

<p>Institution: Aberystwyth University (AU)</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 28B: Modern Languages (Celtic Studies)</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The impact agenda of the Department of Welsh supports, contributes to, and enriches the minority Celtic-language cultures, particularly in Wales, and also influences audiences internationally. With its expertise in creative writing and literary and linguistic scholarship, the Department has concentrated on impact in the areas of <i>cultural life</i> and <i>education</i>. Through the activities outlined in section (b) and in the Impact Case Studies, the Department's impact on cultural life has involved the following: a national and international readership (individuals and reading groups); independent practitioners and groups in the creative industries; local literary and historical societies; literary festivals; literary tourists; readers and visitors at the National Library of Wales (NLW); Eisteddfod attendees; audiences of Radio Cymru, S4C, BBC, and EITB (Basque television). Departmental staff undertake outreach work in local junior and secondary schools and the Impact Case Study on Morgan's creative writing demonstrates the Department's wider impact on WJEC A Level candidates. The second Case Study demonstrates impact on Higher Education outside the HEI.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The Department's long-standing links with local communities and the wider Welsh nation has enabled it to enrich cultural life and influence the form and content of education. During the REF2014 census period, staff have endeavoured to enhance these relationships and develop the Department's impact agenda through the following interactions: (i) collaborations with independent practitioners and groups in the creative industries; (ii) media engagement; (iii) building relationships with cultural institutions and societies; (iv) contributing to Welsh education and the curriculum; (v) translation and adaptation. Some of these had an international dimension. The appointment of Charnell-White as Head of Department from August 2013 strengthened its impact profile, since she has been active with the women's press Honno, as a radio and TV speaker, as a leader on the Iolo Morganwg literary trail and as a speaker at local societies and Eisteddfodau.</p> <p>(i) Collaborations with independent practitioners and groups in the creative industries exemplify how one of the themes of the HEI's strategic plan – 'learning from our past for the future' – can be realized through building relationships with creative artists. Rodway advised the composer Eleri Pound on <i>Kat Godeu</i>, commissioned by Arts Council England and premiered at the International Anthony Burgess Foundation, Manchester (March 2013). With sponsorship from the Welsh Arts Council in both cases, Haycock helped the Cumbrian musician/storyteller Lynne Denman prepare <i>Kymbri – Stories of the Old North</i> (Tŷ Newydd, Gwynedd, June 2013) and was the text-consultant for Bragod's <i>crwth</i> and voice concert 'Adar/Birds' that toured Cardiff-Aberystwyth-Bangor-Holyhead in 2012, as acknowledged on their CD <i>Llatai</i> (2013). Haycock helped Esyllt Harker utilise her research on Heledd (2003) for the show <i>Tair</i> at the Wales International Storytelling Festival in 2012 (http://www.beyondtheborder.com/festival/line-up/esyllt-harker). Sims-Williams's research on Llywarch Hen and Llan-gors (1993) led to an invitation to assist a Heritage Lottery Fund partnership project between 'Head4Arts' and the National Museum of Wales on <i>Ynys Gwydr: Island of Glass</i>, an opera about Llan-gors featuring Llywarch, staged in Merthyr Tudful and the Wales Millennium Centre (April 2013). The project succeeded in its aims of raising public engagement with an 'elitist' art form, increasing the community's sense of ownership of its heritage, and aiding cultural regeneration (see Case Study on 'Shaping the growth, development and impact of Celtic Studies...'). In the innovative area of cultural tourism, Edwards and Huws were co-leaders of a literary tour, 'Dafydd ap Gwilym in Ceredigion', one of a series 'Awduron a'u Cynefin', sponsored by Yr Academi Gymreig (2009). Further afield, the Department's expertise in ancient Celtic languages led to a request by a local tourist group in Bulgaria to name their reconstructed 'Celtic Village' (<i>Labaronanta</i>, 2012).</p> <p>(ii) Media engagement. The Department's on-going AHRC 'Bartrum Project' on Welsh genealogies attracted keen amateur interest and correspondence worldwide; in early 2011 it was the most visited site on CADAIR, the Aberystwyth University digital repository, and some sections had up to 674 downloads annually. In 2010, Chapman and Sills-Jones (Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, AU) ran an interdisciplinary project 'Pwy yw T.H.?' (Who is T.H.?), filming interviews with members of the public in Aberystwyth, the NLW and the Eisteddfod for an online</p>

