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| <p><b>Institution: Loughborough University</b></p> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: D29 English Language and Literature</b></p> <p><b>a. Overview</b><br/>         At Loughborough University, UoA D29 comprises a <b>single Department of English and Drama</b>, which thrives through the diversity of its membership and the interaction of its two core disciplines: it is one of the few UK joint departments of English and Drama. It consists currently of <b>24 academic staff (20.5 FTE)</b>, supported by two Technical Tutors in Drama and an IT Technician. Two Fellows of long standing, the playwright Alan Drury and the poet and translator Gillian Spraggs, participate in and contribute to the full range of our research activities. Staff are engaged in and supervise research in: most areas of post-medieval English and American literature and film; Creative Writing; some specific aspects of linguistics; and in Drama, theatre and performance studies. Research throughout the Department benefits from this cross-disciplinary interaction, and the productive inter-relatedness between English and Drama specialisms led us to decide to be returned to a single UoA rather than to both D29 and D35. Research activities are supported and developed in part through the Department's <b>three research groups, Early-Modern, Modern and Contemporary, and Performance</b>, with all colleagues and research students belonging and contributing to at least one of these. Research in the Department is led by two Research Coordinators (Staff and PGR), reporting to the Head of Department, working in close co-operation with the School's Associate Dean for Research (ADR), who reports direct to the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) (PVCR). This results in a close mutual understanding between the University and Department on strategic matters, and a clear definition of how, in our disciplines, we can best produce what the university's strategic plan calls 'Research that Matters'.</p> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b><br/>         Our strategy is designed to create a sustainable research culture that covers a wide historical and generic range, in which 'English', 'Drama', and 'literature' are defined broadly, and where excellent research, stemming from the researcher's personal engagement with and passion for their subject, can be undertaken in any area of our disciplines. Balancing this with a strategic development of our research in the light of the Department's specific strengths, specialisms, resources and ambitions has been a guiding principle since RAE2008; it continues to inform our plans for the future.</p> <p><b>1. 2008-13: areas of development</b> While many of our research areas are best pursued by the curiosity-driven traditions of the lone scholar, others benefit from a critical mass of research activity; some depend, too, upon shared resources. Our investments, in both staff appointments and physical resources, have sought to develop both elements whilst deepening selected key disciplinary areas. Thus, we have grown our <b>early-modern</b> research through recent appointments that result in a particular strength in women's writing in the period (adding Adcock and Read to Hobby, Overton (until his recent death) and Gill); managed our <b>modern and contemporary</b> developments through additional appointments in (a) 19c literature and culture (Beller and Tearle joining Freeman, Bolton, Hutton and Wolfreys), (b) American (Jenner expanding the range of Jarvis, Dix and Brewer), and (c) a second appointment in Linguistics (Maiorani). We have also identified <b>creative writing</b> as an area for strategic development: six staff members are published poets, playwrights and short story writers, and our Fellows are professional writers of significant standing. Consequently, we have nurtured our relationship with national and regional creative professionals through our twice hosting the East Midlands <i>Writing Industries</i> conferences, and through our establishment of a new national poetry prize. In <b>Drama and performance</b> we have both appointed Mangan as Professor of Drama, and committed departmental research funds to the development of the <i>Richard Foreman Archive</i>. Drawing on strategic University funding of £3m, we have completely refurbished the Department's three excellent theatre and performance spaces (2007-2010), so as to enhance practice-based research (Chatterjee, Scott-Jeffs, Mangan, Watt), and provide an outstanding environment for the international conferences we host (see <b>3</b> below).</p> <p><b>2. 2008-13: A strategic focus on early career researchers (ECRs)</b> has been a key element of the Department's priorities, because in 2008, the majority of colleagues were at the beginning of their careers. A fundamental and centrally-agreed strategy, therefore, has been to provide structures and resources to support these new researchers to develop as research leaders and enhance the particular strengths that they bring to the Unit. They have been encouraged to seek</p> |
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out opportunities to deliver papers on their research at international conferences, and funded to do so; they have also been guided to give the highest priority to completing excellent outputs, rather than to pursuing funding for larger schemes. With this achieved, many of our ECRs are now well-placed for success in gaining major external funding for their next-stage research projects.

