

Institution: Edinburgh Napier University
Unit of Assessment: Unit of Assessment 27 – English Language and Literature
1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy <u>Unit Context and Structure</u> Research in this unit is conducted within our Centre for Literature and Writing (CLAW) , under the directorship of Anne Schwan . The Centre was founded in 2007 to support our newly-established English programmes and is located within the multidisciplinary School of Arts and Creative Industries. The first assessment of a coherent English teaching and research group at Napier was in 2014 and our overall performance was very strong, despite being a relatively newly-formed entity. Environment was the weakest area of the submission and in the intervening years a concerted effort by CLAW staff has resulted in a strong, vibrant and sustainable research culture with a growing number of research students, increased staffing and substantial research activity, income, impact activities and projects. CLAW's mission is to promote the relevance of literature and culture in the modern world and, through partnerships and interdisciplinary enquiry, to harness literature and culture's contribution to some of today's most pressing social and cultural challenges. We actively help to shape the University's and the School's emerging strategic theme of culture and communities, as well as contributing to the University-wide theme of sustainability from an arts and humanities perspective. CLAW currently consists of ten lecturers, one Senior Lecturer, one Associate Professor, and two Professors, all of whom are deemed Significantly Responsible for Research (SRR). Some CLAW staff come from outside of the English and Creative Writing group, and where they are SRR they are included due to the focus of their interests, for example: Calum Neill, Associate Professor of Psychoanalysis and Cultural Theory, as well as colleagues in creative writing and performance studies. There are also a number of part-time staff and research assistants on fixed term contracts affiliated with the Centre. Every member of the core team in English is research active. All CLAW staff then in post were returned to REF 2014, and all current staff are being returned to REF 2021. Core English staff research in a range of areas in literary studies, such as; Victorian and Edwardian literature and culture, crime and prison writing, modernism, Gothic and Science Fiction Studies, Scottish literature, film studies, digital and environmental humanities, gender studies, children's literature, the literature of terror and conflict, and the literature of the First World War. Growth in staffing since REF 2014 has enabled the emergence of research clusters that will allow us to enhance our future research and impact strategy. In addition to consolidating existing strengths, increased staffing has allowed us to fulfil our ambition to expand our expertise in contemporary literary studies. Our main research clusters include nineteenth-century studies (Alder; Dryden; Schwan), modernist studies (Dryden; Frayn; Lyall; Thomson), Scottish literature and writing (Campbell; Lyall; Shand), gender studies (Artt; Lam; Schwan), environmental humanities (Alder; Campbell), gothic and science fiction (Alder; Artt; Bouet; Dryden; Lam), war and terrorism studies (Frayn; Keeble), contemporary literature and film (Artt; Bouet; Keeble), performance studies, psychoanalysis and theory (Soto-Morettini; Neill). <u>Unit Research and Impact Strategy</u> Since we believe that societal challenges are often best addressed through cross-disciplinary conversation, interdisciplinary research plays an important role in CLAW's activities. A number of colleagues work at the intersection of literature with performance studies, criminology, film and televisual studies, and digital and environmental humanities. The group's interdisciplinary

interests are reflected in the outputs, collaborative impact projects with internal and external colleagues, and research student supervision. We have co-supervised with colleagues in Film, Criminology, the School of Computing and the Business School.

As part of our five-year strategy going forward, we intend to build on these collaborations with a view to future funding bids and other collaborative research and impact opportunities with internal and external colleagues.

The following constitutes the key focus of our research and impact strategy:

- to raise awareness of the positive impact of literature and culture on identity and community;
- to enhance understanding of literary, cultural and natural heritage;
- to create platforms for promoting contemporary voices in literature and culture;
- to collaborate with outside agencies to promote literary tourism and
- to enhance access to literacy and creativity for marginalised social groups.

This strategic focus has informed both of our impact case studies as well as other research and impact activities in the unit (see section 4). One of our most prominent public engagement activities, Robert Louis Stevenson Day, began as a collaboration between **Dryden** and the Edinburgh, UNESCO City of Literature Trust. It is now a city-wide, and increasingly international public celebration involving schools, libraries and other institutions on 13th November each year, to promote literature's relevance in the wider community (Impact Case Study 1).

