

<p>Institution: Bishop Grosseteste University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: English Language and Literature</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU) is a small, specialist HEI in uphill Lincoln. It is a member of GuildHE/Consortium of Research Excellence and Training (CREST) with currently about 2000 undergraduate and postgraduate students. BGU has 63.5 full and part-time members of staff. The institution, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2012, acquired taught degree awarding powers in 2006, entered the RAE for the first time in 2008 and was awarded university status in January 2013. Research, as a whole at BGU, is promoted through the Institution's Corporate Plans and Research Strategies, which are coordinated by the Centre for Educational Development (CEDaR) and directed by Hub Committees and Academic Boards. English at BGU is in the Department of Culture and Creative Arts and is, together with the Department of Education and Learning, located in the School of Culture, Education and Innovation (SCEI). The other is the School of Teacher Development (TD).</p> <p>English at BGU currently has 3.5 permanent, full-time members of staff including a new, full-time member of staff who started in January 2013 (Capancioni). In 2013, two members are returned for the REF (Capancioni and Erle). These members of staff are also returning individual impact statements. The Unit had two Erasmus staff exchanges initiated and carried out by Erle and both these exchanges have included research components.</p> <p>All of the English team contribute to the undergraduate programme combinations with Drama, Education Studies, History, Music, Theology and Visual Arts. English at BGU is taught at undergraduate level to single and combined honours as well as majors/minors.</p> <p>During the last academic year, 19 Erasmus students were taught by the English staff (14 in the first and 5 in the second semester out of 25 studying at BGU). In view of the continuously strong but also increasing student numbers the teaching of the English staff has been expanded by way of a stable group of visiting and guest lecturers. English is now led by the new Academic Coordinator, Capancioni, who coordinates the English single honours degrees as well as English within the wider programme clusters, which fall outside the Department of Culture and Creative Arts and include major and/or minors in or with English. Supported by all members of the English staff, this new Academic Coordinator has been leading the initiation and formulation of MA degree programmes in English.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>In 2010 BGU's Research Centre was reorganised into a new unit for co-ordinating and further developing research activity, and better serve the strategic needs of the institution, CEDaR, under the leadership of the Head of Research and Educational Development. Further responsibility for the organisation and management of research resides within BGU's two academic Schools, SCEI and STD. Research at BGU is valued for its intrinsic and extrinsic significance, stimulating innovation in teaching and learning and curriculum development, pushing back the boundaries of knowledge, and changing lives in areas where research is strong. Its success in research is evidenced by greater representation and published output nationally and internationally, a successful entry to RAE 2008, increased grant capture, and a strong research endorsement for its new doctoral programmes (QAA 2010).</p> <p>During the lifetime of the current REF, BGU's Corporate Plan set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support academic staff and students to progress as researchers and to deliver a programme of researcher development training, aligned to the Vitae framework (includes helping academic staff in the completion of doctoral level qualifications, to deliver research outputs such as conference presentations, journal articles, monographs, edited books and research reports through mechanisms such as general and targeted research support funding and sabbatical leave opportunities and using Readers and Professors to mentor academic staff to progress towards personal research targets and aspirations); • build a more coherent and collaborative research culture within BGU and develop a

stronger institutional research profile internationally (includes promoting the BGU research seminar series and other development opportunities to academic staff in order to enhance their appreciation of research through attendance and presenting, supporting staff involvement in networks such as the Consortium of Research Excellence, Support and Training at the GuildHE, actively seeking and developing external research partnerships that are aligned with strategic research activity, taking forward initiatives to secure externally funded competitive grant capture to support research activity, appointing academic staff who are research active and qualified to doctoral level;

- develop and strengthen staff and student research within the BGU curriculum portfolio (by embedding research-informed teaching and learning within module and programme learning and teaching strategies, further developing enquiry and research skills at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and developing and extending master's and doctoral provision by building upon existing discipline strengths as appropriate;
- promote research that has an impact beyond academia which delivers economic, social and cultural benefits (ensuring researchers consider how their research will benefit those they research, ensuring clear dissemination strategies form part of all staff research proposals, developing a clear web presence to highlight research which has societal benefits as part of our message to potential students, staff, partners and funders.

