

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Portsmouth</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 29 English Language and Literature</p>
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>Researchers in this UoA belong to the University of Portsmouth's Centre for Studies in Literature (CSL), which is located within the School of Social, Historical and Literary Studies, as part of the wider Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. CSL promotes and supports research excellence in literary studies and associated disciplines and this submission consists of 13 of its 17 members. Research in CSL is organised into three clusters, and members may belong to more than one cluster, depending on their individual research interests. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture</b> (<i>Pulham, Wolfreys, Finnerty, Pittard, Boyce, Frost</i>) – covering British, American, and European writers with special emphases on Victorian literature and the visual arts; science, evolutionary theory, and ecology; perceptions of landscape and space; transatlantic literature; fin-de-siècle culture; and women's writing.</li> <li>2. <b>Twentieth and Twenty-First Century British and American Literature</b> (<i>Wolfreys, Pulham, Berberich, Rousselot, Davies, Rosenquist, Wood</i>) – covering Edwardian and modernist literature and culture; neo-Victorian fiction; the urban, and contemporary literature and theory.</li> <li>3. <b>Early Modern Writing</b> (<i>Dew, Dyson, Finnerty</i>) – covering specialisms from the Renaissance to the Romantic period, with special emphases on early modern drama, the history of science, and political thought.</li> </ol> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>This submission is the University of Portsmouth's first entry in 'English Language and Literature'. In RAE 2008, members of CSL were entered under 'European Studies' as part of the University's Centre for European and International Studies Research (CEISR) submission. After a strategic review of opportunities provided by that successful entry, CSL was launched in March 2009, and its establishment as an independent research unit marked a change in the research profile of English literature at Portsmouth. CSL's overarching aim has been to establish literary studies as an area of research excellence within and beyond the University. To that end, and to provide a coherent structure, CSL was organised into three key research clusters reflecting core fields within literary studies. Of these, the clusters in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture and Twentieth and Twenty-First Century British and American Literature are now the most established, whilst the Early Modern Writing cluster represents a growing area of strength. The clusters provide focus, mentoring, support and development for individuals and research teams and, since 2009, our policy has been to utilise the focal points provided by our designated clusters to determine key research projects and inform recruitment plans, in order to deliver high-quality outputs, effective impact, augment external income, and increase postgraduate recruitment. At inception, CSL had three primary strategic aims, against which we can now offer significant evidence of achievement. These were:</p> <p><b>(a) To establish and promote a vibrant research environment in English Literature within and beyond the University of Portsmouth. Success here is demonstrated by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the increase in research-active staff in CSL, from 53% of its membership in 2009 to 76% in 2013, facilitated by team-working on two major research projects: 'Victorian Literary Heritage' (VLH: <i>Pulham, Finnerty, Boyce, and Pittard</i>) and Post-War Fiction and Film (PWFF: <i>Berberich, Rousselot</i>), establishing joint enterprises between senior and junior researchers;</li> <li>• the increase in registered postgraduate students: we raised the number of PhD students from 1 in 2009 to 7 in 2013, partially through successes in the Faculty's competitive bursary scheme. We have also increased the number of full-time MA students from 8 in 2009 to 12 in 2013, through the development of targeted workshops for prospective internal and external postgraduates;</li> <li>• successful conferences, symposia and research seminar series that have attracted prominent national and international speakers (e.g. three major international conferences (2010-13); an annual symposium; an annual postgraduate conference; an annual lecture, and</li> </ul>

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regular research seminars);

- members' regular participation in national and international conferences as keynotes, selected speakers, round-table participants;
- grants won by open competition: AHRC Fellowship grant (*Finnerty*), AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (*Pittard*); British Academy small grants (*Frost*), all of which benefited from internal peer-review processes prior to submission;
- fellowships awarded by international organisations: Beinecke Library; Harry Ransom Center (*Rosenquist*);
- faculty membership of the Dickens Project, University of California, Santa Cruz (where CSL members contribute to teaching and research seminars, and postgraduate students (PGRS) attend professionalisation programmes, during the annual Dickens Universe event).

