

**Institution: University of Central Lancashire**

**Unit of Assessment: 29 English Language and Literature**

### a. Overview

The three main research groupings in UoA 29 are American Culture, British literature and non-British European literatures. Often our work is informed by both the transatlantic cultural dynamic and the multidisciplinary that pervades and connects these nominally or geographically separate research areas. During the REF 2014 census period, our research groupings have been organised as follows:

**American Culture: Professor Will Kaufman:** the Civil War in American culture; the culture of the American 1970s; Woody Guthrie, protest music and American radicalism; **Professor Alan Rice:** memorialisation and African American slavery; African American visual arts; Black Atlantic culture; **Dr Theresa Saxon:** American theatre and performance (including its British connections).

**British Literature: Dr Robert Duggan:** contemporary British fiction, with emphasis on the grotesque; **Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeves:** Shakespeare and performance; **Dr Robin Purves:** contemporary British poetry; poetry and music; **Dr. Yvonne Reddick:** Ted Hughes and his influences.

**Non-British/US literatures: Dr Neil Foxlee:** Albert Camus; **Dr Anna Hunter (nee Richardson):** Holocaust narratives.

We remain a small team performing at a higher level than might be expected in terms of research outputs, international esteem and income generation. A raft of successful AHRC Fellowships are testament to this: Rice for slavery memorialisation; **Kaufman** for Woody Guthrie and American radicalism.. HEFCE and JISC funding has rewarded Hampton-Reeves for a major project in Research Informed Teaching. Relative to our small size as a UoA, we have generated income well above the sector norm - a six-fold increase from £28,461 in 2008 to £177,930 in 2013. Our QR funding is reinvested in further UoA development in the form of sabbaticals (e.g. Saxon and Purves), the creation of 2 PhD studentships and financial support for high-impact activities and public events in the community (Kaufman, public Guthrie performances; Rice, 'Black Gls in Bamber Bridge' event), regionally (Saxon, 'Literary Tours NorthWest') and internationally (Kaufman, US performance tour). The School of Language, Literature and International Studies is committed to retaining high-quality research staff who, through the development of long records of research, will keep the environment vibrant for the encouragement of younger and aspiring researchers; hence our 2013 recruitment of a new Senior Lecturer (Duggan) and Senior Research Fellow (Reddick).

### b. Research strategy

Our aim is has been to maintain the production of highly esteemed publication outputs with international reach and significance; hence the timetable provision for active researchers that allows at least one research day a week. We actively seek to engage in projects with international partners to maintain a well-established global presence; and through the prioritisation of external grant capture we attract both funds for reinvestment and public validation of our projects.

Outputs: Since 2008 the eight UoA REF entrants have produced or have in press 7 monographs, 1 edited collection, 12 book chapters and 25 journal articles, most with major publishers (Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, Liverpool, Illinois, Mississippi, Blackwell, Palgrave, Continuum, Ashgate) and journals (English, Textual Practice, Journal of Narrative Theory, Modern Language Review, European Journal of English Studies, Shakespeare Bulletin, Literature Compass, Popular Music and Society, Slavery and Abolition, Atlantic Studies, Revue des Lettres Modernes). Public performances (Kaufman, Saxon) and websites (Kaufman, Rice) buttress our publication output.

Internationalisation: European and American research partnerships are strong. From the American Studies group, Rice has engaged in EU/HERA consortium bidding with universities in Germany, Holland, Ireland and Sweden as well as the National Slavery Institute in the Netherlands and the Danish National Archives, all concerning slavery memorialisation; he has also given invited presentations at universities in Germany and the USA. Kaufman and Saxon, also Americanists, have established both publishing and postgraduate teaching links with the University of Debrecen and the Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies, thus extending a long-standing link developed through UCLan's founding membership of the Maastricht/Middleburg consortium in Transatlantic Studies. Kaufman has given invited presentations on both the American Civil War and Woody Guthrie at universities and institutes in Hungary, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, Ireland and the USA (including the Smithsonian). He has examined PhDs at universities in Hungary and Ireland and his book on Woody Guthrie has been translated into Italian. He has also been a reviewer of grant applications for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. In the past three years Hampton-Reeves has given an invited public lecture at the University of North Carolina and chaired a seminar on Shakespeare in Performance at the Shakespeare Association of America conference in Washington DC. He also established and co-chairs the international network 'Shakespeare in Practice'.

