

Institution: Nottingham Trent University (NTU)
Unit of Assessment: D27 - English Language and Literature
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Context</p> <p>NTU English is a research-focused Unit, with 18 FTE working across national and international contexts and major genres from the early modern period to the twenty-first century. Since 2014, we have increased our research output production, significantly exceeding the number submitted for assessment: 23 monographs and books, 78 journal articles and book chapters, and 17 creative outputs. We have more than doubled our research income, with awards totalling £1.8m. The Unit has nearly tripled the number of doctoral researchers, to 46 compared with 17 in REF2014; an additional 26 external PGRs have been co-supervised by Unit staff.</p> <p>We have built on each research exercise since our first submission in 1996 through sustained engagement with disciplinary and wider research innovations, commitment to researcher development, and investment at Unit and University levels. Our areas of particular expertise are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creative writing, including critical-creative research • gender and sexuality • literary and cultural activism • postcolonial cultures, including global and world literatures • print and periodical cultures • recovery research • travel writing • twentieth-century and contemporary literatures <p>We play a leading role in disciplinary debates about minority and marginalised groups, integrating the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion into our research and ensuring that it benefits diverse communities.</p> <p>Building on partnerships set out in our REF2014 submission, we have substantially expanded the range and scope of our partnerships to address shared challenges with museums, heritage organizations, refugee groups, galleries, theatres, publishers, writers, and activist and creative networks. Regionally, we work collaboratively with Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature (NUCoL), Nottingham Playhouse (NP), Nottingham Refugee Forum, Nottingham Black Archive, and Bromley House Library. Nationally and internationally, we have developed partnerships with the Science Museum (London), National Justice Museum, Exiled Writers Ink, Women's Library (London), the international UNESCO Creative Cities Network (particularly Katowice, Tartu, Dublin, Ljubljana, Granada), Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT), and forged new community-led initiatives with writer-activist groups in India. Among cross-HEI networks, we led the AHRC Centre for Hidden Histories World War I 'We Will Remember Them' project and lead the AHRC-funded international network on Dalit literature. We have embraced the principle of co-design and co-production, with engagement, knowledge exchange, and impact activities emerging from collaborative relationships.</p> <p>NTU English comprises 19 staff researchers and 33 currently enrolled PGRs, with an additional 20 completing in the current period. We are a major presence in the Department of English, Communications, and Philosophy, benefitting from the multidisciplinary character of a Department that catalyses research collaboration, facilitates shared impact activities, and promotes cross-cutting PGR supervision. NTU's 2020 and 2025 strategic plans, and the 'Valuing Ideas' theme therein, set out an institutional determination to 'expand our research excellence' and to 'develop and nurture the next generation of researchers'. These ambitions have resulted in considerable funding and investment since 2014 in research infrastructure, researcher support and development, and PGR recruitment. We are the main beneficiary of the £2.7m invested by NTU in Arts and Humanities research since 2014. This investment has supported senior, ECR, and research assistant appointments, sabbaticals, PGR recruitment, impact and engagement</p>

activities, and output production. The Unit has also benefitted substantially from NTU partnership investment (in particular in NUCoL, Nottingham Contemporary (NC), and NP).

We participate actively in the formulation of NTU research strategy. A key investment was the creation of an Associate Dean for Research (ADR) in the School of Arts and Humanities; **Yousaf** works closely with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Research and Enterprise and is a member of NTU's Academic Research Leadership Team and the University Leadership Team. **Leonard** was a member of the 2015-2020 research strategy implementation programme; both are part of NTU2025 research strategy planning. Institutional support and funding allowed us to reflect on the shape and direction of our research, and to review, assess and strengthen research support mechanisms. Our approach to environment development is responsive and intellectually creative, ensuring support for both individual and group ambitions that express what is distinctive about the Unit.

Structure

Over successive RAE and REF periods, we have created an environment that supports individual researchers and encourages collaboration. PGRs and postdoctoral scholars are integrated into our research culture, mentored for individual benefit, and collaborate continuously with staff. Our two Research Centres bring together researchers around established Unit strengths, enhance the quality of outputs, and catalyse engagement with partners. Our Research Groups evolve out of emerging Unit specialisms and support areas for strategic development.

The **Centre for Travel Writing Studies** (CTWS), formed in 2002-03, remains the only UK Research Centre dedicated to research on travel writing and its global contexts. Areas of particular focus include travel writing by neglected and/or marginalised groups or individuals, radical writing, and the creative practice of writing about travel. Director **Youngs** is an international leader in this field. CTWS is home to the international journal *Studies in Travel Writing* (Taylor & Francis) which publishes four issues a year. Notable issues in the review period include 'Travel Writing and Wales' (guest eds Jones, Tully and Williams, 2014 'Travel Writing and Xinjiang' (guest ed. Forsdick, 2014) and 'New Narratives of the Arctic' (guest eds Jensen and Huggan, 2016). Centre membership includes 12 staff and RAs (**Bowring, Butler, Chambers, Cullen, Dixon, Jackson, Nutting, Ouditt, Taylor, Thacker, Waterman, Youngs**) and 6 PGRs (**Aatkar, Bruce, Morris, Owen, Robinson-Smith, Stoneman**). International scholars visiting the CTWS recently include Ben Stubbs (South Australia) and Sandra Vlasta (Mainz). Members co-organise symposia, writing workshops, public talks, and readings with partner organizations including Coventry Transport Museum, Bromley House Library, Joseph Banks Society, NC, NUCoL, and the Romanian Society of London, with support from the AHRC, Heritage Lottery Fund, and the AHRC Midlands3Cities/ Midlands4Cities DTP. The CTWS expanded in the review period to welcome NTU poets who address travel. Major Centre outputs since 2014 include *The Cambridge History of Travel Writing* (2019), co-edited by **Youngs** and Nandini Das (Oxford), and **Waterman's Sarajevo Roses** (2017).