**(b) To focus activity on areas of research excellence, promote internal and external collaborations and the development of early career researchers (ECRs). Our achievement is evidenced by:**

- the success of our two key research projects: (PWFF: *Berberich and Rousselot*, VLH: *Pulham, Finnerty, Boyce and Pittard*) which centred on two of CSL's areas of excellence in nineteenth-century and contemporary literature, and enabled the development and completion of research outputs, funding bids, and conference organisation;
- co-organised conferences (e.g. 'Transatlantic Decadence in Literature and Art': *Pulham and Finnerty*, 2010; 'The Other Dickens: Victorian and Neo-Victorian Contexts': *Pulham, Pittard, Boyce and Rousselot*, 2012), which attracted major national and international scholars, and led to a series of co-authored publications (e.g. 'Decadent Crossings', a Special Issue of *Symbiosis*: *Pulham and Finnerty*, 2012; 'The Other Dickens: Neo-Victorian Appropriation and Adaptation', a Special Issue of the *Journal of Neo-Victorian Studies*: *Boyce and Rousselot*, 2012);
- the provision of financial support for targeted workshops hosted by ECRs who wish to develop research networks (*Davies* has benefited from this initiative, e.g. 'Time and Temporality' workshop (May 2013) which featured academics from Queen Mary, University of London, and Exeter University).

**(c) To establish effective and sustainable partnerships between academia and the wider community to facilitate research and knowledge exchange.**

Under this aim, we focused on local and regional literary figures, especially Dickens, Tennyson and Doyle, and delivered three projects:

- 'Dickens 2012: Victorian Issues and Contemporary Contexts' which has established collaborations and engagement with the Portsmouth City Council (PCC), Portsmouth Film Society (PFS), Portsmouth Grammar School (PGS), and led to a journal special issue (*Boyce and Rousselot*);
- 'Tennyson's Celebrity Circle' in collaboration with Farringford House, the Julia Margaret Cameron Trust (JMCT) and Dimbola Lodge Museum, the Tennyson Society and the Local Studies Library, Isle of Wight, which led to a co-authored book (*Finnerty and Boyce*);
- 'Arthur Conan Doyle', built on the Dickens 2012 collaboration with the Portsmouth City Council, focusing on an important local archive, resulting in the award of an AHRC CDA: 'Possession and Obsession: Fandom and the Case of Arthur Conan Doyle' (*Pittard*: 2013).

CSL's overarching strategic aims in the period 2014-2020 are to consolidate its national and international research profile, and to establish a long-term sustainable research environment. Our current submission has emerged from a newly-founded research centre, and we are conscious that in order to achieve these aims we need to increase the percentage of research-active staff, increase postgraduate numbers and improve our acquisition of external income. We also acknowledge the importance of senior research leadership in the acquisition of postgraduate students and external funding bid successes, and have recently appointed a Chair in English Literature (*Wolfreys*). With these points in mind, we will:

1. **continue to produce high-quality outputs** encouraging participation in research publication by all CSL members', employing supportive mechanisms within and across clusters,

such as mentoring processes, collaborative research bids and publications, as well as the strategic recruitment of new research-active members. Initiatives to support future research are underway: the Victorian Literary Heritage project, (*Pulham, Finnerty, Boyce and Pittard*) has been given continued priority funding; a new major research project, 'Cultures of Commemoration' (*Berberich, Rousselot and Wolfreys*) has been developed; and two individual research projects (*Dew and Boyce*) have been approved. In addition, from 2013, CSL will allocate a significant proportion of its budget to support further individual research projects that, along with existing projects, will deliver high-quality outputs, new collaborations and external funding applications;

2. **increase our external research income** by increasing the volume and scope of external funding applications; widening the range of funding bodies to which we apply including charities and government bodies in the UK and Europe where applicable (e.g. *Pulham* is collaborating with academics from the University of Málaga, UNED/Open University, Madrid, University of Jaén, University of Huelva, University of Trieste, University of Catania on a MINECO (Spanish Ministry of Education) project bid), pursuing avenues of funding via collaborative ventures with museums and trusts and, where possible, aligning our projects with external funding priorities.

3. **increase postgraduate recruitment** via a range of University bursaries; exploitation of collaborative doctoral opportunities; and development of a new MRes English Literature programme to augment the existing MA in Literature, Culture & Identity and provide a further route to doctoral research;

4. **work towards attracting postdoctoral researchers** (since 2012, CSL has actively sought to support postdoctoral applications to such initiatives as Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships and Marie Curie Research Fellowships, providing mentorship throughout the application process);

5. **organise research events** (CSL's two major research projects, 'Victorian Literary Heritage', and 'Cultures of Commemoration', include plans for conferences and symposia to be held within the next two years, and preparations are in progress for a major interdisciplinary conference on the concept of 'Wessex' provisionally planned for November 2014);

6. **maintain and develop relationships with local and regional communities to maximise external funding opportunities, and the development of new collaborative research initiatives** (e.g. *Pulham* and *Boyce* are developing an external funding bid in collaboration with the Julia Margaret Cameron Trust; and also plan a future bid for a Collaborative Doctoral Award in association with the Trust, Dimbola Lodge Museum, and the National Media Museum, Bradford).