External grant capture: Members of this UoA have been supported through bidding activities, securing Research Council and other funding during the REF period. Along with internal mentoring, the UoA has taken full advantage of the University's central Funding, Development and Support unit, which provides a comprehensive external grant capture service. Successes in response to this strategy include AHRC Fellowships awarded to Rice (Slavery memorialisation, £27,000) and Kaufman (Woody Guthrie, £42,472). Rice won an ESRC grant of £2,000 in collaboration with Liverpool University for a Post-Slavery and Culture seminar, a CILASS award of £4,000 for an enquiry-based learning project, 'Dramatising Slavery'. Rice secured a place in the Berlin matchmaking event for the EU/HERA initiative on Cultural Encounters subsequent to securing £10,000 from the Harris Research-Informed Teaching Award for his project Liberating Sojourns: Undergraduates Research the Historical Activists. Most recently he garnered grants from the United States Embassy (£600) and the Collegium for African American Research (£421) to enhance his symposium on 'Black GIs in Bamber Bridge'. Saxon won £2,417 for a lecturing exchange at the University of Columbia, Missouri, and in 2012 Kaufman secured \$1,000 from Tulsa University for the Woody Guthrie Centenary Conference, followed in 2013 with another \$1,000 grant from the Woody Guthrie Center and the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers for a series of public presentations on Guthrie. He also secured a \$1,700 BMI-Woody Guthrie Research Fellowship and has given nearly 200 externally-funded Guthrie presentations on both sides of the Atlantic. Hampton-Reeves secured £14,731 from the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education for his project on Research-Informed Leadership and Academic Identities in the Post-92 University Sector, as well as £21,000 from JISC in a collaborative bid with Chester, DeMontfort and Birmingham universities for a project on Students' Use of Research Content.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Our primary focus is on positive staff development, the maintenance of a supportive research culture (in which researchers can develop and thrive throughout their careers), and the nurturing of postgraduate students - our next generation of researchers. These goals are supported a range of systemic mechanisms and procedures as well as an imaginative approach to the concept of 'research' in all its forms. Equal opportunities in the recruitment and support of research staff are ensured at university level through an institutional commitment to equality and diversity in all aspects of the university's work.

**Staff development:** Staff pursuing a career in research are supported at institutional, school and subject level at all stages of their careers. All staff are appraised annually (including mid-year interim appraisals), which enables the identification of staff members who wish to develop their research profile. There are clear procedures for career progression of staff at all stages of their

**Environment template (REF5)**

careers. Applications for promotion from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer, from Senior Lecturer to Reader, and from Reader to Professor are considered institutionally on a bi-annual basis. Through this system, Saxon was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2010. Kaufman was promoted to Professor in 2008 and subsequently to a higher tier within that grading (level 2) in 2012. Rice was promoted to Professor in 2012.

An established Research Mentoring Scheme assigns new and ECR staff with a Professorial mentor who assists and encourages them to develop individual projects and a research profile; there is also a Research Support Group to assist researchers in identifying internal and external bidding possibilities. Mentoring in the postgraduate supervisory role is provided by a system in which a Director of Studies is supported by at least one other experienced supervisor, thus enabling an inexperienced staff member to build up a supervisory profile. School mentoring activities are supported at institutional level by a raft of available training schemes such as the Researchers Tool Kit, a two-day face-to-face programme of individually tutored courses, as well as a suite of on-line training modules from Epigeum (e.g. 'Getting Published in the Arts', 'Career Planning in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences', 'Research Methods in the Arts and Humanities', and 'Managing Your Research Supervisor'). There is an established system for research and sabbatical leave for all staff at all stages of their careers. In addition to these central university-funded opportunities, research active staff receive a minimum sabbatical entitlement of one semester in nine on a school-managed rota. They can also bid for shorter periods of teaching relief. Between 2008 and 2012 two unit staff were awarded school-rota sabbaticals (Kaufman and Purves) while Saxon bid successfully for a university sabbatical in 2012.

