

Institution: Edinburgh Napier University

Unit of Assessment: 29 – English Language and Literature

a. Overview

This submission largely comprises staff in the University's Centre for Literature and Writing (CLAW) which supports research into English literature within the University's Institute for Creative Industries (ICI). ICI was established in 2010 to coordinate the research, knowledge exchange and public engagement work of academic staff, primarily within Creative Industries but also those located in other areas of the University with aligned research interests. Guided by an Advisory Board drawn from the cultural and creative industries sectors, and supported by a dedicated administrative team, the Institute coordinates the work of individual research centres in the context of Institute and University research and knowledge exchange strategy.

CLAW is one of five research centres within ICI. Eight of the returned staff (Alder, Artt, Dryden, Fraser, Lyall, Schwan, Soto-Morettini and Wasson) are from the English subject group and teach on the University's English programmes, with several also involved in research student supervision. Neill and Burnett, who work within social science, also belong to CLAW. Their respective work on literature and psychology, and Scottish history and literature has strong resonances with the work of the core English literature staff. Fischer's work on the historical narrative of the German (Teutonic) Order focuses on the interaction between the 'author' of these narratives and their potential audience(s) and also falls within the remit of the UOA 29. A second strand of her work sits within the broad field of sociolinguistics focussing on the use of English as a lingua franca for business.

b. Research strategy

Significant developments in the English submission reflect a clear strategic approach to research since RAE 2008. Publishing has now been incorporated within UoA36, so that the University's submission to UoA29 English is more tightly focussed upon literary research, paralleling growth in undergraduate provision and University investment in English. The strategy has been to invest in research-active staff. In 2008, 6.5 FTE members of staff were submitted in English, 4 of whom worked in Literature and Culture. Building on this core group, an additional full-time appointment has since been made (Lyall), while a maternity cover post will convert to a 0.5 permanent post (Alder) from 2014. Artt's 0.5 post has been increased to 1.0 and Soto-Morettini has been appointed to a 0.5 post in Acting. All members of the English subject group are research active and are submitted in the REF. With the addition of Acting and the inclusion of the three additional staff whose research also falls in UoA 29, the submission increases to 9.8 FTE.

CLAW was established in 2008 to replace the Literature and Culture group with a view to giving more coherence and focus to literary activities. Research in CLAW now falls into six main areas, demonstrating original research and strengths in a range of overlapping activities: Gothic and Science Fiction Studies (Artt, Alder, Dryden, Wasson,); Literature and Culture of the Long Nineteenth Century (Alder, Dryden, Schwan); Modernism and Scottish Literature (Burnett, Dryden, Fraser, Lyall); Tagore Studies (Dryden, Fraser, Lyall); Performance Studies (Soto-Morettini); and Literary Theory (Neill, Soto-Morettini, Schwan, Wasson). Fischer's work in the field of medieval German literature demonstrates synergies with CLAW's core activities. CLAW has developed into a thriving research centre, focusing on the relevance of literature to the wider world and particularly on the role of literature in the community. This is achieved through outreach and knowledge exchange activities such as Dryden's work on Robert Louis Stevenson (see Impact Case Study: RLS) and Schwan's literacy work with prisons (see Impact Case Study: Prisons). There is significant collaboration and exchange of ideas across the various sub-groups, both formally and informally, with the geographical, historical, and cultural variety of the work indicating an openness to the world beyond the academy. The strategy is to continue consolidating the areas outlined below and to encourage knowledge exchange and outreach activities.

Current Activities and Objectives

Gothic and Science Fiction Studies cover a broad range of significant work in CLAW. Alder conducts ground-breaking work into William Hope Hodgson, with reference to H. G. Wells, and aims to be a leading authority on this *fin de siècle* writer and his milieu. Artt's research concerns the intersection between science fiction and the gothic in film adaptations. She also works on film adaptations more generally. Artt draws on the work of several theorists, but develops original insights, relevant to gender studies, Scottish cultural studies and studies in adaptation from book to screen. Dryden's work on Stevenson builds on her 2003 monograph, *The Modern Gothic*. Wasson works on urban gothic representations in literature. External recognition of her work has established her as a leading scholar in the field (see [e] below).