installation (<http://vimeo.com/20469661>). Staff and postgraduate students also engaged with the public through contributions to mainstream broadcasting, particularly (but not exclusively) in Wales. Edwards, often with Griffiths, participates in the popular BBC Radio Cymru poetry series, 'Talwrn y Beirdd', and in 'Ymryson y Beirdd' at the National Eisteddfod. Chapman and Huws presented research on R. Williams Parry to non-specialists on the Dei Tomos programme (BBC Radio Cymru, 2010). Huws brought his own research on literary history to a wide audience in nine radio programmes (2008-12) and contributed extensively to the S4C TV programme 'Gwlad Beirdd: Eifion Wyn' (2011). In 2012, Morgan filmed a programme about his own work for S4C. The Department's research on ancient Celtic languages led to requests to create Celtic spells for the TV series *Merlin*, and also to advise on dialogue for an in-production Bronze Age film by Andrew Ellinas (British Lion Award for Achievement in Film 2011; Honourable Mention, Los Angeles International Film Festival 2011). Further afield, Sims-Williams's research on ancient Celtic languages featured in a contribution to a TV documentary on the Basque language in November 2011, for which he was also a consultant and was filmed in the Department: *Euskararen Jatorria: Enigma Europar Bat* (www.eitb.tv/es/#/video/1301166325001).

(iii) Building relationships with cultural institutions and societies. Edwards was commissioned to write a poem responding to Cefyn Burgess's 'Llestri'r Capel' exhibition in Y Morlan, Aberystwyth, and in a similar interdisciplinary project the NLW commissioned Griffiths and Haycock to translate sestodes for *26 Treasures: 4 National Museums, 104 Objects, 62 words each*, ed. John Simmons (2012). Staff enrich cultural life by supporting a variety of cultural societies and literary events. Huws and Chapman contributed to the NLW's series of lunchtime talks, Huws lectured at the National Eisteddfod (2011) and at the Snowdonia National Park's new heritage centre (June 2013), Sims-Williams lectured on 'Powys and Early Welsh Poetry' to the Powysland Club (2011), while Haycock presented her research on Ffrancis Payne to the Cardigan Cymmrodorion Society (2009) and the Radnorshire Society and Field Club (2012), and was invited to run a day-school on Taliesin at the Bleddfa Centre, near Knighton, Powys (June 2013). Huws gave eight further talks taking his research to local literary societies in the relevant localities, five of them connected with his *Diflanedig Fyd: Gohebiaeth Carneddog a Gwallter Llyfni 1926-1932* (2010). The Department marked its publication by inviting the poets' surviving relatives and other local people to a launch, sponsored by the Welsh Books Council, with readings by Huws and Edwards. At the Hay Festival in 2008, Chapman launched his English adaptation of Rhys Evans's biography of Gwynfor Evans, and also led discussions with writers in connection with the Wales Book of the Year in 2008 and 2010. In 2011, at the Morlan Centre, Aberystwyth, Chapman contributed to GWLEIDYDD/iaith, a day-school on Politics and Literature. From the Department, Rodway runs a fortnightly Irish and Welsh reading group that has a broad non-specialist membership, and Hincks chairs the Wales-Brittany society *Cymdeithas Cymru-Llydaw* and also edits its newsletter *Breiz/Llydaw* (ISSN 1464-8229). Following publication of his research on the emigré poet Tomás Ó Gríofa (Thomas Griffin), Mahon gave talks at An Díseart Institute of Education and Celtic Culture, Dingle, Co. Kerry, and at Lawrence Heritage State Park, Massachusetts in 2008.

(iv) Contributing to Welsh education and the curriculum. The Department is committed to deepening schoolchildren's understanding of Celtic languages and culture. Edwards and Morgan judged the Chair competitions at primary schools in Aberystwyth and Tal-y-bont (2012, March 2013) and Huws judged a literary competition for young writers at the first May Day Aberystwyth Eisteddfod in 2013. The Department runs day-schools and workshops for sixth-form students in which staff present curriculum-related research and introduce authors of set texts in person, e.g. Ceri Wyn Jones and Caryl Lewis. Chapman and Morgan adapted their research for sixth-forms via the Welsh Video Network (Swansea University) and Huws gave talks to Year 13 pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig. Departmental staff also produced research-based pedagogic materials commissioned by the WJEC: Edwards wrote an electronic guide to essay writing, and Huws published studies of set texts by Caradog Prichard and Caryl Lewis in hard-copy and electronically. The initial print run of 1000 of the latter sold out, and it was reprinted. Rodway published a critical survey of existing Irish courses in *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies (CMCS)* (2008) and, funded by grants from the Irish Government, prepared new language courses that were successfully trialled by HEIs in Scotland, Germany and Ireland. Mahon discussed pedagogical methods at the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute, University of Ottawa in 2011. Within Higher

Education, the in-house journals *CMCS* and *Dwned* influenced Celtic Studies curricula worldwide (cf. Case Study).