**3. 2008-13 Prioritising types of research activities** The Department decided to commit significant resources during the review period to hosting a series of international conferences (one or two each year), making full use of our excellent theatre spaces. While staff at all stages of their careers benefitted from these, a key aim was to provide research networking and publishing opportunities to junior colleagues in particular, and associated possibilities of editing internationally excellent publications. This seeking of intellectual synergies beyond the Unit's own boundaries was considered especially important because of our relatively small size: a staff of 26 (22.5 FTE) cannot provide the full range of stimulus that a larger unit can, so we have brought leading thinkers to meetings that we have hosted, and included their work in the publications that have resulted.

**4. 2008-13 Achievement of strategic aims** Particularly successful amongst the hosted conferences were: *Writings of Intimacy* (September 2010), which featured 90 speakers from 19 countries at all career stages, ranging from Lauren Berlant and Leo Bersani to PhD students, and resulted in two major publications (a Special Number of *Textual Practice* and an edited book) for its early-career organizer, Cooke; the *English and Welsh Diaspora* (April 2011), which brought together 60 academic speakers, both junior and senior, with professional folk-singers, story-tellers and folk-dancers to produce new research collaborations and networks that enabled our launch with Edinburgh UP of the journal *Victoriographies; Analysing Multimodal Discourse* (Sept. 2011), outputs from which have resulted in the promotion to SL of Christie and Maiorani; and *Aphra Behn in her Seventeenth-Century Contexts* (April 2012), which produced two forthcoming publications, a book and a journal Special Number, co-edited by a departmental PhD student and a professor.

The research strategy pursued by the Unit, and supported by the staffing and resourcing strategies outlined above, have ensured that staff have been extremely productive. Within the review period, the 24 staff (20.5 FTE) submitting to this Unit have published 42 books (monographs and edited collections), and 136 journal articles and book-chapters. Many of these (e.g. books by Cooke, Dix, Fitzpatrick, Hobby, Hutton, Watt, and Wood) are the fruition of plans outlined in our RAE2008 return. Some 2008 projects have taken on new directions, resulting in journal articles or book chapters (e.g. Brewer, Christie, Gill, Jarvis and O'Byrne), or have grown in ways that outstripped expectations, such as Chatterjee's *Man of the Heart* project, which developed a much stronger international profile than was first envisaged. Other projects have arisen as a result of unforeseen opportunities for external funding, such as Hutton's winning of a Leverhulme Fellowship for a timely project on *Ulysses*, and Egan's acquisition of £334,000 Knowledge Transfer funding from AHRC to develop cultural dimensions of the London Olympics.

**5. 2014-19 Future plans** Succession planning resulted in the strategic appointment of Mangan in 2012. As Head of Department from 2014, he will provide research leadership, building on successes to date, and, more specifically, will deepen the Department's Performance and interdisciplinary research. He is currently contributing to the drafting of the University's strategic action plan to articulate and respond to six interdisciplinary 'Research Challenges'. These will connect University research activity in such areas as 'Secure and Resilient Societies', 'Future Technologies', and 'Communication, Culture and Citizenship'. We welcome the intellectual stimulation provided by such diverse, university-wide academic communities, and the identification of funding sources that this will support. Several colleagues (Fitzpatrick, Hobby, Maiorani, Mangan, Read) are already engaged in projects in the area of medical humanities, so the 'Health and Wellbeing' theme is expected to be particularly productive; for example Mangan, having completed his AHRC *Staging Ageing* project, has already submitted multi-institutional bids to the Wellcome Trust and the Templeton Foundation to examine the role of performance in 'The Healing Response'.

