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Institution: University of Ulster
Unit of Assessment: 28B Modern Languages & Linguistics – Modern Languages & Linguistics
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The vitality of the Modern Languages and Linguistics unit at Ulster is evidenced by its notable research successes in the current cycle, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External research awards totalling over £663k • 14.3 PhD completions • The awarding of a University Distinguished Research Fellowship (one of only two awarded annually) • The editing of 7 research volumes • The organisation of 22 international conferences • The establishment of INFL (Irish Network in Formal Linguistics) funded by AHRC and IRCHSS • The establishment of UCoM (Ulster Centre on Multilingualism) • The development of a Modern Languages Strategy for Northern Ireland • The hosting of the EuroCALL headquarters since 2010 <p>The unit includes two research groups: the Modern European Culture (MEC) research group and the Linguistics group. MEC focuses primarily on writers and themes that challenge the orthodoxies and prejudices that face society, including racism, sectarianism and anti-Semitism. The Linguistics research group has expanded since 2008 to specialise in theoretical syntax, historical syntax, discourse, semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, and applied linguistics. Organisationally, MEC is part of the School of Modern Languages and the Arts and Humanities Research Institute (AHRI henceforth). The Linguistics research group is part of the Institute for Research in Social Sciences (IRiSS henceforth). The majority of this group is located in the School of Communication but additional members are from the School of Modern Languages and the School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p><u>Achievement of strategic aims:</u> The overarching objectives of research in Linguistics and Modern Languages at Ulster are to produce internationally excellent and world-leading research that offers new insights in language and culture which are directly relevant both globally and to the immediate environment in which we exist. This includes core theoretical issues in linguistics, and their application to multilingualism, language variation and language status; as well as issues around national and religious identity, cultural diversity and racial and religious prejudice.</p> <p>The unit has fulfilled and developed the aims of its predecessors' submissions to RAE 2008:</p> <p>Linguistic interfaces. Folli and Harley have both continued to publish widely in this area and to present their work at major conferences (e.g. NELS, WCCFL, LSA). Their service to this field includes editing a special issue of <i>Lingua</i> on the syntax/semantics of tense and aspect. Folli also began to collaborate on the syntax semantics interface of Number with Alexopoulou (Cambridge) and Tsoulas (York). This research has appeared in an OUP book on interfaces and is under revision for <i>Linguistic Inquiry</i>. Harley has presented research by invitation at multiple institutions (e.g. Stanford, CNRS, MIT) and has several on-going collaborations on the morphology/syntax interface with papers submitted to two OUP volumes and a third accepted for <i>Linguistic Inquiry</i>. In the cycle, the appointment of Romoli, who works in the area of semantics/pragmatics interface, has further strengthened this specialism. Finally, one major outcome of the research group's commitment to study of interfaces is the development of a new conference series (OnLI, On Linguistic Interfaces). Ulster hosted OnLI I in 2007 and OnLI II in 2011. Local and Tsoulas (York) have committed to hosting OnLI III at York in 2014. This series places Ulster at the forefront of international research in the area as there is no other conference specifically addressing the central, interdisciplinary question of the nature of the overall architecture of language. Two volumes of selected papers from OnLI I (eds. Folli and Ulbrich), and OnLI II (eds. Folli, Sevdali and Truswell (University of Ottawa)) were published by OUP in 2011 and 2013.</p> <p>Microvariation. Henry has continued her work on variation in the syntax of Northern Irish dialects of English and its implications for syntactic theory. A major consequence of this focus on microvariation has been the establishment of the Irish Network in Formal Linguistics (INFL) in collaboration with Dublin City University (Guilfoyle), University College Dublin (Ouhalla) and University College Cork (Doyle), which brings together researchers in theoretical linguistics on the island of Ireland by means of regular conferences hosted in the participating universities. Four</p>

such conferences were organised in the cycle and the fifth INFL will be hosted again by Ulster in 2014. The establishment of INFL was funded by AHRC (Henry) and IRCHSS (Guilfoyle).