To achieve our strategic aims, our impact work comprises engagement and dialogue with a range of stakeholders and communities. This has included particularly marginalised groups, such as people in prison, to support access to literacy and literature; collaboration with criminal justice practitioners for the enhancement of creative opportunities in prisons; and, in the context of an AHRC grant for Impact and Engagement (**Frayn** and **Schwan**), cultural heritage organisations like Stobs Camp Project/Archaeology Scotland to raise public awareness of creativity in internment camps (Impact Case Study 2).

Beyond the work detailed in our impact case studies, members of the group have collaborated with a variety of cultural and other public sector organisations, from the National Library of Scotland, to bookstores and cinemas, and St. Abbs Marine Station (see section 4). Our work thus contributes to the University's strategic aims to promote socially relevant research and practice, and has significantly helped to shape the University's research and public engagement profile in the arts, humanities and creative industries.

Our aims in REF 2014 were:

- to foster cutting edge literary research that has real value in the wider community
- to foster world-class, international research
- to secure external funding
- to continue to grow the research student population.

In fulfilment of the first objective:

- all staff have been encouraged to be actively involved in impact and public engagement activities, which they have achieved through a variety of formats supported by internal and external funding (see sections 3 and 4).
- As section 4 exemplifies, we continue to take this work in new directions, demonstrating the vitality and sustainability of the unit beyond our impact case studies.

We have fostered world-class research through major publications in the current REF cycle through:

- nine monographs
- seven novels
- sixteen edited books, collections and special journal issues
- over twenty articles in peer-reviewed journals, and
- over twenty-five chapters in edited collections.

Monographs were published by staff at all career stages: *Writing Disenchantment: British First World War Prose, 1914-30* (Manchester UP, 2014) (**Frayn**); *Convict Voices: Women, Class, and Writing about Prison in Nineteenth-Century England* (U of New Hampshire P, 2014) (**Schwan**); *The 9/11 Novel: Trauma, Politics and Identity* (McFarland, 2014) and *Narratives of Hurricane Katrina in Context* (Palgrave, 2019) (both **Keeble**); *Ethics and Psychology: Beyond Codes of Practice* (Taylor & Francis, 2016) (**Neill**); *Joseph Conrad and H. G. Wells: The Fin de Siècle Literary Scene* (Palgrave, 2015) (**Dryden**); and *Weird Fiction and Science at the Fin de Siècle* (Palgrave, 2019) (**Alder**).

We have grown the number of external funding bids submitted and increased the number of staff engaged in this process through internal mentoring processes. We have secured funding from major bodies such as AHRC, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland (see section 3). Finally, we have successfully addressed our goal to grow our research student population, partially through strategic investment of internal research funds towards fee waivers (see section 2).

The school and unit are committed to the University's overarching research strategy as outlined in the REF5a. Future school strategies are informed by the institutions five-year focus on staff development, increasing innovation, and developing international research partnerships, and aim to feed into the broad strategic aims of the University.

Moving forward, our strategic aims are:

- to continue to produce research outputs of international quality
- to foster collaboration internally and externally, including cross-disciplinary collaboration
- to continue to engage with a variety of stakeholders and communities and thus;
- to increase our impact factors
- to further grow the research student population and;
- to contribute to the wider research community through editorial work, membership of societies and other professional activities.

The UoA received a strong rating in REF 2014 and our activities have grown considerably since that time. Since 2014 CLAW has become the major international hub for Robert Louis Stevenson activities (Impact Case Study 1), including the establishment of The Ernest Mehew Robert Louis Stevenson archive, housed in special accommodation at our Merchiston campus. The collection is maintained by CLAW staff; its catalogue is accessed via the RLS website, also hosted and maintained by CLAW (www.robert-louis-stevenson.org).

In the current cycle, CLAW also became the focus of public events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein*; an award-winning project concerning literacy and prisoners (Impact Case Study 2); activities around the War Poets collection at Craiglockhart campus; the new Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle for Edinburgh University Press (including a new website developed and hosted by CLAW: <https://edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/>); and a collaborator, with the University of Edinburgh, on the Lit/Long project that is digitally charting Edinburgh as a literary city (see <https://litlong.org>).