Research culture: Much of the staff-development activity described above dovetails with the wider research culture permeating the institution from senior staff level to undergraduate student level. This culture is enhanced by the high esteem with which UoA members are recognised through the attraction of scholarly awards and fellowships. Kaufman is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was an AHRC Research Fellow in 2010; he won a BMI-Woody Guthrie Fellowship in 2008. Foxlee is Visiting Research Fellow in Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster (since 2009). Saxon won a 2012 Eccles Fellowship from the British Library. UoA staff are active in the organisation of research symposia and conferences, frequently with the aid of the Research and Innovation Office (hence Saxon's organisation of the annual conference for the British Association for American Studies in 2011 and Rice's Bamber Bridge symposium for the Collegium of African American Research in 2013).

At School/Subject level, the Research Degree Tutor presides over a series of research seminars given either by invited scholars or fellow staff members; these are open to all staff, postgraduates and undergraduates. Even our undergraduates are encouraged to research and publish in *Diffusion: The UCLan Journal of Undergraduate Research*. Research staff and students alike have benefitted from procedures to stimulate and facilitate exchanges between academia and business/third sector bodies. Staff are encouraged through school funding and university offices to engage with such outside bodies. Thus, Rice has been given time and funding to foster relationships with museums in the Northwest and with broadcasters such as BBC Radio Lancashire. He has also been released from teaching duties to give talks in UK prisons and museums. Kaufman has been supported through school funding to present his Woody Guthrie programmes in libraries and for charities in both the US and the UK, and his engagements with media on both sides of the Atlantic have been facilitated by the UCLan Marketing team, the University Public Engagement Manager and the new Partnership Manager for Culture and Communications in UCLan's Innovation and Enterprise team. The UoA's commitment to sharing research output with the wider community - whether through public performances (Kaufman on Guthrie), museum and art gallery curatorship (Rice on slavery memorialisation with the Whitworth, the International Slavery Museum and Lancashire Museums) or public lectures (Saxon on theatre) - is important in establishing that a research culture need not be heretically sealed within an institution.

## ii. Research students

In the census period nine MAs by Research and one PhD have been awarded; note that it does not include PhDs supervised by UoA staff but located outside the UoA – Kaufman has supervised to completion a PhD in the School of Education and Social Sciences, Saxon is external advisor for a PhD by Publication at Oxford Brookes University and Rice is external advisor for a PhD at the University of London. UoA 29 research student headcount at 31 July 2013 was 3.75 students; the FTE is 2.63. There are currently 3 students co-supervised by staff in UoA 29 as second supervisors, all of which give 0.25FTE to UoA 29. Staff are also involved in the examination of PhD and MA Res theses both internally and externally. During the census period Hampton-Reeves examined PhDs at Edinburgh and Queen's Belfast; Kaufman for the University of Debrecen (Hungary), University College Cork and the University of Winchester; Rice for the universities of Sheffield, Cork, Nottingham, Aberystwyth and Salford. Kaufman has examined one MA Res. UoA staff pursue a strategy of directing potential research students on undergraduate feeder modules towards either the taught MAs or the full-time/part-time Masters by Research programme as a preparation for doctoral studies. Staff identify potential Masters' students as early as Year 2 and discuss possible research projects and funding issues. In particular we consider the MA by Research an important stepping stone for MPhil/PhD work at UCLan and elsewhere, thus developing a research pool in a challenging economic climate. By publicising internally and externally its diverse strengths and achievements and offering competitive MRes bursaries to internal and external candidates, the UoA has built upon the increase in postgraduate students during the previous census period. The recent funding for 2 PhD studentships in American drama and Creative Writing (to be taken up in the academic year 2014-15) will be important in shifting the balance from the MRes towards the PhD level.

Monitoring and support mechanisms are in place to maximise student progress and successful completions - from recruitment and induction through progression and examination of postgraduate research students, with a stringent timetable for registration and annual monitoring. Research students benefit from an extensive induction and skills-training programme, which includes an annual two-day training event for new and returning students, covering both subject-specific information and more generic information on research processes. The annual Postgraduate Conference encourages students to share their research and experiences; postgraduate students are obliged to present at least one paper a year and are encouraged to publish while students. They are encouraged to take up teaching opportunities in their areas of expertise, supported by senior staff members as module leaders. In addition, students are encouraged to join PROGRESS - the Postgraduate Research Society, which aims to act as a support group and to highlight high quality research. It does this by bringing together research students from across the institution via a range of activities (external guest speakers, social and educational trips etc).

## d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Our research environment is sustained by the careful management of income and supported by a highly research-friendly infrastructure and range of facilities.

