

<p>Institution: Oxford Brookes University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 29 English Language and Literature</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Research in the English UoA has evolved significantly since 2008. As a unit we have focused, in our projects and in the recruitment of new members of staff, on interrogating the boundaries of the field of English and establishing research groupings that speak to the emergent concerns of the discipline. Our research includes creative outputs of global significance, textual scholarship that reinvigorates the discipline, and an underpinning critical practice that takes seriously the challenges and rewards of interdisciplinary working. Our senior staff represent the field of English at an international level and as a unit we contribute at all stages to the networks, associations and channels that maintain the vigour and rigour of the field. Our research strengths lie in the specific areas of Materialities (incorporating Book History, Literary Cultures, Material Cultures, Performance Practice and Textual Scholarship), Communities and Ecologies, the Contemporary Novel, and Medicine, Science and Technology, with developing expertise in Life Writing, and Magic and the Supernatural. This return includes significant monograph and scholarly edition publications in all of these established and developing research areas, as well as twenty-four articles and book chapters. Over the census period the unit has seen substantial external funding for key projects, including collaboration with Historic Royal Palaces. The unit is the home of two important, peer-reviewed journals -- <i>Utopian Studies</i> and the <i>John Clare Society Journal</i> -- and houses the prestigious Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The English UoA has adopted an approach of selectivity in terms of outputs for this REF exercise and we have chosen to enter only our strongest research. However, we have continued our strategy of sustaining a strong research environment, inclusive of all colleagues. A feature of this environment remains, from previous iterations, a context which is particularly geared to developing the work of colleagues less mature in research terms. Resourcing post-2008 has been devoted to strengthening those historical areas identified by the UoA as particularly important last time: Early Modern (and specifically Drama); the Long Nineteenth Century; Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries and Creative Writing. There have been promotions to readerships in the early modern, modernist and contemporary (Pohl, Goody, Hawes, and Flannery) and the UoA has appointed a senior academic (Cronin) in the nineteenth century to provide research leadership in this area. There have also been key appointments in Creative Writing (Clanchy, Hawes, Hill, Lalwani). We have continued and evolved the infrastructural policies indicated in 2008, whilst also carrying through our commitment then to target QR income to the strongest areas of our work, and to foster interdisciplinary collaborations. We have also promoted collaborative partnerships in those areas indicated last time – through our links with cultural and heritage organisations working in the early modern period (such as Historic Royal Palaces) and through the Poetry Centre (each area of activity has yielded the Impact Case Studies submitted in REF 3b). Through evolving the mechanisms to support external funding bids and training of new staff into our processes for grant applications via the Faculty Research Mentoring scheme (both detailed below), we have been considerably more successful in obtaining external funds than previously.</p> <p>For the purposes of rationalising research across the newly-created Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, of which the reconfigured Department of English and Modern Languages has formed a part since January 2011, there has been a broad redesign of our UoA research groupings via interdisciplinary clusters through which the activities highlighted in 2008 have been maintained. The furtherance of our previous themes can be identified in the nature of the outputs returned to REF2014 – outputs reflecting our vital engagement with Modern and Contemporary Literature, with the editing and critical consideration of Women’s Writing through history, and with connections between Literature and Politics. These themes are fully incorporated into the new interdisciplinary research groupings through which the strength and sustainability of our research is articulated.</p> <p>Across the census period we have increased our engagement with the wider research community through organising conferences and workshops (detailed in section e below). We have also hosted Visiting Research Fellows such as Professor Natasha Korda (Wesleyan University), Dr Liam Semler (University of Sydney), Professor Tanya Pollard (CUNY) and hold on-going Research</p>

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Seminars with speakers including Professor Marion Gibson (Exeter), Dr Shahidha Bari (QMUL), Dr Pamela Thurschwell (Sussex), Professor Gerard Carruthers (Glasgow), Dr Michael Griffin (Limerick), Professor Julie Sanders (Nottingham).

The Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre (previously the Centre for Research in Modern and Contemporary Poetry) continues to be an important focus for research in the UoA. With its remit broadened to include poetries from across the historical range, the Poetry Centre has benefited from the appointment of two poets (**Hill, Clanchy**), with **Clanchy's** position as the Oxford City Poet bringing our research into contact with a wider range of audiences and users. The research of colleagues across the unit (**Clanchy, Cronin, Flannery, Goody, Hill, Kövesi**, Professor Steven Matthews [left 2012], **E. White, S. White**) is allied to the Poetry Centre and incorporates creative outputs, Victorian, women's, avant-garde, and working-class poetries.