Language and speech disorders and psycholinguistics. Both areas have received a significant boost in the reporting period. **Language disorders:** Rhys has published on adaptation to impairment at the interface between discourse, syntax and prosody and the tension between progressivity and inter-subjectivity. Additionally, two PhD dissertations in this area have been supervised to completion and one is currently funded by DEL. **Psycholinguistics:** the group has concentrated on a major team project on trilingual acquisition, which includes two extensive longitudinal studies (Project S and Project L). To date, this research has yielded several co-authored publications and conference presentations, a large body of data on trilingual acquisition contributed to CHILDES for the use of future researchers as well as several completed MSc dissertations, and a DEL-funded PhD project (to be completed in 2014). This research has led to the establishment of the Ulster Centre on Multilingualism (UCoM), a consultation service for parents, early years practitioners, SLTs and other stakeholders with a role or interest in multilingualism (see the impact case study). Additionally, Romoli has on-going collaborations with Crain (Macquarie) and Schwarz (UPenn) on the acquisition and processing of scalar implicatures; Snedeker (Harvard) on the processing of presupposition; and Winter (Utrecht) on the processing of plurals and conjunctions. Folli has continued her collaboration on the study of sentence comprehension and the lexicon/syntax interface with Bever (Arizona).

As indicated in RAE 2008, Ulster has established a research-driven **MSc in English Language and Linguistics**, which has already increased recruitment to the PhD programme with internal (Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships) and external (DEL, the Saudi and Iraqi governments) funding.

Modern European Culture (MEC), despite recent retirements, has maintained a high research profile in literature and culture focused on the aims of RAE 2008. Specifically, the group has, as planned, developed and completed a number of projects related to key European authors and themes: Ó Dochartaigh has published on the cultural legacy of the Holocaust and on the history of Celtic Studies, and has developed a new research collaboration on Irish-Jewish literature, for which he was awarded £408k by the AHRC in May 2013. His monograph on Germans and Jews since the Holocaust, delayed by his appointment as Dean of Arts in 2008, is currently being peer-reviewed and will appear in autumn 2014. He has also co-edited, with a colleague in History, a special number of the journal *Immigrants and Minorities* on 'Jews in the Celtic Countries', which will appear in 2015. The unit hosted the 2009 CUTG/AGS Conference, and a selection of GDR-themed papers were edited by Ó Dochartaigh for 2010 number of *German Life and Letters*. It also co-hosted a 2009 IGRS conference on "The Good German", and a volume derived from that conference was co-edited by Ó Dochartaigh and Schönfeld (Limerick). Gargett has focussed largely on Voltaire and has contributed to four further volumes for the Complete Works of Voltaire, published by the Voltaire Foundation at Oxford. Gillespie has published widely on atheism in Sartre and Camus, and on the interpretation of Sartre's philosophical dramas. He has also developed his work on values, securing AHRC network funding of £45K for the *English Evaluative Concepts in Translated Religious and Devotional Texts* project (with Blumcinski, QUB). This network links scholars at Ulster and QUB with the Fondazione Universitaria San Pellegrino (Misano Adriatico), the Nida Institute for Translation Studies (New York), the Jagiellonian University (Krakow) and the University of Alicante. The network hosted two conferences in 2013 and two further conferences will be organised in 2014. On the project's completion, a major funding bid to establish an international collaborative project with those partners and further national and international partners for AHRC/Horizon2020 will be made. Mullen has published a monograph and several articles on the literature of the Maghreb, while Black has continued to publish on Goytisolo and biography, and also authored a history of Spain since 1939.

Set against 2008 the unit overall has seen a rebalancing towards Linguistics, the introduction of Chinese (see below) and the retention of core strengths in French, Spanish and German culture. The University's commitment to linguistics is evidenced by both new recruitments and strategic investment in staff who had not reached the threshold for RAE. As a result, the linguistics group currently comprises 9 staff (from 3 in RAE 2008). This expansion has led to the development of new areas of focus in the reporting period.

Historical syntax. Sevdali's research focuses on historical syntax with emphasis on Greek and Germanic. She collaborates with Anagnostopoulou (Crete) and Alexiadou (Stuttgart) on case alternations. She has presented at major conferences (e.g. NELS, GLOW).

Discourse. Stapleton was returned to Politics and International Studies in RAE 2008, reflecting her research interests at the interface of discourse, communication, politics and identity. During the current cycle, her collaboration with **Rhys** has led to the formation of a discourse specialism within linguistics. Since 2008, **Stapleton** has published on discourse-analytic approaches to issues of social psychology, interaction, culture and politics in international journals. **Rhys** has published and presented work employing conversation analysis and membership categorisation analysis to examine social interaction in mundane, clinical and institutional contexts.