Literature and Culture of the Long Nineteenth Century: Schwan's highly original research focuses on women and prison writing in the nineteenth century. Schwan's work demonstrates our strengths in research into teaching linkages (see Impact Statement 2). Dryden's work on Stevenson (*Journal of Stevenson Studies* [2004-) led to her edited volume *Stevenson and Conrad: Writers of Transition* (Texas Tech 2009) and to the RLS website and RLS Day. Alder's work on Hodgson and Wells also falls into this category, as does Dryden's work on Conrad and Wells.

Modernism and Scottish Literature: Lyall is a leading scholar in MacDiarmid studies and is spearheading studies into Lewis Grassie Gibbon. Dryden's work has a major impact on Stevenson's international reputation. Her research on Conrad and Wells makes a new intervention in debates around the genesis of modernism. Burnett's work on Scottish history and the diaspora covers economics, history and culture, demonstrating a deep familiarity with both oral and written Gaelic sources as well as those in English. Fraser has undertaken pioneering work on Scots in India and explores the Scottish connections between Rabindranath Tagore and Arthur Geddes.

Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs): ScoTs was established under the aegis of CLAW in 2011 with Directors Fraser and Dryden. With support from the Scottish Government, ScoTs staged a series of events in 2011-13. Tagore activities are growing at an impressive rate (See [e] below). Much of the research for the Tagore project will involve Postcolonialism and diasporic studies.

Performance Studies: Soto-Morettini established Acting at Edinburgh Napier. She pioneers the intersection between performance and English studies, demonstrating how practice and research into performance can enhance the study of Shakespeare. She draws extensively on cognitive psychology, philosophy, theories of performance and a wide range of theatrical scripts.

Literary Theory: Neill's work is related to the theories of the French psychoanalyst and cultural thinker Jacques Lacan. The approach is unexpected and exciting, seeing Lacan as a thinker with a complex and rewarding understanding of ethics. His research has a considerable impact on debates in literature, philosophy and psychoanalysis which ties in with some of the psychoanalytic work of Wasson and Soto-Morettini. Schwan's work is influenced by the theories of Michel Foucault and his praxis as a campaigner against the penal system in France and around the world. Staff working on theory thus add a valuable theoretical dimension to the work of CLAW.

Translation Studies: Fischer's work is unique and valuable in making the history and distinctive culture of the Order of Teutonic Knights accessible. She has demonstrated that she is an accomplished Mediaevalist, whose work is internationally recognised.

Developing Research Sustainability

The recruitment of new, active researchers over recent years has created a robust portfolio of activities and areas of investigation that are impacting on the wider field of English studies. The University aims to develop key areas of research by sustaining and expanding staff research interests in Tagore studies, Victorian studies, new perspectives on modernism, the role of Scottish authors in the development of the modern novel and the medical humanities, as well as maintaining expertise in prison narratives and diasporic studies. Through their research, staff have demonstrated that they are at the cutting edges of their respective fields, with several actively engaged in interdisciplinary activities (Artt, Burnett, Fischer, Fraser, Neill, Schwan, Wasson).

It is intended to support these areas through increased success from external research funding bids, as well as from the UoA's share of Research Excellence Grant and from periodic internal funding initiatives. Staffing strategy aims to sustain key areas through recruitment of staff with complementary interests. Conference participation is expected, as is publication in international, peer-reviewed journals. Research-teaching linkages ensure that curriculum development is associated with and enhances research. In this way research functions as an integral part of the wider portfolio of the English Subject Group. CLAW seminars remain a key activity with themes based around research interests. External literary experts, such as Professor Rory Watson (Stirling) and Professor Laurence Davies (Glasgow) have previously acted as mentors to early career staff and it is intended that these links later develop into collaborative activity.