Our research is grouped into six specific clusters: Materialities; Communities and Ecologies; the Contemporary Novel; Medicine, Science and Technology; Life Writing; Magic and the Supernatural. All members of staff connect their research to one or more of these groupings. In terms of historical coverage we have particular strengths in Early Modern Drama, Nineteenth-Century poetry, Anglo-American Modernism, and Post-colonial literature.

The Materialities grouping includes research into Book History, Literary Cultures, Material Cultures, Performance Practice and Textual Scholarship, it comprises the work of **Davis, Craik, Cronin, Kövesi, Lowe, Pohl, Potter** and **E. White**. Research in this area is particularly strong in the Early Modern period (**Craik, Lowe, Pohl**) and in the early-twentieth century (**E. White, Potter**), but also includes important publications on the literary cultures of the nineteenth century (**Cronin**). This grouping engages fundamentally with the material turn in contemporary literary studies and has generated research on topics as diverse as post-colonial print culture and duelling in Regency England, all underpinned by distinct research questions about the text-as-object. This grouping has significant and internationally recognised expertise in the field of textual editing as reflected in **Pohl's** edition of Sarah Scott's letters (an MLA/CSE approved edition), **Lowe's** work on Richard Brome, **Potter's** editing of canonical and non-canonical early twentieth-century texts and **E. White's** edition of previously unpublished pieces by William Carlos Williams. The Materialities grouping also includes Performance Practice (**Lowe, Craik**), and informs the emergent work on modern and contemporary drama (**Goody**). **Lowe's** developing research-led relationship with the Royal Shakespeare Company builds on the kind of practice-based textually-informed research in this grouping that Professor Tom Betteridge (left 2013) undertook with Historic Royal Palaces.

The Communities and Ecologies grouping includes **Flannery, Kövesi, Lalwani, Pohl**, and **S. White** and is connected to the two journals edited within the English Department (*Utopian Studies, The John Clare Society Journal*). Strengths in this grouping lie in research into Romantic period writing (as with **S. White's** monograph and **Kövesi's** work on John Clare) but it also engages with communities of women writers (as with **Pohl's** work on female salonnières), with contemporary ecocriticism (**Flannery**) and with postcolonial communities (**Lalwani**). This grouping is also linked to the Poetry Centre (of which **Flannery** is the Co-Director) that has engaged in a number of important community and public engagement projects over the census period.

The Contemporary Novel grouping comprises scholarly research into the novel in Britain, Ireland (**Lea, Flannery**) and award-winning Creative Writing (**Clanchy, Hill, Hawes, Lalwani**). The grouping has developed out of existing expertise in the Modern and Contemporary period, but has benefitted from the recruitment of new staff (**Clanchy, Hawes, Hill, Lalwani**). As well as monograph and article publications, the activities of staff include editing the Manchester University Press 'Contemporary British Novelists' series (**Lea**).

The Medicine, Science and Technology grouping includes **Craik, Goody, Lea** and **Potter**. Work from this grouping focuses on the early-twentieth-century period, exploring the connections between modernity, modernism and technology through a concentration on questions of gender and the role of the avant-garde (**Goody**), and through examining medical writings from the First World War (**Potter**). The research in this grouping also underpins the Oxford Bibliotherapy Project (**Craik** and **Lea**) and informs both researchers' other work into, respectively, the Renaissance body (**Craik**) and contemporary media representations (**Lea**).

The emergent Life Writing grouping includes **Clanchy** and **Hawes**, both of whom have published significant books that articulate, in very different ways, the lives of marginalised individuals. This grouping also supports the research of junior colleagues with developing specialisms in Life Writing (**Kontou**).

The emergent Witchcraft and the Supernatural grouping includes **Kontou** and **S. White** and has produced a monograph on Spiritualism (**Kontou**) and a British Academy funded project on Witchcraft and Magic (**S. White**). The research concentrates on the nineteenth century but also considers ramifications for the twentieth and twenty-first-century period. This grouping provides a productive counterpart to the exploration of science and technology undertaken elsewhere in the unit.