Established in 2000, the cross-disciplinary **Postcolonial Studies Centre** (PSC) examines the complex afterlives of colonialism, and radical possibilities for postcolonial thought and culture. PSC membership (44) includes 11 Unit-affiliated staff (**Ball, Leonard, Makis, Monteith, Newport, Ramone, Rushton, Thacker, Thiara, Youngs, Yousaf**) and 12 PGRs (**Aatkar, Ablett, Almfawaz, Banjoko, Bilton, De Riso, Evans, Lockwood-Moran, Naik, Njanji, Olver, Ravenscroft**). Visiting speakers since 2014 include Kehinde Andrews (Birmingham City), John McLeod (Leeds), Ulla Ratheiser (Innsbruck), and Anastasia Valassopoulos (Manchester). In 2020, Makis was appointed PSC Writer-in-Residence. Cultural sector partners include the Bibliothèque Marguerite Audoux (France), the Department of Kannada and Culture (India), the International Association for Performing Arts and Research (India), New Art Exchange, NUCoL, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum, Peepal Tree Press, and the Ravindra Kalakshetra Cultural Centre (India). Funding has been awarded by the AHRC, Leverhulme Trust, British Academy, M3C/M4C, and Postcolonial Studies Association. **Thiara** leads the AHRC-funded international network on Dalit literature, pursuing new directions in Postcolonial

Studies by collaborating with one of the most oppressed communities in India. PSC innovations include: **Ball's** work on the gender politics of mobility in narratives of human trafficking, displacement and forced migration; **Ramone's** research on Cuba and transnational literary marketplaces; and ECA **Rushton's** work on world literary systems theory. **Thacker's** ongoing work on *The Oxford Critical and Cultural History of Global Modernist Magazines* (OUP) explores periodical publications in previously neglected countries around the world. Major Centre publications include *The Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East* (2018) co-edited by **Ball** and Karim Mattar (Colorado, Boulder).

We regularly review areas of shared research expertise to identify opportunities for disciplinary and interdisciplinary innovation. This process of reflection has led to the recent formation of two research groups.

The interdisciplinary **Critical Poetics Research Group** (CPRG; established 2015) supports collaboration between scholars and practitioners who combine creative and critical practice. The CPRG comprises 25 staff, RAs and PGRs, 19 affiliated with the Unit (Allak, **Ball**, Callus, Clark, Cooper-Smithson, **Cordle**, Cullen, Dang, Dixon, Edwards-Daem, **Jackson**, **Leonard**, **Monteith**, Morris, Taylor, Terry, Thacker (J), **Waterman**, **Youngs**). Led by **Jackson** (2015-2018; 2019-) and **Cordle** (2018-19), CPRG extends and refines Creative Writing, established at NTU in 1985 and promoted through the Nottingham Creative Writing Hub (convenor **Waterman**). Members work closely with NUCoL and the international UNESCO Creative Cities Network, NC, Broadway Cinema and Media Centre, the Science Museum (London), Creswell Crags Museum and Prehistoric Gorge, and the BT Archives. The 2018 Writing East Midlands Conference (**Jackson**), with contributions by Clark, **Cordle**, and Dixon, introduced creative-critical practice to writers across the region. CPRG member Clark was awarded an Innovation Placement with the British Library to build an interactive fiction repository. Funders include the AHRC, Leverhulme Trust, UNESCO Creative Cities Network, and M3C/M4C. Key outputs include: the 'Unidentifiable Literary Objects' special issue of *parallax* (co-editors **Jackson** and Camilla Bostock (U of Plymouth), 2019) and *Writing the Contemporary: Poetry and Postcards from UNESCO Cities of Literature*, co-editors **Cordle** and Dixon for Trent Editions (2019).

Led by **Clay** and **Thacker**, the **Periodical and Print Cultures Research Group** (PPCRG; established 2019) brings together 15 NTU senior researchers, ECAs, RAs, and PGRs and a further 7 external researchers with expertise in the material and economic culture of periodicals, books, newspapers, pamphlets, comics, zines, pamphlets, and other forms of print ephemera, along with digital manifestations of these objects. PPCRG members include Banjoko, **Butler**, Callus, **Clay**, Edwards-Daem, Ferris, Grice, **Monteith**, **Palmer**, **Ramone**, Reed, Taylor, **Thacker**, **Waterman**, and **Youngs**. PPCRG is responsible for regenerating NTU English's Little Magazines project (established 2001), co-ordinates research seminars, symposia, and literary festivals, contributes to national and international research groups, encompassing the Modernist Journals Project (US); European Society for Periodical Research; and Transnational Periodical Cultures, JGU, Mainz (Germany). Members have been funded by Leverhulme Trust (**Thacker** on the modern bookshop) and AHRC (**Clay** on *Time and Tide*; **Thacker** on European Magazine Cultures, c.1945-65). Partners include the British Library and the Women's Library; key publications include **Clay's** *Time and Tide: The Feminist and Cultural Politics of a Modernist Magazine* (2018).

In order to concentrate on our strengths, the **Centre for Research in the Romantic Era** was dissolved following the retirement or departure of key members (Goodridge and Worrall, 2015; Thompson, 2016). Our current Centres and Groups maintain the CRRE focus on recovery research and print and periodical cultures. Fostering inclusivity and interdisciplinarity, Centres and Groups are open to staff, PGRs, and PGT students in English and other disciplines, based at NTU and elsewhere.

Our Impact Case Studies demonstrate how we have nurtured local, national and international partnerships to shape institutional attitudes and practices, influence social debates, and empower individuals. **Changing Wor(l)ds Partnership: Enabling Cultural Self-**

Representation for Marginalised Communities details how PSC members work with community and writers' groups in Nottingham and India, co-designing events that have supported and transformed perceptions of marginalised groups. **Being in Touch: Inspiring Cultural Engagement through Creative-Critical Writing** documents how **Jackson** has developed her critical and creative research on touch and telephony through collaborative activities with Nottingham, UK, and international partners, promoting new writing methodologies and contributing to cultural programmes.

Research and impact strategy

Achievement of REF2014 strategic aims

Our REF2014 strategic aims focused on enhancing our reputation for producing excellent research, reaching new beneficiaries, and further integrating research and impact. Since 2014, we have developed a unit strategy that brings together our research and impact. We work closely with our partners to design and deliver activities that benefit organisations, groups, and individuals. Our research has, in turn, benefitted from our engagement with partners and participants. We have also explored new free-to-access digital mechanisms for communicating research outcomes, using social media, websites, and blogs to promote our work. Progress and achievements are measured against these aims:

Aim 1: to enhance local, national and international partnerships by formalising links with other organisations and agencies, especially those in the creative sector. An exemplary case here will be our key role in the planning and delivery of the 2014 Nottingham Festival of Words.

