

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of York</p> <p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 29, English Language and Literature</p> <p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>The Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York comprises 44 (41.01 FTE) permanent academic staff, of whom 88% are being returned in REF2014. Our department is united by a central and fundamental belief in the value of literary texts as agents of social and political change and enrichment, a belief which motivates our research and its applications in local, regional, national and international settings.</p> <p>Our department is internationally recognised for its distinctive combination of chronological, linguistic, and disciplinary range. The study of literary cultures in English forms the core of our identity, while over half the department also works on the literatures of other languages, from medieval Latin to modern Arabic. This linguistic range is mapped on to a chronological breadth, with our research covering all periods from Antiquity to the present day.</p> <p>The department's research and impact activities are structured around four period-based research schools – medieval, renaissance, eighteenth century, and modern. Each of these schools works closely with a corresponding interdisciplinary research centre, forming productive links and communities across a number of Humanities departments.</p> <p>The context and content of our impact agenda is shaped by research values which include, alongside strong literary expertise, multilingualism, interdisciplinarity, diachronic and synchronic approaches, inclusivity, and a commitment to public engagement and the potential economic benefits of literary study. In a globalised environment, our distinctive research profile has provided more opportunities for significant impact than might be expected of an English department. The interdisciplinarity which is such a key feature of Humanities research at York gives both range and focus to the impact of our literary research and extends the pool of potential external partners.</p> <p>The rich diversity (linguistic, chronological and disciplinary) and social significance of our world-class research shapes our current, planned and emerging impact which falls predominantly into four clusters: <b>social justice and human rights, cultural life and creative practice, heritage and tourism, and curriculum development.</b></p> <p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p><b>1 Historically embedded:</b> The department has a strong impact environment based on a longstanding commitment to the public role of the Humanities. The historical nature of our investment in applied research and impact has been evident since the 1980s, when, for example, Professor Jacques Berthoud (head of the British Chapter of Amnesty International and anti-apartheid negotiator), Professor Hermione Lee (media commentator and literary critic), and Professor Felicity Riddy (higher education policy adviser) established an outward-facing identity for the department. The five case studies that we are submitting for REF2014 were chosen from a larger selection of ongoing impact activities indicating the effectiveness of our external partnerships and our long-term practice of applied research.</p> <p><b>2 Impact clusters:</b> In the period 2008-2013 we have worked strategically to develop <b>four impact clusters</b>, areas where we can make the strongest contribution by operating in a sustained and mutually-beneficial relationship with external partners. Each cluster includes colleagues working across the full linguistic, chronological, and disciplinary range of the department, and promotes impact of local, national, and international reach.</p> <p><b>2a Social justice and human rights:</b> Our engagement with non-Anglophone literatures and audiences and our research leadership in the fields of postcolonial and global literary studies, inform our commitment to socially inclusive and transnational approaches to literature in social contexts. Our research outputs focus on multiple languages and cultures, including those of ethnic and religious minorities and the disabled, generating an impact on regional and</p>
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international communities through exhibitions, public lectures, policy advice, and arts projects.

*Beneficiaries:* civil society, minority groups, cultural institutions.

*Examples:* South Africa's National English Literary Museum (**Attwell/Attridge**); Pakistan's *The Dawn* newspaper (**Chambers**); BBC New Generation Thinker (on disability) (**Hall**), PEN International (**Westall**).

**2b Cultural life and creative practice:** Our research into literary production, editorial practice, film, and performance leads to applications which enrich cultural life and bring literature and performance to new audiences. Our location in York, a largely monocultural city in the multicultural region of Yorkshire, presents specific opportunities for us to act as go-betweens from the local to the metropolitan and the global. Our research outputs have resulted in cultural, creative, and economic benefits across a range of industries and providers.

*Beneficiaries:* general public, publishers, computer gaming, writers, directors, actors, film professionals, local arts venues, arts critics, theatre companies, media, literary festivals.

*Examples:* filmmakers and York Theatre Royal (**Buchanan**); Writers at York (**Haughton**); iceandfire theatre company (**Morin**).

**2c Heritage and tourism:** The strongly historical dimension of our research enables us to cooperate with museums, libraries, archives, tourist industries, and the media to preserve and revitalise Britain's cultural heritage and to create economic activity both locally and nationally. Outcomes from our research have been used in exhibitions, public lectures, and media articles and programmes.

*Beneficiaries:* media industries, tourism, museums, galleries, archives, and their visitors.

