

Institution: University of Roehampton
Unit of Assessment: 27 – English Language and Literature
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>English and Creative Writing (ECW) is comprised of an ambitious and dynamic group of researchers who are united by the exploration of literature across and beyond the Western canon, and who collectively pursue inclusive research practices which investigate questions of social, gendered, sexual, ethnic or cultural identity. Based in the School of Humanities, ECW has expanded and strengthened its research capacity significantly since REF2014, consolidating existing areas of expertise, whilst extending its research breadth through developing new complementary specialisms across periods and forms. We advance critically and socially-engaged research through our key thematic and chronological clusters: (i) <i>Early Modern Studies</i> (Kesson, McManus, Kingsley-Smith), (ii) <i>the Long Nineteenth Century</i> (Bubb, Fallon, Frazier Wood, Haywood, Lee, Peters, Shannon, Teltscher, Turner), (iii) <i>Language, Culture and Memory</i> (Dini, Eppler, Fernandez-Carbajal, Humble, Jary, Kinane, Maunsell, Mooney, Paraskeva, Trower, Waller) and (iv) <i>Poetry, Fiction and Experimental Form</i> (Atkins, Greenberg, Harsent, Hilson, Jaeger, Ross, Sampson, Waidner). Our 31 staff members (29.5 FTE) range widely across genres and produce work that is both academic and popular in its audience, and which has a formal diversity including monographs, biography, cultural histories, scholarly editions, essay collections, poetry and short story collections, librettos, innovative prose and experimental poetry.</p> <p>At the time of REF2014, our aims were ‘to promote, enhance and expand existing areas of research strength and distinction, to support the production of large-scale works, to strengthen key external collaborative partnerships, and to integrate fully our research students into the research environment’. Since this time, we have delivered on these ambitions, and have made substantial advances in our research performance and capacity through a significant, targeted investment in our staff base, a robust system of planning, mentoring and support, and development of a more integrated research culture, sustained through increased numbers of PGRs and ECRs, and relationships with cultural partners. We have also substantially increased external research funding by 204% (£1.27m), which has supported our research and its dissemination, most notably in the 68 long-form outputs and monographs produced within ECW in this period. We have significantly increased our PGR completion rate along with the proportion of students receiving funding (80% of current PGRs) and been particularly successful in our participation in the AHRC doctoral training partnership, TECHNE. The integration of our PGR students into our research culture has been reinforced by an exciting post-doctoral and ECR culture, with clear progression routes and opportunities to foster dynamic research interactions. Significantly, our ambitions have been realised across the range of our research themes and chronological breadth:</p> <p><i>Early Modern Studies</i></p> <p>Colleagues working in Early Modern Studies challenge canonicity, with a focus on the rewriting of early modern theatre history in relation to playhouses, the contribution of women, and diverse gender and sexual identities on and off stage. Kingsley-Smith's monograph <i>The Afterlife of Shakespeare's Sonnets</i> (2019) has revised understandings of their composition and reception, while McManus and Kesson's publications, and their leadership of two major funded projects, Kesson's AHRC-funded ‘Before Shakespeare’ (2015-18) and McManus's Leverhulme-funded UK/Canadian collaboration, ‘Engendering the Stage’ (2018–2022), have broken new ground in understanding the diversity of the Elizabethan playhouse and challenging the cultures of exclusion around performance practices today. We have also recruited three postdoctoral fellows, Morwenna Carr (to 2018), Callan Davies (to 2019) and Erin Julian (2020 onwards) and five PGRs (Gilchrist, Craig, Lester, Davies, Lewis), with Gilchrist subsequently awarded a one-year teaching fellowship in the department. National and international partners include Shakespeare's Globe, the Museum of London Archaeology, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Ontario.</p> <p><i>Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century</i></p>

Colleagues working across the long nineteenth century advance distinctive research in the dialogue between literature and key discourses of the period: science, empire and national identity. A feature of our research, exemplified by **Sampson's** acclaimed biography *In Search of Mary Shelley: The Girl Who Wrote Frankenstein* (2018), is the reappraisal of the periods' literary cultures and histories through novel lenses. We have a particular focus on print and visual culture and their global circulation. Our flagship project, the 'Romantic Illustration Network', curated by **Haywood**, engages 66 scholars across the world, hosts a significant website including the online Boydell Shakespeare Gallery, and involves research collaboration with the House of Illustration, the University of the Third Age (U3A), Chawton House Library, Tate Britain, the Wilhelm Busch Museum of Caricature (Hannover) and Keats House. A collection of essays, *Romanticism and Illustration* (2019), co-edited by **Haywood** and **Shannon**, defines this important emerging area, while **Fallon's** monograph *Blake, Myth, and Enlightenment: The Politics of Apotheosis* (2017) reads Blake's poetry through his illustration and paintings. **Frazier Wood's** (Librarian and Archivist of the Spalding Gentleman's Society and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries) monograph *Anglo-Saxonism and the Idea of Englishness in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (2020) draws together book history and visual culture to explore how antiquarianism in the period fostered a specific sense of national identity which developed across the long nineteenth century. In Victorian studies, work by **Teltscher** (Visiting Researcher at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society) and **Peters** shows how that identity informed colonial contact between Britain and other parts of the world as well as its role in the formation and circulation of scientific knowledge and cultural meaning. This focus is extended in differing ways by **Bubb's** (Marie Curie Fellowship at Trinity College Dublin in 2017-18) prize-winning monograph *Meeting without Knowing it: Kipling and Yeats at the Fin de Siècle* (2016; University English prize 2017), which offers a novel account of literary influence, and by **Shannon's** prize-winning monograph *Dickens, Reynolds and Mayhew on Wellington Street: The Print Culture of a Victorian Street* (2015; 2016 Colby Prize) which explores the circulation of print culture through the lens of cultural geography. **Bubb's** latest work on the 'oriental' book in Victorian culture adumbrates the contact between Britain and Asia, working at the intersection of translation studies and book history. **Peters' work** on the exhibition of colonial orphan children extends both the focus on visual culture in the nineteenth century and the consideration of childhood found in **ECR Turner's** monograph, *Romantic Childhood, Romantic Heirs: Reproduction and Retrospection 1820-1850* (2017), while **Lee's** edited collection *Victorian Comedy and Laughter: Conviviality, Jokes and Dissent* (2020) places humour at the centre of Victorian culture.

