

<b>Institution: University of Plymouth</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: UoA 27</b>
<p><b>Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><b><u>Context and structure</u></b></p> <p>Research in English and Creative Writing (ECW) at Plymouth is developed within a unit of 13.5 FTE within the School of Humanities and Performing Arts, which is part of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business. Throughout the census period, the unit's research has been conducted with an interdisciplinary environment, supported by the Arts Institute, which provided training in research development, an ECR forum, and an infrastructure for interdisciplinary research initiatives, including environmental cultures, which is led by colleagues from within the unit. English and Creative Writing at Plymouth has an established tradition of outstanding research, with over two-thirds of our research ranked as either world-leading or internationally excellent (4* and 3*) in REF 2014. Over the course of the REF cycle, the unit has continued developing existing research specialisms and excellence in a number of areas: literatures of the early modern period in England and North America; the novel, poetry and satire in the long 18<sup>th</sup> century; print culture from the early modern period to the twentieth century; literatures of the environment; transatlantic literatures; utopian and dystopian fictions; ecocriticism; contemporary poetry; literatures of war and female suffrage; as well as excellence in practice-as-research (novel writing, prose fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction).</p> <p>Two significant changes for the unit in this REF cycle underpin its achievements: the alignment of sustainable and <b>inter-connected research themes</b> within the unit, and the expansion of <b>impact partnerships</b> across a diverse range of sectors, from museums and arts practice to environmental organisations and charities. Through the deployment of literary critical methods and creative practice, our research and our impact strengthen the University's response to matters of intellectual, civic and environmental significance. During this REF period, investment in curiosity-driven research is balanced with investment in establishing inter-connected research themes. While sustaining our specialisms in <b>Transatlantic Literary Studies</b> (a continuation of an AHRC network, REF 2014) and further investing in our strengths in <b>Poetry</b> (literary analysis and creative practice), we prioritised a new research theme, <b>Literature and the Environment</b>, and are at a point of realigning existing strengths in 18<sup>th</sup>-century literary studies as the basis for an emerging theme, <b>Print Culture and Identity Formation</b>. This infrastructure helps us build capacity and resilience; all staff are linked to one or more research theme.</p> <p><b><u>Achievement summary since 2014</u></b></p> <p>In this REF cycle, we have published <b>61</b> outputs in total: <b>12</b> monographs and books, <b>9</b> edited collections, <b>40</b> articles and chapters, an increase of <b>26</b> outputs since our submission in 2014. In addition, staff organised 14 international conferences; are, or were, members of editorial boards for 9 book series (<b>Latimer, Bloomfield, Caleshu, Finkelstein</b>). Staff have developed formal partnerships with national and international HEIs and public bodies, by securing and/or completing the delivery of four AHRC grants in this period (<b>AKSmith x2, Sergeant, Moore</b>). Other HEI partnerships – the Mayflower 400 Universities group (<b>Gray</b>) and ContemPo (<b>Bloomfield</b>) – are indicative of the breadth and reach of our external collaborations. UoP's strategic Marine Institute and Sustainable Earth Institute, provide further infrastructure to enable the development of interdisciplinary research partnerships between literary studies and environmental sciences: two researchers from the unit sit on respective institutional steering committees (<b>Bloomfield</b> and <b>Sergeant</b>). In this cycle, our PGR recruitment and completions have increased twofold (see section 2), reflecting the strength and sustainability of this expansion.</p> <p><b><u>Research strategy and delivery</u></b></p> <p>Our specific aims for 2014-2021, were to invest in pre-existing research themes (poetry and Transatlantic literary study), contribute to the creation and strategic oversight of the Arts Institute, and significantly grow the PGR community in sustainable ways. Building on these initial aims, the unit has sustained the vitality of its research culture by: 1) consolidating an emergent</p>

research specialism, Literature and the Environment, 2) developing a more inclusive research theme around Print Culture and Identity Formation, predicated on collective strengths in 18<sup>th</sup>-century literature, 3) prioritising leadership and career progression, especially ECRs, and 4) enabling productive partnerships and collaborations with non-cognate disciplines, e.g. marine science, and non-HEI partners.

#### *Four inter-connected research themes*

Investment in research themes has enabled, sustained and intensified the vitality of the unit. Researchers in the unit work across these themes, allowing for cross-pollination of methods and research activity. Collectively the themes demonstrate our strategy of enabling sustainable outcomes in impact, ECR development, and leadership, building the unit's capacity and resilience for the future.

#### **1. Transatlantic literary studies (Gray, Sood).**

The strategy for this research theme has been to build on the successful completion of the unit's AHRC network grant in Transatlantic Studies in the last REF cycle and to shape and influence public debate as it relates to the decolonisation of narratives of remembering in the colonial Atlantic world (1600-1900). **Gray** assumed leadership of this research theme in 2013 and with the strategic appointment of **Sood** (ECR, former Fulbright scholar at Georgetown University, and recipient of the Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress) and an honorary research fellow (Kristin Cook, Secretary of the Transatlantic Studies Association (TSA)), we continue to publish high-quality work in this field on various aspects of print culture, the 18<sup>th</sup>-century transatlantic novel and textual constructions of colonial, colonised and enslaved identities in the Atlantic world. The theme has prioritised collaborative partnerships with international subject associations (TSA, Society for Early Americanists (SEA)), as well as the targeted development of knowledge-exchange partnerships, locally, nationally and internationally. This has provided expansive networks for our research to drive these intellectual debates. **Gray's** scholarship shaped the delivery of an internationally-significant exhibition, *Mayflower400: Legend and Legacy* (2020) and the strategic priorities of the national Mayflower400 programme of commemorative events (2019-20). **Sood's** research contributed to a theatrical production, *Send Back The Money!*, shedding light on the impact of the fugitive slave's visit to Britain (Edinburgh 2019).