At the same time, new collaborations will arise from the addition to the Department of 5 colleagues with expertise in Publishing (submitted to UoA D36 for REF2014) in August 2013, as a result of the restructuring of Loughborough University's Information Science Department; developments in the 'Future Technologies' theme and the 'Communication, Culture and Citizenship' theme are already

underway, fuelled by this new arrival, and are expected also to include our Linguistics specialists.

Having built the international reputations of more junior colleagues, the next step is to consolidate this and develop them as research leaders. Collaborative projects beyond the University are planned as key elements here. For instance, Bolton is to build on her experience as an Editor on the Leverhulme-funded *Southey Letters* project to develop a major project funding bid for work focused on Romantic slavery and empire; Hobby is drawing on the networking of the conference *Aphra Behn in her Seventeenth-Century Contexts* to set up an editorial board for a new critical edition of Behn's works, and will apply to AHRC to fund this; Watt and his partners in the AHRC-funded *Object Theatre Network* have larger-scale plans for its development through the HEA; Hutton has received funding from the Department to supplement her Leverhulme Fellowship, enabling her to participate in a week-long intensive workshop at the University of Victoria, Canada, on 'Versioning and Collation in the Digital Environment', and is growing her next project on James Joyce from this. These initiatives will entail collaborations with colleagues from other universities both in the UK and beyond, and include positions for Postdoctoral Research Assistants and research studentships. This list is not exhaustive, but indicative of the plans that are currently most developed: our strategic commitment, fully supported by the University's commitment to Research that Matters, is to encourage excellent research initiatives in all our areas of expertise.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Given our **concentration of colleagues at an early career stage**, the Unit's research has benefitted greatly from the University's probationary arrangements, which ensure that probationers have no major administrative responsibilities, and reduces their teaching-load (33% of the norm in year 1, 50% in year 2, and about 70% in year 3). All ECRs take a New Lecturers Course, which includes a detailed introduction to the University's research culture and support mechanisms. The latter are centrally organized by the Research Office, which provides one-to-one support for all staff in writing grant proposals. ECR colleagues are mentored by senior ones, and also have priority in Department-level research funding: most of the £10,000 per annum that the Department spent during the review period on supporting archival trips and conference-going was granted to junior colleagues. As a result, junior colleagues have presented their research at international conferences in the UK and also in the US, Australia, India, Israel, Korea, and many parts of continental Europe. Such arrangements have been a major factor in enabling new Early-Career staff to establish their research; Bolton, Maiorani and Watt, all ECR in 2008, have already been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

The career development of all academic staff, including those on part-time contracts, is managed through the University's **annual Performance and Development Review (PDR)**, in which, in consultation with a senior colleague, appropriately ambitious goals are set, achievements reviewed, and success monitored against targets. Alongside this, Schools' Senior Management Teams annually review the performance of all staff, so as to make fair recommendations for promotion or salary enhancement under the Reward Review process. This performance monitoring is itself overseen by the University's Research Performance Monitoring Committee, chaired by the PVC, which reviews, in consultation with the Head of Department, the achievements and plans of all colleagues, and agrees the research strategy of the Department as a whole. Through such means, we ensure that colleagues develop their ambitions and outputs, readying them for leadership roles.

These procedures are conducted in accordance with University rules for recruitment and selection, in which is embedded an **Equality and Diversity** policy. The University undertook a comprehensive analysis of our alignment with the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers* in 2009-10, and published an implementation plan in 2010, for which we received the EC's HR Excellence in Research Award. Monitoring takes place through participation in the *Careers in Research Online Survey*, and through periodic University-wide Staff Surveys. This provides a strong context for the Department's annual PDR process.

The principles of the *Concordat* have also guided us in continuing research support for several **part-time colleagues who are recent Loughborough University PhDs**, allowing them access to departmental funding to speak at conferences, and providing regular meetings with Mentors (in

most cases, their PhD Supervisors or Internal Examiners), and specially targeted workshops run by the University's Research Office on making funding applications. In a recent strategic development, the Department was also permitted to establish several **postdoctoral positions**, designed to offer the post-holders career opportunities akin to those normally available in the University's key disciplines of Engineering and Science. Three two-year appointments were made in 2013: Adcock, Read and Tearle were selected from an excellent field. Their research links to our emergent cross-disciplinary Research Challenges, and they will benefit from the full range of professional development available to Loughborough University ECRs.