Plans and Aspirations

A number of areas of our research have been identified for growth and development. Plans and ambitions for these areas are outlined below:

RLS: Activities involving Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS [see Impact Case Study: RLS]) have ensured that CLAW is a leading centre for Stevenson studies (RLS Day, RLS Website, *Journal of Stevenson Studies* [JSS]), both nationally and internationally. The aspiration is to grow these activities year on year, to maintain the high academic standard of the JSS, to continue to maintain and develop the RLS website and to exploit the potential of the Meheew RLS Collection over the coming years (See [e] below). International research into RLS has grown substantially over recent years, assisted by the vitality and leadership provided by CLAW. CLAW's Stevenson activities represent a significant success in engaging the general public in academe. Furthermore, the RLS events have brought Stevenson to the attention of a much wider international audience. The establishment of the Meheew Collection ensures that CLAW is, and will continue to be, the focus for RLS activity not only in the UK but also in the international arena.

ScoTs: The Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs) was established in 2011 to reflect the work of Fraser and to enhance our collaborative potential with India. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has endowed Scots with a Tagore Chair, Professor Indra Nath Choudhuri, and he is spearheading our work on a Tagore website and helping us to build meaningful and sustainable relationships with partners in India such as the Universities of Calcutta and Visva-Bharati, with whom we have Memoranda of Understanding. ScoTs will emulate the success of our Stevenson work and make the Centre a hub for the meeting of Eastern and Western thought and culture. ScoTs will be a major focus of research activity over the coming years.

Medical Humanities: Wasson's research is pioneering in the field of medical humanities. She has a particular interest in how bodies are constrained within medical discourses. This is a significant new departure in CLAW's research directions and promises to have a major influence on the Centre's research development.

CLAW Seminars: CLAW runs a regular series of research seminars themed around discrete interests. In 2013-14 the seminars focus on *Literature, Politics and the City at the Fin-de-Siècle* in an interdisciplinary context. Previous themes have been *Science Fiction and the Gothic* (2010-11) and *Community in Scottish Literature* (2011-12). Among the eminent speakers for the seminars are Professors Isobel Armstrong, Robert Hampson, Laurence Davies, Alan Riach, Fred Botting, Stephen Regan, John Lucas, and Krishna Sen. It is testimony to the esteem in which staff are held that they can attract speakers of such international standing. The seminars have been a major success for CLAW as exemplars of how to hold interdisciplinary events: colleagues across the School and the Faculty, as well as external visitors have regularly attended. The research seminars also act as a platform for CLAW staff and research students to present their work. This provides encouragement and research exemplars for less experienced colleagues and students, as well as opportunities to refine and discuss on-going work.

Future Objectives

One of our main research objectives is to continue to foster cutting edge literary research that has real value in the wider community. Schwan's work with prisons, and Dryden's initiatives around

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Stevenson have provided paradigms for further initiatives in areas such as Tagore studies and the medical humanities.

A parallel objective is to foster further world-class, international research. Publication plans for monographs of CLAW staff, as listed below, demonstrates both ambition and aspiration:

- Dryden, L. *Conrad, Wells and the Emergence of Modernism* (monograph, 2015)
- Schwan, A. *Convict Voices: Women, Class and Writing about Prison in 19th Century England* (monograph 2014)
- Lyall, S. *Imagined Scotlands: Literature and the Nation, 1900-45* (tbc)
- Soto-Moretini, D. *Popular Singing* (2nd ed. 2014); monograph on classical acting (2015/16)
- Alder, E. *William Hope Hodgson: Weird Science Fiction* (2015/16)
- Wasson, S. *Gothic Studies and Medical Humanities in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries* (tbc)

In conjunction with this aspiration CLAW will continue to seek external funding for its research projects. Funding has been awarded for the work of Schwan, Dryden and Fraser as detailed below. Smaller amounts apply to other staff and the intention is to build on these successes to generate further income to underpin activities.