2. People

Staffing Strategy

CLAW currently consists of ten lecturers, one Senior Lecturer, one Associate Professor, and two Professors, all of whom are deemed Significantly Responsible for Research (SRR). Of these 14 staff, thirteen are on permanent contracts, and one is on a fixed-term contract.

A sustainable staffing strategy has been key in the successful delivery of our aims. The success of the English REF submission in 2014 allowed us to use REG funding to institute a sabbatical scheme, and six sabbaticals (**Lyall, Artt, Alder, Schwan, Frayn** and **Dryden**) of 6 months each were taken between 2016 and 2018. To maximise effectiveness and ensure that research leave boosted potential for high-quality research, staff were required to give a clear proposal detailing what they would achieve, including submission of at least one funding bid during the course of their sabbatical. From 2019, REG funding is being used to buy staff out of teaching to pursue research activities and to pay for writing retreats to complete research publications. Both **Artt** and **Thomson** were funded for writing retreats to work on book manuscripts in summer 2019.

Since 2014 the English group has benefitted from investment in staffing. Four new staff have been appointed, and in some cases we have increased fractional contracts in order to consolidate and substantially expand the team's expertise. This has been a deliberate staffing strategy, driven in equal part by teaching requirements and by our determination to increase and further enhance our research reputation. Our staffing policy is thus strategically designed to attract staff whose research expertise complements and augments existing strengths.

The fact that three staff (**Campbell, Wasson** and **Joyce**) obtained posts elsewhere, in all three cases through direct approaches, indicates the high level of research expertise and external recognition that the English area at Edinburgh Napier attracts. We continue to seek opportunities to expand the team. Our new Masters in Digital and Public Humanities (2019) created the conditions for the further appointments of **Campbell** and **Bouet**.

Staff Development and Research

Staff development is focused through the sabbatical scheme and through strong support for conference attendance to present research papers. International destinations for conferences include New York (**Schwan**), Australia (**Frayn**), visiting professorships in Moscow and Bordeaux, as well as a research visit to the University of Illinois (**Dryden**), and international workshops in Stuttgart (**Schwan, Lyall, Dryden, Fraser**) and Rome (**Dryden**).

All research active CLAW staff receive a research allowance of at least one day per week to research during the teaching trimester, and longer periods during the summer trimester. Staff on sabbatical leave had six months to develop discrete research projects. All staff have access to a regular programme of training and development offered by the University's Research, Innovation, and Enterprise Office. In addition, staff in English have benefitted from external training opportunities. For example **Frayn** was encouraged and selected to participate in AHTV, a one-day event open to AHRC grant holders which brought together academics and television professionals to foster understanding and relationships between the two.

Every staff member is assigned a line manager and undergoes the University's review process, including an interim and end-of-year review, to discuss objectives, longer-term career goals and identify opportunities for development. New staff members also benefit from a 'Buddy' scheme which pairs them with a more experienced colleague for informal mentoring.

All staff are supported in their career development through our 'My Contribution' scheme, where goals and objectives are set on a yearly basis and reviewed regularly. Early Career Researchers are given specific support through our implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (see REF5a). In addition, our sabbatical scheme targeted ECRs and those in non-promoted positions in the first instance, so that they were the first to benefit in

terms of their careers. Staff new to CLAW are mentored by experienced colleagues and encouraged to develop their discrete research areas to complement the existing strengths. They are also integrated into existing projects wherever appropriate.

Specific projects allow for targeted staff development. **Dryden** was General Editor of the Wordsworth editions of H. G. Wells (2016-17), recruiting staff from CLAW to edit specific volumes (**Alder** and **Frayn**). As a member of the Editorial Board for the Edinburgh Edition of Arthur Conan Doyle, **Dryden** also recruited **Schwan** to edit Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of Four* (c2021), and **Alder** to edit *Early Supernatural Stories* (c 2023).

