; in 2010 he ran 'Angels and Demons' at Canterbury Christ Church University. Critchley organised the poetry and performance-based Greenwich Cross-Genre Festival (2010) and South of the River Symposium (2012). In 2012, **Smyth** ran the inaugural Stephen Lawrence Poetry Prize awarded by Doreen Lawrence at a public prize-giving; the winning poet was interviewed in the local and national press. In July 2013, **Jones**, **King** and **Secomb** jointly ran the 'Literature, Community and its Limits' conference at the Institute of English Studies, University of London.

Members of the department act as **readers for academic and commercial publishers and journals**:

Adeyemi, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism* (University of Kansas), *Platform: Journal of Theatre and the Performing Arts*; **Jones**, *Medical Humanities*; **King**, *19, English*, *Victorian Periodicals Review*, Ashgate, Routledge, Palgrave; **Secomb**, *Derrida Today*, *Cultural Studies Review*, *Women's Studies*, *Feminist Theory*, *Hypatia*, *Australian Feminist Studies*, Edinburgh University Press; **Smyth**, Lagan Poetry Press, Tall Tree Press, Pindrop Press.

Consultancies 2008-13 include **King** as external assessor at the Ateneo of the University of Macerata (Italy) and grant assessor for the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, and as consultant to Gale-Cengage on the digitisation of the *Illustrated London News*.

Research by members of the group received external recognition by a number of scholarly **awards, literary prizes and fellowships:**

Critchley, joint winner of Jane Martin Prize for Poetry, University of Cambridge, 2011; **Jones**, 2009 George B. Cooper Research Fellowship at the Lewis Walpole Library, University of Yale; **King**, 12-month €60,000 research fellowship, University of Ghent 2008–9; **Lee**, Dr J.D.A. Johnson Prize in English Literature (Queen’s University, Belfast); the Allen D. Breck Award (Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association); and Young Researcher’s Bursary (‘Performing China’ Theatre Network, Leeds University); **Smyth**, Arts Council Writing Award 2010; writing residency through the Bundanon Trust and Can Serrat Residency both in 2012.

The research group gave 18 invited lectures, keynotes, performances and media appearances (excluding public blogs) between 2008 and 2012, their geographical and disciplinary range demonstrating its broad base of research and its international reach.

Keynotes include **King**: Wolff lecture, ‘Negotiations of Modernity: the *Bankers’ Magazine* and the Professionalisation of Banking’, 45th Research Society for Victorian Periodicals conference, Salford, 11–13 July 2013; ‘Lord Leighton’s Orientalisms’, Victorian Orientalisms, Ragusa Ibla, Italy, 28–29 June 2013; ‘Hollywood’s Grandmas: Epistemology, Ethics and Erotics in the Victorian Transatlantic Popular Novel’, 3rd annual conference for the Association for Victorian Popular Fiction, Institute of English Studies, University of London, 18–19 July 2011.

Invited papers: **Jones**, “‘His social qualities were generally acknowledged’: Sir Robert Walpole’s Friendly Aspect”, Cambridge University Restoration to Reform Research Group (February 2009); **King**; ‘The Material Realities of Victorian Popular Fiction’, University of Catania, Italy, 25 June 2013; ‘What Betsy would have Read’, Birkbeck Forum for Nineteenth-Century Studies, 28 January 2013, ‘What Betsy Read: Sentiment and Sensation 1830–1860’, The Dickens Fellowship, Canterbury, 9 May 2011; ‘J.F. Smith, Sensation Writer, 1852’, Victorian Print and Popular Culture, Liverpool John Moores University, 9 February 2011; ‘Class Journalism’, Launch of the *Dictionary of Nineteenth Century Journalism*, British Library (December 2008); ‘Ouida and the Aesthetics of Social Transformation’, Ouida in Exile: The Stubborn Pilgrim, Bagni di Lucca, Italy (August 2008); ‘Watchdog or Propaganda? The Nineteenth-Century Press and the “Fourth Estate”’, launch of the *Nineteenth Century Serials Edition*, British Library (May 2008); **Secomb**, ‘Politics of Suffering’, Annual Reynolds Lecture, Elon University, USA, 12 April 2011; ‘Repeating/Replaying: Responding to Derrida on Time’, roundtable discussion on Joanna Hodge’s ‘Derrida on Time’, Derrida Today Conference, Macquarie University, Australia, 10–12 July 2008.

Performances: Derbyshire, *NOT stalking David Tennant, AKA Having It All* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2008); *Out, Damned Spot* (Camden Fringe, 2010)

Media appearances: **King**, interviewed by Anne-Marie Beller, in the *Victorian Popular Fiction Newsletter*, issue 1; **Lee**, commissioned blogs in response to the World Shakespeare Festival 2012: www.yearofshakespeare.com; **Secomb**, interview with Alan Sanders on Philosopher’s Zone, Radio National, Australia, 26 January 2008: available at <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/philosophical-love-stories/3291074>