#### **2. Literature and the Environment (Bloomfield, Darlington, Gray, Sergeant, B. Smith).**

With the strategic appointment of **Bloomfield** and **B. Smith**, and with broadly equal strengths in creative and critical discourse, this research theme exemplifies our strategy to enable a multi-disciplinary response to real-world challenges of ecological crisis and the Anthropocene. With solid foundations in eco-criticism (**Bloomfield**), questions of futurity and systemic change (**Sergeant**), New Nature Writing (**Darlington**), colonial nature writing (**Gray**), and environmental crisis fiction (**B. Smith**), research from this theme now drives the agenda of a University-wide research cluster, 'Environmental Cultures,' supported by the Arts Institute, and includes colleagues from geography, marine science, environmental science and photography. The strategy for this research theme has been to build capacity through shared interdisciplinary research seminars, public talks and programmes, partnerships with non-HEI parties, including sustainability charities, wildlife charities and independent artists. Evidence of success in defining and supporting this theme includes successfully hosting the ASLE-UK conference in 2019 (**Bloomfield**), hosting an international and interdisciplinary conference on 'Forming the Future' (**Sergeant**), a successful application for an AHRC ECR Leadership Fellowship, national media coverage on BBC Radio 4 in response to the publication of *Owl Sense* and *Doggerland* (nature writing and fiction by **Darlington** and **B. Smith**, respectively), and the progress of current and future impact case studies.

#### **3. Poetry (Bloomfield, Caleshu, Sergeant, B. Smith, Sood).**

The range of research in this theme demonstrates the cross-pollination of ideas between our thematic groupings, enabling the unit to maximise its overall research strengths. From debates about reception and identity in the poetry of Burns, Polwhele and Ossian (**Sood** and **Moore**) to pioneering work on 'archaeological poetry', spanning US, US-Korean, British and diasporic

African Caribbean writers (**Bloomfield**), this theme drives several significant agendas in the field. New collections of poetry draw on experimental and lyric traditions to explore topics of friendship and fraternity (**Caleshu**, x 2), community and crisis (**Sergeant**), and climate change (**B. Smith**). Capitalising on this strength, Caleshu founded and edits *Periplum Press*, which publishes new poetry by internationally-recognised poets in English: Heather Phillipson, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, Mark Ford, and Peter Gizzi. These strengths are reflected in **Caleshu's** successful AHRC grant, "Poets Respond to Covid-19: Collaborative UK and International Poetry Project" (May 2020), <https://poetryandcovid.com/>, with UK and international partners: International UNESCO Cities of Literature include Moscow, Melbourne, Heidelberg, Ulyanovsk. **Bloomfield** is a joint director for Contempo, the Centre for Contemporary Poetry, a collaborative, cross-institutional research centre (2006—present), located across five HEIs – Plymouth, Aberystwyth, Bangor, Brighton, Surrey. Publications associated with this theme include three monographs (**Sood**, **Moore** and **Bloomfield**), four books of poetry (**Caleshu**, **Sergeant** and **B. Smith**) and two edited collections (**Moore** and **Caleshu**), as well as book chapters, articles, and individual long poems.

#### 4. Print Culture and Identity Formation (**Bautz**, **Finkelstein**, **Hinds**, **Latimer**, **Moore**, **AK Smith**, **Wild**).

Consolidating the unit's previous strengths, recognised in REF 2014, in print culture and in the long-eighteenth-century prose, poetry, satire, print culture, and the periodical press, the strategy to shift away from chronological markers has enabled a more resilient dynamic grouping to emerge. Substantively, research in the theme engages with 17<sup>th</sup>-century debates about print culture and the poet laureate (**Hinds**), 18th-century debates about education (**Latimer**), regional voices (**Moore**), satire and the periodical press (**Wild**), nineteenth-century libraries and reader reception (**Bautz**), transnational approaches to print culture in the nineteenth century (**Finkelstein**) and, in twentieth-century representations of war and suffrage (**AK Smith**). This body of work makes a significant contribution to various fields of research, comprising three monographs, seven edited collections/anthologies, and thirty-one chapters and articles. Three successful AHRC grants have been secured and/or delivered as part of this contribution: one AHRC Network grant (**AK Smith**), one AHRC follow-on funding grant (**AK Smith**), and the completion of one AHRC CDA (with Plymouth City Art Gallery and Museum, **Moore**, **Latimer** and **Bautz**). A strategic aim for the unit will be to maximise the potential of this significant body of work through more explicit collaborative working practices within the team.

#### **Impact: Strategy, context and achievement**

Building on feedback from REF 2014, where the panel noted our efforts to develop pathways to impact, our strategy has been to 1) develop place-based partnerships to enable co-creative and participatory impact methodologies, 2) intervene in debates that respond to matters of global significance, 3) prioritise knowledge-based partnerships with a wide range of sectors (e.g., civic, charitable, environmental and heritage). As a result of significant institutional investment, the support of the University's Impact Case Study officer, Impact Research Assistants, heritage and impact consultants, and knowledge exchange practitioners (see section 3) the unit has developed and deployed pathways to impact, impact delivery and evaluation methods in effective and sustainable ways. With this investment and training, especially at annual research away days, all members of the unit are supported to engage with external partners to ensure dissemination and impact of research findings beyond the academy (see section 4, 'Contribution to other sectors').

Across the unit, this strategy succeeded in enabling pathways to impact across a wide range and number of non-HEI partners. Concentrated strengths in environmental literary studies, has enabled a significant number of place-based partnerships: REGEN (not-for-profit centre of energy expertise), South Devon Energy Communities, Plymouth Marine Lab, the Woodlands Trust, Paignton Zoo, the Barn Owl Trust, and the British Trust for Ornithology. Researchers in the unit have provided intellectual framing for visual arts projects, theatrical productions, music projects, storytelling projects, national exhibitions, centenary events (WWI and Women's Suffrage), colonial anniversaries (Mayflower 1620-2020). Key recipients include Houses of

Parliament (**AKSmith**), and The Box (Plymouth's newly restored Archive, Art Gallery and Museum) (**Moore, Bautz, Latimer, Gray**).