The research culture within English has been developing steadily since the RAE in 2008. The members of staff submitted to the REF are entered with four items. All members of the Unit have not only enriched the existing research profile as well as the research environment within the Department of Culture and Creative Arts and the School of Culture, Education and Innovation. English at BGU continues to work on their research strategy and continues to seek strategic alliance with other staff in both the Departments and the Schools. The Unit's plans and ambitions regarding additional full-time staffing and development of MA degree programmes within English which are to support and connect with the provision of postgraduate teaching in both Schools remain the same. New research will be fostered in due course and within the context of these MA degree programmes, in conjunction and in addition to the already existing specialist areas.

The Unit has always been very proactive. In addition to the fortnightly English Research Seminars, convened by Erle, the Unit is organising a colloquium on the reception of William Blake's poetry and art in Europe at Tate Britain for June 2014 (Erle) and is planning to develop a project on Tennyson.

In the current academic year the Unit organised a public reading of Ghost Stories for Halloween and, under guidance of the Academic Coordinator (Capancioni), hosted World Book Night with the Library (which was also a public event, see 23 May 2013 *Lincolnshire Echo*), celebrated William Shakespeare's birthday and actively shaped and participated in the Library's Carnegie and Greenaway challenge (which consisted of three public events). More research-informed events on Jane Austen and National Poetry Day are being planned for the autumn of 2013.

Future interdisciplinary and collaborative research with respect to public engagement and research outreach will take place on a local, national and international level. Erle is involved with two mini displays in the Lincoln Central Library: "Tennyson's Drawing Room Table" (4 June – 30 September 2013) and "Tennyson and Blake" (4 October 2013 to 31 January 2014). These displays are a direct result of the rediscovery of Tennyson's copy of Blake's *The Illustrations to the Book of Job* and Erle's discovery of a book list, which places the book on Tennyson's drawing room table. The online-exhibition (which Erle was asked to conceive and develop in collaboration with the Collections' Access Officer of the Tennyson Research Centre in Lincoln) went live on 3 June 2013. The work at and with the Tennyson Research Centre will continue. Erle is also planning future collaboration on research with Erasmus Staff Exchange partners from the University of Greifswald (Germany) and the University of Zürich (Switzerland). In the past Erle co-edited (with Garrison of the University of Lincoln) a Special Issue on "Sciences, Technology and the Senses" (published by *Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net* in 2008) and contributed to *The Panorama, 1787-1900: Texts and Contexts*. The general editor of this 5 volume edition published by Pickering and Chatto in 2012 was Garrison.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

English at BGU currently has 3.5 permanent, full-time members of staff. The staffing strategy and development at BGU has guaranteed English at BGU with a steady stream of very good hourly-paid lecturers. When necessary or appropriate the members of the Unit received training to support their research-led teaching.

Capancioni received internal funding for national and international conferences, archival research and staff development. In particular, she secured funding through the RAE Project Award Scheme 2010-11 (£1000) which enabled her to work the Harold Acton Library (British Institute), in Florence. The Staff Development fund also enabled Capancioni to attend and contribute to travel writing events nationally, such as the Oxford Travel Cultures Seminar Series (Wolfson College, Oxford), Centre for Travel Writing Studies (Nottingham Trent) as well as regional and local Victorian Studies events, such as the Nineteenth-Century Research Group (University of Lincoln), the Midlands Interdisciplinary Victorian Studies Seminar and the Victorian Studies Centre (University of Leicester). Erle received external training on European Funding in October 2012. The School has also supported Erle's professional development several times by funding trips to conferences, workshops and meetings throughout all academic years pertaining to the relevant period. It also supported the English Research Seminar Series which is convened by Erle. The School's support, in short, has enabled Erle to "extend and enhance the research profile of the institution internally and externally" (Corporate Plan). The Research Centre, which evolved into CEDaR (Centre for Education, Development and Research) have supported Erle several times through various funding opportunities for research funds, which were successfully secured in all academic years. In the summer of 2013, for example, Erle worked for extended periods in libraries and archives in Hamburg and Munich and Vienna.

Erle applied for and secured a one semester sabbatical, which is a competitive scheme at BGU, for 2009-10 and completed (as planned) the manuscript of the monograph, *Blake, Lavater and Physiognomy* which was published in September 2010. Previous to and after the sabbatical Erle also applied for and secured additional teaching relief through the Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund.