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

CSL members submitted in this UoA consist of a Professor (*Wolfreys*), a Reader (*Pulham*), 7 Senior Lecturers (*Finnerty, Pittard, Boyce, Berberich, Rousselot, Frost, and Dew*) and 4 Lecturers (*Davies, Dyson, Rosenquist, and Wood*). Of these, 4 are early-career researchers. It is testament to our supportive mechanisms that over 30% of our submitted entrants are early career researchers. We are also committed to actively promoting equality in the workplace and 6 out of our 13 submitted individuals are female. Our staffing strategy has centred on expanding areas of research excellence through staff development and recruitment. We have also made strategic replacements following the loss, in 2012, of two leading members (both researchers in 20thC literature) who left the university. Appreciating the importance of critical mass and research development, CSL replaced them with new members who demonstrated established or potential research profiles: a Chair in English Literature (*Wolfreys*), a mid-career researcher (*Rosenquist*), and two early career researchers (*Davies* and *Wood*), all of whom have enhanced and contributed to our research cluster strengths and research environment. Financial support and teaching relief are available for a range of directly research-related activities. Such support has facilitated the

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production of publications (*Pulham, Finnerty, Boyce, Pittard, Boyce, and Rousselot*), and external funding-bid successes (*Pittard and Finnerty*).

In association with other University processes, such as the annual Performance and Development Review, that address the full spectrum of members' research, teaching and administrative roles, CSL employs an internal mentorship strategy, a supportive process in which senior researchers guide and develop individuals' research careers. All members are also strongly advised to use the funding that is provided for:

- **conference attendance:** in 2012-13, members delivered papers at conferences in the UK, Europe and the US, including: CUNY, New York, Mexico City, Oxford and Berlin (*Wolfreys*); University of Maryland, USA (*Finnerty*); Université de Reims, France (*Davies*); University of Basel, Switzerland (*Berberich*); Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany (*Wolfreys*); Southwestern University, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria (*Wolfreys*); Ca' Foscari University, Venice (*Pulham*); Royal Holloway, UK (*Pittard*); Oxford Brookes, UK (*Pulham*); LMJU Liverpool, UK (*Rousselot, Pulham*); University of Sussex, UK (*Wood*); Brunel University, UK (*Rosenquist*);
- **research trips to libraries and archives, and to meetings with potential network partners** (*Pulham, Pittard, Boyce, Berberich, Dew and Finnerty* have benefited from this allocation);
- **individual or joint research projects, for work leading a major external funding bid, and significant relief from teaching duties for a set period to complete such bids or major outputs** (a beneficiary of this is *Finnerty* who, following support for an individual project, was awarded a four-month AHRC Research Fellowship in 2012, to work on a new monograph).

With the support of Faculty and departmental management, CSL has been able to recruit ECRs strategically to enhance our research clusters. ECRs are fully integrated into the research culture of the Centre, and receive advice and support from a designated research advisor from within CSL to help them launch their research careers and develop project leadership experience. (e.g. *Davies* has benefited from such support, recently holding a workshop on 'Time and Temporality' in contemporary fiction, that has since become an associated network. *Davies* also leads CSL's theory reading group). CSL attaches the utmost importance to such support. All members, including those on fractional and temporary contracts, are equally eligible for CSL support during their term of employment, as part of our commitment to their career development and equal opportunities. All members, explicitly including ECRs, are encouraged to cultivate their leadership skills within the cluster framework. Routes to further promotion are open, based on published University criteria that, particularly for Readers and Chairs, emphasise leadership and active engagement with the wider academic community. One of CSL's leading researchers (*Pulham*) has risen to a senior position through this route.

Following a gap analysis against the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, the University has committed to design, develop and implement career development workshops as part of a development framework for staff. Our staff have already been afforded the opportunity to attend Principal Investigator training through these developments. The University was awarded the EC HR Excellence in Research Award in May 2013, and is anticipating engagement with the forthcoming Gender Equality Charter Mark scheme.