Our interdisciplinary research groupings are key to the research strategy of the unit which successfully includes colleagues teaching elsewhere in the University (**Davis** and **Potter** based in the Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies). Bringing our research together in this way, alongside the specific period specialisms of staff, has enabled the evolution of a vital and innovative research culture. Research in the unit has delivered much of the strategy outlined in RAE2008, whilst also developing in areas and in ways not envisaged at that time. Staff moves and retirements have meant that the great majority of our staff are early or mid-career and have been encouraged in originating new directions for the field of English whilst also producing research at the highest international standards of significance and rigour. Ensuring the sustainability of this research culture has been key to the evolution of our strategy over the census period and into the future.

Future research strategy: Our plans for the future are focused centrally on sustaining the vigour and innovation of our research culture whilst also maintaining the steady broadening of our reach in research terms. Our general intention is to ensure the centrality of our research outputs, projects and findings to the future directions of the field at a national and international level. The key strategic areas we have identified for the future are:

- Continuing proactively to support the research of early and mid-career researchers, through support for research costs (e.g. conferences), mentoring through the Faculty scheme and at departmental level, and the University's commitment to support research as an integral part of academic staff's duties as indicated by graded workload allowances for research.
- Enhancing our international profile still further by expanding in total number the staff producing the most significant, intellectually coherent and original research outputs (including but not limited to monograph publications) through research-grouping based mentoring, project-feedback and advice, management of research planning and grant applications, promotion and the unit's sabbatical scheme.
- Further increasing the number of PhD students by supporting PGR students linked specifically to our 6 research groupings, through the continuation of the Faculty funded PhD bursaries and through securing other sources of external/collaborative funding.
- Further developing interdisciplinary and collaborative outputs, projects and scholarly encounters based in our 6 research groupings through targeted QR funding and through a unit strategy for external grant and project bids.

Our strongest existing research grouping is Materialities and the future will see an intensification of activities in the Early Modern and a further embedding and expansion of the themes and projects of the grouping in the twentieth and twenty-first century periods. Future individual plans include contributing to the new Cambridge University Press edition of the works of Ben Jonson (**Craik**), editing a series of Victorian Material Culture volumes (**Kontou**), editing the letters of Elizabeth Montagu (**Pohl**), and undertaking projects on the audiences for radio drama and performance questions in Djuna Barnes's *The Antiphon* (**Goody**).

The Communities and Ecologies grouping, which is concerned so centrally with research questions that impact on human life on the planet now and in the future, is a key growth area. Future individual plans include a research network on the rural community in India and Britain (**S. White**), a monograph on John Clare and Green textuality (**Kövesi**, forthcoming Palgrave), a monograph on cosmopolitan salons and nationhood in eighteenth-century Europe (**Pohl**) and a monograph on Ireland and Ecology (**Flannery**).

The Contemporary Novel grouping is well established and will benefit from continued investment in staffing. Future individual plans of current staff in this grouping include new novels (**Hawes, Hill, Lalwani**), a monograph on the work of Eugene McCabe (**Flannery**), and a monograph on Twenty First Century British Fiction (**Lea**, forthcoming Manchester University Press).

One of the groupings specifically targeted for growth is the Medicine, Science and

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Technology cluster which will produce further projects in the Early Modern and modernist period, expand its remit to cover contemporary medicine and science and particularly explore pathways to impact from its research findings. This grouping will profit from cross-Faculty working, under the framework of a proposed cross-faculty Centre for Medical Humanities, and drawing on significant strengths in History of Medicine in the department of History, Philosophy and Religion: a collaborative bid is planned to the Wellcome Trust Strategic Award with Professor Paul Weindling (History). Future individual plans include monographs on cancer and the male body in contemporary literature (**Lea**), on trauma and resilience in the narratives of medical personnel in warzones (**Potter**, forthcoming with Manchester University Press), on optical technologies, identity and avant-garde writing (**E. White**) and on modernist poetry and leisure technologies (**Goody**).