The ICSs both respond to real-world challenges, one environmental and one cultural, and are predicated on knowledge-exchange partnerships and co-creative design:

1. **Nature Connections (Darlington)** responds to **environmental** challenges, transforming the language, discourse of environmental protection and preservation, and enabling pro-environmental behaviours and creative practices, with partners in the environmental, charitable and social inclusion sector.

2. **Mayflower 400 (Gray)** responds to international debates about colonial heritage. Part of an international collaboration with civic projects in Leiden and Massachusetts, as well as Indigenous leaders (the Wampanoag Advisory Council) this ICS evidences the significance of anniversary events that newly accommodate the experiences, past and present, of Indigenous communities in North America.

#### **Future research and impact strategy:**

The research strategy for 2021 onwards will be to establish further resilience and capacity by

1. Embedding the Print Culture and Identify Formation research theme more explicitly within the unit through further collaborative practice;
2. Further developing research leadership potential through co-ordination of research themes and gradual increased leadership responsibility for individuals in these areas;
3. Continuing and extending interdisciplinary work, especially with science-based subjects and environmental groups, through the Literature and the Environment theme and in light of Plymouth Sound new designation as the UK's first National Marine Park (2019);
4. Extending pathways to impact and case studies that are embedded in the two research themes: A) literatures of environment and their partnerships with science-related subjects, as they respond to questions of environmental futures (specifically, **Bloomfield, Sergeant and B. Smith**), and B) the Transatlantic literary studies theme (**Sood and Gray**) in their continued work to decolonise literary heritage with academic and non-academic partners.
5. Diversifying our approach to external grant capture, with a particular emphasis on collaborative and multi-disciplinary projects and partnerships.

## **2. People**

### **Staff context:**

The unit staffing strategy has focused on the recruitment of junior scholars with outstanding potential, paired with a sustained and integrated set of mechanisms to ensure the progression of staff at every stage of their career. 94% of the English and Creative Writing team are research active, which speaks to the effectiveness of this strategy and of a unit well placed to sustain continued research excellence and the long-term resilience of the subject. Since REF 2014, we have made four strategic research appointments - three lecturers and one professor, each of which strengthens our international research profile and supports existing and emergent research themes (**Sood, B. Smith, Bloomfield and Finkelstein**). The staffing strategy of the unit in this REF cycle has focused on ways to embed and commit to specific research leadership programmes and career progression of new staff, especially ECRs.

### **Staff strategy and development**

#### *Research Management: Unit, School, Faculty*

The organisation of research activities takes place under the umbrella of the School's Research and Graduate Affairs Committee, whose direct control of research finances allows for the flexible and efficient deployment of resources to implement the unit's research strategy. The School Research Committee and its sub-committee (R1 committee), allocates and monitors internal research funds for sabbaticals, conference attendance and research trips. Bids to R1 are made on a competitive basis, broadly following AHRC guidelines and values.



The unit's research co-ordinator takes overall managerial responsibility for research and is a member of the Research Committee and the R1 sub-committee. Each of these committees is chaired by the Associate Head of School (AHoS) for Research. Both the AHoS and the unit research co-ordinator sit on the Faculty Research Committee. Research committees at the level of Faculty and School produce plans that are reviewed annually. This structure ensures alignment of research strategy across the Faculty. Research-related Athena Swan actions, for staff and PGR, are delivered by the School's Research Committee, with EDI a standing item on the agenda.

At unit level, research activities are a standing item for monthly ECW team meetings, which, in addition to away-days, facilitate a collective awareness and ownership of the research strategy. The development of 3–5-year research plans, which include plans to develop funding bids, is a compulsory requirement of each researcher and are reviewed annually with the coordinator. University procedures require that individual grant bids are peer-reviewed, risk assessed and signed off by a member of the costing team and Head of School. The Faculty Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (FREIC) provides support and final clearance for research that raises ethical considerations; Gray is currently one of two FREIC committee members from the School (HPA).

Complementing this research management structure, throughout the census period, the Arts Institute offered research training workshops and events for all researchers in the Faculty. Research co-ordinators from all units from within the Faculty sat on the AI steering committee. The AI provided an infrastructure to support interdisciplinary research, as it brings together more than 100 academics from across all research units represented in the Faculty (13, 27, 28, 32, 33). In recent years, it has provided financial and administrative support to formal research clusters, including 'Environmental Cultures' (led by ECW researchers). Following the expansion of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business (which now includes a law school, business school and education institute) in the summer of 2020, these research structures were devolved to the Faculty are overseen by the Associate Dean for Research.

These supportive management mechanisms and infrastructure help deliver and oversee the unit's research strategy as it relates to ECR recruitment and development, leadership, career progression and interdisciplinary working practices and methods.

### *Leadership*

The consistent strength of the unit's staff development strategies is reflected by the number of successful promotions in this REF cycle of 7 members of the unit: 2 to Professor (F) and 5 to Associate Professor (F=5; M=1). It is also evidenced by the substantial research leadership roles its members have been tasked with at School, Faculty and University level. One colleague is Associate Head of School for Research (**Caleshu**), responsible for driving the school's research strategy in line with faculty and university priorities; another (**Finkelstein**) is the current Executive Dean of the Faculty, responsible for strategic leadership of all aspects of academic endeavour including research across over a third of the university's work. **Moore**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor International and Planning (2020-present), acted as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (2015-17), leading a refresh of institutional R&I strategy, and as Executive Dean of the Faculty (2012-2020), in addition to strategic leadership responsibilities, wrote the approved business case for founding the Arts Institute. The Unit co-ordinator (**Gray**) was one of four-unit coordinators from the University to sit on the University's Code of Practice (REF 2021) working group. **Latimer** was commissioned by the Director of the AI and DVCR to co-write a university-wide research leadership programme. Three researchers from the unit were identified as future leaders and received a full, year-long training package, which ran for the first time in the summer of 2018. **Latimer** and three other members of the unit who participated in the programme (**Bloomfield**, **Sergeant** and **Sood**) (F=2; M=2) are now recognised as Research Leadership champions for the Faculty.