Language policy. Linguistics, Modern Languages and Celtic Studies have a common focus on language policy. **Gillespie**, with Ó Corráin (Celtic Studies) and Johnston (QUB) published *Languages for the Future: the Northern Ireland Languages Strategy* (2012), funded by the DEL. **McDermott** researches issues relating to language planning for both autochthonous and allochthonous languages in Ireland. His work has led to a number of publications, including articles in international journals and a monograph on language policy and planning for migrant languages in Northern Ireland. He collaborates with McMonagle (Hamburg) on implementing language policy in post-conflict settings. His research has also been referred to in key policy documents such as the Northern Ireland Languages Strategy.

Language documentation. **Harley** continues to study and document the grammatical properties of Hiaki, an endangered Uto-Aztecan language. Her work on Hiaki syntax is published with MIT Press, Benjamins, CSLI and OUP and international journals. The first volume of a teaching grammar of the language is published by Virtual Bookworm, with a second volume in preparation. The project has been supported by a major grant from the NSF of \$148,700. Additionally, two PhDs have been completed on previously undocumented language varieties (Kouya [Ivory Coast] and Northern Kurmanji Kurdish [Iraq]), with a third (on Faifa Arabic [Saudi Arabia]) in progress.

Applied linguistics: the establishment of the Confucius Institute in 2012, the only one in Northern Ireland and only the third in Ireland, has resulted in the recruitment of a lecturer in Chinese and applied linguistics. This has led (in partnerships with performing arts and education) to the establishment of a Confucius classroom scheme across 110 schools in Northern Ireland in October 2013. Also staff in applied linguistics and in MEC have established an MA in Professional Translation, drawing on their strengths in translation and L2 acquisition. Research in Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) has expanded, facilitated by the CETL funded Centre for Excellence in Multimedia Language Learning (CEMLL). Benefitting from links with European partners as headquarters of EUROCALL, staff working in this area have published on multimedia methods, staff and student reception of CALL, on the evaluation of CALL software and pedagogy. CALL research at Ulster has led to the organization of a successful WorldCALL in Glasgow in July 2013, with 320 participants from 42 countries. Additionally two PhDs have been completed in this area. **The research on CALL forms a crucial part of the unit's impact work.**

In summary, the research unit has not just achieved the strategic objectives set out for the assessment period, but has expanded in new directions. Unusually for a unit of a relatively modest size, it now covers a broad range of overlapping areas and themes. This will ensure the sustainability of this research unit's strengths going forward.

Future strategic aims: The unit will build on the achievements highlighted above to strengthen its position, with work concentrated in the following focus areas:

Comparative syntax will remain a central interest of the group, with specific focus on linguistic interfaces and historical syntax.

Microvariation. Work in this area will continue to be a major focus of the unit. Descriptive work on local varieties will continue seeking to answer important theoretical questions regarding individual variation.

Language acquisition. The collaboration on the study of multilingualism will play a key role in the next cycle. IRiSS provided £5k for a workshop in 2012 which involved academics from Tromsø (Ramchand, Westergaard), Edinburgh (Sorace, Iosad), and Siena (Rizzi, Belletti) to plan grant proposals to extend this line of work. Video and audio data collection for Project L is underway. One joint grant application has been submitted with the partners, while others are in preparation.

Semantics and Pragmatics is a new major interest of the group, both from a theoretical and an experimental perspective complementing ongoing work in interfaces and acquisition. The many international collaborations are likely to give rise to exciting discoveries in this area of research.

Discourse. As another new focus of the group, the work in discourse will aim to develop

interdisciplinary collaborations with both internal and external partners, with a focus on the interaction between discourse and grammar on the one hand and social organisation on the other.

Language policy. Research in this area will focus on Northern Ireland and the position of minority languages in post-conflict societies with emphasis on language policy in peace agreements.

Applied linguistics: Research will continue in staff/student reactions to CALL and ICT, multimedia and mobile learning pedagogies and the evaluation of CALL. Research on **translation theory** (linked to the MA Professional Translation) will be expanded.