*Examples:* British Library (**Bowen, Sherman**); British Film Institute (**Buchanan**); York Minster Library (**Killeen, Sherman**); London Guildhall (**Mooney**); National Trust (**Smith**); Jorvik Centre York (**Townend**).

**2d Curriculum development:** Our research projects and outputs play a key role in reshaping the curriculum at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. In some cases this is the result of major new narratives emerging from our research which are then taken up in textbooks and classroom teaching (for example, our work on South African literature). In other cases, the impact is the result of our planned outreach to teachers and schools.

*Beneficiaries:* schools, universities, teachers, students.

*Examples:* primary and secondary schools in York (**Buchanan, Killeen, Smith**); schools in Hackney, London (**Smith**); Children's Services, Leeds City Council (**Chambers**).

**3 Developing strategy at university level:** As the department recognises the importance of impact, it has worked across the University to help develop the impact agenda in the following ways:

**3a** The department has taken a leading role in the establishment and resourcing of the **Humanities Research Centre (HRC)**, housed in a purpose-built three-storey modern building. Opened in 2009, the HRC was conceived and developed by former staff in the department, becoming a fully responsive part of the research and impact culture under **Buchanan** (Professor of English and current Director). The relocation of the Arts & Humanities External Partnerships Manager to the HRC in 2011 has produced a step-change in the department's impact activities (including the enlistment of new external partners and stake-holders, hosting of impact events, publicity for research and public engagement).

**3b** The **York Festival of Ideas** was conceived by **Attwell** and Moody (former Director of HRC and Professor of English), who secured start-up funding from the Vice-Chancellor's Office. The Festival arose directly from impact activities within the department in 2011, specifically the King James Bible Anniversary conference (**Killeen**) and the international Samuel Beckett conference (**Rainey**), which attracted worldwide publicity. Now a major annual cultural event run by the university's Directorate of External Relations, the York Festival of Ideas provides a critical forum for developing an open relationship between the university's research and the city of York, both its residents and its tourists, and the region more widely.

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**3c** Chair of Department Research Committee served on **university embedding impact working group**, and helped to feed in the Arts and Humanities perspective to the final report of the group. The report is being used by the institution to plan and embed impact over the coming years.

**4 Department support structures:** In order to enable a wide range of staff to undertake knowledge exchange and impact activity, the department has undertaken the following measures to improve infrastructure and support:

**4a** In 2012-2013, the university's Research and Enterprise Directorate allocated £20,000 of HEIF funding to the department to consolidate and extend our external engagement. This award was used primarily to formalise long-term partnerships (including those with York Minster Library, the National Trust, the British Film Institute, Green Screens Film Company, Thanouser Film Company, the National English Literary Museum in Capetown, and Children's Services at Leeds City Council). The award also enabled the expansion of the Writers at York literary forum (a longstanding department initiative) and the establishment of a new network, the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Network (CLAN).

**4b** A range of practical measures introduced since 2008 has enhanced the profile and functionality of impact within our departmental culture, and ensured that colleagues understand impact as a normative part of their professional role. These measures include: (1) incorporation of impact into our workload model; (2) recognition of impact in career development/promotion; (3) recognition of impact as a criterion for appointments; (4) award of pump-priming funds to support impact; (5) termly discussion of impact at Department Research Committee (with impact reports from directors of the four research schools); (6) raising awareness among colleagues of available support for impact (funding and training) from the university, research councils and other bodies; (7) impact support and training for ECRs in the department, including PhD students (for example, two of our ECRs have been selected as AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinkers (Norridge [2011-12] and Hall [2012-13])); (8) designation of an appropriately-resourced departmental Impact Officer (**Chambers**) to develop and co-ordinate impact; (9) development of systems for capturing evidence of impact and publicising it (for example, questionnaires, online ticketing, email lists, reports from partners); (10) establishment of an external Advisory Board to act as partners and to advise on impact (see section c, point 2, below).

### c. Strategy and plans

**1 Developing our impact environment in each of our four impact clusters:** The department seeks to build on the substantial achievements of 2008-13. Over the coming five years, we will intensify and expand the impact of our research in each of our four clusters. We will do this by (1) creating more formal links with those UK and international external partners we currently work with; (2) initiating new strategic partnerships; and (3) creating mechanisms to help capture and support unforeseen impacts.