Furthermore, staff expertise is independently sought for discrete projects. **Dryden** and **Alder** were commissioned to write forewords for Flame Tree publications of gothic stories, and **Dryden** has been commissioned as an expert adviser on an academic RLS publication by Layman Poupard Publishing, USA. Activities such as these allow staff at the early stage of their careers to work with experienced colleagues and gain valuable experience. In addition, these activities provide opportunities for postdoctoral researchers and Research Assistants, largely drawn from both our current and graduated PhD students.

Major collaborative funding bids with academic and non-academic partners have created opportunities for staff development in grant management and impact, with **Schwan** leading an Edinburgh Napier team (including **Frayn**) to deliver a series of public performances on commemorations of First World War internment. Internal funding schemes have enabled staff to recruit undergraduate students as interns (e.g. for **Alder** and **Artt**'s 'Age of Frankenstein'), offering staff opportunities to develop research leadership skills as well as nurturing the next generation of postgraduates.

Colleagues in Creative Writing who do not have a doctorate and work in a practice-based environment are encouraged to pursue PhD study. **Lam** is being supported in preparing an application for a PhD by Published Works. **Bishop** is completing his PhD in creative writing at the University of Lancaster, and developing his academic outputs with a view towards being included in subsequent REFs.

For the past twelve years CLAW has hosted a monthly seminar series with external speakers. Each year one member of staff takes responsibility for organising the series around their discrete research interests, and thus all staff have the opportunity to develop professional organisational experience. Staff are also encouraged and supported to host conferences at Edinburgh Napier, as exemplified by the impressive list of national and international conferences and workshops run by CLAW staff over recent years (see section 4). These ongoing activities create opportunities for staff members to network with leading national and international scholars in literary studies and cognate fields. Speakers have included:

- Professor Fred Botting (English, Kingston University);
- Professor Richard Dyer (Film Studies, King's College, London);
- Professor Douglas Kerr (English, University of Hong Kong);
- Professor Roger Luckhurst (English, Birkbeck, London);
- Professor Josephine McDonagh (English, University of Chicago);
- Professor Laura Mulvey (Film and Media Studies, Birkbeck, London);
- Professor Diane Negra (Film Studies, University College Dublin);
- Professor Sandeep Parmar (English, University of Liverpool);
- Professor Mike Szalay (English, UC Irvine).

Staff PhD Examinations

CLAW staff are regularly asked to examine PhDs at external institutions both within the UK and internationally. Since 2015 staff have examined PhDs at:

- University of Queensland
- University of Southampton
- Kingston University
- Brunel University
- Acharya Nagarjuna University, India
- University of Bordeaux
- University of Western Australia
- Kings College, University of London
- University of Glasgow
- University of Edinburgh
- Newcastle University
- University of Lancaster
- University of Auckland

Research Students and Early Career Researchers

Since 2014 CLAW has had five PhD student completions. There are five ongoing PhD students and one MRes student. This growing number of research students enables us to ensure that all staff gain research supervision experience. It is also evidence of how the research reputation of staff in CLAW is attracting students to study with us. While some students have come from external institutions, several students are former undergraduates, demonstrating our ability to nurture enthusiasm for research in a new generation of scholars through research into teaching linkages, encouragement and careful mentorship. Whilst we encourage our brightest undergraduates to consider further study, frequently it is the students themselves who seek out staff who have inspired them as potential supervisors. We have also begun to attract students through the FindaPhD initiative.

We have rigorous PhD student monitoring and support processes. Students meet with their supervisors on a monthly basis at the very least, and in the case of remotely located students, video conferencing is in place. It is the expectation that students will produce a substantial piece of work, or evidence significant progress for each of their supervision meetings. The University has a robust Research Degrees framework that requires progress reviews to occur twice a year. An external non-subject specific Independent Panel Chair (IPC) is present at these meetings to ensure equality of treatment and fairness in the monitoring process. The students meet privately with their IPC to afford them the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have and thus impartiality is maintained. Our substantial increase in PhD student numbers since 2014, and our low attrition rate (only two students have withdrawn since 2014, due to personal reasons) are due in large part to our careful monitoring and personal nurturing of our students.