### ii. Research students

Since its 2009 foundation, CSL has supported 9 postgraduate researchers (PGRs), two of whom have completed. Currently, there are 7 registered PGRs, 2 of whom are due to complete in 2014. Since 2009, a number of CSL's PGRs have been appointed via the Faculty's annual bursary competition and, in 2013-14, we have allocated a significant portion of CSL's budget to studentships aimed at the acquisition of new PGRs. We have also instituted an annual workshop (from Jan 2013) for prospective postgraduates, to offer advice on PGR study, application and completion processes, and are committed to finding new avenues of PGR funding via collaborative doctoral opportunities, particularly with regional and national organisations with whom we are developing strong working relationships. All bursary and studentship candidates are recruited by

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open national and international advertisement and competitive interview, in accordance with best practice for equality and diversity.

All PGRs are fully integrated into the research culture of CSL and are allocated to relevant research clusters. They participate in CSL's regular research seminars, periodic conferences, and other collective activities. In addition to holding an annual themed Literary Studies Postgraduate Conference, organised, with staff support, by PGRs affiliated to CSL and open to PGRs from the UK and abroad, there is an annual themed interdisciplinary postgraduate Study Day, co-hosted by three of the University's Research Centres, open to Portsmouth students. CSL PGRs have been central to the launch of an online postgraduate research journal, *The Portsmouth Postgraduate Review*, producing bi-annual issues since May 2011. Each PGR is provided with an allowance for fieldwork, and supported to disseminate their research through conference presentations. All PGRs, by University policy, are provided with a conference-attendance allowance to facilitate this process. They are also supported, as are all PGRs, towards publication by their supervision teams.

Through its affiliation with the Dickens Project (Univ. of California, Santa Cruz), CSL also sponsors 1 PGR per year to attend the Dickens Universe and participate in its professionalisation workshops (PGRs supervised by *Pulham*, *Rousselot*, and *Berberich* have all benefited from this initiative).

Progress of all PGRs is formally monitored through their supervision teams, which consist of three members of staff, reporting formally to the Faculty Research Degrees (RD) Committee and subsequently to the University RD Committee. For non-confidential matters of policy and welfare, student representatives sit on this committee. All students undertake an Annual Review process, with a Major Review process after their first year to confirm PhD registration, which includes two assessors from outside the supervision-team.

All PGRs are also members of the University Graduate School, and have access to desk-space, office and computing resources, and social facilities in the Faculty Postgraduate Centre. The Graduate School provides opportunities for interdisciplinary contact and student representation, and also administers the Graduate School Development Programme. This is a menu of generic and discipline-specific skills workshops and seminars that forms the spine of a requirement for all full-time PGRs to undertake 10 days' training per year (part-time students pro-rata). Each PGR has a personalised programme of training activities worked out in agreement with and monitored by their supervision-team, including individual tasks and assignments appropriate to their project development. In accordance with Concordat principles, this training includes a significant amount of career-awareness and preparation for transition to post-doctoral roles and opportunities.

**d. Income, infrastructure and facilities****External income:**

Having been established only recently as an independent research centre, the acquisition of external income is one of CSL's key aspirations. While members have had some minor successes (AHRC Research Fellowship: *Finnerty*, £28,506; AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award: *Pittard*, £55,128; two British Academy small grants: *Frost*, £6,325; £400) - we acknowledge that we need to implement strategies to ensure that this upward trend continues. To that end, CSL members are seeking new sources of funding (large and small) in the UK and Europe, including those offered by governments and charities, and plan to build on partnerships with museums and public service providers to maximise the potential of collaborative bids. During the bid development process, CSL members avail themselves of a comprehensive internal peer-review support, and of the financial advice offered by the Faculty's Business Development Manager.

**Infrastructural support:** CSL shares the services of a full-time Faculty Research Secretary, a Faculty Business Development Manager to support financial costings for events and external bids, and a Faculty Web Communication Officer for the maintenance of the Centre's online presence. In addition, the centre is provided with a significant share of library research funds for the acquisition of materials and significant archives (e.g. Victorian Popular Culture collection, £23,500; Illustrated London News archive, £18,900).