*ECRs and new lecturers*

The fact that all ECRs and new lecturers recruited in this REF period delivered monograph or book-length projects post-appointment, with one awarded an AHRC ECR Leadership Fellowship, demonstrates the enabling and productive research environment provided by the unit. During the probationary period, additional infrastructure supports ECRs and new staff, including regular progress reviews, professional development meetings with the head of subject and head of school, as well as opportunities to take part in senior research leadership initiatives. A representative from English was one of two ECRs to serve on the school research committee for two years and was one of eight academics selected for a university-wide Academic Reference Group tasked with improving working methods for administering grant money (**Sergeant**). Other ECRs / new lecturers from the unit sat on the Arts Institute (AI) operational committee (**Sood**) and the school's Knowledge Exchange steering group (**B. Smith**). The AI sponsors an ECR network, bringing together researchers from across the faculty, to create a forum for ECR issues, stimulating cross-faculty collaborations, and targeting their developmental needs, such as grant writing and publication.

Each ECR has a nominated research mentor from within the Unit, offering support and guidance formally, through biannual review meetings. As a result of this strategic investment, one member of staff secured an AHRC Early Career Leadership award (2017-19) has developed pathways to impact for a future case study and has been promoted to Associate Professor (**Sergeant**). Another new member of staff (**B. Smith**) has developed a significant research profile, with the publication of his first novel. With the support of his research mentor and the University's knowledge exchange advisors, **B. Smith** is currently developing collaborative grants with another HEI Partner (Exeter), as well as supporting pathways to impact with external partners in the environmental, marine and charitable sector (the Woodlands trust, the National Trust, Plymouth Marine Laboratory). **Sood**, published his first monograph while in post at UoP. As part of the Transatlantic literary studies research theme, **Sood** works closely with **Gray** on research and impact projects, intending to assume ownership of this research focus within the unit, following his application to the AHRC's Research, Development, and Engagement Fellowship (April 2021).

*PGR students: strategy and development*

Since REF2014, the unit has delivered a significant increase in PGR recruitment, with 20 students enrolled (July 2020) on the PT/FT PhD programme, and increased completion rates by more than 100% (from 4 to 9). These increases provide a platform on which to develop our PGR strategy into the next REF cycle. Increases in this REF cycle have been the result of effective recruitment from our two MA programmes (Literary Study and Creative Writing), the introduction of a Doctoral Teaching Assistantship, and increased international recruitment. Biannual postgraduate open evenings have been particularly successful in attracting non-traditional PGR students, especially mature students. The unit's PGR cohort benefit from a dynamic, multidisciplinary environment provided by the School of Humanities and Performing Arts, that is home to more than fifty PGR students and a Faculty of over 180 MPhil/PhD candidates situated within the Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) in the Arts and Humanities. Integration between these structures facilitates multi-disciplinary teams: ECW staff co-supervise PGR projects with colleagues in Fine Art and History, and have examined PhD thesis from students in History, Fine Art and Trans-technology.

Generic skills and career development training in Arts and Humanities Research is managed and provided by the Faculty, which offers over thirty hours of workshops and training (e.g., research methods, IT and library skills) each year. These activities complement the research skills training sessions offered by the University's Doctoral College Researcher Development Programme, which is mapped against Vitae's Researcher Development Framework and offers approximately 160 sessions per year. As our PGR community has expanded we have developed methods of peer-peer support within the unit, with workshops on research-in-progress led by students, for students.

Wherever appropriate, we facilitate teaching opportunities for PGR researchers, all of whom are encouraged to undertake training leading to Associate Membership of the HEA. School-level investment in Doctoral Training Scholarships, which offers a fee-waiver, a small stipend, and teaching opportunities, has attracted high-calibre students (Poetry/environment, Kemp 2017; Environment, Corlett 2017; Print Culture, Glew 2018). The School offers competitive funding opportunities for PGRs to attend conferences (with or without presenting papers), training events and to undertake primary and/or collaborative research. The vibrancy of the PGR community includes various individual successes: AlShammari, (2016) has since become Head of English at the University of Bagdad, Vowler a prize-winning author, Kemp sat on the UoP ASLE UK Biennial conference steering committee (2019), two PGR students received funds to travel to the US for research and conference attendance (Chamberlain and Kearns, 2019), two PGRs participated as paid interns in partnerships with the National Trust (Boone and Chamberlain, 2019/20).

### EDI

The unit is broadly equal, in terms of gender, 48.1% (f) and 51.9% (m), with women and men represented across the career spectrum: five Professors (2f/3m), six Associate Professors (3f/2m) and four Lecturers (2f/2m; 2ECR=m, 1f=0.5). The unit's research leadership has undergone significant change since REF2014. In this REF cycle, we can acknowledge the promotion of two female professors (**AK Smith** and **Bautz**) and the promotion of three women and one man to Associate Professor. Women occupy research leadership positions in the unit: research co-ordinator (**Gray**), research cluster leader (**Bloomfield**). The changes are, in part, a result of peer-peer support, as well as a more streamlined and integrated research infrastructure and institutional investment, through Faculty and School, to the unit. Within the unit, staff have access to a mentor: **AK Smith** (f), **Gray** (f), **Moore** (m).

The School works closely with HR to provide support and guidance governed by policies such as the University of Plymouth's Equal Opportunities Policy on recruitment and promotion, and the Flexible Working Policy, which also incorporates a statutory responsibility to consider requests for flexible working so that staff can care for young children or dependent adults. Throughout this REF cycle, three members of staff (f=1, m=2) have taken maternity and shared parental leave. The University provides crèche facilities on campus and staff with school-age children can request that they are not timetabled to teach beyond 5 pm. We monitor data for gender and diversity balance, ensuring that our guest speaker and visiting lecturer programme is inclusive.

The School's Athena Swan Bronze Award (May 2020), ensures that researchers and research leaders are actively involved in the delivery of the action plan. Responsibility for its delivery, as it relates to research, sits with the AHoS for Research who will work with unit coordinators and heads of subject to fulfil the requirements of the Award. Specific actions from the School's Athena Swan action plan relate to ensuring gender equality and representation through the career pipeline, especially at Professorial level, parity of representation in research-related committees and management roles, parity in workloads and administrative responsibilities.