Examples of planned and emerging impact: **Social justice and human rights: Morin** is developing impact based on her research on Samuel Beckett and the political imagination in collaboration with iceandfire: Actors for Human Rights, theatre companies and Freedom from Torture; **Hall's** outward-facing work on disability is supported by the university's Centre for Chronic Diseases and Disorders (C2D2; funded via the Wellcome Trust). **Cultural life and creative practice: Tyler** is preparing a European radio series on modern poets and political use of the medieval past (part of Centre for Medieval Literature, funded by Danish National Research Foundation); **Walsh** is developing the creative side of his research (carried out with computer and natural scientists) with the York Arts Barge Project and computer gaming partners; **Fulton** is developing links with British Council Wales, Literature Wales, and BBC Wales as part of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Welsh Literature*. **Heritage and tourism: Cummings** and **Sherman** established the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Network (CLAN) in 2013 to promote collaborative and applied research using cathedral collections throughout the UK; **Sherman** is curating an exhibition in the Folger Library, Washington DC; **Watt** will link his work on eighteenth-century and contemporary tourism to the York Tourist Office. **Curriculum development:** the Writers at York programme (**Haughton**, and now **Campbell** and **Chambers**) will extend our

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current engagement with primary and secondary pupils from York to Leeds. Writers at York and **Buchanan's** 'Silents Now' project will work with schools in Pakistan and Austria.

**2 External partnerships:** Our award of £20,000 from HEIF funding was used to lay the groundwork for key external partnerships, which will be further realized in the next REF cycle. We will seek further funding to support the expansion of our impact in the area of cultural life and creative practice in Yorkshire, building on the successful Writers at York programme and expanding this to include film, music and other media.

The Departmental Advisory Board was established in 2012 to provide key external partners and advisors for the development of impact in all four clusters: H Bayley (Labour MP, York); N Carmody (Founder, Revolution Software – computer games); J Delaney (CEO, Continuum, leading visitor attractions group); A Forbes Watson (Managing Director, Pan Macmillan); S Griffin (Librarian, York Minster Library); T Tinsley (Alcantara Communications - consultancy and communications services); J Thomsett (Head Teacher, Huntington School, York); D Wallis (European lawyer/mediator, former MEP); S Ward-Lilley (Deputy Head of Newsgathering, BBC News). We are now working to realize the potential of this group for supporting the reach and significance of the department's impact.

**3 Diversifying funding sources:** A key aim (beyond those of 2008-13) is to establish a wider range of funding streams to secure the sustainability of our impact. We aim to (1) attain a high level of research funding (building on our 66% rise over 2008-13) with built-in support for research-led impact, with applications to AHRC, Leverhulme and EU funding programmes (especially HERA, ERC and Marie Curie); (2) apply for internal funding and utilise departmental resources to pump-prime knowledge exchange activity, with the aim of applying for larger external funds, and conducting ambitious knowledge exchange projects that have impact; (3) use York's membership of the Worldwide Universities Network and its Global Challenges framework to support international impact activities, especially in South Africa and the USA; (4) use our newly-emerging collaboration with Computer, Natural and Social Sciences to open up new funding streams from research councils and external partners. .

**4 Infrastructure development:** Further infrastructure elements, in addition to those put into place during 2008-2013, will be critical to the success of our planned impact strategy. Two are particularly important. 1) **White Rose University Consortium (WRUC):** existing collaborations and funding streams within the WRUC (Universities of York, Leeds, and Sheffield) provide a major route to establishing further partnerships in Yorkshire. The WRUC is the basis for the York-led AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership, which has committed itself to high-quality training in impact delivery. 2) **Humanities Research Centre:** we will continue demonstrate the importance of impact from humanities research, and will lobby for an additional post in the HRC tied to impact development. We will work with HRC so that it continues to take a leading role in the development and support of strategic partnerships, from the local to the international.

#### d. Relationship to case studies

The department's five selected case studies are well-developed examples of ongoing high-quality impact. The case studies exemplify our focus on groups of beneficiaries with whom we plan to expand our strategic partnerships.

Each of the current case studies is part of at least one departmental impact cluster, underlining our commitment to these specific areas. Four of the case studies are submitted by senior members of the department, highlighting the long-term nature of impact and the value of the clusters for mentoring and passing on expertise and contacts to early-career and mid-career colleagues. This mentoring and support is evident in a fifth case study which captures impact planned by colleagues as ECRs (they are now promoted mid-careers academics).

Our five case studies testify to the range and depth of the department's impact, our longstanding commitment to applied research, and our strategy for supporting and developing impact in local, national, and international communities.