MEC's research will focus on key European authors and themes. **Ó Dochartaigh** will be leaving the University in spring 2014 to take up a post as Deputy President of NUI Galway, but his major AHRC-funded research project on Irish-Jewish literature, which will complete in 2016, will remain at Ulster with his participation continuing from Galway. **Gillespie** will continue to investigate religious and ethical themes in Sartre and Camus. **Gargett** will complete further volumes of the critical edition of the complete works of Voltaire. **Black** will complete a Goytisoló monograph during a semester's leave in autumn 2014. He has also developed new research in Spanish cinema, in particular in the area of adaptation, which will lead to new publications. **Mullen** will be working on a monograph, *Reappropriating the Postcolonial Cityscape: Metaphysical Alienation and Intersubjectivity in the Novels of Driss Chraïbi and Tahar Ben Jelloun*.

All of this clearly indicates the strength and vitality of the unit and its promise for the future.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The unit has undergone a period of change in which Linguistics has significantly expanded, Chinese has been introduced thanks to the Ulster's success in securing the Confucius Institute in 2011 (launched in 2012 in partnership with Zhejiang University of Media and Communications), and European Languages have consolidated from two campuses to one (Coleraine).

Theoretical Linguistics was awarded two additional permanent posts in the cycle and recruited **Sevdali** and **Romoli** from a large pool of candidates. Additionally the long-standing collaboration between **Folli** and **Harley** led to Harley's appointment to a 0.2 post. The group also benefited from the appointment of the sociolinguist **McDermott** in the School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies and the applied linguist **Li** in the Confucius Institute. Ulbrich is currently on secondment at the University of Marburg. In MEC two RAs, one externally funded (AHRC) and one internally funded work with **Ó Dochartaigh** on Jewish-related themes. A number of colleagues have retired or taken up posts elsewhere, while other colleagues in European languages are focused on teaching and scholarship. Railton, returned in German in 2008, is returned this time with History.

A number of staff returned to RAE 2008 have been promoted during the cycle: **Folli** and **Stapleton** have been promoted to Senior Lecturer and **Ó Dochartaigh** to Dean of Arts. Women are very well represented in the unit with a gender balance of 8 females to 6 males overall. Two of the five professors are female and both recently promoted Senior Lecturers are also female.

Staff benefit from mentoring and an internal peer review process in relation to applications for external funding. Early career staff are also encouraged to undertake a module on research grant application as part of the PG CHEP compulsory for new staff.

Staff are supported in their respective research institutes which play a key role in developing and implementing a research strategy for the unit by promoting a vibrant culture of research whilst also monitoring research performance annually. MEC staff are in the Faculty of Arts and they belong to the AHRI, whose members benefit from the provision of research leave (1 semester in 7). Staff from the Faculty of Social Science belong to IRiSS which has a strategy of providing teaching relief to research-active staff, and staff in the group have benefitted from this in the cycle. Both the IRiSS and the AHRI provide substantial financial support for attendance at conferences and archival research (up to ca. £2k per year). Both the AHRI and IRiSS also allocate a portion of their funding to support strategic initiatives. Major events like OnLI I and II and the IGRS conference have been supported by this type of strategic funding. Research staff are supported and mentored by the Director of the institute to which they belong, the single Unit Co-ordinator and their Head of School, with whom research plans and projects are discussed as part of the developmental appraisal process. ECRs are supported and mentored throughout their probation period and benefit from monthly meetings to discuss their research strategy with the Unit Co-ordinator and are typically assigned a lighter teaching load in one of their first two semesters. The Unit Co-ordinator is part of the management team of IRiSS and AHRI and participates in regular research planning meetings where research policy and development are discussed. The Unit Co-ordinator meets with the two

groups every month to discuss such plans and progress.

Research students: The unit has had an excellent rate of PhD completion, with 14.3 PhDs awarded in the present cycle. It also has a very active cohort of PhD students with 21 currently registered, all funded by a variety of external and internal scholarships. All PhD students benefit from an individual desk space in their respective PhD office on either the Coleraine or Jordanstown campus. They are also entitled to a computer, the use of a printer and funding of £300 per year to attend conferences, summer schools or training courses. PhD students in the Faculty of Arts are associate members of the AHRI, and those in the Faculty of Social Science are associate members of IRiSS. Additionally students from the Faculty of Arts benefit from a £5-10k strategy fund to support graduate students. Students from the Faculty of Social Science can apply for further funding from IRiSS and are normally supported. PhD students are trained and guided by their respective Research Graduate School, where they follow a structured programme of research development which involves presentations and courses by guest speakers.