We have realised impact through deepening our connections with longstanding partners, including writers' groups, educational, media, and cultural and creative sector organisations, libraries, archives, literary societies and festivals, and community groups. NTU was principal sponsor and partner of the Nottingham Festival of Literature (formerly Nottingham Festival of Words), with staff active in planning and delivery. The Unit was one of the drivers for the successful NUCoL bid (2015). NUCoL leads the international CoL network; **Yousaf** was a founding Trustee (2015-17); PGR Banjoko is Patron; Belbin is Chair of the Trustees; **Jackson**, **Waterman**, and **Yousaf** are Collaborative Board members. We work with NUCoL on shared policy research and public engagement activities, reaching writing communities regionally, nationally, and internationally. NUCoL was guest of honour at the Granada CoL Book Fair (2019); readings and workshops delivered by Cullen, **Waterman**, and Emeritus Professor Woods. Banjoko collaborated with New Art Exchange on behalf of NUCoL and was selected as its representative at the 2019 Jaipur Literature Festival.

To enhance our opportunities for engagement and impact, we have also established new local, national, and international partnerships with, among others, BT Archives, Creswell Crags Museum and Prehistoric Gorge, the International Association for Performing Arts and Research (India), Science Museum (London), and the Women's Library (London). **Monteith** led the initiative to launch the Journey to Justice: Nottingham exhibition and public engagement programme, inaugurating the launch of the National Justice Museum. NTU PGR Bromhall and externally co-supervised PGR Weightman undertook M3C placements at NJM to lead on public events, liaising with Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire Police, and co-creating multiple community-HEI research projects. Strengthening this relationship, the PSC held its Changing Wor(l)ds Festival at the NJM, launched by Bernadine Evaristo. **Smith** regularly organises panels, speakers, and workshops for the Chipping Campden Literature Festival. In 2018, he co-organised a conference on *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Kingston Rose Theatre and contributed to SBT's Shakespeare Connected project. With Nottingham Refugee Forum, **Ball** co-delivered events for Refugee Week; she works closely with the Nottingham PAMOJA Women Together Refugee Group. Unit members have realised impact through co-delivered activities with New Art Exchange (the UK's principal cultural diversity visual arts space) and NC (a leading UK centre for contemporary art; **Monteith** was Academic Working Group member 2017-19). Other partners include NP (including through an AHRC-M4C CDA (Ewart)), Broadway Cinema and Media Centre (for the CPRG's 2017 series Re:Vision: An Exploration of Contemporary Experience through Literature and Film), Bromley House Library (where CTWS

organises a travel writing reading group), and ChalleNGe: Nottingham's Cultural Education Partnership (through an AHRC-M4C CDA (Willoughby)).

Aim 2: to extend our existing collaborative work with academic organisations and develop new partnerships. This will include establishing a collaborative research network thematically focusing on territory, sovereignty, and globalisation, co-hosted by NTU and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) and involving staff and PGRs from English and Philosophy.

The number and significance of academic partner activities increased during the review period. **Leonard**, with Eleanor Byrne (MMU), organised three BA-Leverhulme-funded 'Troubling Globalization' interdisciplinary symposia (c.65 UK and US participants), leading to a special issue of *parallax* (2021). **Thiara's** AHRC-funded 'Writing, Analysing, Translating Dalit Literature' network delivered three conferences (NTU, UEA, and Montpellier, France) with Dalit writers, translators and publishers co-designing and co-delivering network events. **Monteith** as PI (Cols **Yousaf**, George Lewis (Leicester) and Helen Laville (MMU)), led a 2016 British Academy Landmark Conference, bringing together UK and US scholars and documentary filmmakers (including John Akomfrah OBE of Black Audio Film Collective and Jon Else (UC Berkeley), producer and cinematographer of *Eyes on the Prize*) to debate the history and practice of transatlantic civil rights. In 2014, **Thacker** was a lead organiser of the Modernism Now! conference (Institute for English Studies; 300+ delegates) for the British Association of Modernist Studies (BAMS).

A transformative development in PGR funding and cross-HEI collaboration was the late-2013 launch of the AHRC-Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership, with **Monteith** inaugural DTP Director (2013-2016). **Leonard** and **Yousaf** lead for NTU as Site Directors (2013-present). In 2018, M3C evolved into the Midlands4Cities DTP (ranked by the AHRC 1st of 10 successful applications). An active founder member, NTU has shaped and embraced the ethic of shared research and engagement that defines this consortium. NTU English has been particularly successful, receiving 29 awards. Unit staff and PGRs work across the DTP to deliver researcher development activities. After PGRs contributed to the M3C-WROCaH 2016 policy engagement workshops (PI **Monteith**), with the Institute for Government and representation from Amnesty International, Aatkar and Bilton co-developed the M4C-WROCaH New Voices in Postcolonial Studies network. Richardson and Aatkar were on the organising committee for the M3C-funded 2018 conference 'Orientations: A Conference of Narrative and Place' (hosted by University of Nottingham). Aatkar also co-organised 'Borders and Crossings', a 2019 M3C-funded interdisciplinary conference on travel and travel writing.

Aim 3: English will plan an NTU-wide Centre for Critical and Creative Research, with both staff and PGRs as constituent members, and establish a Poetry and Poetics Research Group.

Our 2014 submission indicated the close relationship between our critical and creative research. **Jackson's** and **Waterman's** award-winning writing exemplifies this relationship, and a number of our staff and PG researchers (Adey, Allak, Banjoko, Buchan-Watts, Callus, Clark, Cooper-Smithson, Cropper, Cullen, Dixon, Goacher, Liddle, Makis, Stoneman, Taylor, Terry, Thacker (J), **Youngs**) are creative writers. The Unit continues to be a centre of excellence for poetry, our reputation in this genre established over a 40-year period. Our poets regularly co-produce events with Five Leaves independent bookshop. Taylor, **Waterman** and Cullen founded and run the Totally Wired public poetry series (hosted by a Nottingham café). Early in the current review period, both facets of this aim were combined and made manifest through the formation of the CPRG in 2015.

Aim 4: in line with our existing practice and with the increased importance of open access and public engagement agendas, research outputs will increasingly be placed at the point of publication in open access digital environments freely available to all.