Language, Culture and Memory

Colleagues working in this area extend understandings of literature through the relationships between language, culture and memory in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, including acts and cultures of reading, of biography and autobiography, of film, and of popular, children's and young adult literature. Specialist linguistic research provides a complementary expansion and development of literary studies, and staff work is marked by an engaged interest in contemporary cultures, practices and communities. **Leader** received critical acclaim for his two-volume biography reappraising Saul Bellow, and **Maunsell's** *Portraits From Life: Modernist Novelists and Autobiography* (2017) along with **Sampson's** volume on Mary Shelley illustrate the strength of our work in life-writing, which is complemented by **Trower** and **Waller's** research on reader narratives and memory. **Trower's** AHRC-funded 'Memories of Fiction' (2014-18) and her current AHRC-funded 'Living Libraries' projects mobilise oral history to uncover readers' self-narratives of the value and meaning of reading and of libraries and have generated local and national partnerships with libraries and their users. **Waller's** monograph *Re-reading Childhood Books: A Poetics* (2019) unites life-writing and memory studies to present a new model for understanding lifelong reading. With Groes (left 2017), **Waller** founded the AHRC and Wellcome Trust funded 'Memory Network' which hosted a series of author events including 'Transmission: A discussion of memory palaces with Hari Kunzru' (Birkbeck College, University of London, 2014) and 'Memory in the Twenty-First Century' (UCL, 2014). Our research on literature and cinema ranges from the modernist canon to popular and twenty-first century film: **Paraskeva's** work on literature and film led to his *Samuel Beckett and Cinema* (2017) while **Fernandez-Cabajal's** 2017 monograph examines the representation of queer Muslim diasporas in contemporary literature and film, and

Kinane's 2017 monograph explores the island trope in contemporary film and television. This work is allied to research on domestic culture: **Humble's** *The Literature of Food, An Introduction from 1830 to the Present* (2020) traces the relationship between the real and imagined meanings of food in a broad historical context, while **Dini** researches representations of waste and the modern home in literature and film. **Mooney's** research in linguistics applies the techniques and epistemologies implicit in the discipline to human rights and money in her monograph *The Language of Money: Proverbs and Practices* (2018). **Jary's** research, including his 2014 monograph *Imperatives* (2014) and numerous articles focus on speech acts and meaning, and has been recognised with a 2-year Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (2018-20). **Eppler** focuses on multilingualism, language acquisition and brings new perspectives to GIS perceptual dialectology research on the distribution and variation of Kurdish across the Middle East which addresses marginalisation and discrimination. Our expertise in non-canonical literature and culture is reflected in a strong thread of work from a group of ECRs on Popular Literature and Culture, including the open-access, peer-reviewed *International Journal of James Bond Studies*, edited by **Kinane**, and external partnerships and collaborations with the City of Westminster Archives and the G.W.M. Reynolds Society (co-founded by **Shannon**), the National Archives (bolstered by a TECHNE-funded collaborative doctoral award (CDA) on spy fiction and the Secret Service) and the Black Cultural Archives (on post-war cultural constructions of Caribbean identity in popular fiction). Recent developments across this theme responding to contemporary conditions include **Waller's** securing of funding from the British Academy Covid-19 Small Grant Scheme to work on the 'new normal' in YA fiction and a new journal (**Dini**) *Gothic Nature: New Directions in Ecohorror & the Ecogothic*, launched in September 2019.

Poetry, Fiction and Experimental Form

Our creative writing work is rooted in practice-based research which explores innovation through interrelationships between creative writing, music and translation, allied to rigorous critical engagement with issues of form. Since 2014 **Harsent, Sampson, Atkins, Hilson** and **Jaeger** have produced acclaimed contributions to lyric and experimental poetry, including **Harsent's** 2017 volume *Salt*, which followed his 2014 TS Eliot prize winning *Fire Songs*, and his continuing collaborations with composers including Harrison Birtwhistle on *The Cure* in 2015. **Sampson's** *Come Down* (2020), **Atkins' Petrarch Collected Atkins** (2014; a Times' Literary Supplement Book of the Year in 2014) and **Jaeger's Midamble** (2018) represented significant creative and critical interventions, while **Hilson** and **Sampson** are experts in the formal practice and critical understanding of poetry-in-translation: **Sampson** was Co-I on an AHRC-funded project 'Poetry Translation in Poet-Advisor-Poet Trios: collaborative, cross language and creative processes in Poetry and Translation' (2016-18, £332,145), and authored a multi-lingual libretto, *Daedalus*, with Philip Grange which was supported by the AHRC-funded 'Cross-language Dynamics: Reshaping Community' project (2016-21). **Hilson** was Co-I on the AHRC-funded 'Poetry in Expanded Translation' and Translation Network (2017-18, £35,548). Together with **Atkins**, they engage in work that expands the definitions and practice of poetry-in-translation. **Ross** and **Waidner** continue to stretch the boundaries of contemporary fiction and experimental prose, **Ross** with her short story collection *Come Let Us Sing Anyway* (2017), shortlisted for Salt Publishing's Scott Prize and the Edge Hill Short Story Prize, and **Waidner** in both critical theoretical writing and her novels *Gaudy Bauble* (2017; longlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize) and *We Are Made of Diamond Stuff* (2019; shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize). **Greenberg's A Poetics of Editing** (2018) proposes a ground-breaking theory of editing in an entirely novel contribution to the field. Staff are committed to widening the canon and to expanding engagement with readers and writers particularly through publishing innovation. **Hilson** convenes a regular poetry reading series, 'X-ing the line' in London and runs a small independent poetry press, while **Greenberg** is the Editorial Publisher and founder of the University's Fincham Press, which publishes creative work and three Open Access journals.