As part of their academic experience we fully integrate research students into CLAW and its activities:

- they are invited to our regular meetings and research seminars
- where possible research students are given paid teaching and marking duties
- frequently our research students have been operationally involved in conference organisation as contacts, guides, technical support and website managers
- the Stuttgart workshop also included two of our PhD students

As such, our research students benefit from as full a range of academic activities as possible in order to equip them as potential future academics in their own right.

Whilst we try where possible to ensure our students gain paid teaching experience, we are highly conscious of the financial burdens of undertaking PhDs. As a result, we currently have six postgraduate students whose fees are covered by REG-funded fee waivers. One student's fees are covered by the Research, Innovation, and Enterprise Office through funding won in an internal funding competition. One student, (**Burke**) now graduated, was fully funded through the

Edinburgh Napier 50th Anniversary Studentship scheme, and another has his fees paid by the David Summers Trust. A further student, now graduated, was funded by the Saudi Government.

Since the last REF, three students have been employed within CLAW as RAs on fixed term contracts, affording valuable experience of working with archives. Research students also benefit from an annual School research student conference, organised by the students themselves, and a regular training and development programme, as well as development activities centrally organised by the Research Innovation, and Enterprise Office.

Edinburgh Napier is a subscribing member of the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities (SGSAH), a partnership of 16 Scottish HEIs, which means all of our research students, regardless of funding stream, have access to SGSAH's innovative training programme. This includes an annual Summer School, Knowledge Exchange Hubs, an Internship programme and Cohort Development Funding that doctoral students can apply for with peers from other HEIs. **Burke**'s six-month part-time internship at Edinburgh's Museum of Childhood (2017-8) was fully funded by SGSAH, and resulted in curatorial work which fed back into her PhD research. Her successful application for Cohort Development Funding (2016) with peers from the Postgraduate Gender Research Network of Scotland led to a writing workshop with academic mentors, and she was invited back by SGSAH to co-organise and co-facilitate a feminist research methods workshop for the Summer School (2017).

Edinburgh Napier has access to SGSAH's Applied Research Collaborative Studentship competition (ARCS), which is co-funded by HEIs and the Scottish Funding Council. In 2020, the School was able to support ARCS applications for the first time, resulting in a successful application from English (**Thomson**, to co-supervise with Edinburgh University and City of Literature). In her capacity as the Edinburgh Napier representative on SGSAH's Executive Committee, **Schwan** mentored colleagues during the application process to maximise chances of success. English staff members are proactively supporting applications for other studentship schemes, such as the Carnegie Trust's PhD Scholarships.

The situation described above marks a substantial increase in completions since 2014, and we aim to increase our PhD student numbers year-on-year. This will be facilitated by continuing to use REG funds for fee waivers for part-time students and by submitting bids to such studentship competitions as are open to us (ARCS and Carnegie). Our MA in Digital and Public Humanities will provide an additional pathway to research degrees, allowing us to further enhance our research profile and interdisciplinary expertise.

CLAW members have created opportunities for our own research students or early career scholars from elsewhere by employing them as RAs or facilitating other research-related opportunities. Research student **Milne** is a part-time RA for the Stevenson website and the Mehew Collection (2016-2020); former research student **Simpson** was a part-time RA to catalogue the Mehew collection (2016), and RA on the Conan Doyle editions (2019-2020); the latter role was subsequently taken up by former research student **Burke** (February 2020 onwards) after **Simpson** secured full-time academic employment at the University of Glasgow.

Mentoring and employment for external early career scholars included employment of **Wanggren** as part-time RA to the Ernest Mehew Collection for one year (2016-17), and the mentoring of **Silva**, a visiting MA student from Brazil funded by the Sao Paulo Research Foundation to work for two months with **Dryden** on Stevenson (2017). **Kupfer** was a part-time RA for the Tagore Project, overseen by now retired colleague **Fraser** (2013-16). **Duncan** has worked with City of Literature Trust through **Thomson**'s contact (May-July 2019); MRes student **McFadden** presented at a National Library of Scotland event with **Schwan**.