The fortnightly English Research Seminars have received administrative support from the Research Centre and now CEDaR. The external speakers were from highly-rated, research-led Universities, including Professor Gilmartin (Caltech, California and York), Professor McDonough (KCL), Professor Heilmann (Hull) and Dr Broome-Saunders (Oxford) and internal speakers included past and present lectures who are research-active. The seminars are open to the public and are well established. They are interdisciplinary, popular and well attended. The two members of staff submitted to the REF have both participated in the series with lectures and workshops. All of the English Research Seminars have contributed hugely to the research ethos and practice within the Unit.

ii. Research students

While there are currently no research students in English at BGU at this time, all members of the Unit have participated in Doctorial Training. Begley participated in a three-day course run by the Great Missenden Centre at BGU in 2009; Capancioni and Erle participated in the Doctorial Training led by the Head of Doctorial Studies (Professor Sharp) in 2011. There are plans to extend BGU's Master's and research degree provision.

c. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Institutional structures support research within the Unit in a number of ways. The School introduced an Individual Research Plan, which is to capture the outputs, aspirations, support needs and targets for staff in relation to research. The Individual Research Plan has been made part of the annual appraisal process and was introduced in 2012. All support needs and targets are discussed and agreed with the research Mentor each member of staff has been allocated.

All members of the Unit have benefited from successful bids to the Research Fund and/or Teaching Enhancement Fund as well as the SCEI Fund which enabled them to attend or present at conference (in Britain as well as abroad), make research trips to Archives and Libraries (in Britain as well as abroad). In addition to the grants applied for and secured internally Capancioni was fully funded as a keynote speaker by the Centro Studi Joyce Lussu (Joyce Lussu Research Centre in Porto San Giorgio) to take part in a public celebration of the centenary of Joyce Lussu's birth entitled, *Joyce Lussu tra Storia e Futuro* (Joyce Lussu between history and the future), in May 2012 with a lecture entitled, "Ma quanto piu' bello il cammino ancora da fare': sulle orme di Joyce Lussu, l'affabulatrice" ("However, how much more beautiful is the way left to travel: in the footsteps of Joyce Lussu"). In 2007, she was invited and fully funded by the Uguccione Ranieri di Sorbello Foundation (now Ranieri di Sorbello) in Perugia to present on British women travellers to the Italian region of Le Marche at the international conference, "Travel and Travellers in the Modern Age. The discovery of Italy in the English-Speaking World and the Adventures of Italian Travellers" organised by the Foundation. Erle applied for and received the following: MHRA Conference Grant Fund (£1452.96) for the Colloquium at Tate Britain; Small Research Grant from BA/Leverhulme: £9870 (1 April 2013 – 30 June 2014), Research Grant from Bibliographical Society: £189.20 (2010), Research Grant from Wellcome Trust: £450 (2010), Paul Mellon Research Grant: £1445 (2010-13).

During the academic years following the RAE there has been a significant increase in the resources of the library. The English Database Resources makes the following available to staff and students: Britannica Online, Oxford Journals Archive and Archive Upgrade, Cambridge Journals Digital Archive, Literary Reference Center, Project Muse (Premium Collection), Periodicals Archive Online, British Periodicals Collection 1 & 2, Zetoc, Taylor & Francis Social Science and Humanities Library. Cambridge Companions (Complete collection), Early English Books Online, Humanities International Complete, JSTOR (Arts & Sciences Collection 1, 3, 5; Language & Literature Collection). Lincolnshire Libraries provide the following online resources: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford English Dictionary Online, Oxford Dictionaries Pro, Oxford Reference Online <https://lincolnshire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/ODBS>. In addition there is SCONUL, a reciprocal access scheme that allows students or staff to use other university libraries either because they are geographically more convenient or because they have special collections that a researcher wishes to access. (<http://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access>)

d. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Since 2009, BGU has been a member of the GuildHE Consortium of Research Excellence Support and Training network (CREST). CREST, funded by HEFCE and participating institutions since 2009, exists for all specialist higher education institutions that have achieved high levels of research excellence concentrated in smaller communities of research practice in order to:

- create a collaboration of equal partners seeking to achieve research excellence through collegiality and mutual support;
- build research capacity within these participating institutions and secure research critical mass together with the retention of diverse learning environments;
- provide an external structure for the delivery of the research objectives of members and the promotion and promulgation of the research they produce.