Supporting Research Impact

In line with our core mission to both expand the canon and drive inclusive research practices across the chronological and thematic breadth of our research, we have also succeeded in significantly enhancing its impact. This has been achieved through targeted support for both established research staff and ECRs to develop public and practitioner-facing projects and

pathways to impact, identified through our research mentoring, and enhanced by central resources including dedicated professional services support. We have also expanded our networks with local, national and international stakeholders and partners, and our efforts to support marginalised communities to access cultural resources and assets. Central to the development of our impact strategy since 2014 have been our collaborations with partner organisations, ranging from the local (Wandsworth Libraries, City of Westminster Archives, Southwest London, Wimbledon BookFest and Barnes Children's Literature Festival) to the national (Shakespeare's Globe, Museum of London Archaeology, House of Illustration) and the international (Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity [both Canada], Wilhelm Busch Museum [Germany]). Internal pump-priming funds have extended the reach of projects, and where impact projects have been strategically prioritised they have also been given additional investment in the form of a dedicated postdoctoral fellow (for example, Davies for 'Embedding Diversity in Early Modern Performance', Waite for 'Connecting Creative Communities'). The value of our extensive user-engagement and support can be seen in our three Impact Case Studies. For example, **McManus** and **Kesson** have benefitted from pump-priming to the value of approximately £20,000 across the period to develop and stage performances which informed the 'Engendering the Stage' project, whilst **Trower** received pump-priming totalling £10,000 to develop and later to extend her AHRC follow-on project 'Living Libraries', and **Sampson** received £1,800 to support development of the Wordsworth Trust exhibition on Mary Shelley.

Open Research

ECW is committed to engaging with a diverse range of audiences and making our research as widely accessible as possible. We make our research available in Open Access formats and our funded projects include important online research resources such as the 'Before Shakespeare' website and the Oral History Archive hosted by the 'Memories of Fiction' website and the British Library Oral History archive. The websites of the Romantic Image Network and 'Engendering the Stage' are also aimed at broad public engagement, hosting blogs and articles and inviting feedback and participation. Other Open Access initiatives include the academic journals published by our in-house publisher Fincham Press (*International Journal of James Bond Studies* [edited by **Kinane**], *International Journal of Young Adult Literature* [edited by **Waller**], and the PGR-run *Round Table*), along with **Kesson's** 'A Bit Lit' video-interview series, which hosts conversations between researchers and creators about what it means to think about history, culture and creativity, featuring videos aimed at schools. ECW aims to actively shape developments in this field, with several large-scale projects in preparation, including **Frazier Wood's** ongoing digitization of the Spalding Gentleman's Society archives. The Romantic Illustration Network is developing a collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Text and Print Culture, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, to recreate in Open Access format the Literary Galleries of the 1790s.

Research Integrity

We uphold the highest standards in research integrity and ethics, expressed in the University's Ethics Guidelines and the Code of Good Research Practice and Research Integrity. All staff conducting research, including funded or collaborative research projects, are supported to ensure they meet these standards, and research plans and bids are subject to scrutiny at University and disciplinary unit level. The Research Integrity and Ethics Committee representative, in conjunction with a pool of authorised departmental reviewers, oversees all ethics applications. Review takes the form of a dialogue between the applicant and the reviewer, facilitating a view of ethics as a critical, reflexive faculty. PGR student research is subject to the same rigorous scrutiny with training provided for students and supervisors through Graduate School. All staff and PGRs have access to training in research ethics, and institution-wide Good Research Practice training.

Future Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy

Over the next five years, we will be consolidating our research within the context of the University's School of Humanities and its strategic vision for 'practical humanities', where our research will engage key communities and partners across its full spectrum of disciplines. ECW's strategic aims are four-fold:

- 1) To sustain our production of long-form outputs, and advance our core research ambitions in expanding the canon and investigating diversity;
- 2) To ensure that our research priorities, developed in collaboration with significant academic and cultural partners, deliver practical social, cultural and educational benefits;
- 3) To generate significant external investments in our research, by increasing and diversifying our research and knowledge exchange income and in-kind investments, to extend the international reputation of our research and its impact;
- 4) To build on our inclusive research environments, and develop diverse research leaders and supports for our exceptional PGR and ECR talent to achieve their ambitions.

We will continue to collaborate with our local, national and international external partner organisations in the cultural, heritage, education and policy sectors. Specific projects in support of our strategic aims will include extending our research and collaboration through a 'Literature in the Community' project to create training materials for schools, charities and educational establishments, and for policy and professional organisations such as the Runnymede Trust and Libraries Connected. We will further enhance external links through a formalised non-stipendiary visiting fellows programme and a research programme designed to bring ECW researchers together with each other and with interdisciplinary researchers working on aligned topics. Building on recent work to decolonise our curriculum, we will mobilise and share our inclusive research by providing training materials for diverse literary history and creative practice (e.g., innovative poetry and prose, identity and Early Modern performance, race and class in the nineteenth century, Black British writing). This will create opportunities for diverse scholars and researchers, by establishing clear pathways to attainment for our UG, PGT, PGR and ECR constituencies, including through undergraduate research internships and participation in funded projects, funded-project PGR scholarships, postdoctoral fellowship applications, and focused ECR career development support. Our Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy was designed and launched prior to the effects of the global pandemic. We remain committed to its delivery, however we will also take advantage of the opportunities afforded by new working practices, such as virtual seminars, to extend our intellectual reach.

2. People

Our research strategy has been underpinned by a robust policy of developing the potential of all members of our research community, from Faculty to ECRs and PGRs. The Subject Research and KE Lead oversees the research mentoring scheme, organises mentor training, and works closely with the University's Research Development and Impact Officers who advise them on available funding opportunities, help to develop and cost high quality bids and support colleagues to devise, deliver, and evaluate knowledge exchange activity and its impact. This management and support structure has enabled ECW to support its members to achieve their potential since 2014, whilst also providing robust staffing and recruitment strategies.