Future individual plans in Life Writing include a monograph on the spiritualist Florence Marryat (**Kontou**, forthcoming Edinburgh University Press), and in the Witchcraft and the Supernatural grouping a monograph on witchcraft and magic 1829-1922 (**S. White**).

c. People, including:

i) Staffing strategy and staff development

This census period has seen the recent retirements of two Professors (Liz Jay and Rob Pope), both of whom were awarded Emeritus status through the University's conferment procedures. Their positions, given the current climate, were replaced by early career colleagues (**Kontou**, Dinah Roe, Carina Bartleet and Andrea Macrae) strategically appointed to ensure the continuity of our research themes and historical foci – as well as to give the potential for future research development in the unit. **Kontou's** work is included in this REF and exemplifies our commitment to supporting and developing Early Career Researchers; Roe will expand our focus on Life Writing and bring an expertise on Pre-Raphaelitism to the unit for REF 2020; the work of Bartleet, a colleague in her first appointment, on Science and Theatre brings together two sectors of our research groupings (Medicine, Science and Technology and Materialities)]; Macrae, a colleague in her first permanent post, will expand for 2020 the scope of our research into the Contemporary Novel to include Cognitive Poetics and Stylistics. The census period has also seen the appointment of **Cronin** to a professorship in the nineteenth century.

The principal expansion the unit has witnessed across this period has been in Creative Writing (**Clanchy, Hawes, Hill** and **Lalwani**). These appointments have interconnected with the unit's focus on creativity via the Poetry Centre, and through our focus on the Contemporary Novel. Across the next census period, the staffing strategy will be geared towards continuing to support research related to the activities of the Poetry Centre, extending our research strengths in the Contemporary Novel and in editorial scholarship, building on work in Performance Practice (Materialities), and ensuring that our particular strengths in Nineteenth-Century poetry, Modernism and Post-colonial Literature are reinforced.

Support and development of new researchers and early career researchers is given special priority in the unit with significant input to help enhance research capacity. Members of staff who are new to HE research undertake a Research and Research Management Training Course. On completion staff are eligible to apply for central University monies (funded by QR) to support their research development. In addition the Faculty provides support via the Early Career Mentoring Scheme. This scheme involves attendance at workshops relating to external funding; planned publication; development of research ideas. This scheme also provides at least £1k p.a. for each individual to deploy in order to support their progress towards a first external bid, or towards the completion of their early outputs. As part of this Faculty scheme, each new colleague is assigned a senior mentor within the unit who reads work in progress, discusses possible placement of outputs, and advises on funding support. Designated support for research is not limited to early career staff. The unit offers conference or archival visit support per member of staff up to £300 annually from QR funds devolved to the department's Research Director. Additional funds are available competitively from central University schemes, the Faculty Events Fund, and Departmental devolved QR funds. The Poetry Centre has benefited from competitively-won University funding for research centres across the past three years.

For research planning staff complete annual research plans in which objectives for the next five years are identified. This process allows support to be put in place to enable plans to be realised, such as support from the Faculty Grants Panel where grants are planned. The research planning process aids the unit in identifying research needs of staff, and targeting research time

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and other resources where they are most effective. As part of the research planning process those within two years of promotion to Reader or Professor are identified and offered a mentor to support them in applying for promotion.

Research Leave is granted through a competitive sabbatical scheme at departmental level, with each staff member eligible to apply for one semester's leave out of every eight semesters, provided she or he has a five-year research plan agreed with the departmental Research Lead. Five-year plans form the basis of decisions about workload allocation to support research; those with proven track records and developed plans, including plans for funding bids, receive up to a 0.4FTE workload allocation per annum for research.

ii) Research students:

The dedicated PhD studentships awarded as a result of funding available in the new Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, have enabled us to begin to expand student numbers in an increasingly stratified era of PGR funding and to broaden historical range at this level. Since RAE 2008 there have been 8 PhD completions and we currently have 18 PhD students working in English Language and Literature.

All PhD students are supervised by research active staff who have received extensive supervisor training. The skills and responsibilities of these trained supervisors include support for aspects of career development (advising on job and postdoctoral applications). While studying for their PhD students receive HEFCE approved Faculty-based training in research skills and participate in twice-yearly conferences where they present their work. They have the opportunity to attend a range of university research training events (such as on research design, project management, presenting research), and are part of the University's Graduate College. They are provided with stipends for their research expenses (£150 for FT PGRs, £75 for PT PGR) and have access to designated workspace and computing facilities. They are supported by a PGR Student Research Administrator and their progression is overseen at Faculty-level by a Postgraduate Research Tutor (currently **Pohl**); at university level by the Research Degrees Committee. Students are expected to progress from MPhil to PhD level after two years (Full-Time) and go through a process of transfer submission that includes a formal interview on an extended piece of work and a submitted outline of the structure and completion plan for the PhD.