Issues of diversity and inclusion are a core part of our research, as well as everyday research management and practice. 7.4% of staff identify as BME, 92.6 as white (FTE). As part of our strategy to ensure greater diversity, all staff undertake the University's 'Unconscious Bias' training, since 2017 we have contributed to and promote the University's Black History Month programme of events with a dedicated research seminar, and we commit to ensuring diversity of speakers through our visiting speaker programmes throughout the year.

Implementation of EDI principles is supported by an EDI Faculty lead (**Gray**), who also happens to be the unit's research co-ordinator, and implemented by the school-level Athena Swan and EDI committee. While there are positive and successful outcomes of gender parity in this REF cycle, in terms of career progression and research leadership roles, our future research strategy will focus on maintaining this momentum by supporting the career progression of our researchers by making use of unit-level and University-wide mentoring schemes and leadership training opportunities.

**3. Income, infrastructure and facilities****Income, investment and infrastructure:**

Research income and spend for the unit has increased since REF 2014 by 26% (225,000 in REF 2014, to 305,244 in REF2021), derived from several successful external grant applications in our different research priorities. This income has supported key areas of research excellence, delivering high quality research publications, international conferences, as well as PGR opportunities and ECR leadership.

Funder	Project	Researcher (s)	Research theme	Date	Spend / Value
AHRC CDA	Reading Plymouth's Cottonian Collection and Archive	<b>Moore / Bautz / Latimer</b>	Print Culture and Identity formation (PCIF)	(2013-17)	£60,918
AHRC Network (PI)	Alternate Spaces of War	<b>AKSmith</b>	PCIF	2013-15	£24,601
AHRC Follow-On (CI)	What Difference did the War Make? World War One and Votes for Women	<b>AKSmith</b>	PCIF	2017-18	£13,886 (of £75,529)
AHRC Early Career Leadership	Imagining Alternatives: Utopia, Community and the Novel, 1880-2015	<b>Sergeant</b>	Environmental Literary studies (ELS)	2018-20	£ 175,948
BAAS / US Embassy	TSA and SEA conference support	<b>Gray</b>	Transatlantic literary studies TLS	2016 and 2020	£1500 and £4500
Charlton Foundation	Native American Wampum Belt exhibition	<b>Gray</b>	TLS	2019	\$3000
US Embassy / Wilberforce Institute	<i>Send Back the Money!</i>	<b>Sood</b>	TLS	2018	£2000 / £500
AHRC Covid	Poets Respond to Covid-19	<b>Caleshu</b>	Poetry	2020	£111,000 (spend June 2020-May 2021)

**Allocation of QR funds: supporting sabbaticals, research activity and impact**

In addition to external research funds, research income to the unit through the distribution of QR funds (£70,000 annually, across all three units in the School) offers sustained investment in the unit's research activities. This investment is managed and monitored by the School's R1 committee and the School's Research Committee.

Over this REF cycle, QR investment in research sabbaticals and research activities totalled **£95,751: £73,556** of this investment secured two to three sabbaticals (6-months of teaching remission) annually; **£22,195** was awarded internally, through the R1 committee, on a competitive basis, to staff who individually applied for funds to support international and UK conference attendance, archival research, conference organisation, researcher network development and external collaborations.



Between 2014 and 2020, individual researchers in the unit were afforded one to two sabbaticals, achieving a variety of outcomes: preparation or completion of monographs, articles, books of fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction, submission of research grant applications, and securing impact and knowledge exchange partnerships. Research mentors and the research co-ordinator support members of the unit to develop research plans and achievable outcomes. Applications are competitive, and follow AHRC models of quality, value and reporting, to develop a robust bidding culture across the unit. These applications are managed and monitored by the R1 Committee and the School's Research Committee. This allocation of research budget is in addition to a standard research workload allocation of 300 hours/annum (broadly equivalent to .2 FTE or 1 working day a week).

A total of £6000 / annum, from School QR budgets, was delegated to the unit directly for investment in **grant** seed-funding and **impact**-related activities. The larger part of this investment has supported an Impact RA, responsible for assisting in the development, articulation and evidence gathering for the two impact case studies.

#### **Faculty and Arts Institute: investment and infrastructure**

Researchers in the unit are further supported by the School's investment of £6750 in a heritage consultant (2017-18), and the Faculty's £10,000 investment (2015-17), which facilitated impact partnerships and consultation. The Arts Institute invested in a visiting speaker programme, facilitating workshops for all staff within the Faculty, focussing on grant capture and impact. The Research and Innovation (R&I) team provide the institutional infrastructure for all aspects of the grant capture process and impact across the institution: R&I's team of research professionals provide 1-1 support on grant applications, grant finance and impact. A final £750 / annum of QR funding supports the unit's research seminar series and research away days. The seminars (3/semester) are a platform for staff, PGRs and invited speakers to share new research. Annual research away days are an important feature of the unit's cohesion: during this time, we set our priorities for the coming year, we receive training from research professionals (e.g., Impact, Open Access) and media consultants, and share new research projects.

#### **HEIF funds supports knowledge exchange and impact-related projects:**

A Faculty knowledge exchange team, The Bridge, provide a professional, business-facing infrastructure for knowledge-exchange and impact-related activities. A nexus point for research staff across the faculty and external partners, The Bridge has supported four projects involving English and Creative Writing research. **Gray's** contributions to the National Trust's curatorial project, *Tide and Time*, received £2,000 investment, and her work to support the delivery of the *Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native American exhibition* (2020), was awarded £800, for the delivery of workshops at exhibition locations. The Bridge supported **B. Smith's** involvement in the Port Eliot Festival (2017), where he led daily newspaper production project and facilitates his involvement in a project to support the sustainability and creative interpretation of Fingle Woods, an HLF-funded partnership that includes the National Trust and the Woodlands Trust.