Research support and staff development

The most essential resource that we provide is time: all staff with a significant responsibility for research are supported by a workload allocation of between 30% and 40%, in addition to one term of research sabbatical on a three-year rota. 26 colleagues have benefitted from 40 periods of institutionally funded research leave since 2014. Dedicated and concentrated research time has been central to our ability to realise the completion of long-form outputs since 2014, and provides space for the development of projects, bids, networking, collaboration, public and community engagement, impact, and knowledge exchange. Complementing this investment is a dedicated annual development budget that has resourced conference attendance, establishing project websites, major research and impact engagement activity, and specific output support such as obtaining permissions for books (£200,410 allocated across the period). Our system of research mentoring and support has been key to meeting our strategic aim of delivering significant research outcomes. All colleagues, including fractional and fixed-term staff, and including postdoctoral researchers, are provided with a dedicated mentor who is a senior colleague with a proven track record of success in research. Mentors help staff develop a five-year research plan which covers all aspects of research including support to deliver exceptional outputs, develop income

generation, and impact. Mentoring has prioritised the production of at least one long-form output (e.g., monograph or edited collection of essays) for each colleague since 2013/14, and mentors read drafts of chapters and advise on appropriate publication outlets, project proposals, and help network colleagues internally and externally in order to develop interdisciplinary links. On the basis of these plans, which are reviewed annually, staff are given access to support and resources which will nurture and underpin their research potential. Our reward for research performance is primarily delivered through promotion, which is benchmarked against clear expectations for academic roles. This focus on developing staff has yielded significant results since 2014. **Kesson, Paraskeva and Waller** have been promoted to Reader, whilst **Kingsley-Smith, Trower, Mooney and Jary** have all been promoted to Professor in recognition of their research excellence, grant capture and impact. Staff wellbeing is delivered through our college system. All staff are affiliated to one of our four colleges, who provide research events, community building opportunities, and dedicated Wellbeing Officers for staff. All staff and PGRs have been offered mental health first aid training in 2020, whilst dedicated research staff and PGR wellbeing sessions have been delivered on mental health.

Staffing strategy and ECR support

ECW has undergone transformational change since 2014, through significant investment in new staff across our chronological and thematic breadth. Our recruitment strategy has complemented our shared vision to expand the canon, addressing issues of inclusivity across periods and forms on the one hand, whilst attracting colleagues with the ability to produce high-quality outputs that extend our international reputation on the other. Approximately 40% of our researchers have been hired since August 2013. All new staff are supported through their probationary period with clear objectives in relation to research, and additional workload allocations to support their integration into ECW's research culture. Meetings with research mentors and line managers support probation and annual appraisals, which offer structured opportunities to discuss career development and resources to support it. We have concentrated our investment in high-calibre ECRs, with a view to robust succession planning and the sustainability of our research cultures. Eight new ECRs have provided new energies to our research commitment to expanding the canon through their specialisms including **Kinane** (popular culture), **Fernandez-Carbajal** (postcolonialism), **Waidner** (LGBTQI+ and trans-studies), **Dini** (ecocriticism), **Frazier-Wood** (medievalism and book history), and **Turner** (romanticism and children's literature). Additionally, we have created clear progression routes from postdoctoral to ECR positions, with both **Shannon** and **Frazier-Wood** having transitioned from postdoctoral fellowships in ECW. Reduced workloads for teaching and administration facilitate the integration of our ECRs into our research environment, whilst their productivity is supported through accelerated access to a term-long sabbatical. Our ECRs have a dedicated ECR research mentor and are also members of a University-wide ECR Network. As evidence of the success of ECR support, new hires **Kinane, Fernandez-Carbajal and Waidner** have already produced more than one long-form output, whilst exceptional productivity across research and impact activity has been recognised through accelerated promotion for **Shannon, Kinane, Fernandez-Carbajal, Waidner and Frazier Wood**.

Our central goal of expanding our research capacity has also been served by a significant increase in the number of ECW postdoctoral fellows. Since 2014, ECW has made nine postdoctoral appointments to support research, public engagement and impact. Our investment has been facilitated through a combination of external funding (Tooth Murphy and Pyke for **Trower's** projects; Davies and Julian for **Kesson's** 'Before Shakespeare' and **McManus's** 'Engendering the Stage') and internal investment (Carr working with **McManus, Shannon and Frazier Wood** for the Romantic Illustration Network, Waite for the ICS *Connecting Creative Communities: Enriching Cultural Life through Creative Writing Collaborations*). We support postdoctoral fellows to develop their profiles and to ensure that they are well-equipped for an academic career. All postdoctoral fellows are provided with the same range of research support as faculty, including mentoring and research workload allocation, and additional support from our ECR Network. The benefits of this system are apparent in the successful career trajectories of recent postdocs: **Shannon** and **Frazier Wood** have been hired as lecturers in the department, and Carr, Davies, Tooth Murphy, and Gilchrist (Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow) have secured employment at Brunel, Kent, Royal

Holloway and Cardiff universities. Our continuing success in the hiring of postdoctoral fellows is evidenced in the appointment of Jagger to a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (2020-23).

We also promote the exchange of staff between academia and appropriate professional contexts through the flexible use of sabbatical time, the ability to reduce FTE of individual posts, and the use of honorary fellowships. We also have mechanisms to support those entering higher education, through the provision of a year-long Professional Development Allowance, which can provide dedicated workload allocation of up to 30% to support the transition to a research career. Our seminar series and Graduate School training programmes also include practitioner or professional speakers to encourage mutually supportive networking. Research Impact Officers also support these relationships once established and prioritised by Subject Research and KE Leads.

Research students

Since 2014, ECW has been successful in growing a strong and vibrant PGR community that is well integrated within our research cultures. Our key aims have been to recruit high-calibre PGR students through a range of funding sources; to consolidate and expand creative-critical PhDs; and to support timely completions and effective career development opportunities. PGR recruitment is facilitated through open competition for all funded opportunities, and PGRs are able to approach the Graduate School to identify appropriate supervisory teams. All PGR applications are supported by the Research Degrees Convenor (Sainsbury) and the Head of Department. PGRs are only recruited where projects align to staff expertise and research strategy. Each PGR is supervised by a Director of Studies, an experienced staff member who has previously supervised to completion, and at least one co-supervisor. Our PGRs benefit from being members of a cross-University community, through the training and events offered by the Graduate School. Complementing this support is local-level training and subject-specific provision offered by ECW: examples include life writing (**Leader**), archives (**Frazier Wood**), visual sources (**Haywood**), creative-critical research (**Jaeger**). Further support for specific PGR training such as language learning, archive handling or palaeography is available and training needs are reviewed in supervisions and in Annual Progress Reviews. The progress of all PGR students is monitored by the Research Degrees Convenor, who, supported by the Research Degrees Administrator, co-chairs the Humanities Research Student Review Board on a monthly basis. Each of ECW's PGRs are encouraged to attend events and participate in our research culture. PGRs also benefit from external supervisory collaborations which augment cross-institutional collaboration and research exchange (e.g., Craig is co-supervised by Dr Will Tosh, Shakespeare's Globe; Lewis is co-supervised by Prof. Lucy Munro, King's College London). The success of our management of PGRs is evidenced in our completion rate which has doubled since the previous cycle.

