

<p>Institution: University of Roehampton</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: Panel D, UoA 28 Modern Languages and Linguistics</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The research conducted in the UoA is driven by a desire for positive social change in an inclusive society through the use of language. Ensuring the public benefit of this research is at the heart of two key areas, Language & Linguistics and Translation & Accessibility, both of which are having a significant impact on non-academic users across different sectors of society.</p> <p>The research on Language & Linguistics focuses on innovation in language learning through technology and on language testing. Research in this area is influencing pedagogic and professional practices across a range of public and private institutions. For example, as a partner in the EU-funded TILA project, the team led by Melchor-Couto is working with technology partners and 48 schools in eight European countries to introduce new technology in the provision of foreign language learning to secondary school children that will influence pedagogic practice. As far as language testing is concerned, the innovative English language tests developed in the UoA have been adopted by governmental institutions and private companies internationally (see CLARe case study).</p> <p>The research on Translation & Accessibility focuses on the translation of music and videogames, and on the accessibility of people with hearing and visual impairments to audiovisual media. The findings of Desblache's AHRC-funded project Translating Music are informing the practice of international translation companies such as Deluxe International and music venues such as The English National Opera and the Royal Opera House. As far as accessibility is concerned, Romero-Fresco's work on subtitling and audiodescription to provide access to audiovisual media for visually and hearing-impaired adults has led to significant changes in this field. Based on his participation in the EU-funded project DTV4ALL, his findings have informed and shaped the practice of governmental regulators, media companies, public broadcasters and user associations internationally (see Romero-Fresco's case study).</p> <p>The combined expertise in language, technology and translation & accessibility is also having an impact in giving a voice to disadvantaged communities in four African countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and the Western Sahara. This has been achieved through Omoniyi's work to promote the use of indigenous languages for the effective delivery of public healthcare in Nigeria and Ghana; Santaolalla's project to enable Saharawi refugees to share the experiences of their marginalisation in the Western Sahara through the use of language and technology; and Romero-Fresco's accessible filmmaking project to empower secondary school girls in the slums of Kibera (Kenya) through the use of audiovisual media and accessibility.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Historically, individual researchers have sought to ensure that their research has had a positive impact and to follow it up when appropriate. In more recent years, the UoA has pursued a more active role in enhancing the impact of research, focusing on extending its reach and significance. We have engaged with the primary users of our research to effect change in the following three ways: 1) by communicating our research insights to wider public audiences; 2) by providing expert consultancy work, ensuring the impact of our research; 3) through collaboration and formal partnerships with the key users of our research.</p> <p>Evidence of our proactive approach to communicating to wider public audiences includes workshops and presentations, e.g. Desblache's presentation of her AHRC-funded Translating Music project at Europe House (26th June 2013) and Macerata Opera Festival (1 August 2013), the workshops delivered by Melchor-Couto in the secondary school Godolphin and Latymer (London, May and June 2013) to disseminate the outcomes of her participation in the EU-funded TILA project, and Lathey's presentation of her work on the translation of children's literature at Bologna Children's Book Fair and the London Book Fair. This communication is also facilitated by engagement with print, broadcast and online media. In Language & Linguistics, this strategy has materialised in Chevalier's regular blog on French language and culture in the French weekly news magazine <i>L'Express</i>, Levasseur's participation on BBC Radio 4's <i>Current Affairs</i> (13 March 2013) and in the French newspaper <i>Libération</i> (11 August 2013) about the use of language in the inclusion of marginalised residents in the French 'banlieues', and Mooney's participation in BBC</p>

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Radio 4's *Word of Mouth* (2009) with Michael Rosen on the language of cults. In the field of Translation & Accessibility, Romero-Fresco was invited to present his work on accessibility to audiovisual media for blind people on the BBC Radio 4 programme *In Touch* (24 May 2011) and on the radio station Fred Film Radio (3 September 2012 and 6 September 2013). Bernal-Merino's work on the translation of videogames featured in the SIG newsletter, the top-selling industry publication in the field, and Kapsaskis' research on the professional status of audiovisual translators featured in the film *The Invisible Subtitled*, screened at the EU Commission of London (May 2013), Europe House (May 2013) and the Labour Film Festival (Istanbul, Turkey, 2013). The UoA's work to give a voice to disadvantaged communities in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and the Western Sahara has reached the wider public through newspaper coverage (Omoniyi's work featured in *The Nigerian Tribune* in 2012 and 2013) and online communication (Santaolalla's website and blog *Just Messaging* on her project with the Saharawi refugees). The UoA is also exploring **the creation of films** to engage non-academic audiences with research, as shown by Chevalier's film *Lost Tango*, winner of first feature film award at the 2011 Swansea Bay Film Festival and Romero-Fresco's films *Joining the Dots* (2012), premiered at the 69th Venice International Film Festival and included on the United Nation's ITU website, and *Brothers and Sisters* and *Joel*, both broadcast on Austrian TV in June 2013.