**Income:** The importance of reinvesting QR funds is established above. Since 2008, 65 percent of the awarded RAE funds have gone towards salaries of research active staff; the remaining 35 percent is disbursed via the School committees' bidding processes in support of REF-able outcomes and the nurturing of future submittable research staff. Over the past five years the UoA has seen a step change in the generation of research income, aided by the Funding Development and Support team. The UoA has brought in a total £177,930 during the REF period. Funding sources have included the AHRC, the British Academy, JISC and EU/HERA as well as private and artistic sources and other universities (the Woody Guthrie Foundation, the Broadcast Music Industry Foundation, Emory University, Tulsa University et al).

**Infrastructure and facilities:** School and UoA income contributes to support staff including those in Estates, Facilities, IT Resources and Library Resources. Facility Management staff regularly offer advisory sessions for researchers to learn about the various provisions at their service; the



University provides a full state-of-the-art Media Factory along with staff at the service of UoA researchers (hence the filming of Kaufman's two Guthrie shows for posting on the university's web server as well as iTunesU). The School also maintains a dedicated English Language and Linguistics Lab and a WorldWide Language Centre with ample resources for researchers engaging with foreign languages, including gratis Rosetta Stone access. The UCLan Library maintains a host of on-line resources from JSTOR to a vast ebook catalogue, all accessible through remote access. The central Research and Innovation Office is pivotal in the support of research through the funding of new research staff and the provision of liaison officers. The UoA aims to achieve an appropriate balance between the scholarly, organisational and operational demands so that research, teaching and administration can be carried out to the best of our abilities. In addition to the protection of dedicated research days for all research active staff, a workload model is in place and adhered to in order to ensure the appropriate prioritisation of responsibilities for research-active staff - a model which is enhanced through the subject-managed sabbatical rota. UoA staff also have key roles on university research committees and advisory panels. Hampton-Reeves is Director of the UCLan Centre for Research-Informed Teaching and he sits on the Academic Board and the Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee. Kaufman is the School's Director of Research and Chair of the Research Committee, which manages the School's QR budget and organises regular bidding rounds. Rice and Saxon sit on the Research Committee and Saxon is on the University Academic Board. There is thus an established framework for communication of research objectives from the policy-making stage to the execution of research projects.

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

Through international committee work, active policy-making roles in subject associations, editorial and advisory positions, referee work, conference organisation, the delivery of invited presentations and external collaboration, UoA staff have made their mark among colleagues and in their research areas.

Committee work and subject associations: UoA staff have prominent roles on a variety of national and international committees. Kaufman is a member of the AHRC Peer Review College and reviews both staff and student research bids. Until 2011 he sat on the advisory board of the HEA Subject Center for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies and the Executive Committee of the British Association for American Studies (BAAS). Kaufman is also on the advisory board of the Transatlantic Studies Association, of which he is a founding member. Saxon has served on the BAAS Executive and Hampton-Reeves is Trustee and Chair of the British Shakespeare Association and Chair of the British Conference of Undergraduate Research. Rice is on the advisory boards of the Multi-Ethnic Studies Association Europe (MESEA), the Transatlantic Studies Association and the Publications board of FORECAAST, the publishing arm of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR). Rice is also on the Management Board of the Centre for the Study of International Slavery at the International Slavery Museum, Liverpool.

Editorial and refereeing activities: UoA members maintain a significant number of editorial advisory positions. Kaufman is on the Editorial Advisory Board of the European Journal of American Studies and the Editorial Board of the Journal of Transatlantic Studies; he is also in the process of launching, as Editor in Chief, the online Woody Guthrie Annual. Purves is contributing advisor to the online poetics journal Blackbox Manifold. Saxon is Associate Editor of 'American Literature to 1900' in Year's Work in English Studies and is on the editorial boards of three journals: US Studies Online, the European Journal of American Studies and the Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies. Rice is on the editorial boards of the Journal of Social Science Learning and Teaching, Les Carnets du Cerpac, the Journal of Transatlantic Studies and the Saul Bellow Journal; he is also Editor-in-Chief of the Revealing Histories website and co-editor of the FORECAAST (Forum for European Contributions to African American Studies) series for Liverpool University Press. Hampton-Reeves is General Editor of the Palgrave monograph series 'Shakespeare in Practice'. We are also referees for major publishers, academic journals and research proposals. Kaufman is a referee for Oxford University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Cambridge University Press, Routledge, Sage Publications and the University Press of New England as well as the Journal of American Studies, the Journal of Transatlantic Studies and

Comparative American Studies. Purves is a referee for Textual Practice and the Journal of British and Irish Innovative Poetries and Rice referees for Routledge, Chatto and Pickering, Lit Verlag, Oxford University Press, Liverpool University Press, University of Georgia Press and the journals Studies in Travel Writing, Wasafiri, the Journal of Transatlantic Studies, the Journal of American Studies, Atlantic Studies, Electronic Journal in Social Sciences, African American Review, Ariel, Les Carnets de Cerpac, Comparative American Studies and Tourism Analysis.