We made Trent Editions (TE), the Unit's publishing imprint (General Editor **Thacker**; Steering Committee: **Leonard**, Ouditt, **Yousaf**), an OA platform, resulting in 18 new (e.g. *Writing the*

Contemporary, eds. **Cordle** and Dixon, 2019) and back catalogue (e.g., volumes on Robert Bloomfield and John Clare) titles becoming available in free-to-access digital formats. Green (2017-19) and Edwards-Daem (2020) were appointed as Publishing Assistants to support TE's move to OA. The Unit also manages a free-to-access digital archive of poems, letters, and selected book content by Laura Riding Jackson. Our 'gold' OA outputs include: **Cordle's** co-edited issue of *C21 Literature* on the literature of the Anthropocene (2018) and *Alluvium* article on nuclear criticism (2016), **Leonard's** monograph *Orbital Poetics* (2019; supported by NTU's OA monograph fund), and co-edited special issue of *GRAMMA: Journal of Literature and Criticism* on Digital Literary Production and the Humanities (2015). In 2016, **Monteith** chaired the 'Sprinting to the Open Future' discussion with editorial directors and managers (CUP, OUP and Brepols Press) and Patrick McGuinness (Oxford) for the AHRC Academic Book of the Future project. In 2019, **Clay** was appointed Co-Editor of the OA *Journal of European Periodical Studies*. A 2016 BBC-AHRC New Generation Thinker, **Jackson** disseminated research outcomes through free-to-access programmes and other content developed for the BBC (R3, R4, and BBC Arts Online). **Ball, Cordle, Keeble, Leonard, O'Connor, Palmer, Ramone, Rushton, Smith** and PGRs De Riso, Francis, and Liddle contributed articles to *The Conversation* (over 170,000 reads). NTU's Publication Policy mandates deposit of full-text journal articles and (where copyright allows) book chapters and monographs. Our Institutional Repository (IRep) enables sharing of research outputs and underlying data internally and externally. In accordance with the Concordat on Open Research Data, all research projects at NTU require a Data Management Plan (DMP); in 2019 this principle was extended to PGRs, further facilitating open research.

Planning and pathways to achievements

We regularly review Unit structures and since 2014 have reinvigorated our planning to ensure that we address sector and disciplinary challenges. This process resulted in the reorganization of the overarching Nottingham Institute for English Research (NiFER) into interlocking groups which contribute to our strategy, shape Unit activity, and provide guidance and support via an updated mentoring policy for development needs and opportunities.

The English Research Strategy Group (ERSG; **Leonard, Monteith, Ouditt, Thacker, Youngs, Yousaf**) is responsible for safeguarding the vitality and sustainability of our research culture and ensuring equality, inclusion, and diversity. Matters relating to research integrity and ethics are overseen centrally (see REF5a) and managed locally. Scrutiny of staff and PGR projects in D27 is overseen by a cross-School committee to ensure that projects are scrutinised from different disciplinary perspectives. Resources are available to staff and students in the form of online modules which cover different aspects of research integrity and these are complemented by training arrangements at School level. All Unit members are invited to join English Research Task and Finish Groups (ERTFGs), addressing e.g. engagement, OA and researcher development support. Our ECA peer group has been supported in career development, training and skills by ERSG and other Unit members who co-facilitate workshops e.g. on thesis to book, funding applications, PGR support and journal publication. Members seeking external funding receive feedback and support from NTU's significantly expanded Research Operations and Research Development teams, and peer review by Unit-based mentors. This strategy has resulted in major awards for **Ball, Clay, Jackson, Thacker, and Thiara** (3.1 below). The Unit has benefitted from the advice of external impact consultants with subject-relevant expertise, as well as University-appointed consultants.

Post-2014 and future strategic aims

During the current REF period have renewed and refined the values and aims that we articulated in 2014, and which have shaped the Unit for more than three decades. In the next review period, we will build on these and develop our established strengths by:

1. undertaking pioneering work in recovery research, focusing on minority and marginalised writing and on perceptions of literary value. Our work here makes a significant contribution to literary and cultural history (e.g. **Clay's** co-edited *Women's Periodicals*

and *Print Culture in Britain 1918-1939*; **Monteith's** *SNCC's Stories* and Leverhulme MRF supporting recovery of the literature of the civil rights movement);

2. engaging with and initiating new directions in criticism and scholarship. Our Research Centres and Groups exemplify how research drives as well as explores emerging debates about literature and culture (e.g. **Thacker's** *Modernism, Space, and the City* and subsequent AHRC-RDG-funded project 'Spaces Of Translation: European Magazine Cultures, c.1945-65');
3. exploring the relationship between critical and creative research, in particular originating new research practices and activities that combine criticism and creativity (e.g. **Jackson's** *Tactile Poetics*).

We are confident that these initiatives remain compelling for the discipline, and they will continue to shape our research and impact strategy. We will reflect and build on them to ensure that our research culture is sustainable and that we remain open to both new areas of critical inquiry and emerging research practices. Our future aims grow from our established strengths and recent achievements and include:

- extending disciplinary and cross-cutting developments relating to communications and other technologies, marginalised communities, forced migration and refugeeism, and environmental damage;
- broadening the scope of our work on digital and print cultures and on the relationship of literary and cultural history to contemporary activism;
- cultivating a large and thriving PGR community; building on our M3C/M4C successes; enhancing PGR training and development; and developing M4C CDA projects to catalyse PGR partner and cultural engagement;

We will continue to develop infrastructure to promote open research, enhance our support for researchers and expand our high-level collaborative partnerships.

2. People

Staffing strategy and staff development

NTU English comprises 26 staff, 73% with significant responsibility for research. We have substantially improved Unit support for all staff and PGRs, and one early initiative formalised our one-to-one mentoring to ensure personalised support relating to all research matters, including pre-publication output review, time-management, researcher development, external funding applications, and research visibility. NTU's sabbatical policy for all University staff on permanent academic contracts has afforded Unit staff time to make significant progress with outputs. Unit Co-ordinator **Leonard** holds annual Individual Research Planning meetings which focus on individuals' publication plans, grant capture intentions, and conference, dissemination, and engagement activities. **Yousaf** ensures appropriate resources are in place so that individual ambitions may be realised. Twice-yearly appraisal meetings monitor the relationship between research and other academic responsibilities, with **Yousaf** as ADR involved in all professorial and associate professor reviews. We hold regular research away-days, providing all staff additional development support and opportunities to contribute to Unit planning.