Knowledge Exchange and /or Impact project	Research theme	Source	Total invested
Port Eliot Festival (2017)	PCIF	The Bridge (HEIF)	£4000
Tide and Time (2019/ 20)	TLS	The Bridge (HEIF)	£2,000
Impact consultant (2015-17)	ALL (and Faculty)	Effervescent	£10,000
Heritage Consultant (2017-19)	ALL	School QR	£6750
Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native American (2019)	TLS	The Bridge (HEIF)	£800

Plastic Scoop (2019)	ELS	Sustainable Earth Institute (SEI)	£4000
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**Facilities**  
 Digital archives (including EEBO, ECCO, JSTOR), limitless inter-library loan facilities, as well as dedicated subject librarians, provide access to necessary research materials. The unit further benefits from the public engagement and programming arm of the Faculty, the Arts Institute (formerly Peninsula Arts, the University's cultural programming organisation), which hosts lectures and events, enabling the dissemination of our research to wider audiences. The Arts Institute's cultural programme provides an infrastructure through which researchers in the unit shape and foster public participation in matters of intellectual, civic, national and international significance (e.g., environmental issues, colonial heritage, civic histories). The Bridge offers a mechanism for developing knowledge-exchange partnerships, as above, and the Arts Research Office, provides outstanding conference support at every stage, from planning to delivery, across the whole Faculty.

**4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society**  
**Overview:**  
 Since 2014, a core strand of our research strategy has been to enable and cultivate cross-disciplinary partnerships with cognate disciplines, History and Arts Practice, as well as disciplines with intrinsically different methodologies, including Marine Science and Environmental Science. In our collaborations with cognate and non-cognate disciplines, we have published five co-edited and interdisciplinary collections of essays, 'special issues' for interdisciplinary journals and (co-) organised ten interdisciplinary conferences, including subject association conferences (Transatlantic Studies Association, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, digital Research in the Humanities and the Arts).

Through each of the research themes, cross-disciplinary and collaborative partnerships have enabled discourses of literary-critical engagement to shape responses to current social and cultural debates, including 1) internationally significant anniversary events related to the centenary of The Great War and women's suffrage (**AK Smith**), and 2) Mayflower 400, the UK strand of an international partnership with Plymouth 400 (Massachusetts), Mayflower 400 Leiden, and the Wampanoag Advisory Council (US) (**Gray**).

**Contribution to discipline, through collaborations with History, Science and Arts Practice:**  
 Through our research themes and the work of individual researchers, the unit's contribution to the discipline can be characterised in the ways that it has embodied interdisciplinary working practices.

*History*  
 Collaborations with colleagues in cognate fields, particularly History, resulted in the development of Plymouth University Nineteenth-Century Studies (PUNCS 2015-2019), of which **Bautz** was a founding member, together with colleagues from History and Law. PUNCS has delivered two international interdisciplinary conferences hosted at UoP, focussing on 19<sup>th</sup>-century approaches to law and political union, culminating in two co-edited collections of essays, published by Routledge. **AK Smith's** AHRC-funded research networks related to War and Suffrage predicated on partnerships with leading historians in these fields, have led to the publication of two co-edited collections of essays and a co-edited special issue journal in this REF cycle. Moreover, the suffrage project, 'What Difference did the War make?' culminated in public talks, school-engagement activities with local MPs, and an exhibition in the Houses of Parliament, marking the centenary of the female vote in the UK. Working with colonial historians, the British Library, and the Institute for Historical Research, **Gray** co-steered the *Pocahontas and After* conference, enabling interdisciplinary approaches to the legacies of colonial heritage and indigenous experiences, and culminating in a day of public-engagement activities and cultural events. (2017).

*Science*

Since 2014, we have actively sought to challenge the limits of disciplinary boundaries and established critical discourse and creative practice as key drivers to projects and debates that respond to questions of environmental change. Within the institution, members of the English unit sit on the committees of influential interdisciplinary institutes within the University – the Sustainable Earth Institute/Sustainability Hub (**Sergeant**) and the Marine Institute (**Bloomfield**). In June 2020, Sergeant became co-supervisor of a two-year Creative Industries Research Fellow for Low Carbon Devon at the Sustainability Hub on a project that works at the interface between creative industries and academia to help companies in Devon to reduce their carbon reliance and move to a cleaner economic growth model and is part of a £2.6 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This project supports Devon-based organisations to access research, business support, and engage with the University of Plymouth around the low-carbon agenda. Bloomfield co-edited a *Textual Practice* Special Issue, 'Beyond the Gene: Epigenetic Science in 21st Century' 29.3 (Spring 2015) (**Bloomfield**), an issue which brought together the practices and disciplines of biomedical researchers and literary scholars.

**Sergeant** is a founding steering committee member of the interdisciplinary UK Future Earth ECR and Practitioner Network (UKFE ECRP). **B. Smith** is a member of the New Networks for Nature, an interdisciplinary network for scientists, writers and artists. **B. Smith** contributed to the UK Earth System Modelling project with *Crosscurrents* (2017), an initiative that paired scientists with creative writers to explore and investigate their practices and methodologies, culminating in a public event, 'Poetry and Marine Science,' held at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (2017). The cross-disciplinary research initiative, Environmental Cultures (led by **Bloomfield** and **Sergeant**), supported by the Arts Institute, fosters a programme of research seminars, workshops, and public events, in collaboration with scholars working in photography, geography, environmental science, and marine science.

*Arts Practice*

As part of a strategy to diversify our disciplinary partnerships and shape public debates, researchers in the unit have collaborated closely with arts practitioners from the visual arts and theatre. These partnerships enable the shaping of public discourse on key debates related to colonial heritage and environmental change.