The University recognises the importance of a healthy research student population. CLAW's research student population has grown year on year since 2008 and the intention is to continue this growth over the coming years by foregrounding the excellence and breadth of the research base. At RAE 2008 there were two research students in the Literature and Culture Group. There are now six research students: Kate Simpson (Rider Haggard); Hadeel Azhar (Dollie Radford); Emily Adams (Horror Cinema); Sharon Gordon (Isa Blagden); Andy Keir (Creative Writing); Paul Freeman (Creative Writing). Supervisory capacity is being built by ensuring that early career staff are given the opportunity to be on supervisory panels.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Academic staff

Academic staff are recruited on the basis of both their research capability and their teaching expertise. All new staff are expected to be research active and to have clearly defined plans for publication. Staffing policy is informed by adherence to the principles of equality and diversity. All staff are encouraged to strengthen their individual research expertise to ensure significance and rigour in our research. The success of CLAW's staffing strategy is demonstrated by the University's recognition of excellence in the research and teaching of a number of staff since RAE 2008: two staff, Dryden and Fraser, have been promoted to Professorships; Schwan was promoted to Reader; and Wasson was promoted to Senior Lecturer/Teaching Fellow. Both Schwan and Wasson were early career researchers when they joined Edinburgh Napier.

Interns, research assistants and other researchers

As well as hosting research students, CLAW recruits research assistants and offers summer internships to support its work. A two-month internship, funded by the University in the summer of 2013, supported the Mehew Collection. The CLAW website was supported by a 0.8 research assistant, Dr Hilary Grimes, who worked on the project for a year. Funding for studentships in Tagore studies is currently being sought and a recently appointed research assistant, Dr Christine Kupfer, a Tagore expert, will add strength to that area. Franziska Winkler was an intern externally funded by Transnational Empowerment in Germany in 2011 to work at the University on RLS day; Kevin Griffin was a voluntary intern for CLAW during the summer of 2011; Serena Mariani was a voluntary intern for RLS Day in 2012; Duncan Milne was internally funded by the University as CLAW intern in the summer of 2013.

Staff Development Strategy

Edinburgh Napier's 2010 *EU Human Resources Excellence in Research Award* recognises a commitment to the principles of the Concordat to support the career development of researchers. The strategic approach to Effective Researcher Development, endorsed in September 2011, takes

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an inclusive approach to the development of early career researchers, and includes research students and their supervisors, as well as early career and established researchers. A dedicated full-time Researcher Developer role was established in 2011 and in 2012 the University successfully retained its *EU Excellence in Research Award* for a further two years in recognition of continued progress against its Concordat Action Plan. The University is fully engaged in the activities of Universities Scotland's sector-wide Research Training Sub-Committee, which until 2012 was chaired by its Director of Research Strategy, Professor Alison McCleery, and which in 2010 won the THE Award for Outstanding Support for Early Career Researchers.

The Researcher Development Programme

In 2011 the University conducted a gap analysis on training and development provision for researchers using the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) created by Vitae. All events in the Researcher Development Programme are mapped against the RDF so that researchers have comprehensive support for their career development and planning. An extensive programme of approximately twenty events per trimester contains relevant sessions for all stages of a research career. As part of the creation of the Researcher Development Programme, online provision of resources has been expanded with a dynamic portal for researchers to identify their own development needs and help with their career planning. In December 2012 the University held a researcher development conference on *Supporting Researchers at Edinburgh Napier*. Other conferences have included *Linking Research and Teaching to Enhance Learning* (Jan 2008) and *Fostering Interdisciplinarity in Learning, Teaching and Research at Edinburgh Napier* (Jan 2013). Such events assist in consolidating the research culture of the University.