ECW support for PGR career development includes provision for teaching and training in relevant professional skills. PGRs also develop professional skills through targeted events and activities such as presenting work at ECW's research seminar series and annual PhD day, conference organisation, writing for and maintaining the website, setting up self-help and reading groups, editing and writing for the PGR journal *Round Table*, alongside paid research assistant work. We also support our PGRs to publish outstanding work, for example **Peters** included a chapter by Salisbury in *ReReading Orphanhood* (2020). PGRs are also given paid opportunities for undergraduate seminar leading and tutoring. All PGRs have a minimum research allowance of £600 to enable attendance at conferences and research expenses. TECHNE PGRs also have access to a wide range of training and events and can request additional resources. Since early 2020, in response to the pandemic, PGRs have organised regular online drop-in sessions to build support networks and discuss academic and well-being issues.

Our vibrant research student culture has been energised by PGR funding, including doctoral training partnerships, external research grants, and internal studentships. We have successfully leveraged our membership of the AHRC DTP TECHNE to support a vigorous PGR culture since 2014. TECHNE embeds a cohort approach to research training, creating networking opportunities for an interdisciplinary community of doctoral scholars. Three TECHNE students have completed, whilst a further nine are at different stages of study. Working with the creative industries, through

research partnership and co-supervision, also provides clear pathways to academic and non-academic employment. We have expanded collaborations and partnerships through CDAs, recruiting two TECHNE students in 2019-20 to work with Kew Gardens and Keats House, and a further CDA awarded for 2021 with the National Archives. All students are encouraged to build external collaborations through placements, for example Craig at the National Theatre; Cahoon with the Surrey Soundscapes Project and the Culture Capital Exchange; and Clarke with The National Archives. Such placements bring tangible career benefits: because of their placement, Craig was invited to act as a consultant for a trans casting day at the National Theatre in 2019. PGR students have also been funded through grants gained by staff. **Trower's** AHRC 'Memories of Fiction' funded Pyke (completed), whilst Early Modern projects have provided three PGRs: one through **Kesson's** AHRC 'Before Shakespeare' project (Lester) and two through **McManus's** Leverhulme 'Engendering the Stage' project (Lewis, Davies). Institutional support for the expansion of our PGR community has taken the form of the annual Jacqueline Wilson Scholarship in Children's Literature (two completions and three current students) and Vice-Chancellor's studentships (four completions and two current students).

Our support for PGRs extends beyond graduation. We regularly engage alumni to participate in PGR events and meet current students. We have developed an Honorary Research Fellow initiative which gives outstanding PGRs an institutional affiliation and access to library and IT resources after graduation, providing essential support for bridging the PGR to ECR transition. The scheme has led to several successful career outcomes: recent beneficiaries include Reed (now a fixed-term tutor at Nottingham Trent University), and Gilchrist (now a lecturer in the School of English, Communication and Philosophy at the University of Cardiff). The scheme has now been adopted across the University.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The ECW research strategy embeds equality, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) in its staffing, research culture, and support mechanisms, implementing University policies and legislation relating to equality, diversity and anti-discrimination. Management, including Research and KE Leads and Research Mentors, are all trained in EDI and implement the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies to ensure that recruitment, promotion, sabbatical, and funding decisions are made equitably. Senior staff provide bespoke support on the allocation of duties, timing of work, relieving pressures of internal deadlines and ensuring that workspaces are appropriate, while distribution of internal research support funds accounts for EDI, ensuring that individuals' needs and circumstances are considered. Staff returning from significant parental leave are supported via a workload concession and access to a sabbatical immediately preceding or following their leave, while colleagues with caring responsibilities, or complex needs, are given the option to work flexibly, including, where feasible, remotely. Mentors are trained in equality, diversity and inclusion and mentees are encouraged to choose mentors with whom they feel most comfortable and supported. Staff can seek the support of HR and Working Relationship Advisors (colleagues across the University trained to support staff in cases of discrimination, bullying or difficult working situations) and PGRs are also supported by tailored University services (Graduate School, Staff Wellbeing, Student Wellbeing).

Our selection of outputs process was accompanied by a robust equality and diversity analysis to ensure that decisions had no adverse effect on staff with protected characteristics. 49% of the 70 submitted outputs are by female staff, 4% by colleagues who declared a disability, 4% by researchers who identify as BAME, and 17% by staff who identify as LGBTQI+. We have strived for a balanced, inclusive submission across all career levels, with 39% of outputs attributed to Professors, 14% to Readers, 33% to Senior Lecturers and 9% to Lecturers. Comparatively, our submission comprises 32% Professors, 19% Readers, 35% Senior Lecturers and 6% Lecturers.

Of our current research community (29.5FTE) all are on permanent contracts, and 55% are female, increasing to 60% of our professoriate. 6% of our staff have declared a disability while 19% identify as LGBTQI+. The number of individuals from diverse backgrounds is insufficiently representative of our UG cohort or our city, with only two staff identifying as BAME, though 18% of completing PGR students identify as BAME. We are committed to developing mechanisms to