Our research students are integral to the environment in the department, and are included in all of our research events, including guest speaker seminars, departmental seminars and the annual research away-day. Students are given opportunities to undertake (paid) teaching experience with mentor support and attend meetings at which departmental business is conducted. They are also encouraged to generate and manage their own research workshops; for example, a group of our PGR students mounted a conference on 'Mapping the Self: Place, Identity, Nationality' (December 2012), attended by 50 participants including creative writers and senior academics. A publication deriving from this event has been contracted and will be co-edited by 2 of our PhD students with **Goody**. This is exemplary of the support provided to research students in terms of preparation for their future careers.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The unit has demonstrated a considerable growth in its income since the last census date: an increase in external grant income spent from RAE2008 £179,122 to REF2014 of just under £615,000.

Income: support for grant bids: The UoA benefits from a dedicated Research Grants Officer, who acts as a first point of contact, and advice-giver, for colleagues whose five-year plans, or evolving research ambitions, indicate that they are to prepare an external bid. As the bid develops, the Faculty Grants Panel offers mentoring support as well as costing advice via the Faculty Business Support Manager. Each bid is entered upon the university's 'pfact' costings system, and, finally, is mentored and overseen by the Research and Business Development Office. This procedure, which ensures that appropriate subject-oriented advice, as well as bid-writing and costing-input, is provided at each stage, has proven successful through the significant uplift in external funding coming into the unit across the census period. It is now fully embedded in our research culture, from the Faculty Research Mentoring Scheme for new colleagues onwards.

Income: investment in research and research groupings: As indicated previously, this has been the principle emphasis of planned QR expenditure across the census period. The University top-slices QR by 40% in order to underpin its research support, but also to operate a variety of funding schemes and research leave schemes on an annual basis. Within the Faculty, devolved funding is used to support the Events Fund and provide a QR budget for Departments. Across the census period, and in accordance with our plans for strategy indicated in 2008, our research groupings, and their interdisciplinary reach, have received Faculty (and pre-2010, School of Humanities) support.

Research Management Infrastructure: The unit has a Research Lead position, appointed at Reader or Professorial Level (currently **Goody**). With the assistance of the Research Committee, the Research Leads' primary function is to plan strategically in order to enable individual staff to fulfil their research ambitions and aspirations, and to lead on the overall research strategy of the unit. They advise on, and manage, funding bids, monitor individual five-year research plans, manage the unit's sabbatical leave scheme, and identify possibilities for collaborative projects. The Research Lead is also the point of contact and co-ordination for staff in the unit based in other departments in the University (**Davis, Potter**). The Research Committee (chaired by the Research Lead) meets twice per semester with a membership drawn from all levels of the unit including PGR students. The Research Committee forwards significant business and policy decisions to the Departmental Committee, at which final strategic and operational planning around research is weighed alongside the department's other activities. The Research Lead also serves on the Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee where the strategies of the Faculty are considered and decided.

Facilities: All staff are provided with fully-networked offices that have online access to a wide range of databases and resources, access to a well-stocked, new library (completed 2014; part of a £140m campus re-development programme), and the support of a dedicated English and Drama librarian. The library houses the Man Booker Prize Archive and the Special Collection in African Publishing, important resources for our research into the contemporary novel and book history. The library has membership to the SCONUL Access scheme and a reciprocal agreement with Oxford University for research access to the Bodleian Library.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Researchers in the unit actively collaborate with colleagues in the UK and beyond. **Pohl** is on the steering committee of the Elizabeth Montague and the Bluestocking Circle AHRC Network (with Swansea and Kings College) and is a member of the European network, Women Writers in History (with European Cooperation in Science and Technology funding). **Potter** is on the academic steering committee of the 'First World War in the Classroom' project (with University of Exeter and University of Northumbria) funded by an AHRC exploratory award, and part of an AHRC BGP2 bid for a 'Consortium for Digital Transformations Studies in the Arts and Humanities', with Sunderland (Lead RO), Lincoln, Westminster and Bedfordshire. **S. White** is part of the AHRC Research Network 'Creative Communities, 1750-1830' (PI Dr. David Higgins, Leeds) and was the PI on a British Academy funded project on Witchcraft and Magic in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Fiction (with Professor Owen Davies, Hertfordshire as CI), Davis has undertaken a British Academy funded International Mobility and Partnership Exchange project with University of Pretoria.