**Research Leave** to complete projects in a period of sustained concentration on writing continues to be extremely important in our disciplines. During the review period, all but one of the Department's staff, including those on part-time contracts, have benefitted from at least one semester of university-funded Study Leave. Colleagues are entitled to apply for one semester's Leave at the end of each period of six semesters of normal working, and are encouraged to plan their research activities so as to be in a position to make full use of Leave, if it is granted. In the sector's current straitened finances, all applications have to be considered in light of their implications for the Department's wider staffing costs, set against the imperative of supporting the production of excellent outputs. One priority in the probationary period, therefore, is to develop colleagues' understanding of how to obtain externally-funded research time; it is anticipated that the winning of such financial support will come to be of increasing importance.

Similar financial constraints are also affecting the public Arts bodies that are our most obvious **industry partners** in research. The relationships that we are continuing to develop, therefore, such as our long-standing partnership with Charnwood Arts, and collaboration with Leicester's Curve Theatre on multi-media applications in performance, are not ones that produce a research income-stream. These relationships do, however, enable the developments outlined in the Impact materials above, providing welcome impetus and stimulus for our researchers.

## ii. Research students

The Department considers its research students to be a vital and delightful part of our community; they make a great contribution to the research of the Department, and accordingly, significant time and resources are dedicated to their development. Several have gone on to become valuable members of the academic community at Loughborough University or elsewhere. In particular, the following, who have completed since 2008, **now hold university posts**: in addition to Adcock, Read and Tearle, recently appointed against strong competition at Loughborough University, are Piatti-Farnell, PhD 2009, SL in English, Auckland Univ. of Technology, NZ; McGowan, PhD 2012, Prof. of Animation, Savannah College, USA; Clark, PhD 2008, Lecturer in Linguistics, SHU; Dalmaso, PhD 2012, SL in Drama and Performance, University of Worcester; Darics, PhD 2013, Lecturer in Linguistics, University of Portsmouth. Paterson, PhD 2011, and Yu, PhD 2011 have also achieved postdoctoral appointments at the Universities of Leeds and Edinburgh Napier respectively.

PGR new-starters are inducted into the relevant Research Groups, thereby gaining awareness of the research interests of academics beyond their supervisory team, and starting to network with PGRs and postdocs. PGRs are expected (indeed required, if university-funded) to participate in the Department's regular research seminars, which feature both speakers from other universities and contributions from our own staff and postgraduates. They are also encouraged to apply for **departmental funding to speak at conferences**; during the review period, the Department spent a total of £15,000 supporting 30 different PGRs, many on more than one occasion each year, to speak at well over 100 conferences. These conferences included major British ones, such as BSECS, BARS, BAVS, TaPRA and BAAS, and it is our convention that when a research student first speaks in such an environment, a member of the academic staff attends and provides informal feedback on their performance. In the review period, this investment has been repaid not only through the vibrancy that PGRs returning from conferences bring back to us, but also through the publication of **24 journal articles and book chapters by our research students** during their registration periods. These include articles in major journals such as *Prose Studies*, *Seventeenth Century*, *Notes and Queries*, *Journal of Politeness Research*, *NTQ*, and *Women's Writing*, and chapters in edited books published by Palgrave and Ashgate. Any **postdoctorates** not yet employed permanently elsewhere are also welcomed as continuing members of their research

groups, and can apply to the Department for help with the costs of conference participation.