In this cycle projects have been completed in the following areas: CALL, language planning, language disorders, theoretical linguistics, language documentation, membership categorisation analysis, language and gender, discourse and prosody, French literature, French film, eighteenth-century European literary periodicals in Ireland and Jewish studies. Every year several students in the MA, MRes and MSc programmes continue on to PhD studies.

Since 2006, the Linguistics group has hosted a Linguistics Graduate Seminar Series with fortnightly seminars by invited speakers from the UK and Europe as well as Ulster staff and PhD students. Notably in 2009 Noam Chomsky delivered a seminar for staff and students as part of this seminar series. Also a regular reading group of staff, Masters and PhD students meet to read and discuss recent papers in the field. There is a strong culture of encouraging the doctoral students to co-publish with their supervisors. In the current cycle several PhD students have presented their work or co-authored work with their supervisors at international conferences such as Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition, UPenn Linguistic Colloquium, INFL, The Linguistics of the Gaelic languages, LAGB. Three current PhD students are members of UCoM.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The unit has an excellent record in research grants with a research spend of £394k but a total of £663k awarded. Among the notable awards in this cycle are £408k from the AHRC in 2013 for a project on Irish-Jewish literature, £45k (2012-2014) from the AHRC (jointly with QUB) for the Translating Cultures project, £20k a year (2010>) as Headquarters of EUROCALL, €34,619.03 in 2009 (of which £10,735 to Ulster) from AHRC/IRCHSS for establishment of INFL, \$148 from NSF for Haiki's grammar project (2008), £15k (2007 and 2010) from the BA for two projects on L2 acquisition (£7450K fell in the time between assessment periods hence is not registered).

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation leads on the overall strategic direction of research funding and development. The research groups in this unit straddle two faculties and research institutes but are co-ordinated by a single unit of assessment co-ordinator (**Folli**), who is a member of both institutes. The Research Institutes were established in 2005 and have proved extremely successful in overseeing and promoting research. They offer a broad research environment for all research areas in the university facilitating the development of the high-level strategy, supporting both individual and collaborative work, and encouraging collaboration beyond the subject both inside and outside the University. Strategic targets for units and for individuals are set, and membership of an institute depends on a suitable track record of publication and other research activities such as PhD supervision, knowledge transfer and research funding. The Research Institutes provide a number of supportive strategies to the members of all units regarding research development, including for example workshops on sourcing research funding.

Library and IT

State-of-the-art Learning Resource Centres and libraries operate across the university. These combine the best of a traditional library service with a modern learning and research environment which gives easy access to a wide range of online resources, including e-journals, e-books and databases. The University's Information Services Department provides a comprehensive range of ICT facilities in support of research activities. A contemporary high-speed digital network supports international collaboration and data sharing. Central IT facilities provide a modern, secure data preservation service. Staff are provided with individual offices with up-to-date online computer access to electronic resources, as well as rapid technical assistance at Faculty level.

At Coleraine the provision of the leading-edge multimedia language laboratory and the multimedia resource unit have been central to the development of our research in CALL. The capacity for students to interact at the laboratory workstations with the tutor and each other and to have access to a range of internet software enables us to develop action research into the process of language learning in a range of skills from translation and interpreting to textual analysis.

A dedicated and well equipped phonetics and language acquisition laboratory is available for research in those areas, and is equipped with hardware and software for research in acoustic phonetics, e.g. CSL Model 4300, Palatometer 6300, Laryngograph, Adobe Auditions 1.5 and Kay Multi-speech 2.4 as well as audio and video recording devices for child language acquisition research. Much of this equipment has been provided or updated during the current research assessment cycle. Capital funding is available annually for necessary additions. The lab has been assigned a separate and specifically trained technician to support equipment and research.