support and develop the career progression of our PGRs to ensure the transformation of BAME representation in research and leadership roles in the discipline. A particular strategy is to ensure that commitment to EDI is embedded in the practice of our research, with diversity and inclusivity, gender identity, sexual minorities, ethnicity, postcolonialism and ageing recurrent areas of investigation across our research themes. **Waidner** is a prize-winning author of innovative trans fiction who is currently supervising PGRs working on trans and LGBTQ+ topics. **Fernandez-Carbajal** writes on the intersection of queer and Muslim-diaspora identities, while **Bubb** and **Kinane** research the literature and culture of the Indian sub-continent and the Caribbean. **Shannon** works on popular culture, race and disability in the nineteenth century and is supervising a PhD on Victorian cross-dressing (Clarke). **McManus** has secured a Roehampton/Shakespeare's Globe 'Diverse Shakespeare' CDA which is recruiting a PGR. We have had considerable success in recruiting students who work on gender and sexual identity. In 2018 PGRs Craig, Clarke and Corbett formed the Trans Studies Network which helped to organise the 'Transversal feminisms' conference (July 2019) and ran a 'Mapping Gender' event with our partner organisation, the City of Westminster Archives. 29% of our current research student cohort identify as LGBTQ+. We have policies in place to build on this foundation and develop a more representative PGR body and in the next period we will create pathways to research for ECW's richly diverse cohort of undergraduate students (58% of whom are from a BAME background), preparing students for Master's study and beyond. We will also expand our undergraduate research fellowships scheme (pioneered by **Kesson's** 'Before Shakespeare'), providing placements and knowledge exchange opportunities with our partner institutions and plan to integrate undergraduate and MA students into the ECW research seminar series and annual PhD Day.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

As part of our strategic drive to build and sustain research capacity, we have increased our external research funding by 200% in this assessment period. The bulk of our £1,270,592 research income has been awarded through UKRI and charitable sources:

- **Kesson's** AHRC ECR Standard Research Grant of £259,562 for 'Before Shakespeare' (2016-18). The project included a PGR studentship, an external Co-Investigator (Munro, KCL), a postdoctoral research fellow, collaborations with Museum of London Archaeology, Shakespeare's Globe and the independent Dolphin's Back theatre company, and events hosted by The National Archives and the Victoria & Albert Museum.
- **McManus'** Leverhulme Research Project grant of £314,137 for 'Engendering the Stage'. The project included an external Co-I (Munro, KCL), two PGR students and a postdoctoral research fellow.
- **Trower's** linked AHRC projects, 'Memories of Fiction' (£298,840, 2014-18) and 'Living Libraries' £80,594 Both projects include a postdoctoral position.
- **Jary's** Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship 'Nothing is Said' (£106,000).
- Two AHRC projects in which ECW staff were Co-Is: **Sampson's** 'Poetry Translation in Poet-Advisor-Poet Trios' (2016-18, £332,145 in total) and **Hilson's** 'Expanded Translation' (2017-19, £35,548 in total).
- **Bubb's** Marie-Curie fellowship (2017-18), held at Trinity College Dublin during a research secondment from ECW to support his development as an ECR.
- **Waller's** British Academy / Leverhulme Small Research Grant (£2,171, 2014), and her British Academy Covid-19 Small Grant Scheme (£5,575, 2020).

These awards reflect the robustness of our research management, mentoring, and support systems. All bids are supported through a process of internal peer review (a second reader with a track-record of bidding success and relevant expertise to mentor the applicant, potentially across disciplines) and a University-wide review process for major bids. Our success in the field of grant capture is a testament to the ambition and quality of staff at various stages of their career development, the levels of support provided by the University, and the emphasis we place on

research excellence as well as impact and public engagement. Project proposals are given additional support by **McManus** and **Trower** who have served on the AHRC Peer Review College.

In addition to research mentoring and support, ECW provides seed-funding, and colleagues are also encouraged to apply for smaller external grants to build capacity, develop a track record of bidding success and pave the way to larger and more ambitious research projects. For example, **McManus**'s route to her Leverhulme Research Project 'Engendering the Stage' (£314,157, 2020) began in 2017 with two US library fellowships at the Huntington Library and the Folger Shakespeare Library. This led to a Leverhulme Research Fellowship (2018-19) and a Canadian SSHRC Conference Grant (CA\$24,917, 2018) to support a monograph and develop an international partnership with McMaster University and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Ontario. Other successful uses of this pathway include **Haywood**'s fellowships at the Huntington Library (2016), Lewis Walpole Library (2017), and at the Harry Ransom Centre (2017) to work on Victorian caricature which led to a Linda Petersen Fellowship from the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals (2017-18, US\$17,000) and allowed him to finish the monograph *The Rise of Victorian Caricature* (2020). This in turn produced a fellowship at the Wilhelm Busch Museum of Caricature, Hannover (2019, c. €4,000) which has now led to a co-curated exhibition on Queen Caroline at the Museum (2020-21). ECR **Turner** was the recipient of a fellowship at the New York Public Library (2018), whilst **Shannon** undertook the Robert Gould Shaw Fellowship for the Harvard Theatre Collection (awarded 2020).

We will continue to support grant applications based on individual colleagues' research visions. As well as supporting large bids of the kind we have been successful in securing to date, we are also committed to nurturing new talent and emerging ideas through targeted mentoring, internal seed-funding, and supporting colleagues in developing external research collaborations, and opportunities for collaborative bidding. There are already encouraging signs for the next five years, as **Kesson** is Co-I on the AHRC-funded project 'Box Office Bears' (2020, total value £978,319), a study of the Early Modern entertainment of bear-baiting. The collaboration with Nottingham (Archaeology) and Oxford (Genetics), will see each partner appoint a postdoc. **Shannon** has also been awarded a Leverhulme Trust Fellowship to conduct research on Billy Waters, the famed African-American busker in nineteenth-century London and celebrated "King of the Beggars" (c. 1786-1823).