Equality and Diversity

CLAW has a healthy gender balance across the team. From all category A eligible staff 56% are Female and 44% Male. Of those staff deemed SRR 64% are female and 36% are male, all of whom are entered for REF having been selected using equality and diversity procedures

outlined in Edinburgh Napier's REF Code of Practice. Reflecting our commitment to gender equality, one member of CLAW, **Frayn**, is the School representative for Athena Swan, and disseminates information about equality and diversity to the team.

In the period, all staff in CLAW were eligible for the sabbatical scheme, and ECRs were specifically advantaged, as detailed above. Flexible and/or remote working measures to support staff with caring responsibilities or other restrictions to travel to conferences are followed according to University guidelines (see REF5a). Staff returning to work from periods of leave are offered the opportunity to phase their return to work. Staff with protected characteristics are provided with any necessary specialist equipment and space and time flexibility as required.

The approach of CLAW to staff wellbeing is rigorous. We have an inclusive and supportive environment for all staff, students and research assistants.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

All staff are expected to submit research bids for external funding, resulting in a number of successful proposals. Approximately 50% of the unit's submitted staff (including early, mid-career and senior staff members) have received external funding, ranging from smaller awards to major grants from prestigious funding bodies including AHRC, Carnegie Trust and Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

In addition to a School funding competition for public engagement, the University's Research, Innovation, and Enterprise Office runs an annual research funding competition, providing seed funding to develop research projects with a view to larger external funding applications. Internal funding enables staff to develop skills in grant writing and management, impact activities and supervision of research assistants and student interns. Staff members have repeatedly been successful in securing internal funding, including a collaborative project (**Alder/Artt**, '*Fates of Frankenstein*') and a project that subsequently led to a successful external grant application (**Frayn**, '*Was there a War Books Boom?*').

Average annual research income in UoA27 is: 24% BEIS Research Councils, The Royal Society, British Academy, 63% UK based charities, 11% UK government, industry and other sources, and 2% from tax credits.

External grant income since 2014 amounts to £199,820 for a variety of projects related to our research activity. We have specifically targeted the **Royal Society of Edinburgh** as a funding source suited to our work. As such we have secured substantial funding for a number of projects concerned with Scottish literature and culture. These include: **Campbell**, (2020) '*World/Water Futures*'; **Frayn**, (2020): '*A War Books Boom in Scotland?*'; **Dryden**, (2019): '*The New Editions of Arthur Conan Doyle*'; **Thomson**, (2019): '*Narratives of Scottish Modernism*'; **Lyall**, (2019): '*Nan Shepherd and the Canon of Scottish and International Modernism*'; and **Frayn** (2017): £5000 for Alexandra Peat, RSE Fellowship. We regularly bid to the **Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland** resulting in an incentive grant for **Lyall**, (2016) for '*Mystical Nationalism: W. B. Yeats, Patrick Pearse and the Revival of Ireland*'.

Schwan has been particularly successful in securing external funding for her work on prisons with a conference funding for '*Crime Fiction(s)*', **British Association for Victorian Studies** (2018), and a substantial share (£36,000) of an **AHRC Follow On Grant** for Impact and Engagement for '*The German Diaspora during World War I: Remembering Internment Camps in Britain and the Commonwealth*' (with Aston University).

Our work on impact has successfully attracted AHRC funding for **Thomson's** (2017-18) '*Words on the Street: Uses of a Digital Literary Cityscape*' project; and **Fraser** (now retired), (2014-17) received £50,000 from the **UKEIRI Knowledge Exchange Programme**, jointly funded with Visva-Bharati University, resulting in 2 co-edited books. **Fraser** also received £16,000 from a

University donor to develop a Tagore website, a project that enabled the employment of **Kupfer** as an RA.

Keeble (2018) was the recipient of a **British Association of American Studies US Embassy Grant** of £750 for the 'Lit TV' conference at Edinburgh Napier. **Dryden** attracted charitable funding of £25,000 (2015) from the Ernest Mehew Trust to enable the housing of the Mehew archive of Stevenson materials. **Dryden** has also received philanthropic funding for the RLS website.