Recruitment is linked to our strategy to recognise and retain leading researchers. Since REF2014, we have recruited five new members of staff, representing significant University investment. **Monteith** (REF2014 Sub-Panel 29 English and Sub-Panel 30 History Assessor) joined in 2017, bringing additional expertise in American literature and cultural history, and augmenting our work on literary activism, social justice, with interdisciplinary strengths across history, media, and visual culture. ECAs Bowring, Butler, Cullen, Grice, and **Rushton** were recruited to underpin and renew strengths in nineteenth-century literature, modernism, creative writing, travel writing, and postcolonial and World Literatures. Five members have retired; confirming the stability of our environment, only two (Keeble, Thompson) moved to another institution.

We have supported PGR development by recruiting Allak, Buchan-Watts, **Butler**, Dixon, Edwards-Daem, Green, Newport, Nutting, Reed, and J Thacker to research assistant and publishing assistant positions, facilitating exchanges with partner organizations and supporting research production. **Butler** was appointed to a three-year lectureship following **Monteith's** Leverhulme award and has since been appointed Lecturer. Mentored by **Jackson**, Allak progressed to the post of Lecturer in Creative Writing, Edge Hill University. Green (a former PhD student of **Monteith**) and Publishing Assistant for Trent Editions (mentored by **Thacker**), was appointed Research Development Officer at University of Birmingham. Other PGR successes include Clark (appointed AHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Dundee, 2019); Bromhall (appointed NUCoL Project Officer, 2019); Cullen (appointed Lecturer in English at NTU, 2019); and Dixon (appointed Lecturer in Creative Writing, DMU, 2019)

Two members of the Unit (**Jackson** (2017) and **Thacker** (2018)) received Vice-Chancellor's Outstanding Researcher Awards, conferred following NTU-wide competition. In recognition of exceptional and sustained contribution to American literature and cultural history, **Monteith** in 2019 was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor, the fourth award by NTU and the first in Arts and Humanities. Four staff were promoted: **Ball**, **Clay**, and **Jackson** to Associate Professor and **Leonard** to Professor.

Research Students

Our strategy to increase PGR enrolments and completions has been highly successful: 46 enrolments and 20 completions to date (compared with 17 enrolments and 11 completions for REF2014). We have also provided cross-School and (through M3C/M4C and research partnerships) cross-HEI co-supervision to 26 additional PGRs. The Unit provides dedicated training in conference participation, policy engagement, networking and collaborative research, research promotion, and publication. The School of Arts and Humanities has substantially increased office space and IT equipment allocated to PGRs, supports doctoral entry through routes-in funding for M-level students, and includes PGT students in research group and centre activities. 28 NTU English MA and MRes students progressed to PhD, with thesis writing and application workshops provided by Unit members. PGRs participate in English's research seminar series, annual Doctoral Research Festival, and annual School Research Conference. Doctoral researchers have at least two (usually three) supervisors, with progress monitored twice annually. PGR development is supported by NTU's Doctorate*Plus* multi-stranded framework, a mixture of mandatory and optional courses, building employability, knowledge, and engagement skills.

Most of our research students are funded by the M3C/M4C DTP and NTU's PhD Studentship Scheme. Both are highly competitive, with rigorous recruitment processes ensuring high calibre researchers join the Unit. We have been very successful in securing NTU Studentships (16) and M3C/M4C awards (29) since 2014. Doctoral researchers are fully integrated into our ethos of building and sustaining valuable partnerships with external organizations and other HEIs. Major projects include: Aatkar's 3-month placement with Peepal Tree Press and co-organisation of Orientations conference with Richardson; Bromhall's *Movements: Protest, Politics and Activism in the 21st Century* conference (co-organised with NC); Clark's 12-month part-time placement with the National Videogame Arcade; Cullen's 6-month placement as poet at Newstead Abbey; Cooper-Smithson's 6-month placement at Creswell Crags Museum and Prehistoric Gorge; and Richardson's organisation of the first Queer Modernism conference (NTU, 2017, subsequent iterations hosted by Oxford University).

Equality and Diversity

NTU was awarded bronze Athena Swan charter mark in April 2019 and targets a silver submission after 2023. Supporting this, the School has established its self-assessment team (SAT) and has carried out cultural surveys and started work on data analysis. The Unit is represented on the SAT by **Palmer** and **Yousaf**. The School's Athena Swan champion signposts School-level EDI events including International Women's and Men's week and LGBT History month. The EDI intranet links staff to relevant policies, resources and staff networks. At Unit level, staff ensure our research environment is open, respectful, and supportive of all. All

researchers in English have undertaken equality and dignity training. Our research Code of Practice ensures staff with responsibility for recruitment (whether staff or PGR) and research management undertake unconscious bias training. Our gender balance is very healthy, with 55% identifying as female and 45% identifying as male. All staff appointed since 2014 identify as female (one at Professorial level). Of 4 staff members promoted in the period, 3 identify as female, with 2 funded to undertake the Aurora Leadership programme. The Unit is actively supporting NTU's Athena SWAN target to increase the representation of women within the NTU professoriate to 35% by 2022.

Yousaf is co-Chair, with NTU's VC, of the Self-Assessment Team working towards the Advance HE Race Equality Charter. Staff equality and diversity are monitored through NTU HR data; we also monitor PGR equality and diversity through data produced by NTU's Doctoral School (DS) and M3C/M4C. **Yousaf** and **Leonard** contribute to M4C strategy relating to BAME student entry to, and participation in, doctoral research. The DS 'values the diversity of all research students, stakeholders and staff'; M3C/M4C promotes 'equality of opportunity and good relations across and between the defined equalities groups in all of their activity'. Our PGR cohort includes researchers from BAME, Dalit and refugee backgrounds, as well as EU and international students (see detail in REF5a).