We have provided **expert consultancy** for prospective beneficiaries, thus ensuring that we maximise the potential of our research to influence the actions of the intended audience. CLARe operates as a centre to engage with commissioned research projects on language testing and has provided consultancy to governmental institutions, educational and cultural organisations and private companies all over the world (see CLARe case study). Romero-Fresco is a member of the United Nation's ITU advisory team on accessibility for visually and hearing impaired users, Page provides consultancy services as expert in translator training for the Directorate General for Translation at the European Commission, Mooney acts as academic expert for the Welsh Joint Education Committee's work on English Language A-Level and Bernal-Merino provides specialised videogame localisation consulting services for Microsoft Game Studios, ThinkServices, and Keywords International and is designing specialist training provision for Blizzard Entertainment.

The UoA is particularly active in **external collaborations** that allow our members to have significant impact on the wider community. Melchor-Couto's collaboration with technology partners such as 3DLES has led to the modification of pedagogic practice in 48 secondary schools in 8 European countries to cater for the new technology used by the project for the provision of language learning to their students. Levasseur's AHRC-funded collaboration with the marginalised residents of the French 'banlieues' has led to the creation of the Banlieue Network Summer School (July 2013). In the field of Translation & Accessibility, as well as working with governmental regulators, broadcasters and user associations with regard to subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing (see case study), Romero-Fresco has collaborated with Fred Film Radio, the BBC and Venice International Film Festival in the provision of pioneering audio-introductions to films for blind and partially sighted users around the world. Page's research and collaboration with the Royal Opera House has materialised in the production of subtitles for Bizet's opera *Pearl Fishers*, which have since been used by other venues and production companies around the UK. In Africa, Santaolalla's work (funded by the British Academy) with the Saharawi refugees and the production companies Arauca Media, Imago and TheThinkLab, has resulted in the creation of the film *Coria y el mar* (2012), the compilation of the 'Western Sahara Audiovisual Database' and the development of workshops on language and equality in the Western Sahara refugee compounds.

Local support and institutional resources have facilitated our approach to impact. General training on impact activities and specialist training on a one-to-one basis has been provided in our UoA since 2012. The University has developed a central Research Activity Database to capture and record evidence of impact as we progress work in this area. At a departmental level, we have a Research Facilitator who provides support to colleagues with a particular focus on the appropriate evaluation of impact. There is formal workload provision for impact-related work, allocated according to annual research plans and appraisals. As well as theoretical research, our unit has supported the development of high-quality applied research with the potential for impact, particularly amongst ECRs. For example, Melchor-Couto and Bernal-Merino have been supported to conduct research on the use of language technology in the classroom and video game localization, respectively. Central impact support funds are also provided, for which we have

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successfully applied for projects related to our approach. The Santander scholarships and the research fellowships obtained by Romero-Fresco and Melchor-Couto for their work on accessible filmmaking in Kenya and language technology in European schools respectively are a case in point. Finally, as a key component of individual research plans, impact is formally recognised in the University's criteria for appointments and promotions and features strongly in departments' annual business plans.

c. Strategy and plans

Our future impact-related activities will continue to be underpinned by excellent research and a commitment to maximising the benefits for society through the use of language. We are actively developing our strategy, which will build on our achievements to date by increasing the significance and reach of our work. We will raise the profile of our key research strengths amongst public audiences via social and traditional media, as well as through more targeted communication and public events at specific audiences. We will also work with our Research Facilitator to ensure that the appropriate support is in place at the onset of the projects and to identify areas of research with potential for impact that have not been explored by the members of our UoA. We will achieve this by:

1) Establishing links with other disciplines to increase the reach of our impact.

Building upon the cross-disciplinary nature of our research and on our recent work on film, we will strengthen our links with the Film Department to pursue a new line of research, Accessible Filmmaking, which has great potential for impact. New collaborations with production companies in Europe (such as the Italian company Sub-ti) and Africa (such as the Kenyan Hot Sun Foundation) are already underway to pursue this innovative research avenue. Similarly, our work on Language & Linguistics will benefit from the contribution of the School of Education, which will help us determine the impact that the use of new technology for language learning in the classroom will have on school teachers and students. This will be implemented as part of a follow-up to the EU-funded TILA project and a new collaboration with the Australian media company Ai-Live.

2) Finding innovative applications for our research through new external collaboration.

We aim to consolidate links with existing users of our research and to take a more strategic and ambitious approach to engaging new users. A new collaborative project with the West University of Timisoara (Romania) will help establish the impact that recent EU membership is having on attitudes towards the major European languages as well as the link between that and migration patterns. Our work on accessibility to television for users with hearing and visual impairment will be strengthened by a new partnership with Ofcom in the UK and will expand to the Internet with the recently obtained EU-funded project HBB4ALL and to the arts with an Arts Council-funded project to provide access to the theatre for deaf patrons. Furthermore, our research on the translation of music and our collaboration with music venues will be expanded beyond the national level to an international audience as the new opera subtitles produced as a result of our work will be streamed live to cinema audiences around the world.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two case studies by Romero-Fresco and CLARe illustrate our commitment to high-quality research as a basis to achieve positive social change through the use of language. Romero Fresco's research promotes media accessibility by triggering new policies and practices that are improving the conditions of hearing-impaired citizens around the world. Similarly, CLARe's research in the area of language testing is leading to the development of widely-used, affordable and reliable English language tests that are benefitting governmental organisations, private institutions and language students in Europe, South America and Asia. Both projects have been enabled by research time, teaching replacement and infrastructural support at institutional level, and have led to new work (commissioned and funded) for the immediate future.