Support and training for PGRs' career development provided at departmental level includes financial and administrative assistance for their self-run **Work-in-Progress group**, where they trial conference papers and consult with one another about their research. They also have regular opportunities for involvement in the **international conferences** that we host. Many delegates at such conferences have commented on the Department's good fortune in the quality of its research students; we are indeed fortunate, but their success and confidence are partly a result of our deliberate procedures to support and develop them. The vitality of our PGR culture is also demonstrated through our very good **completion rates**. Of the 26 students whose completion of studies falls within the assessment period, 15 submitted their PhD thesis within 4 years of full-time study (or equivalent), and almost all the others within a 5<sup>th</sup> year. Four students in the earlier part of the review period were supported by AHRC studentships, and excellent support from the University has meant that another 26 new-starters since August 2008 have been elected to **fully-funded studentships**, with a further 31 being part-funded by the Department. The result of that strategic investment has been the exciting, productive research environment outlined here.

The Department's strategies and practices are entirely consistent with the University's strategic goals. At **University level**, the Graduate School works with the Careers and Employability Centre and the Library to enhance PGR experience and develop the graduate community. Their programme includes induction days for all new students, and workshops on such matters as completing a thesis, applying for funding, and teaching. (In the Department, PGRs' training includes the opportunity to teach small groups on first-year undergraduate core modules, with mentoring provided by module tutors.) The research training is mapped to the Researcher Development Framework, with workshops, an annual research conference, and an interdisciplinary forum where PhD students can debate the latest ideas, the 'Café Scientifique'. The Careers Centre employs a dedicated Careers Advisor for Researchers, who enables students to network with employers with opportunities at postdoctoral level. Benefits to the Department's PhDs during the review period include introductions to **user-groups** in the public sector, such as Kennedy's work for the Cleft Lip and Palate Association drawing on her research on early-modern faces; and Thong's providing the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust with some materials from her research on early-modern banqueting. In these achievements the Department's work is helped by the fact that the University's Strategic Plan *Towards 2016* identifies as a key part of the University's mission 'to influence the economic and social development of individuals, business, professions and communities'. Within the Department, key guidance on these University structures and facilities is provided by our highly experienced Research Co-ordinator and Postgraduate Administrator, who also advise supervisors on all aspects of the University's procedures.

Recruitment of students is in accordance with the University's admissions policy, which commits us to achieving **equality of opportunity** within a framework of research excellence. Normally, candidates will have a good first degree, a Master's qualification, and provide evidence of the ability to carry out extended research at doctoral level. Admissions decisions are taken by a small committee, and if appropriate an interview is conducted (by telephone or Skype for international candidates). Students are recruited only if fully appropriate supervision is available. Students with disabilities are invited to identify their special support requirements, and tailored assistance during their studies is provided through the University's Counselling and Disability Service. A student's supervisory team includes a Director of Research Degree Programme, who oversees progress, and is therefore well placed to assist should difficulties arise. Quality assurance is further provided within the School by an Associate Dean for Research, who is a member of the University's Research Committee (chaired by the PVC). Finally, the Dean of the Graduate School is responsible for all PGR business from admissions to examinations, as well as, for example, charring student appeals, thereby ensuring consistent treatment. The Dean of the Graduate School also leads our regular research degree programme reviews as part of the University's quality assurance mechanisms; outcomes of these are reported to Research Committee.

**PGR progress** is monitored through supervisory meetings, held at least fortnightly in the first year of study, and at least monthly thereafter. Written records of these meetings are kept. Each student also undergoes an annual progress review, against published criteria. Students produce written work for each review (10,000 words at the end of the first year if in full-time study), and a plan for

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completion including a time-line; they also report on the year's activities, including details of their training. These materials, and a report from the student's supervisor(s), are read by a progression panel (an independent assessor and their Director of Research Programme). The student then meets with the panel for feedback on their achievements and plans before progressing to the next year of registration. Formal notes of these meetings are entered on the University's central student record, and re-registration is possible only once a satisfactory review has been entered.