A major building programme will see linguistics, in common with most of the Jordanstown campus, relocate to a new Belfast city-centre campus that will complete in 2018 and will house state-of-the-art equipment. MEC will, as part of the School of Modern Languages, relocate in 2015 to a new purpose-built £6.1M Arts teaching and research facility on the Coleraine campus, funding for which was formally approved by DEL in October 2013 and the building of which will commence in 2014.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Staff have made significant contributions to their disciplines both nationally and internationally. This has included chairing subject associations: **Ó Dochartaigh** (AGS VP & President 2008-14, RIA Languages Ctte Chair 2004-8), **Gillespie** (UK Sartre Society Chair 2010-14); and election as members/fellows of national academies: **Gargett & Ó Dochartaigh** (MRIA), **Henry** (FRSA), **Ó Dochartaigh** (FRHistS). **Gargett** is one of just seven Fellows of the Voltaire Foundation, and was a Committee member of the Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society (2006-9). **Gillespie** is an Executive Member and, since 2010, Treasurer of EUROCALL and a member of the Northern Ireland Language Council. **Mullen** is Secretary of the Comparative Literature Association of Ireland. **Harley** has been a member of the LSA Program Committee since 2008. In 2007-8 **Henry** was Henrietta Harvey Distinguished Visiting Professor at Memorial University, Newfoundland. In 2012 **Folli** was Visiting Professor at the University of the Basque Country. Prior to her appointment, **Harley** was visiting professor at Ulster in 2007-2008 and in 2011-12. **Romoli** is associate investigator at Macquarie AHRC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders.

Staff have been peer reviewers for research councils (AHRC/ **Ó Dochartaigh**, **Gillespie**; British Academy/ **Henry**; ESRC/**Stapleton**, IRCHSS/ **Folli**, **Ó Dochartaigh**; NSF (USA)/ **Folli**, **Harley**, **Romoli**; NIH (USA)/ **Henry**; Fonds national de la recherche, Luxembourg/ **Gillespie**), while **Ó Dochartaigh** is also a Senior Strategic Reviewer for the AHRC. They have been external assessors for academic promotions at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman (**Henry**), Purdue University, USA (**Folli**), KCL, Bath University, Penn State University (**Ó Dochartaigh**). **Ó Dochartaigh** chaired a review in 2011 of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Dublin City University (teaching and research), and is a member of the IGRS (now IMLR) Advisory Board.

Staff engage in extensive editorial work across the range of disciplines in the unit. In the cycle, the unit has edited 7 volumes. **Ó Dochartaigh** has been Series Editor since 2009 of the *German Monitor* (Amsterdam), during which time eight edited collections have appeared, one of which he co-edited personally. **Ó Dochartaigh** also edited a 2010 number of *German Life and Letters* as well as a book entitled *Representing the 'Good German' in Literature and Culture after 1945*, for Camden House. **Folli** and **Harley** in 2008 edited a special issue of *Lingua* on Perfectivity and Telicity (118.11). **Folli** & Ulbrich and **Folli**, **Sevdali** & Truswell have edited two OUP volumes on interfaces in 2011 and 2013. **Rhys**, Iosad and **Henry** edited a CSP volume from INFL 4.

Sevdali was invited by Luraghi (Pavia) to contribute to the Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Language and Linguistics to be published with Brill Academic Publishers. **Stapleton** was an invited contributor to *Interpersonal Pragmatics* (2010, The Handbook of Pragmatics, Vol. 6; Mouton de Gruyter). She also co-contributed an entry to *Society and Language Use* (2010 Handbook of Pragmatics Highlights Vol 7; John Benjamins) with Wilson. **Harley** has contributed articles to the *Handbook of Japanese Linguistics* (OUP, 2008), the *Handbook of Compounding* (OUP, 2009), the *Handbook of Compositionality* (OUP, 2012), *Semantics: An International Handbook of Natural*

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Language Meaning (Mouton, 2012), and has one forthcoming in *Diagnosing Syntax* (OUP, 2013).