Infrastructure and facilities

At the School level, research is coordinated by the Research Committee whose Chair, the Deputy Head of School (Research and Knowledge Exchange), **Haywood**, also sits on the University Research Committee and participates in a University-wide forum, that facilitates the management of researchers who sit in different departments to their research unit, and also supports the identification of potential research affinities and interdisciplinary collaboration. The role of the School Research Committee is to provide strategic oversight of the School research activity, including the work of individual research staff and students; the programme of research seminars, conferences and other events; invitations to, and support for, visiting scholars and research students; and the development of strategic initiatives (e.g., Open Access) and funding bids. The Subject Research and KE Lead for ECW plays an integral role in steering the research culture of the School, as well as providing strategic direction for ECW. The research of colleagues in ECW is also supported by dedicated Research Development and Impact Officers. Our research infrastructure enables staff and PGRs to conduct their own research and to collaborate within and beyond ECW. The University's new Library, opened in 2018, provides access to a wide range of printed sources, e-books and online databases and journals. Special Collections houses the Richmal Crompton and Robert Graves archives which relate directly to staff specialisms (**Waller, Paraskeva**); led by **Frazier Wood**, the cataloguing and promotion of these archives is providing professional development opportunities for PGRs. ECW research events ranging from the annual PhD Day to symposia and conferences are supported by the University's Estates, conferencing, IT and Catering departments. Recent successful conferences include 'Before Shakespeare' (2017), 'Gothic Nature 2: New Directions in the Eco-Horror and the Eco-Gothic' (2019) and 'Transversal Feminisms' conferences (2019). Our in-house publisher Fincham Press (led by

Greenberg) provides opportunities to build capacity and train PGRs in relevant vocational skills. All staff and postdocs have dedicated sole-occupancy offices and IT infrastructure. PGR students share an accessible, secure space, with additional dedicated PGR study spaces in the Library.

4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

ECW's research impact and knowledge exchange strategy has focused on expanding our outward-facing research, engaging with stakeholders and research communities at local, national and international levels. Our strategy has three strands: engaging external partnerships and collaborations to enrich culture and society; community and public engagement, addressing inequalities in access to culture and literary heritage; and, contributing to the shaping of our field through academic service, leadership and consultation.

Engaging external partnerships and collaborations to enrich society and culture

We have had considerable success in developing productive relations with a wide range of cultural organisations and external stakeholders, engaging them with our research and ensuring that it is designed, and develops, in a reciprocal and iterative arrangement with users. Through this strategy, our research has had significant impact on writers, readers, artists, filmmakers, composers, directors, playwrights, policymakers, educators, arts workers, public bodies and institutions, cultural and educational organisations, charities and publics in productive creative and cultural affiliations through which we can sustain and develop our research. Our Impact Case Studies document a selection of these relationships and highlight the crucial element of reciprocity in them, whether this be **Kesson** and **McManus**'s development of research affecting major cultural organisations such as the Royal Shakespeare Company's understanding of gendered and trans identities in performance, or **Trower**'s development of bodies of research to support library advocacy in responses to public and library user, professional and local authority engagement.

ECW builds on an established and sustainable track record of success in partner and community engagement, and relationships established are carefully managed to ensure their sustainability in future. The Prison Reading Group (PRG), supported by ECW from 1999, is an example of this approach to sustainability. PRG is now part of the Give a Book charity, supported by the Booker Prize Foundation, and is also a Creative Responsibility Partner with Penguin Random House. It currently supports 50 reading groups in more than 40 prisons, and in November 2019 was awarded the annual Longford Trust prize for outstanding contribution to prison reform. PGR Children's Literature students have volunteered at PRG Family Days and at a pilot initiative at HMP Wandsworth, 'What Happens Next?'. It provides a critical contribution to society through prisoner reform.

Our nurturing, mutually beneficial partnerships with cultural institutions, using knowledge exchange to bring new perspectives to their archives and activities, provide tangible outcomes and exciting in situ opportunities for non-academic stakeholders and audiences. For example, ECR **Waidner** collaborated with the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London as founder and curator of the ICA series 'Queers Read This', which profiles the work of innovative LGBTQ+, POC and working-class writers and audiences and included the event, 'Class, Queers and the Avant-garde' (2019) which generated significant debate about the need for alternative review cultures (<https://www.ica.art/media/01901.pdf>).

Our network of international partnerships and collaborations has been extended and includes formal relationships with a diverse range of organisations, for example the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Ontario, Canada; the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Canada; the Artistic Director of the Court Theatre, Chicago; and the House of Writers in Trsic, Serbia. The national partnerships and collaborations that have enabled and accelerated our contribution to culture life in the UK include those with Tate Britain; Shakespeare's Globe; the Museum of London Archaeology; the National Archives; the V&A; the Royal Shakespeare Company; City of Westminster Archives; Society of Antiquaries of London; the Spalding Gentleman's Antiquarian Society; Wordsworth Trust; Chawton House Library; Southbank Poetry Centre; Ledbury Poetry Festival; The Complete Works; the Institute of Contemporary Arts; the National Poetry Library; the Chartered Institute for

Librarians and Information Professionals; Libraries Connected; the Libraries Taskforce; and the British Library. Independent organisations with a national reach include Money Advice Network; Dolphin's Back Theatre Company; Spalding Gentlemen's Society; and a national network of local libraries in London, Falmouth, Newcastle, Chester and Peterborough. Our array of international and national networks is complemented by the extensive local and community-based partnerships and collaborations that have provided critical means of addressing inequalities in access to culture across the Borough of Wandsworth. In particular, we have worked with Wandsworth Libraries; Iklectik Arts Lab; Battersea Arts Centre. Moreover, we build meaningful relationships with high-profile authors to support research and knowledge exchange. For example, Anthony Horowitz is an ECW Professorial Fellow who supports our undergraduates through annual Anthony Horowitz Scholarships.

Community and public engagement, addressing inequalities in access to culture and literary heritage

ECW has a long-standing commitment to engaging local communities through public engagement. For example, our partnership with the Wimbledon BookFest and the Barnes Children's Literature Festival, have facilitated public engagement through over 30 public lectures, schools outreach events, readings and workshops since 2015, reaching an estimated 10,000 students and audience members. **Atkins** and **Ross** were BookFest 'Poets in Residence' in 2018 and 2020. We are also an official partner of the southwest London region of U3A, and ECW holds regular 'Study Days' where colleagues present aspects of their research to a public audience of U3A members and discuss opportunities for collaboration. The Romantic Illustration Network ran a series of workshops at the House of Illustration aimed at both schools and the U3A.

Our community and public engagement not only facilitates work with diverse research users, but it also informs research design for future projects, and the opportunities for co-production and knowledge exchange. Projects which have emerged from these local engagements include **Frazier Wood** and **Teltscher's** successful bid to the National Archives Testbed Fund (2020-21) to digitize holdings from Kew Gardens, which will create a new model for public-engaged digital research and curation of archives. **Frazier Wood** is digitising the holdings of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society for both academic and public benefit, developing an extensive programme of cataloguing, conservation, training and public engagement involving up to 40 volunteers from U3A working with the Banks-Stanhope Papers and the William Stukeley Open Access Memoirs Project. He has trained multiple heritage professionals and engaged U3A with investigations of the SGS's medieval collections (2017) and the papers of Sir Joseph Banks (2018) and co-supervises an AHRC-funded CDA student with SGS and the University of Leicester.