Participation in CROS, PRES and PIRLS

The University takes part in UK-wide surveys such as PRES (Postgraduate Research Experience Survey), CROS (Careers in Research Online Survey) and PIRLS (Principal Investigators and Research Leaders Survey). Its Director of Research Strategy, Professor Alison McCleery, is a member of the UK CROS Steering Group and there is a commitment to undertaking PRES, CROS and PIRLS in 2013 and beyond.

Development and Mentoring

The introduction of an online system (HR Connect) allows development needs identified during a researcher's individual Professional Development Review to be captured. It records attendance at events as well as other researcher development evidence. All early career researchers are provided with appropriate mentoring.

Equality and diversity

During 2010 the University's HR policies and procedures for recruitment and selection, equality and diversity and interview preparation were reviewed to ensure that they aligned with the Concordat Principles for equal opportunities for researchers.

Research ethics and governance

The University's refreshed Code of Practice on Research Integrity was launched in Autumn 2013 and provides clear and comprehensive guidance on research ethics and governance issues to the researcher community at all levels.

ii. Research students

CLAW Research students regularly benefit from University grants to assist in supporting their research e.g. for transcriptions of letters and diaries, research visits, conference attendance and book purchases. In addition, recent student successes include:

- Kate Simpson's membership of the Livingstone Project team at the University of Nebraska which was awarded a grant of \$320,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Simpson is spearheading the outreach education programme for the project.
- Hadeel Azhar's award of \$225 travel funding from the Modern Languages Association for her excellent conference abstract

Doctoral training*Training, support and skills development*

Training and skills development is delivered through:

- A centrally-delivered Researcher Development Programme of professional development activities aimed at enhancing research practice.
- School- and Faculty-based capacity-building and training events for research students focussing on both generic skills and discipline specialisms.

Integration into wider research culture

The Researcher Development Programme is open to all researchers regardless of career stage. A co-ordinated, cross-university approach to education, training and professional development ensures that our research students feel integrated within the research community. Induction sessions for research students allow them to map out their own professional development and to network with their peers.

Supervisory training and development

Several events are run for research supervisors from those getting started through to in-depth sessions for experienced supervisors. The 3-day 'Supervising Research Degrees' course is formally recognised by the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA) allowing participants to gain an externally-accredited award upon completion of the course. New research supervisors also receive informal mentoring through participation in supervisor teams, allowing them to be supported as they develop their supervisory practice.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Edinburgh Napier University provides the infrastructure and environment expected of a research-engaged Higher Education Institution including, excellent library facilities, finance, HR and research offices. The work of all submitted staff, with the exception of Fischer, takes place under aegis of CLAW which administers the Research Excellence Grant for English. This has been used to fund conference attendance, to support RLS activities, to fund the CLAW seminars, for sponsorship of the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the City of Literature Literary Salon Evenings, to maintain the RLS Website and to support RLS Day and CLAW events for the City of Literature.

Staff income for the period is as follows:

- Fischer: £1000 HEA and AHRC towards costs of conference - *Intercultural Business Communication: Bridging the Workplace and the Classroom* (2013).
- Dryden: £1800 grant from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland for *Conrad, H. G. Wells and the Emergence of Modernism* (2012-13).
- Dryden/Fraser: £80,000 Binks Trust funding for a ScoTs project to develop a comprehensive website for Tagore (based on the RLS website) and other ScoTS activities(2012-13).
- Soto-Morettini: £1570 Scottish Funding Council Innovation voucher overheads (2012).
- Dryden/Fraser: £2000 from the Scottish Government to support Tagore events (2011-12).
- Schwan: £41,551 AHRC Early Career Fellowship (2011).
- Fischer: £940 Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland Research Grant (2011).
- Alder: £150 Conference Bursary, British Society for Literature and Science (2010).
- Schwan: £200 BAVS Conference Grant for 'Reading and Writing in Prison' (2010).
- Schwan: £520 Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland Research Grant (2009).
- Dryden: £34,000 Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland RLS website grant. (2009).
- Alder: £250 funding from British Association of Victorian Studies (2009).