**d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

All Humanities academics know that winning significant income in our disciplines is challenging, perhaps especially for a Department that consists largely of junior academics, but we are much helped in this regard by the wider context at Loughborough University. The University has significantly increased its research funding over the years since RAE2008 (from £34.6 million in 2008-09 to £56.6 million in 2012-13). Of the latter figure, more than £30 million was received from highly competitive peer-reviewed research council sources, which has in turn leveraged growth in funding from industry and commerce. These successes have enabled the **University** to act on its strategic commitment to support excellent research in core disciplines, and to continue to invest in research in English and Drama. Most notably this has been manifested in the provision of research studentships, postdoctoral appointments and Study Leave as outlined in section (c). University strategy within the REF period has also resulted in **capital expenditure** of particular help in our disciplines, which have shared in the £7.4m of Research Capital Infrastructure Funding (RCIF) that has provided IT equipment and support crucial to our work. In addition, investment has been made in our *Richard Foreman Archive*, increasing its visibility and use by visiting researchers. The University's capital expenditure has included an investment of over £4m in the 'Transforming the Library' project, increasing study space and improving the learning environment. Capital investment from the university's central funds has also resulted in specific funding of nearly £3 million to enhance the Department's performance spaces (see **b 1** above). Related developments have also enabled the establishment of a new National Centre for Sports, Exercise and Medicine, a development of particular interest to Fitzpatrick, Hobby, Maiorani, Mangan, and Read, all of whom have research interests at the intersection of medicine and texts.

Within that wider context, members of the Department have had some **notable successes in raising research funding** during the review period. Highly significant is Egan's £334,000 from the AHRC Knowledge Transfer Fund for a partnership with the Victoria and Albert Museum to bring the world of Shakespearean Theatres alive for visitors to the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. (That income does not appear in our statistical return because the project moved to De Montfort University in 2012, when Egan accepted a Chair there.) Staff are guided in their funding applications by the University's **Research and Enterprise Offices**, which offer a complete service for the costing of research grants and contracts, facilitating interdisciplinary bids and bids that work with external partners. They also actively target funding opportunities, provide input in the drafting of applications, negotiate legal agreements, and provide on-going financial guidance. This support has been instrumental in the winning of smaller-scale funding by more than half of the Department's staff during the review period, including successful applications for Small Grants to the British Academy by Bolton, Fitzpatrick and Gill; a full year's Fellowship from Berlin Freie Universität by Chatterjee, as well as some British Council support for the *Man of the Heart* project; a Leverhulme Fellowship for Hutton; and an AHRC fellowship for the late Bill Overton (with Hobby added to the grant by AHRC to enable her to complete the project). Other successful bids have included Hutton's expanding the remit of her Leverhulme Fellowship through holding the James Joyce Fellowship at SUNY Buffalo; Maiorani's securing of funds from the Alma Mater Ticinensis Foundation to facilitate her involvement in a project on audiovisual language with the universities of Pavia and Malta; Egan's winning of fellowships at the Huntington Library and Folger Shakespeare Library to enable research for his last book on editing Shakespeare; and Wood's Harry Ransom Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin to complete his edition of Waugh's *Put Out More Flags*. Although in most cases the sums of money involved so far are small, these successes indicate that as colleagues' careers and ambitions continue to develop, the institutional help available to us can lead to a significant improvement in our income levels. Guidance from Mangan, who joined the Department only in August 2012, is already proving useful in setting appropriate targets. His success in winning significant research funding – most recently for his AHRC-funded *Staging Ageing* project (£103,839), but also his leadership of the £287,000 AHRC Creative Fellowship with Howard Barker to work with Exeter University Drama Department on 'Plethora and

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Bare Sufficiency' – has produced advice to colleagues on framing and targeting their applications, and augurs well for future successes for the team as a whole.

**e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

All members of the Department are strongly committed to contributing to the health and sustainability of the disciplines of English and Drama, and are delighted that Hobby and Wood are **Fellows of the English Association**, whilst Mangan is a **Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts**, and was a member of the O66 Panel for RAE2008; in recognition of the range of his expertise he is co-opted to the University's Research Committee, as well as serving as the School's ADR. Hobby, Mangan and Wood have also been members of the **AHRC Peer Review College** during all or part of the review period, and AHRC has made use of several colleagues – Brewer, Egan, Jarvis, Watt – as expert reviewers for particular projects. Egan when at Loughborough University was a review panel member of the JISC-digitization project, and Featherstone is a Board member of the national creative writing organization *Apples and Snakes*. We have also contributed as **Executive** members of **CCUE** (Christie) and **SCUDD** (Brewer). Chatterjee has held prestigious Fellowships during the review period, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study, India (July 2010-January 2011), and at Berlin Freie Universität (August 2011-July 2012).