Alongside knowledge exchange with cultural partners, we have also reached new publics through dissemination of our work in the national and international broadcast media, including more than 100 discrete engagements since 2014. In the UK, ECW colleagues have contributed to BBC radio and television (**Sampson**, **Shannon**, **Haywood**, **Humble**). **Humble** has been interviewed in print and broadcast media 11 times in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. **Leader** has made an extensive range of media appearances across the globe, whilst **Sampson** has contributed to Culture, France 24, SVT1 (Sweden), Televizija Sabac (Serbia), and ABC Radio (Australia). Contributions to non-academic outlets include *Emagazine* (**Mooney**), Folger Shakespeare Library podcasts (**Kingsley-Smith**, **McManus**), BBC Culture Online (**Teltscher**). Our own online media platforms complement this work and provide new fora for research engagements with diverse communities. For example, the 'Before Shakespeare' and 'A Bit Lit' series (**Kesson**) and the websites accompanying 'Living Libraries' project (**Trower**), and the Romantic Illustration Network website, which has had over 31,000 views and 14,000 visitors from 126 countries.

Contributing to the shaping of our field through academic service, leadership and consultation

ECW has a strong and continuing track record of professional service to the field, disseminating research at national and international conferences, shaping the future of our discipline by contributing to professional bodies, editorial boards and review panels, and support doctoral research.

The quality of our research and our contribution to society has received significant recognition since 2014. **Sampson** was awarded an MBE in 2018 for services to Literature, whilst both **Harsent** and **Sampson** are Fellows of the Royal Society of Literature. **Harsent**, won the 2014 T. S. Eliot Prize for *Fire Songs*, whilst **Sampson**, won the 2018 European Atlas Prize for Poetry, and was shortlisted for the Biographers' Club Slightly Foxed Best Biography Prize for *Mary Shelley* in 2018. **Waidner** was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize for *Gaudy Bauble*, 2017 and the Goldsmiths Prize for innovative fiction for *We are Made of Diamond Stuff*, 2019. **Bubb** was the winner of the University English Early Career Book Prize for *Meeting Without Knowing: Kipling and Yeats at the Fin de Siècle* (2017) and shortlisted for the ESSE Book Prize (2018). **Shannon** was the winner of Robert and Vineta Colby Scholarly Book Prize (Research Society for Victorian Periodicals) for *Dickens, Reynolds and Mayhew on Wellington Street* (2016) and was shortlisted for the University English Early Career Book Prize (2016) and given an honourable mention by the Nineteenth Century Studies Association in 2020 for an article on the black street performer Billy Waters. **Trower** was shortlisted for the ESSE book prize for *Rocks of Nation* (2016) and given an honourable mention, whilst **Waller** was nominated for the ESSE Book Awards for *Rereading Childhood Books: A Poetics* (2020).

ECW researchers have, since 2014, given 53 keynotes at national and international conferences (including in North America, Europe and Japan), 104 public lectures and readings at literary festivals, libraries and heritage institutions. Public lectures and readings at literary festivals, and engagements with libraries and heritage institutions have taken place across the UK, Europe, USA, Turkey, China, Spain, Taiwan and Japan.

We also use our expertise as members of judging panels for high-profile prizes to shape the discipline and engage broad publics with our research. Judging for creative awards has taken place internationally (**Harsent** for the Man Booker Prize in 2016; **Sampson** for the European Lyric Award in 2015 and 2016), nationally (**Sampson** for the Ondaatje Prize, Royal Society of Literature, 2015), and locally (**Ross** for the London Short Story Prize, 2017). Judging for international academic societies includes **Atkins** (Wyndham-Campbell Prize Poetry Nominator for Yale University in 2018), and the Susan L. Greenberg prize (named after **Greenberg**) has been awarded by the International Association of Literary Journalism Studies since 2009. **Sampson** was Visiting Research Fellow at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, Institute of Modern Language Research, 2018-19, and held an international residency for the UNESCO City of Literature, Prague, 2019.

As leading members of significant international research groups, we also contribute to and enrich these international networks through research. **Fernandez-Carbajal** is Vice-Chair of the Postcolonial Studies Association. **Greenberg** was HE Committee member for the National Association of Writers in Education, a role now held by Waite. **Haywood** was President of the British Association of Romantic Studies 2015-19, in which role he co-instigated the international research network European Romanticism in Association and its online museum REVE, with Prof. Nicola Watson at the Open University. **Kinane** is co-director of the Island Poetics Research Network, affiliated with universities in Finland, Germany and Australia. **McManus** is on the steering committee of the Theatre Without Borders International Working Group (NYU). **Peters** was on the Advisory Board of the Senate House Library Childhood and Dickensian London exhibition (2020). **Shannon** is a co-founder of the G.W.M. Reynolds Society with DePaul University, Chicago, and is a member of the Executive Board of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals. **Sampson** was a Trustee of the Wordsworth Trust (2013-16) and Council Member of the Royal Society of Literature (2011-17). **Trower** leads the Higher Education Advisory Group of the Oral History Society; **Waller** was a University English Executive Board Member and Representative to the European Society for the Study of English.

ECW research staff have actively supported and shaped the field by working as series editors with well-established presses. For example, **Leader** is General Editor of the seven-volume Oxford University Press Life Writing series. Research staff are also members of 11 journal editorial boards. ECW further shapes the funding landscape by acting as peer reviewers for research

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

councils and funding bodies. **McManus, Mooney, Trower** are Peer Review College members for the AHRC and **Eppler** and **Mooney** for the ESRC; **Greenberg** and **Waller** are occasional reviewers for the AHRC and Leverhulme Trust. ECW staff support the furthering of research and academic endeavour by acting as external assessors for tenure and promotion applications. We have externally examined 21 PhDs and acted as peer reviewers for numerous academic journals and publishers.