Additional organisational support is also provided for the major research projects by the Research Secretary and Faculty Business Manager, as necessary. Monitoring of the balance of various infrastructural and other resources is conducted through Faculty Research and KT Committee, on which the Directors of CSL and other Faculty research centres sit, and which is chaired by the Associate Dean (Research), a member of Faculty Senior Management reporting to the Dean and the Faculty Executive. All operational decisions are taken in the light of rolling Faculty Five-Year Plans, in which research activity is a prioritised area. Faculty Research and Knowledge Transfer Committees report to the University Research Committee (URC) which is chaired by the Pro-VC (Research). Research Governance is a standing agenda item on the URC: the University is a member of the UK Research Integrity Office and is working towards full compliance with The concordat to support research integrity.

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

When CSL was established in 2009 one of its key aims was to raise the profile of literary studies at the University of Portsmouth, and to highlight the quality of its members, all of whom are respected or rising researchers in their respective fields and influence and/or contribute to the discipline, not only by hosting and speaking at conferences and symposia and producing individual publications, but also through their roles as editors, members of professional boards, external examiners, and, additionally through public engagement.

The now prominent profile of English Literature research at Portsmouth is evidenced by the following:

**Network membership and formal affiliations:** Members of CSL belong to external research organisations, e.g. *Pulham* is a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review College and is an executive board member of the British Association of Victorian Studies; *Finnerty* is a board member of the Emily Dickinson International Society, and founder of the UK branch;

**Editorship, reviewing and refereeing commitments:** *Wolfreys* is the General Editor for Palgrave Macmillan's *Transition* series, and the Series Editor for *Critical Studies in Victorian Culture* published by Edinburgh University Press. In addition he will shortly be series editor of a new EUP series, *Edinburgh Nineteenth-Century Reprints*. *Wolfreys* is also the founding editor of *Victoriographies: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century Writing, 1790-1914*. Several CSL members sit on the editorial boards of journals, including *Clues* (*Pittard*), the *Journal of Neo-Victorian Studies* and *Victoriographies* (*Pulham*), the *Emily Dickinson Journal* (*Finnerty*), while others act as readers for refereed journals such as the *Forum for Modern Language Studies* (*Davies*), *The Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* (*Dew*), *National Identities* (*Berberich*), *Literature, Interpretation, Theory* (*Rousselot*); and are also readers for major British, European, and American academic publishers such as EUP (*Rosenquist*), Palgrave and Ashgate (*Berberich*), Routledge and Broadview Press (*Pittard*), and Pickering & Chatto (*Pulham*).

**PhD Examination:** 'Wolfreys', Leuven and Oslo (2013), Exeter and Université Paris-Diderot (2011), Exeter, Glasgow, Warwick, and Leeds Metropolitan (2010); *Pulham*: QMUL (2010), Birmingham (2011) and Hull (2012); 'Finnerty', Edinburgh (2011).

**Keynote lectures and invitations to speak at institutions in the UK and abroad.** Keynote lectures include *Wolfreys*: Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, University of Brighton, University of Vechta, Germany (all 2012); *Berberich*, Warwick (2013); *Finnerty*, Oxford (2010); while recent talks have been given at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (*Wolfreys*, 2012); and the University of Málaga (*Pulham*, 2013).

**Successful major international conferences and symposia:** most recently 'The Other Dickens' (6-8 July 2012), and 'Trauma & Memory: The Holocaust in Contemporary Literature' (12-13 July 2013). Since 2010, CSL has also held an annual themed international postgraduate conference, the latest of which was 'Materiality & Corporeality' (2013). All have been well attended by national and international students. CSL has also co-hosted conferences with other institutions in the UK

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and abroad including one of its annual symposia: 'Imaginary Europes' (2012), hosted in association with Goethe-University of Frankfurt, Germany, Technische-Universität Darmstadt, Germany and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, as well as. 'Swinburne: A Centenary Conference' (2010, with QMUL, and Trinity Coll. Oxford at the Institute of English Studies); 'World War II and Popular Culture' (2011, Brighton and Strathclyde), 'Affective Landscapes' (2012, Derby), and in Portsmouth, with CEISR, 'Early Modern Exclusions' (2010).

**Public engagement lectures given** to the Tennyson Society in association with the Julia Margaret Cameron Trust, Dimbola Lodge Museum, Isle of Wight (*Finnerty* and *Boyce*), and in honour of Holocaust Memorial Day at the D-Day Museum, Southsea (*Berberich*). In 2012, *Berberich* also took part in a round-table discussion on National Identity & Patriotism with Ed Miliband, at Westminster. Such public engagement events not only draw on existing research but, as in the case of events organised in collaboration with the Cameron Trust, also offer future research, research impact, and external funding opportunities.