Gargett is a member of the Editorial Board of the Complete Works of Voltaire, during which time he has contributed to three volumes of the series. **Ó Dochartaigh** has been on the editorial boards of *Debatte* (2005-10), the MHRA Bithell Series (2005-13) and *Publications of the English Goethe Society* (2009-ongoing). **Gillespie** is a member of the Editorial Board of *ReCALL* (CUP) and *Sartre Studies International*. **Folli** is a member of the editorial board of *Syntax*. **Harley** was an editor of *Language* from 2010-12 and is on the editorial board of *Syntax* and *Language and Linguistics Compass*. Staff regularly review for journals such as *Lingua* (**Folli, Henry, Harley, Sevdali**), *Linguistic Inquiry* (**Folli, Harley**), *Journal of Linguistics* (**Folli, Harley**), *NLLT* (**Folli, Harley**), *Syntax* (**Folli, Sevdali**) *Semantics and Pragmatics* (**Romoli**), *Journal of Semantics* (**Romoli**), *Studia Linguistica* (**Folli, Sevdali**), *MLR* (**Gargett, Ó Dochartaigh**), *European History Quarterly*, *International Journal of Iberian Studies*, the *Journal of Hispanic Studies* (**Black**), *ReCALL*, *CALL Journal*, *CALICO*, *ALSIC*, *ACDELE* (**Gillespie**), *French Studies* (**Gargett, Gillespie**), *Journal of Eighteenth-Century Studies* and *Revue Voltaire* (Gargett). Among the prestigious publishers for staff have reviewed proposals are OUP (**Folli, Ó Dochartaigh**), Hodder (**Black**), Benjamins (**Folli**), and Boydell & Brewer (**Black**). Members of the unit regularly review conference abstracts (e.g. WCCFL, NELS, LSRL, LAGB, SuB, SALT).

The unit has organised twenty-two international conferences in the cycle in collaboration with a range of other national and international bodies such as *The Good German in Literature and Culture* at the IGRS in 2009, Sartre Studies conferences in London in 2011, 2012, 2013. Of those twelve were hosted at Ulster: the AHRC funded *Intangible Cultural Heritage* workshop 2008, *Anglo-Saxon Fatherlands* 2008, the *Language Strategy Workshop* 2008, *OnLI II* 2010, the 2009 *CUTG/AGS Conference*, the *Language Change: Grammaticalization and Beyond* workshop in 2009 INFL ii 2010 and iv in 2011, *Jews in the Celtic Countries* 2011, *ICSI section of ECREA* 2012, the *Evaluative Concepts Network II Conference* 2013, *Project L* workshop 2013, the *English Evaluative Concepts in Translated Religious and Devotional Texts* 2013 conference. Additionally members of the unit collaborated in the organisation of the following: a workshop on the Diachrony of complementation at the International Conference of Historical Linguistics (ICHL 19) at Radboud University, Nijmegen, 2009; a Thematic Panel on Swearing and (Inter)cultural Communication at the Sociolinguistics Symposium 2010 (Southampton) Beers Fagersten (Dalarna University).

Keynotes and invited talks: **Ó Dochartaigh** has given invited talks at Cambridge, Cardiff, Heriot-Watt and Trinity College Dublin. **Folli** has given invited talks at Bicocca (Milan), University of the Basque Country. **Romoli** has given invited talks at NYU, UConn, Bicocca, University of Konstanz, University of the Basque Country, UCL. **Henry** has delivered invited conference contributions at conferences including the Nordic Language Variation conference in Reykjavik and *Generative Grammar in the 21st century* at Essex. **Folli** has been invited to deliver several keynotes at conferences in York, Paris, and Konstanz. **Harley** has given invited talks at conferences and colloquia at UC Berkeley, Stanford, UMass Amherst, CNRS, Kobe, Tohoku, Tokyo, Connecticut, Maryland, Georgetown, UC Santa Cruz, USC, Colorado, Federal University of Mexico, Leiden, McGill, Barcelona, Utrecht, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Lund, Vienna, Stuttgart, Toronto and Verona. **Gargett** gave a keynote at QUB 2010 "Enlightenment France" conference. **Rhys** gave the closing keynote at ILinC 2012 (QUB).

Members of the group have externally examined PhDs (Essex/**Henry**; UCD/**Folli**; Utrecht, Western Ontario, Queensland, McGill, Arizona State/**Harley**; Glasgow, DCU, QUB/**Gillespie**), MPhil (Bangor/ **Ó Dochartaigh**) and MRes (Hertfordshire/**Rhys**).

Folli in 2011 was awarded one of the two Distinguished Research Fellowship Awards presented by the University annually to two outstanding researchers.

The unit makes a significant contribution to public discussion and policy formulation through regular television and radio interviews (BBC NI, UTV, RTÉ Radio, BBC Radio Ulster), newspaper articles (*Irish Times*, *Belfast Telegraph*) and evidence to NI parliamentary committees (Ctte for Employment and Learning; Ctte for Culture, Arts and Leisure).