Whilst most of those named so far are senior academics whose profiles might be expected to include such responsibilities, the wide range of activities of all colleagues, including those at an early career-stage, demonstrate vitality and sustainability. **Journal editorships** feature significantly here. In the *Modern and Contemporary Research Group*, for instance, Christie was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Politeness Research* from 2005-10, taking this new journal to its current highly-regarded position; Wolfreys, meanwhile, in 2011 launched *Victoriographies*, persuading leading scholars including Dinah Birch and Regenia Gagnier to write for its first number, and providing paid opportunities for PGRs to contribute to its editorial processes; Jarvis has recently become editor of the American Literature section of *Literature Compass*, building on his experience and contacts as editorial board member of *Textual Practice*, *MLR*, *Journal of American Studies*, and *Journal of Theoretical Criminology*; Beller is editing the re-launched *Wilkie Collins Journal* and is also journal editor for the Victorian Popular Fiction Association. From the *Performance* research group, Watt, in partnership with colleagues from two other universities, is launching a new journal building on the work of the performance philosophy network TaPRA that he has run for several years; he is also contributing editor for *Performing Ethos*, as is Brewer for *New Theatre Quarterly*. In the *Early-Modern* research group Egan was editor for both *Shakespeare* and *Theatre Notebook* during his Loughborough University years. All of those journal editors regularly provide advice to a wide range of academic publishers; everyone in the Department is also involved in assessing **submissions to presses and journals**, the most common being CUP (Christie, Hobby, Maiorani, Overton), Palgrave Macmillan (Dix, Freeman, Jarvis), Routledge (Christie, Freeman, Maiorani, Wolfreys), OUP (Freeman, Hobby, Hutton, Mangan), Pickering & Chatto (Freeman, Overton), but a large number of other publishers also consult us, as do major journals including *RES*, *MLR*, *The Seventeenth Century*, *Prose Studies*, *Multilingua*, *Literature and Theology*, *Textual Practice*, *Studies in Travel Writing*, *Women's Writing*, and, of course, our own (Edinburgh UP) *Victoriographies*. Similarly, between them 10 colleagues are members of **Editorial Boards** of more than 30 journals. Commitment to the subject base is further demonstrated by colleagues' performance as **External Examiners for PhDs**: between them, 12 colleagues have examined theses at more than 20 different universities during the review period, including Aberdeen, Birmingham, Essex, Exeter, Hull, Liverpool, Northumbria, Nottingham, Royal Holloway, St Andrews and UWE, as well as at universities in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Spain.

The range of research interests brought together in the Department also results in significant diversity in our **collaborations** with colleagues elsewhere. Particularly of note are Featherstone's work with colleagues from the University of Leicester and from the University of Nebraska on an AHRC bid to establish an interdisciplinary, international Research Network on Afghanistan; Bolton's long-standing work with colleagues from the universities of Maryland, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Nottingham Trent on the AHRC-funded *Southey Letters* project, which organizes biennial international conferences on Southey; Maiorani's membership of a research group based at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale, whose work focuses on discourse analysis and persuasion in the field of public health, and her role as CI on the University of Bologna's investigation into English

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and Italian audiovisual language; Christie's founding membership of the Linguistic Politeness Research Group, whose 300 members from across the world include colleagues from Business and Communication Studies, as well as from English and Linguistics; and Watt's co-convening of the Theatre, Performance and Philosophy research group (TaPRA) since 2005 with Daniel Meyer-Dinkgrafe. Collaborative work by other colleagues includes Beller's plans to build on her co-editing of a recent Special Number of *Women's Writing* with a colleague from the University of Amsterdam through her invited membership of their 'Emotion and Subjectivity' research group; Cooke's membership of the interdisciplinary, international 'Love Research Network' run from St Andrews University; Mangan's plans with colleagues from Exeter and Oxford for an interdisciplinary research project investigating 'The Healing Response'.