(v) Translation and adaptation are important in the Department's approach, supported by its multilingual staff's competence in all the modern Celtic languages and in Basque, Bulgarian, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Romanian, and Russian. In 2012, Falileyev published a 366-page volume of translations of Welsh poetry (with texts and translation in parallel text) in the Russian Academy of Sciences' prestigious *Literaturnije Pamjatniki* series, which publishes the masterpieces of world literature. Hughes translated 'Jadegott und goldener Hirsch' into Welsh for the book/CD *Jadegott und goldener Hirsch [Medienkombination]*, ed. M. Vollertsen-Diewerge (Erlangen: Th. Nitsch, 2010), for the Bildungsprojekt zum 20-jährigen Jubiläum der Städtepartnerschaft Erlangen/Stoke-on-Trent. Haycock completed her series of translations from the Book of Taliesin, a manuscript with a worldwide following among lovers of esoterica as well as literature, and in 2010 the Minister of Culture presented her with the Oxfam/Translators' House prize for a translation of the Haitian-French writer Yanick Lahens. Haycock and Hughes contributed popular articles on Welsh literature to *Kelten*, the Dutch-medium journal of the amateur Van Hamel Society for Celtic Studies in the Netherlands (2008 and 2011). Staff have also contributed to discussions of translation and adaptation: Chapman contributed to the seminar-series 'Projecting Wales/Rediscovering Russia' organized by Welsh Literature Exchange and the British Council (see *Almanac*, 7 (2012), 59-87) and Roberts gave a talk on simultaneous Welsh translation in Dublin in 2012.

c. Strategy and plans

During the census period the Department developed a coherent impact strategy with the support of its HEI's internal infrastructure: the Department of Research, Business and Innovation; Professors of Public Engagement; the Directory of Expertise. It has established a Research and Impact Committee (Charnell-White, Edwards, Haycock, Huws, Jewell, Mahon, Morgan) that considers requests from the public, identifies new opportunities and mechanisms (such as developing the Department's Blog for recording impact), and builds reciprocal relationships with stakeholders such as the Welsh Books Council and Ceredigion County Council. The committee will also function as a peer review body for the elements of impact and engagement elements of applications for research funding. New possibilities for developing relevant interdisciplinary research projects were created in 2013 when the Department joined the Arts Centre and five other academic departments in a new Institute: the Institute for Literature, Languages and the Creative Arts (ILLCA). ILLCA and its research centres will reinforce the Department's future impact strategy. Charnell-White and (in future, Jewell) contribute to the Centre for Women's Writing and Literary Culture, which, in turn, will play a key role in facilitating the impact of the international Leverhulme project, *Women's Poetry in Ireland, Scotland and Wales 1400-1800* (2013-16); this involves Charnell-White, Prescott (ILLCA & Department of English and Creative Writing), and collaborators in NUI Galway and Edinburgh University. Charnell-White and Griffiths are part of an on-going interdisciplinary research network on historical climatology that draws on the strategic alliance between Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities and also includes the naturalist society Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd and llennatur.com (Gwefan naturiaethwyr a phobl Cymru).

Since its inception, the Department has been committed to altruistic public service in the Welsh-speaking heartlands, and it has also long promoted the other minority Celtic-language cultures internationally, using its research, creativity and expertise. It is intended that staff continue to broadcast, translate, assist arts projects, contribute to Eisteddfodau and literary festivals, inspire local cultural societies, facilitate literary and cultural tourism, and contribute to the education sector in Wales and beyond, while also publishing high quality outputs as authors and editors.

d. Relationship to case studies

The Case Studies on Morgan's creative writing and CMCS Publications illustrate ways in which the Department's approach to impact promotes its educative and cultural missions, not only beyond its own HEI, but also beyond academia and beyond Wales. It achieves this through publications for specialist and non-specialist audiences and through day-schools, accessible talks, broadcasting and creative media.