CREST initiatives include doctoral support training, research seminars and publication and dissemination of GuildHE/CREST texts (co-edited by Professor Sharp). English Literature is also an integral part of the Management of Small Higher Education Institutions Network (MASHEIN) begun as a HEFCE funded Good Management Practice Project in 1999; Bishop Grosseteste University was the lead institution for this project. The aim of this initial project was to research the management of small institutions and their place in the wider higher education sector.

English at BGU is also supported by an e-learning team. One of the primary roles of the e-learning team at BGU is to provide a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) that supports learning, teaching, and assessment. Blackboard Learn is one of the core technologies that make up our VLE and we have just completed a migration to external servers and are now in the process of planning an upgrade to the latest version, SP12, for the start of the Fall 2013 academic term. Another core component of the VLE is the Learning Objects Campus Pack software which provides rich wiki and blog tools used in both formative and summative assessment as well as hosting the Development and Career Plan e-portfolio used by all of the SCEI students. We are developing an e-Portfolio system for the students in our School of Teacher Development to support their school placements and track their development in relation to the Teacher Standards. This work has been supported in part from consultancy won in grant from the Changing the Learning Landscape project which is a collaboration between the LFHA, the HEA, JISC, ALT and the NUS. The e-learning team supports research activities through a combination of services, hardware, and software. The services include developing virtual spaces used for collaboration and communication on research projects, providing support for the capture, collection and analysis of multimedia evidence, and developing methods and tools for digital dissemination. The hardware includes a computer suite and BookEye Scanner. In addition, the e-learning team provide opportunities for staff development and the enhancement of digital literacy through both seminars and one-to-one support.

Members of the English Unit have been invited to give a wide range of keynotes and other public lectures in the years pertaining to the relevant period and gave papers at learned societies.

Begley, who works on Postmodernism, Literature and Thatcherism, The Contemporary 'State-of-the-Nation' Novel, The Literature of the Falklands/Malvinas War, spoke at the Lincoln Book Festival in 2008, gave two papers at the University of Lincoln (2008 and 2013) and was interviewed on Siren FM, which is a community radio station in Lincoln in 2008. Begley also published a critical survey of British and Argentinian literary and cultural responses to the Falklands/Malvinas war from 1982 to the present (Anthology published with Edinburgh University Press in 2012). Begley has recently been asked to operate as a peer reviewer for *Contemporary Literature* and Manchester University Press. He was a regular contributor to the ABES (Routledge) from 2008-2012.

Dr Capancioni presented her most recent research on Victorian women travel writers and Italy at the first conference organised by all the Anglophone Victorian Studies Associations, NAVSA, BAVS, and AVSA, in Venice in June 2013. She contributed conference papers based on her knowledge of the Victorian author Margaret Collier in 2011 (Michel de Montaigne Foundation, Bagni di Lucca), and 2008 (Nottingham Trent University, UK); on Joyce Lussu in 2010 (Swansea University), and 2009 (University of Calabria); on the Anglo-Italian literary legacy of Margaret Collier, Giacinta Galletti and Joyce Lussu in 2012 (University of Reading); on Victorian women travellers and Italy after the unification in 2011 (Wolfson College, Oxford and University of Lincoln) and on Sherlock Holmes and his Italian afterlives in 2009 (Hull). In 2012, Dr Capancioni was a keynote speaker at the public event celebrating the centenary of Joyce Lussu's birth entitled, *Joyce Lussu tra Storia e Futuro* (Joyce Lussu between history and the future), organised by the Centro Studi Joyce Lussu (Joyce Lussu Research Centre), in Porto San Giorgio (8 May). Previously she participated as guest speaker in "Art. Literature, The Press and Exile: Relationships between the United Kingdom and the Italian Risorgimento", international conference organised by the Michel de Montaigne Foundation and held in Bagni di Lucca in 2011 and in "Travel and Travellers in the Modern Age. The discovery of Italy in the English-Speaking World and the Adventures of Italian Travellers", an international conference organised by the Ugucione Ranieri di Sorbello Foundation in Perugia in 2008 (fully funded).