Staff contribute to the discipline also through serving on subject associations and editing journals. **Craik** is Executive Secretary of the Malone Society and **E. White** is Secretary/ Treasurer of the William Carlos Williams Society. **Cronin** is on the editorial board of *The AnaChronist* and *Literature Compass*, **Kövesi** edits the *John Care Society Journal*, **Pohl** edits the *Journal of Utopian Studies*, **Potter** edits the *Wilfred Owen Association Journal* and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*.

Staff are actively involved in building and maintaining the academic community within the UK, organising conferences and scholarly encounters such as: Women's Literary Networks conference (at the IES University of London, 2008); Tudor Medicine and the Body (at Hampton Court Palace, 2009); Early Modern Women Symposium (2010); Victorian Things: Nineteenth-

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Century Literature and Material Culture conference (2012); The Book in Africa (at the IES, 2012); Modernist Magazines in the Americas: Points of Departure conference (with the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford 2012); Progressing Book History (2012); The Book in Africa symposium (at the IES 2012); Shifting Territories: Modern and Contemporary Poetics of Place (at the IES, 2013); Pre-Raphaelitism: Past, Present and Future (with the Ashmolean Museum and St John's College Oxford, 2013). Staff have examined a significant number of PhDs, in the UK and internationally including **Craik**, Cambridge (2012), Loughborough (2012), Oxford (2013), St Andrews (2013); **Cronin**, Liverpool (2008), Melbourne (2009), Northumbria (2009), Durham (2010 & 2013), Oxford (2013); **Flannery**, Bucharest (2011); **Goody**, Birmingham (2010) Sussex (2011), Manchester (2011), Royal Holloway, University of London (2012), Birkbeck, University of London (2013); **Kontou**, Reading (2013); **Kövesi** St. Andrews (2009), Glasgow (2010); **Lea**, Nottingham (2009), Stirling (2013); **Potter**, Rutgers (2010), Exeter (2013).

Staff are also engaged in refereeing for journals and publishers as well as for grant awarding bodies. For example staff in the unit regularly referee book proposals and full manuscripts for Ashgate, Manchester University Press, Cambridge University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Continuum, University of Pennsylvania Press, Peter Lang. Staff have refereed submissions to *Studies in the Novel*; *Twentieth-Century Literature*; *Critical Engagements*; *Connotations*; *Irish Studies Review*; *Postcolonial Text*; *The Journal of Postcolonial Writing*; *Photography and Culture*; *Ariel*; *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies*; *Studies in American Fiction*; *Journal of Ecocriticism*; *PMLA*; *Romanticism*; *Representation and Rewriting History*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, *Shakespeare Survey*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Victorian Review*, *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, *The Space Between*, *Literature and History*, *Contemporary Women's Writing*, *History and Technology*. **Cronin** and **Goody** have acted as grant application reviewers for the AHRC and have also reviewed applications for the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada. **Craik** has reviewed applications for the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) and the Killiam Research Fellowships (Canada), and **Goody** has reviewed applications for the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) and the Czech Science Foundation.

The achievements of our early career researchers have been recognised with the following fellowships and awards: Rothermere American Institute Visiting Fellowship (**E. White** 2011-12); Visiting Research Fellowship, IES, London (**Kontou** 2010-11). The status of our mid-career and senior researchers has been acknowledged in the recent past with invitations to speak including **Craik's** keynote lecture for Reading and Health in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800 (Newcastle, June 2013), **Cronin's** keynote lecture at Gendering the Book in the Long Eighteenth Century (Leeds, July 2013), **Flannery's** keynote at In and Out of (Postcolonial) Europe: Portugal and Ireland (Queen's, Belfast, July 2012), **Goody's** keynote at Reading Mina Loy – a Symposium, (Sussex, May 2010), **Lea's** inaugural lecture to the University of London Contemporary Fiction Seminar (October 2011) and **Kövesi's** plenary at James Kelman and the City (Glasgow, October 2011).