Visual Art: As part of the cultural programme of events for the Mayflower anniversary, **Gray** and **Bloomfield** collaborated with the ACE-funded *Speedwell Project*, a visual art project by Still Moving. In 2019 **Gray** participated in two research sharing events, one for John Akomfra and his team, and another for a group of ten international artists, commissioned by the Fuller Craft Museum to create *Another Crossing*, a contemporary art exhibition, responding to the Mayflower anniversary (Massachusetts and Plymouth, UK, 2020/21). **Sergeant's** AHRC-funded 'Feasts for the Futures' project enabled collaboration with artist Barnaby Stone, and **Bloomfield's** collaboration with the Sustainable Earth Institute (UoP) and artist Andy Hughes, using gaming imagery and narrative design, has culminated in a film project, "Plastic Scoop", predicated on material implications of pollution and environmental damage. (*Newsweek*, online 19/9/19)

Theatre: **Sood's** expertise on Frederick Douglass featured in a collaborative theatrical performance, 'Send Back the Money!' (Edinburgh, 2018), performed at Edinburgh's Jam House Theatre, the exact location that Douglass spoke to audiences in 1843. **Gray's** research directly informed the work of professional storyteller, Katy Cawkwell, in her work, 'The Story of the Mayflower', and **Darlington** developed a KS2 school's project with a professional storyteller, enabling practices of relational engagement with nature.

**Contributions to other sectors and economies:**

As part of our impact and knowledge exchange strategy, we have established and grown collaborative partnerships within the cultural, heritage, environmental and charitable sector.

*Museum, Culture and Heritage*

Research excellence in the unit underpins our partnership with Plymouth's completely refurbished and extended Museum and Art Gallery, now called The Box (opened, 2020). A

successful AHRC CDA (2013-17) reinterpreted a designated national collection, the Cottonian Collection, (supervised by **Moore**, **Bautz** and **Latimer**); further to this research collaboration, investment of £5000 to The Box from industry-specialists Towns Web Archiving, enabled the delivery of a scoping project to support a longer-term digitizing of the collection (**Bautz** / **Latimer**). Moore is a member of the Board of The Box, involved in writing the successful £14m HLF grant to support its renovation, part of the £45m investment in this capital project. Through this period of regeneration, **Gray** worked directly with curators and learning officers at The Box as they worked towards their reopening, collaborating on the flagship exhibition, *Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy* (an 18-month loans exhibition, co-curated with Indigenous partners, with over 300 objects from UK, European and US archives and museums). As noted in **Gray's** Impact Case Study, *Mayflower 400*, The Box recorded 17,000 visitors in the first three weeks of opening (Sept 2020), operating at maximum capacity whenever possible (following regional and national COVID restrictions). Following the successful partnership with Indigenous leaders and scholars, *Legend and Legacy* led to a second exhibition, *Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America* (an ACE funded UK touring exhibition), created by Indigenous partners for a UK audience. **Sood's** scholarship on the connections between Douglass and Robert Burns featured in an exhibition at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Washington D.C.,

#### *The National Trust*

**Gray's** work has framed the National Trust's *Tide and Time* Mayflower curation (2019/20), and internal allocation of £2000 HEIF investment has supported the completion of five distinct research projects, at five properties in the South West, uncovering transatlantic connections of five NT properties, forming the basis of the online and site-based curation of this project. PGR students have been involved in completing this research and presenting the findings. Working with colleagues in architecture and illustration, **B. Smith** leads the unit's contribution to another National Trust project (in collaboration with the Woodlands Trust) to protect and interpret Fingle Woods, an 825-acre ancient woodland site.

#### *The charitable and environmental sector:*

Our research has benefited several charities and environmental groups, contributing to society and the economy in a number of ways. **Sergeant's** AHRC Leadership award, included a programme of work with REGEN, a not-for-profit centre of energy expertise, called 'Feasts for the Future,' enabling grassroots community-based groups to explore issues of renewable energy, community resilience and sustainable community living. **Sergeant's** research is also contributing to Devon Net-Zero Task Force on a project to use situated utopian futures as part of a drive to reduce Devon carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050. **Darlington's** research, specifically her contributions to the field of New Nature Writing in her book-length study *Owl Sense* and evidenced in her Impact Case Study, *Nature Connections*, continues to shape debates about conservation through the language of caring and creative practice. Through strategic collaborations with charitable and environmental bodies, including Effervescent, a social inclusion charity in Plymouth, Paignton Zoo, the Woodlands Trust, Devon Wildlife Trust and Hereford Wildlife Trust, the Barn Owl Trust, and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), **Darlington's** expertise has shaped local social inclusion projects and is also part of the BTO's national campaign to preserve bird species close to extinction.

#### *Cultural discourse through public lectures, print and broadcast media:*

Beyond academic and non-HEI partnerships, the unit delivered a total of eleven public lecture series, through the Arts Institute (formerly Peninsula Arts), showcasing our research and that of the wider field through invited speakers. These include seven series of poetry readings and lectures, one annually (2014-2020) (**Caleshu**); lectures and roundtable discussions for 'Mariner: a painted ship upon a painted ocean,' (**B. Smith**, **Bloomfield**, and **Moore**) and 'What Might a Better World Look Like?', with speakers from creative writing, ecological economics, marine biology (**Sergeant**); Women in History Lecture Series (**Latimer**, **Gray**); Mayflower Lecture Series (**Gray**). Research contributions to cultural discourse through the media can be demonstrated through broadcast and print media. **Darlington's** column in the *Times' Nature Notebook* (a regular contributor since 2015) brings her research and creative practice to readers nationally and internationally: the average circulation of the *Saturday Times* (digital and print



combined) is 11503000. **Wild** has reviewed twenty-two books on 18th-century literature since 2013 for the *Times Literary Supplement*, as well as a National Theatre re-interpretation of *Pamela*: pieces published include full-length cover feature articles on eighteenth-century print culture and reading habits, Charlotte Lennox, Oliver Goldsmith, and a review of the new definitive scholarly edition of *Robinson Crusoe* (76,000 subscribers, 2019). Contributions to broadcast media include **AK Smith**, *Woman's Hour*, 'Women's lives on the Home Front in Radio 4's new WW1 drama' (2014); **Hinds** *In Our Time* 'Titus Oates and his 'Popish Plot' (2016); **Gray** Radio 4's *Sunday: The Mayflower - 400 years* (2019), *Book of the Week* on Radio 4 for **Darlington's Owl Sense** (2018); **B. Smith** *Open Book*, based on his novel *Doggerland* (2019); **Sood**, BBC Two documentary *Burns in the USA* (Jan 25 2017, repeated Jan 25, 2018).