Capancioni delivered papers on Sherlock Holmes's cultural afterlives at BGU (2012) on Victorian women travellers to Italy at the University of Lincoln (2010), on Michèle Roberts and intertextuality in at BGU (2010) and on Margaret Collier at BGU 2009. In 2012 Capancioni launched *The Cultural Afterlives of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle: Representations Across the Media* (Palgrave 2012), edited by Sabine Vanacker and Catherine Wynne, as one of the contributors, at Urbinoir, which is a humanities scientific committee working on detective and crime fiction of which

Capancioni is a member: the Dark Side of Words (University of Urbino). Capancioni has peer-reviewed for the *Journal of Adaptation in Film and Performance* and *New Readings*, collaborated as a consultant on *Opere Scelte*, an anthology of Joyce Lussu's selected works, edited by Giorgio Mangani and published by il lavoro editoriale (2008) and as a translator and a consultant on interwar Anglo-Italian anti-fascist activism and Giacinta Galletti to Dr Kalyan Kundu's *Tagore in Italy*, published in Bengali in India (2009). Capancioni edited the appendix of historical Italian newspapers articles and in 2011, together with Drs Hill and Garrison, Capancioni organised the international conference, "Travel in the Nineteenth Century: Narratives, Objects and Collections" held at the University of Lincoln: 13 to 15 July (8 parallel sessions and 3 keynotes with a total of 62 delegates).

Erle delivered several conference papers and was invited to give talks on Blake and Physiognomy, the subject of her monograph. There were two book launches in 2011 (Lincoln and London). Erle helped organise the Scholar's Morning she delivered at Tate Britain (2011) – and had previously organised a symposium on Blake's Large Colour Prints at Tate Britain (2002) and collaborated on the display "Blake and Physiognomy" (2010-2011) with Simpson of Tate Britain; the work with Tate Britain will continue. Erle also spoke at the Scuola Normale Superior in Pisa (2010), at the Wellcome Institute in London (2011) and presented on her work at the Blake Society (2011) – and had previously given public lecture there in 2001 and 2006; Erle gave a public lecture at "Haus der Romantik" in Marburg, Germany (2011). Erle also went on two Erasmus Staff Exchanges in 2012 (University of Greifswald, Germany and University of Zürich, Switzerland) and delivered research papers while on these Erasmus Exchanges in 2011. Erle remains a Visiting Junior Research Fellow at the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations and contributed to a conference held at the Centre in 2007. The work presented on was developed and included into a collection of essays, edited by the Centre and published in 2010. There are plans to present on William Blake's reception in Austria and Germany, because Erle is now co-editing *The Reception of William Blake in Europe* (with Professor Morton D. Paley of the University of California at Berkley). This project will result in collection of essays on the reception of William Blake's poetry and art (contracted by Bloomsbury), a colloquium at Tate Britain (June 2014) and a series of public events both at Tate Britain and with the Blake Society.

Further collaboration and contribution at BGU from the English Unit has been led by Capancioni and Erle did a project on Nick Dear's and Danny Boyles' adaptation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818). They were funded by BGU to do research in the National Theatre Archive in London and wrote an article, which they had accepted and published in a special issue "Gothic Frontiers" (*Textus*, 2012). They are currently planning to write on Andrea Arnold's *Wuthering Heights* (2011), which they intend to submit to the *Journal of Adaptation in Film and Performance*. All members of the Unit attended and gave papers at the "BG Research Conference" held at the Institution in September 2010. Across the institution, English Literature contributes to the Writing Project, a collaborative venture involving a writing research cluster at BGU and colleagues at Rhode Island College who lead the Rhode Island Writing project which was established in 1985. The English Unit is also planning to launch an Undergraduate Journal at BGU, which is to publish exemplary final year dissertations of the single and combined honours, to mirror what has been done in Education Studies (*Educationundergraduate* – with ISSN) and provide students with opportunities to have their undergraduate research projects published.

In 2000, Erle was selected for a fully-funded three-year PhD scholarship from *Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes* (2000-2003) and had a Mellon Fellowship at the Huntington Library in California in 2003. Erle has done peer-reviews for *Comparative Critical Studies* and *Working With English: Modern and Medieval Language, Literature and Drama*. She is on the editorial board of the Reception of British and Irish Authors in Europe Research Project. She has written reviews of both books and exhibitions for *Studies in Romanticism*, *British Association for Romantic Studies* (BARS), *Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly*.