We engage directly with EDI challenges, substantially contributing to academic and public efforts to decolonise the curriculum and challenge racial and ethnic inequalities in the UK and internationally. **Ball, Leonard, Monteith, Ramone, Thacker, Thiara, Youngs, and Yousaf** work on cultural activism, forced migration, refugeeism, marginalised writing, and with groups promoting social justice and positive political change for communities disadvantaged by national and international policies and events. Our work on gender and sexuality from the early modern to the contemporary periods (**Butler, Carter, Clay, Grice, Monteith, Ouditt, Palmer, and Rushton**) redresses women's, activists on race and civil rights, and LGBTQI groups' marginalization in literary and social histories. Our integrated approach to research and impact means that EDI commitment is fundamental to our projects that promote social and cultural equality and diversity. **Ball's** collaborative work with Nottingham Refugee Forum (and its Women's Group in particular) helps vulnerable groups and individuals rebuilding their lives in the UK; in 2020 she published the creative anthology 'Owning our Words' with Survivors Alliance (a group supporting survivors of modern-day slavery and human trafficking) following workshops in India, Cameroon, and the UK. The Changing Wor(l)ds network and festival celebrates and promotes diverse and radical authors and publishers. Working with The Women's Library and other organizations, **Clay** connects early C20 feminist publishing to the resurgence of feminist activism in early C21. **Jackson's** 'Exchange' project with the Science Museum included two BSL writers and exploration of D/deaf histories and the telephone. Our doctoral researchers also address key EDI challenges. M4C CDA researcher Ewart works with NP to assess best practice for inclusion of diverse and youth community groups, including BAME, white working class, and disabled theatre participants. Nottingham Journey to Justice Steering Committee members Banjoko, Bromhall, Francis (with **Monteith**, and **Yousaf**) promoted awareness of city campaigns for equality and human rights from the Luddites to Black Lives Matter. Aatkar co-edited the travel writing anthology *Caribbean Journeys*; Banjoko researches Nottingham Black Archive and contributed to the collection *Clever Girls: Autoethnographies of Class, Gender and Ethnicity* (awarded the Working-Class Studies Association prize for a book about working-class academic experience).

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Our REF2014 research income totalled £810,527; at c.£40.5k per FTE this was higher than the sub-panel D29 mean (c.£35k). Early in the current period, we set out to improve on this outcome, introducing pre-submission peer review processes supported by Research Development. Staff have benefitted from NTU's 'Winning Grant Funding' programme for ECRs.

In the current period, we have successfully applied for £1.8m in funding (over £97k per FTE). Significant awards include: **Ball's** Leverhulme Research Fellowship 'Moving Women, Moving

Stories: Rethinking Representations of Forced Migration' (£43,436); **Clay's** AHRC Follow-on Funding Impact and Engagement award (£72,886); **Jackson's** AHRC Research Leadership Fellowship (ECR) 'Crossed Wires: Literature and Telephony' project (£179k); **Monteith's** Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship 'The Civil Rights Movement: A Literary History' (£161,043); **Thacker's** Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship 'The Modern Bookshop: A Cultural History' (£46,474) and AHRC-German Research Foundation award, 'Spaces Of Translation: European Magazine Cultures, c.1945-65' (£251,102); and **Thiara's** AHRC Research Networking and Follow-on Funding awards, 'Writing, Analysing, Translating Dalit Literature' (£115,560).

Increased research investment is part of NTU's 2015-2020 strategy. We have accessed institutional funding to appoint seven RAs and one publishing assistant, to support our impact, engagement, and KE activities, conference attendance, primary research (including archival visits), seminar series, and sabbaticals. Because M3C/M4C is 50/50 match funded, NTU's DTP investment (£861,069) has translated directly to PGR recruitment. Our researchers have benefitted from Research Development workshops with senior representatives of major funding bodies, including the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, and the Arts Council. NTU was a founding sponsor of NUCoL and since 2016 has invested over £120k in the project.

One of our strategic priorities since 2014, to improve PGR recruitment, development, and training, is reflected in substantial funding secured for doctoral research. With 29 awards, the Unit has received 43% of all M3C/M4C awards made to NTU. Our PGRs have successfully applied for M3C/M4C additional funding to the value of c.£76k, accessing support for national and international conferences, archival research, placements, and training (including Royal Literary Fund writing workshops). M3C/M4C's Cohort Development Fund (CDF) supports projects that include non-DTP-funded PGRs, allowing all of our doctoral researchers to benefit from UKRI-funded training and research events. CDF projects led or co-led by Unit PGRs encompass: the 2016 Critical Creativity symposium (Clark; Dixon); Talking Heads: Interviewing and Broadcasting Training (featuring a *Guardian* journalist, novelist Pat Barker and NTU-based Notts TV) initiated by Cullen in 2016 and rolled out in subsequent years; the 2018 Unidentifiable Literary Objects creative-critical PG workshop (organised by Cooper-Smithson and Terry to accompany **Jackson's** ULO symposium); and the 2018 Movements: Protest, Politics and Activism in the 21st Century interdisciplinary conference (Bromhall) building on Nottingham: Journey to Justice.

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

Collaboration

Our recognition of the importance of research collaboration was articulated in the second of our REF2014 aims: *to extend our existing collaborative work with academic organizations and develop new partnerships*. We have worked intensively to ensure collaboration with other researchers and non-HEI partners. Through collaborative partnerships and engagement activities, we make an economic contribution to the region, the UK, and internationally, for example, increasing footfall and revenue for commercial and cultural partners, including Five Leaves Bookshop, NC, Broadway Cinema, Nottingham Industrial Museum, NJM. Our activities generate income for writers in the UK and India, and we support small independent presses, including The Emma Press, Palewell Press, erbacce-press and Peepal Tree Press.

Leading NTU's contribution to M3C/M4C, Unit staff had a primary role in co-ordinating recruitment of 68 PGRs across 4 NTU academic Schools and 11 subject areas (Cultural Studies, English, Film and TV, Fine Art, History and Heritage, Law, Linguistics, Photography, Philosophy, Physics, and Textile Design). Through the DTP, we work with researchers in 7 Midlands universities (BCU, Birmingham, Coventry, De Montfort, Leicester, Nottingham, and Warwick) to develop the M3C/M4C mission to recruit the next generation of Arts and Humanities researchers and develop PGR-staff collaborative networks, symposia, conferences, training, and placements.