#### *Research Councils and Subject Associations:*

AHRC peer review college (**AK Smith, Caleshu, Moore, Finkelstein**); 'Off College' reviewer for the AHRC (**Gray, Bloomfield**). **Gray** judges the TSA CUP annual book prize; **Bloomfield** sits on the Steering Committee for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE UK) and hosted the association's conference in 2019; **Gray** sat on steering committees for the Society for Early Americanists (SEA) topics conference (2020 -cancelled), the TSA annual conference (Plymouth 2016; Lisbon 2020 - postponed), and a major four-nations Mayflower conference at the University of Leiden (August 2020).

The most visible contribution to the discipline is our track-record in organising international conferences, in Plymouth and in partnership with subject associations.

*International Conference Organisation:* Doris Lessing: An International Conference (2014), Communities of Communication II: Newspapers and Periodicals in Britain and Ireland from 1800-1900 (University of Edinburgh, 2015), Alternate Spaces of War' Plymouth (July 2015); Contemporary Poetry: Thinking and Feeling (2016), Feeding the Insatiable (Schumacher College, 2016), Language, Landscape & the Sublime (Schumacher College, 2016), TSA annual conference (Plymouth 2016), 'A time of judg(e)ment', (Plymouth 2016), Union and Disunion in the Nineteenth Century (Plymouth, 2017), Data Ache, the Digital Research in the Humanities and Arts Conference (2017), Pocahontas and After (BL and IHR, 2017), Digital Age, (University of Edinburgh, 2017), ASLE-UKI Biennial Conference (2019), Forming the Future (Plymouth, 2019), TSA annual conference (Lisbon 2020, postponed), Society for Early Americanists topics conference (Exeter and Plymouth 2020, cancelled due to Covid-19).

#### *Keynotes and invited talks:*

**AK Smith:** British Library, (2014); Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre (2014); Harvard (2015); Glasgow Women's Library (2014); Plymouth Book Festival (2014 /18) ; Northampton Museum and Art Gallery (2014); People's History Museum, Manchester (2016); University of Aberdeen (2017); National Archives, Kew (2018); National Trust talk, Killerton House, Devon (2018).

**Gray:** Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture (Chicago, 2015), International Women's Day lecture (UoP, 2018), Annual Mayflower Lecture (UoP 2017), Plymouth City Art Gallery and Museum (2019), American Historical Association, Presidential panel, New York, (2020).

**Bautz:** Heidelberg University

**Sergeant:** Being Human Public Lecture (2018), Kipling Society AGM (2017), British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award (2017), Plymouth Arts Centre, 2018, Cognition Innovation conference (2016), Coastal Cultures of the Long Nineteenth Century (2015)

**Darlington:** West Meon Literary Festival (2014), BBC Radio 3 Proms Festival Gavin Maxwell Centenary talk with author Horatio Clare (2014), Devon Wildlife Trust Talks on 'Otter Country' (2014), PIBF (2014) Kingsbridge Natural History Society talk on 'Otter Country' (2014), Ecopoetry Masterclass, Coleridge Cottage (2015), Brandis Corner Natural History Society (2016), Wealden Inaugural Nature Writing festival (2016)

**Hinds:** Plymouth Shakespeare Society (2014-2020)

**Bloomfield:** Poetry and Projectivism, (Cardiff, 2018); Oceanic Poetics (Kent, 2017) and ContemPo talk (2016)

**Moore:** *Classical Celtic*, National Museum of Wales (2014), “New Approaches to Ossian”, Royal Irish Academy Dublin (2016), *First World Congress of Scottish Literature*, Glasgow (2014) *Classical Celtic*.

Caleshu: invited poetry readings: UReading (2018), UExeter (2019) UManchester (2020)

**Contributions to peer review** and academic publishing demonstrate national and international esteem:

*Editorial boards and Special Issues:*

**Boards:** Routledge, The Journal of War and Culture Studies, JISC Historic Texts Advisory Board, The Kipling Journal, Environmental Cultures, Bloomsbury Academic, Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism, Periplum, CUP, Anthem Press, Pickering and Chatto, Presse Universitaire de Nancy, Media History and Victorian Periodicals Review, EUP. **Special Issue:** Textual Practice, Women’s Writing, European Journal of War Writing.

**Peer Review:** Routledge, Palgrave, Bucknell, CUP; MUP; UVaPress; The American Academy at Berlin, Bloomsbury Academic, University of Toronto Press, Ashgate Press, Anthem Press, Oxford University Press, Pearson Education, Penn State University Press, Pickering and Chatto, Polity Press, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, University of Chicago Press, University of Toronto Press, Yale University Press, Edinburgh University Press. Journal of American Studies, Comparative American Studies, Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Journal of Eighteenth-Century Studies; Eighteenth-Century Studies; Eighteenth-Century Life; Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism, English, Journal of British and Irish Linguistically Innovative Poetry, Textual Practice, RES, Literature Compass, JECS, Modern Philology, Business History, Cultural History, Book History, European Review of History-Revue européenne d’histoire, History of Intellectual Culture, Journal of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, Journalism Studies, Journal of Material Culture, Journal of Stevenson Studies, Journal of Victorian Culture, The Library, Library Quarterly, Literature Compass, Mémoires du livre / Studies in Book Culture, Scottish Geographical Journal, SEL: Studies in English Literature, Victorian Periodicals Review, Victorian Studies, Humanities Journal.

**Examination of Doctorates.** Staff in the unit have examined theses at the following institutions: Trinity College, Dublin, Birmingham, Manchester, Birkbeck, Kent, Glasgow, University of Bedfordshire, Royal Holloway, Centre for Advanced Study of Welsh and Celtic, Aberystwith, Leeds, UEA, Oxford Brookes, Northumbria, Loughborough.