National and international conference organisation: In 2011 Saxon organised the annual conference for the British Association for American Studies - the world's largest national American Studies association outside of the USA - at UCLan. Hampton-Reeves co-organised the Academic Identities conference at UCLan in 2008, the British Shakespeare Association conferences at Kings College London in 2009 and Lancaster in 2012, the British Conferences of Undergraduate Research in UCLan in 2011 and Warwick in 2012, and - with English Subject Centre funding - the Teaching the Renaissance conference at UCLan in 2012. Foxlee co-organised Liberty and Its Histories: A Symposium with Quentin Skinner at Lancaster University in 2010 and a two-day workshop, Text-Mining in the Digital Humanities, at Lancaster the same year. Rice co-organised Liberating Sojourn 2: Transatlantic Abolitionists 1845-1860 at the University of Liverpool in 2009 and organised a Black Atlantic panel for Glocal Imaginaries: Writing/Migration/Place at Lancaster University in 2009. He organised the Post-Slavery in the Arts and Culture' seminar in conjunction with the Centre for the Study of International Slavery, Liverpool University, the International Slavery Museum and the ESRC, held at UCLan in 2010. He organised two seminars for the Society for Caribbean Studies (Caribbean Research Seminar in the North, 2008 and 2013, both at UCLan) and secured funding to organise an EU/HERA symposium on Cultural Encounters at UCLan in 2012 and the 'Black GIs in Bamber Bridge' symposium in 2013.

Invited lectures, keynote addresses and performances: UoA staff have collectively given **over 200** invited presentations during the census period. Rice gave keynotes at the CAAR International Conference in Bremen, the Toni Morrison Conference at Durham and the Frederick Douglass Commemoration Conference at Leeds Met (all 2009) plus invited lectures at the New Art Exchange, Nottingham and at Salford (2008), the Whitworth Gallery Manchester and the universities of Lancaster, Edinburgh, London (2009), Swansea, Cambridge, the German Historical Institute, London, Anthony Burgess Foundation, Manchester, Lancaster Maritime Museum, Amsterdam and Copenhagen (2010), International Slavery Museum, Liverpool, Gloucester, Hartford (Connecticut) and Hofstra (2011), Hamburg, York and Hunter College, New York (2012) and Norfolk State University (2013). Kaufman gave plenary addresses at St Andrews (2010), the University of Alberta, Canada and Tulsa, Oklahoma (2012) and invited presentations on Woody Guthrie at the British Library (2009) and the Smithsonian Institution (2011) and the universities of Cork, Haute-Alsace Berne, Leeds Met, Utrecht, Essex, Vaxjo (Sweden), London, Birmingham, Cambridge, Canterbury Christ Church, Staffordshire (2008), Winchester, Warwick, Oxford, Cambridge, St Louis Madrid, Swansea, Hull (2009), Leicester, Neuchatel, Lausanne, Debrecen, Glasgow, Rutgers, Chester (2010), Derby, Gloucester (2011), Penn State, Brooklyn College and Oldenburg, Germany (2012). In addition, he has delivered over 175 Guthrie performances on both sides of the Atlantic, often applying his research to the service of fundraising in collaboration with organisations such as AsylumLink, Freedom from Torture, Windows for Peace, the American Labor Museum, the People's History Museum and the Working Class Movement Library in Manchester. Saxon gave invited presentations at the universities of Liverpool, Debrecen and Missouri-Columbia in 2008 and the Harris Museum and Library in Preston in 2011 and 2012. Foxlee presented the invited keynote at the IDAH international conference at Galați University in 2009. Hampton-Reeves has given invited keynotes at the universities of North Carolina, Portsmouth, Staffordshire, East London, Nottingham and Newport.