Our symposia, conferences and workshops have brought together UK and international researchers. Notable examples include: the 2016 British Academy Landmark Conference on Civil Rights Documentary Cinema and the 1960s (**Monteith, Yousaf**; participants from Berkeley, Colorado, Memphis, Mississippi, Stanford, and Virginia in the US, and Birmingham, Leicester, and Oxford in the UK); and the 2019 British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (BrANCA) Scaling the Nineteenth Century symposium (**Palmer**; co-organised with University of Nottingham; participants from Bristol, Buffalo, Clermont Auvergne, Cornell, CUNY, Kent, Royal Holloway, SUNY, Sussex, and Western Colorado). **O'Connor** organised the annual interdisciplinary British Society for Phenomenology conference (2015-20); **Rushton** was lead organiser of a multi-panel strand at the 7th Biennial Network Conference: AfroEuropeans: Black In/Visibilities Contested, with participants from Johannesburg, Cape Town, Stockholm, Cambridge and Leeds. **Smith** co-organised a conference on *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Kingston Rose Theatre, London (2018; participants from Delaware, Lancaster, Ottawa, and Royal Holloway). **Youngs'** BAAS-supported conference in collaboration with the Network for Periodical Studies, 'Magazines on the Move: North American Periodicals and Travel' (2017) included participants from Tufts, Northumbria, UEA, UCL, KU Leuven, Swansea, Essex, Cambridge, Nottingham, Oxford Brookes.

We have focused on delivering events that connect academic research to partner needs. Led by **Thiara**, the AHRC-funded Research Network 'Writing, Analysing, Translating Dalit Literature' organised six conferences/symposia (at NTU, Leicester, UEA, Paul-Valéry Montpellier (France), and Pune and Delhi (India)); participants from Bangalore, Chicago, CNRS, Columbia, Delhi, Heinrich Heine in Dusseldorf, Hyderabad, Jadavpur, Jawaharlal Nehru, Michigan, New York, North Maharashtra, Northwestern, Presidency (India), Rajasthan, Singapore, SOAS, Western Ontario, York in Toronto, and Zaragoza. **Youngs** co-organised 'Mirroring Discoveries: 100 years of Romanian-British Travelogues' at the Romanian Cultural Institute, London (c. 120 attendees, with participants from Amsterdam, Bucharest, Constanța, Exeter, Iași, Timișoara, and UCL).

Contribution to the research base

Enhancing research resources

We contribute to subject sustainability through producing and supporting production of online resources that benefit researchers in the UK and internationally. **Butler, Clay**, and **Thacker** bring together open access and other resources on the PPCRG website; **Butler** and **Youngs** promote travel writing research and foster reading and writing communities through the email and CTWS website Snapshot Newsletter; **Ball, Ramone**, and **Thiara** provide access to resources and promote research engagement through the PSC website. For her Crossed Lines project, **Jackson** curated an online exhibition of over 80 texts relating to literature and telephony and launched the Dial-a-Poem smartphone app (63 poems). The CPRG website, produced by **Jackson** and **Cordle** stimulates debate, collaboration and innovation among scholars and practitioners concerned with creative and critical theory and practice. **O'Connor's** Thales' Well podcast (40 episodes, 14.3k unique downloads) streams discussions with creative writers, literary theorists, and philosophers. For her *Time and Tide* centenary project, **Clay** published an OA souvenir edition and research resources on the project's website. We also support legacy websites, including the Labouring-Class Poets Online OA resource, Laura Riding Jackson archive, and Little Magazines database. In 2020 **Monteith** supported The Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, in a bid to the National Endowment for Humanities to digitize print collections on community-based arts activism in the U.S. South, and pre-broadcast tested the Henry Hampton Eyes on the Prize civil rights television documentary series for Washington State University (2017).

Editorial work

We edit book series, journals, and major essay collections that strengthen and renew the discipline, and serve on many advisory and editorial boards.

Thacker is editor of Palgrave's new Material Modernisms Series. **Waterman** is General Editor of poetry pamphlet publisher *New Walk Editions*. **Youngs'** co-edited Routledge Research in Travel Writing series publishes titles that tackle neglected subjects and offer new approaches (17 titles

since 2014). **Youngs'** recently commissioned Cambridge Elements series (with Nandini Das, Oxford) will publish short-form monographs on travel writing; **Yousaf** and **Monteith** co-edit Manchester UP's Contemporary American and Canadian Writers series (distributed by OUP in the US), providing critical evaluations of established, emerging, and neglected writers (six titles since 2014).

Youngs is editor of Taylor & Francis journal *Studies in Travel Writing* and **Thacker** is co-editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Literature & History*; **Clay** was co-editor for *Keywords: A Journal of Cultural Materialism* (2009-17) and in 2019 appointed Co-Editor of *Journal of European Periodical Studies*. **Smith** is Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Cahiers Élisabéthains* and on the editorial board of *Shakespeare*. **Thacker** is Editorial Board member for *Book History*, *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies*, *Journal of Wyndham Lewis Studies*, *Modernist Cultures*, and *New Formations*. **Ramone** is content editor for Black British Writing 1945–present for the *Literary Encyclopedia* (15-30 articles annually). **Monteith** is Advisory Board Member for *The Global South*, H-NET Southern Literature, and the *Irish Journal of American Studies*.

Among special issues, **Butler** was guest editor of the 2018 *Yearbook of English Studies* on Literature in the Reign of King William IV (1830-1837); **Cordle** co-edited a special issue of *C21 Literature* on The Literature of the Anthropocene (2018); **Palmer** edited a special issue of *Symbiosis: A Journal of Transatlantic Literary and Cultural Relations* on Transatlanticism and British Writing (2017). Significant edited collections include: **Ball's** *Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East*; **Chambers'** *Endeavouring Banks*; **Clay's** *Women's Periodicals and Print Culture in Britain, 1918-1939: The Interwar Period*; **Ramone's** *Bloomsbury Introduction to Postcolonial Writing: New Contexts, New Narratives, New Debates*; **Smith's** co-edited *Much Ado About Nothing: Arden Early Modern Drama Guide*; **Youngs'** co-edited *Cambridge History of Travel Writing*, and *Routledge Research Companion to Travel Writing*.

Peer review and other professional service

Unit staff devote substantial time to advisory and peer-review activities. Staff have refereed proposals for leading academic presses (including Cambridge UP, Columbia UP, Edinburgh UP, Manchester UP, Open Library of the Humanities, Oxford UP, University of North Carolina Press) and journals (including *American Literature*, *Journal of American History*, *Literature & History*, *Huntingdon Library Quarterly*, *parallax*, *Review of English Studies*, *Shakespeare*, *Studies in Romanticism*).