As is indicated above in section (b), however, perhaps our central contribution to the disciplines during the review period has been our organization of a wide range of **international conferences**. Hosted at Loughborough University, with organizing committees that included colleagues from other institutions but led by Loughborough University, were 'Polyverse Poetry Festival', July 2009; 'Writings of Intimacy', September 2010; 'English and Welsh Diaspora', April 2011; 'Analysing Multimodal Discourse', Sept 2011; 'Aphra Behn in her Seventeenth-Century Contexts', April 2012; 'Changes in Contemporary Ireland', September 2012; 'The Rural Experience', March 2013; 'Eighteenth-Century Poetry', September 2013. These conferences drew on and then contributed to the establishment of formal and informal networks, employing PGRs to help with their organization in order to develop research students' experience and connections. In addition, various colleagues have contributed to the running of other conferences and networks. For instance, Bolton has organized the Midlands Romantic Seminar since 2008, and Beller joined the committee of the Midlands Victorian Studies Seminar in 2010, and has since run a series of regional seminars. Maiorani was a member of the Scientific Committee of the 22<sup>nd</sup> European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference, Koper, Slovenia, July 2010, and of that of 'The Language of Films' held at the University of Pavia, Italy, September 2012. Brewer, meanwhile, organized the 2008 SCUDD Conference, including a round-table discussion – 'Beyond the RAE' – addressing the potential impact of metrics on the assessment of Drama research. Cooke has continued to build on the connections formed at the Loughborough University-hosted 'Writings of Intimacy' conference, and in July 2013 organized a symposium at the Institute for Psychoanalysis to develop further its interdisciplinary network.

Colleagues have also contributed to the vitality and sustainability of the disciplines through accepting invitations to deliver **keynotes or performances** at international academic gatherings. Most notable here are Chatterjee's lecture-demonstrations from his *Man of the Heart* project, which have included Shilpokola Academy, Bangladesh (December 2009); Barbican, London (March 2010); Bangla Academy, Dhaka (August 2011); Istituto Italiano di Cultura Bengalese, Rome (October 2011); International Symposium of the Asian Art and Performance Consortium, Helsinki (May 2012); International Theater Institute, Berlin (July 2012), and at least as many others. Also in the *Performance* research group, Mangan was a founder member and Associate of the interdisciplinary European Centre for Penological Studies, University of Warsaw (2008-present), and has been invited to present a plenary address at their 2013 conference. Watt, meanwhile, was the invited plenary speaker at both 'The Politics of the Psychophysical' conference, University of Helsinki Theatre Academy (November 2011); and at the 'Performing Performance' symposium at Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, April 2013. In the *Modern and Contemporary* research group Christie delivered a plenary lecture at the Sixth International Symposium on Politeness in Ankara (July 2011), Maiorani had a keynote spot at the 'MUST- Multimodality' conference in Helsinki (August 2009), and Hutton delivered a plenary lecture at the Fourth Annual James Joyce Research Colloquium (April 2011). Plenary lectures delivered from the *Early-Modern* research group included Hobby's address at *Women Writing 1550-1750 (Revisited) Conference*, Melbourne, Australia (January 2008); an invited seminar by her for the Irish Society for Nursing and Midwifery History, Dublin (February 2008); her plenary address at the 'Depression and its Representation in Britain and Europe, 1660-1800' conference (June 2008); at the 'History of Nursing and Midwifery Colloquium', Milton Keynes (April 2009); and at 'Aphra Behn and her Female Successors', Vienna (July 2010). All such activities draw on and feed our connections beyond Loughborough University, and we look forward to continuing to develop these in the years ahead.