All of the above projects are linked to staff research publications either as the foundation for the bids in the case of **Dryden**, **Fraser**, **Lyall** and **Schwan**, or as part of ongoing personal research in the case of **Alder**, **Artt**, **Frayn**, **Keeble** and **Thomson**. The production of quality research publications is the driving factor behind our grant submissions; but we are also extremely active in public engagement activities as a means of maximising our impact and realising our determination to further the aim of making literature relevant in the modern world. All of the funded projects cited here have entailed activities specifically targeted at engaging the public.

Infrastructure and Facilities

Our PhD students have individual dedicated space in the School's PhD student room, including part-time students. A Scottish Government grant supports each student in their research every year. This grant is used largely for conference attendance and field and research trips. As a result, our research students have attended a number of international conferences over the years and have had the opportunity to visit libraries and archives at national and international levels.

Our research is distinguished by work on archives and special collections. The Ernest Mehew Collection of Stevenson materials has been catalogued and bespoke bookcases now house the collection in room C83a at Merchiston, specially set aside to contain this collection. This is a major collection of Stevenson books and related materials and artefacts which comprises the largest collection of Stevensonia in Europe.

In further developments, we have acquired the Jim Haynes archive of publications and significant ephemera related to the development of the annual Edinburgh International Book Festival and the Fringe Festival. This is an important archive of cultural and historical significance that is currently being catalogued with financial support from the School to employ two part time research assistants. We are also in negotiations to acquire the substantive archive of books and materials from the eminent publisher John Calder.

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

Collaborations, Public Engagement, and Contributions to Society

Our unit actively pursues collaboration with academic and non-academic partners in Britain and abroad. Building on and learning from our success in REF2014, staff have cultivated external contacts with organisations at national and international levels. These collaborations are driven by our commitment to excellence in research as well as our endeavours to bring our research into conversation with public debates, and contribute to understanding of important social and cultural issues.

We select our partners strategically to maximise impact and reach, including practitioners in the public sector, cultural and heritage institutions, and the media. We work with both a number of long-term partners (e.g. UNESCO City of Literature Trust; Edinburgh International Book Festival; Scottish Prison Service) as well as seizing short-term opportunities with major cultural organisations for targeted activities as they emerge (e.g. Cameo and Filmhouse cinemas; National Library of Scotland; Surgeons' Hall Museum).

We have engaged with a diversity of audiences and communities through a range of platforms to maximise our reach and impact. This has included a number of media appearances in print, on

radio and television. For example; invited contributions on Hugh MacDiarmid on BBC TV (**Lyall**; 2014) and the *Scotsman* (**Lyall**; 2017); interview for BBC Natural Histories series (**Alder**; 2015); 'In Our Time' BBC Radio 4 conversation with Melvyn Bragg on Tagore (**Fraser**; 2016); Radio 2 BBC Book Club appearance (**Lam**; 2016); Stevenson art project documentary by Simon Zabell (**Dryden**; 2016); Ivan Kaizer Stevenson documentary shot in Edinburgh for ARTE, European cultural channel (**Dryden**; 2017); interview on First World War internment camps on BBC Radio Scotland's 'Good Morning Scotland' (**Schwan**; 2018); a brief appearance on *All Around Britain* showcasing the Colinton Tunnel RLS project and a newspaper interview on Stevenson (**Dryden** 2020). Staff have also given readings, overseen performances, contributed to *The Conversation* and written public blogs.

In addition to the activities listed elsewhere, other formats for public engagement have included: a series of stand-up comedy performances at The Bright Club in Edinburgh and Dundee (**Artt**: 2011-2015); an evening of presentations on Conrad, supported by Zielony Balonic and the Consulate General of Poland (**Dryden**: 2017); a series of public events in the city of Edinburgh for the Lit/Long project (**Thomson**); CLAW funding for the Edinburgh International Book Festival, with sponsored sessions featuring well known writers such as Ian Rankin, Maya Jassanoff and Jackie Kay (2014 to present); workshops and a panel at Edinburgh International Book Festival on creative writing (**Shand**: 2019), and Book Festival workshops on Conrad and Stevenson (**Dryden**: 2017 and 2018), a Mehew Exhibition (**Dryden**: 2017), and a Lit/Long exhibition (**Thomson** 2017). RLS Day is an ongoing project initiated by **Dryden** in collaboration with the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust in 2011. This is an international project that has endorsement and engagement from such high-profile figures as writers Ian Rankin and Louise Welsh, composer Howard Blake, and actors Nigel Planer and John Sessions, among others. In 2020 the event was wholly online and as a result it featured over 50 activities and engagement from 48 countries across the world.