Because learned societies and subject associations help to sustain and refresh the discipline, we encourage staff to support their activities and development. Grice is on the International Program Committee of the DH Lawrence International Conference; **O'Connor** was President of the British Society for Phenomenology (2019-2020) and Executive Member (2015-20); in 2019, **Leonard** was elected Chair of the British Association for Contemporary Literary Studies; in 2015 **Monteith** completed a 3-year term on the Executive of US-based Society for the Study of Southern Literature; **Palmer** is a member of the BrANCA steering committee (2014-) and President of the Mary E. Wilkins Freeman society (2015-); **Ramone** is the Postcolonial Studies Association Treasurer and Events Coordinator (2015-) and member of Cuba Research Forum. **Smith** completed his term as Trustee and Treasurer of the British Shakespeare Association in 2016. **Thacker** served on the Executive Committee of BAMS until 2016 (and remains a Trustee). In 2020, PGR Bruce was appointed Secretary to the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East (ASTENE).

Staff support research through Research Council, advisory panel, and review board membership. **Thacker** was a member of the Modernist Studies Association Book Prize Jury in 2015; in 2015, 2016, and 2018, he reviewed Postdoctoral Fellowship applications for Flanders Research Council; **Leonard** joined the AHRC Peer Review College in 2016 (Research Grants Panel assessor in 2019 and 2020); **Jackson** joined the PRC in 2020. **Monteith**, **Thacker**, and **Yousaf** completed terms as AHRC PRC members in 2014. **Youngs** is a member (2019-) of the European Science Foundation College of Expert Reviewers. **Ball** was grant application reviewer for the Kuwait Council of Arts & Sciences (2019). Eight staff (**Clay**, **Jackson**, **Leonard**, Ouditt,

Ramone, Thacker, Youngs, Yousaf have served as M3C/M4C Subject Area Panel assessors. **Monteith** was a member of the AHRC's PGR and ECR Careers and Training Advisory Network. She was Assessor for the AHRC-ESRC International Placements Scheme (2014); Assessor for the Leverhulme Visiting Professorship Scheme and post-doctoral Research Fellowships for the Austrian Science Fund (2015); grant reviewer for the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong (2019). **Yousaf** reviewed grant proposals for the South African National Research Foundation (2018). **Youngs** reviewed funding proposals for the Austria Science Fund (2017), the European Science Foundation (2019, 2020) and the National Science Centre, Poland (2020). **Clay** is a member of the Executive Committee of the Friends of the Women's Library.

Staff have acted as external assessors for promotions and professorships at 24 institutions, including (in the UK) Birkbeck, Cardiff, Cork, Edinburgh, UEA, Essex, KCL, Leeds, Manchester, Northumbria, Oxford Brookes, and Warwick, and (internationally) Duquesne, Loyola, Massachusetts, North Carolina State, Thessaloniki, and Uppsala. We have acted as external examiners for 44 PhD students.

Esteem and awards

At all levels, from Professors to PGRs, fellowships and prizes have been awarded in recognition of our contribution to the discipline. Grice received the 2020 DH Lawrence Society of North America Biennial Award to a Newly Published Scholar in Lawrence Studies. **Jackson** was an AHRC 2016 New Generation Thinker and shortlisted for the 2017 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. **Monteith** was selected in international competition as Scholar in Residence for 'The Radical South: Southern Activism, Past and Present' (2017) at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi and delivered a public lecture at the Oxford Conference of the Book in Mississippi. **Thacker** was awarded a Mercator Fellowship from the DFG (German research council) to visit Cologne University (2020; held over until 2021). Among book prizes, **Leonard** received the *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title award in 2014; **Waterman** was shortlisted for the 2014 Seamus Heaney Prize and received a 2014 Poetry Book Society recommendation for *Tonight the Summer's Over*; his collection *Sarajevo Roses* was nominated for the 2019 Ledbury Forte Prize, and *W. H. Davies, The True Traveller: A Reader* was a *Guardian* paperback of the week recommendation. *New Walk Editions* (ed. **Waterman**) was shortlisted for the 2019 British Library Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets Best Publisher and Best Pamphlet Awards. In 2020, he was awarded one of two inaugural Bucheon (South Korea) writing Residencies. Four NTU PGRs (Bromhall, Clark, Cullen, Aatkar) and two externally co-supervised PGRs (Weightman, Phipps) received the M3C/M4C Cultural Engagement award, recognising their exceptional contribution to DTP engagement and impact. Clark was shortlisted for the 2019 BBC National Short Story award and won the 2018 regional (Europe and Canada) Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Cullen won the 2018 Poetry Business International Book and Pamphlet competition. Staff have delivered 143 keynote lectures, invited talks, and readings across four continents.

Supporting research and researchers in the context of COVID-19

During 2020, staff ensured that research projects and researcher support continued during a national and international crisis. Part of her *Time and Tide* centenary project, **Clay's** online Festival of Women Writers and Journalists (November) comprised a pre-recorded keynote, four pre-recorded talks, and two live-streamed panel discussions (one with Polly Toynbee), all archived on YouTube and accessible through the project website. **Jackson's** Telepoetics symposium (due to be hosted by the Science Museum) moved online, adopting the 'nearly carbon neutral' format, with 23 speakers (including Will Self, the Head of Heritage and Archives at BT, the Curator of Technology and Engineering at the Science Museum, and contributors from Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Kent, Michigan, New South Wales, NYU, Oxford, UEA, and York), participants from 40 countries and c.7,000 visits to papers and conversations. **Leonard** co-organised the online 2020 BACLS conference 'Crisis in Contemporary Writing': c.150 participants; 37 speakers from 8 countries; contributions from academic researchers, publishers, and writers. **Smith** co-edited a *Cahiers Élisabéthains* special issue devoted to 'Lockdown Reviewing' (2020); 37 authors, 32 reviews from 14 countries. **Thacker** co-organised Future States 2020, one of the first UK lockdown conferences (30 March-17 April), utilising the 'nearly

carbon neutral format' to ensure that modern periodicals researchers could continue to network; c.200 participants, speakers from 11 countries. In collaboration with Anthony Caleshu (PI, Plymouth). **Waterman** received AHRC funding for the 'Poets Responding to COVID-19' project, promoting writing, exchange, publication and discussion of poetry in response to the pandemic. Research seminars continued throughout lockdown. PGRs were provided with additional guidance and support by supervisors, the Postgraduate Research Tutor, and Doctoral School. Submission date extensions were approved where necessary, with extended funding provided to NTU- and M3C-funded doctoral researchers as appropriate.