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Staff in CLAW demonstrate a range of external activities, affiliations, editorships and other esteem indicators:

Editorships and Reviewing

- Dryden: co-editor (with Prof. Rory Watson) of the *Journal of Stevenson Studies*.
- Staff have been guest editors for the following publications: *Conradiana* (3 issues), *Critical Survey* (2011), *Subjectivity*, *The International Journal of Žižek Studies*.
- Staff have peer reviewed for the following academic presses: Palgrave, Routledge, Broadview, Ashgate.
- Staff have reviewed books and submissions for the following academic journals: *Archives*, *Scottish Literary Review*, *Conradiana*, *Gothic Studies*, *Victorian Review*, *Journal of Stevenson Studies*, *The Wellsian*, *The Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Archives*, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, *The Oscholars* (website), *Conradian*, *English Literature in Transition*, *Joseph Conrad Foundation of America* (website), *New Books Online*, *International Journal of Canadian Studies*, *Neo-Victorian Studies*, *Review of English Studies*, *Teoría y Crítica de la Psicología*, *Annual Review of Critical Psychology*, *International Journal of Žižek Studies*, *Journal of European Psychoanalysis*, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, *Frontiers in Psychoanalysis and Neuropsychology*, *The South Asianist*, *Scope*, *Adaptation*, *Film and Philosophy*, *Science Fiction Film and Television*.

Personal Awards and Memberships

- Schwan: elected to the Royal Society of Edinburgh Young Academy of Scotland.
- Wasson: *Urban Gothic* won the Allan Lloyd Smith Memorial Prize 2009-10 and was shortlisted for the ESSE Award for Cultural Studies in 2011.
- Soto-Morettini: *The Philosophical Actor* (2010) won the *Winner Choice Award for Outstanding Academic Title, 2011*.
- Fraser: Royal Literary Fund Fellow.
- Dryden: elected member of the Royal Society of Arts.
- Staff are members of the following academic societies: Joseph Conrad Society (UK), The H. G. Wells Society, The Ford Madox Ford Society, Association for Scottish Literary Studies, Scottish Network Of Modernist Studies, Universities Committee for Scottish Literature, The British Association of Victorian Studies, Crime Studies Network, Women's History Network, Association of Adaptation Studies, International Gothic Association.

External Activities, Invited Talks and Conferences

- Dryden: RLS Day, an annual event in Edinburgh to celebrate RLS, in collaboration with Edinburgh, UNESCO City of Literature (2011-).
- Linda Dryden: peer reviewed for the AHRC.
- In recognition of Dryden's profile in Stevenson studies, the executors of the estate of Ernest Mehew (editor of the Stevenson letters) have donated his library to the University. This collection constitutes the largest RLS holdings in a UK university.
- Staff have examined the following research degrees in the census period: Royal Holloway (PhD: 1); University of Hong Kong (MPhil: 1); Mary Immaculate College, Limerick (PhD: 1); Exeter (PhD: 1); Calcutta (PhD: 1); Visva-Bharata (PhDs: 2).
- Staff have been invited speakers at the following: King's College London, University of Roma Tré, Keele University, University of Edinburgh, University of Amsterdam, Roehampton University, University of East London, San Diego State University, Nazareth College, Rochester, NY, Cardiff University, Open University, Birkbeck, LSE, Lauriston Castle, The Royal Overseas League, Edge Hill University, ESRC Ergonomics Forum.
- Schwan: conference 'Reading and Writing in Prison,' (June 2010), funded by BAVS.
- Fraser and Lyall conference: 'Tagore: The Writer in the Community' in 2011-12.
- Schwan: Co-organizer of new research partnership and colloquium with University of Stuttgart (which includes research students).