Our creative practitioners have given public readings and interviews, including **Fraser's** poetry readings in India (2016-7) and **Lam's** interviews in the British *SciFiNow* Magazine (2016) and Dutch book portal *Hebban* (2017). **Lam** has chaired and participated in numerous panels or conversations at book festivals nationally and abroad, and at major bookstores such as Waterstone's and Blackwell's. **Lam** and **Bishop** have helped programme and deliver Cymera, Scotland's new Festival of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Writing (2019-20). **Soto-Morettini's** play for the Edinburgh Fringe, *The Shakespeares: Scenes from a Marriage*, was subsequently invited to London by the Director of the Historic Rose Theatre (2017), and her production of *Sob Story* for the Edinburgh Fringe was later performed at the Theatre Royal Dumfries and the Bradford Playhouse in Yorkshire (2019).

Thomson's activities, in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Edinburgh, on digital mapping and literary tourism in Edinburgh showcase our long-term, sustained partnership with the UNESCO City of Literature Trust. This partnership also includes **Dryden's** collaboration with the Trust on Robert Louis Stevenson (Impact Case Study 1), sponsorship of the Poetry Periscope in 2017 and sponsorship in 2016 and 2017 of the European Literature Night. We strategically support this partnership with the Trust with the aim of building on it to maximise the social and economic impact of our activities going forward. **Thomson's** work is informing the Trust's plans for the physical and digital establishment of a Literature House and Literary Quarter in 2022, a project which will include new visibility for Scotland's women writers in Edinburgh's literary tourism sites. **Thomson's** collaborative work engages the wider community through public consultations financed by the School's public engagement fund (Spring 2020), demonstrating our involvement in cultural policy and our ambition to impact on the development of literary tourism.

Similarly, **Schwan's** long-standing work with the Scottish Prison Service has impacted prison education practice, gathering significant momentum during this REF period, leading to new collaborations, awards and recognition nationally and at the European level (Impact Case Study 2). As co-founder and co-convenor of the Scottish Universities-Prisons (UP) Network in 2016, **Schwan** co-hosted its inaugural conference at the community venue Eric Liddell Centre in 2019,

which was attended by academics, people with convictions and prison education professionals. The event, co-hosted by Edinburgh Napier's Paul Gray (UoA34), and the then Director of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, Dr Sarah Armstrong (University of Glasgow), is an example of our staff's approach to innovative collaboration across discipline, theory and practice, both within the University and externally. Collaboration in the context of prison education practice has also had an international dimension through **Schwan**'s visits to academic partners and penal institutions in the USA (2014-5).

Interdisciplinary research and collaboration are expressly encouraged and supported by the School's strategic plan, as well as the School's multidisciplinary environment, which offers opportunities for networking across the disciplines, for instance at the annual School Research Conference. Our commitment to interdisciplinary working has allowed us to successfully engage wide audiences in new and creative ways. An interdisciplinary AHRC grant for impact and engagement with Aston University (Language & Translation Studies) involved Edinburgh Napier colleagues in Acting, Music and English (including **Frayn**, Co-I; **Schwan**, Co-I and Edinburgh Napier lead). This resulted in three sold-out public performances (2018) at venues in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Hawick (Scottish Borders), with coverage in several newspapers, the BBC website and BBC radio, to raise awareness of life and creativity in internment camps in Britain (see Impact Case Study 2).

Another example of the unit's investment in innovative cross-disciplinary enquiry is **Bouet**'s series of public engagement activities involving science fiction and debates about Scotland's plans for a new Spaceport. Creative writer **Lam** contributed to this series as well, pairing with a scientist for cross-disciplinary conversation. Similarly, **Campbell** is co-founder of the Blue Humanities Network, with her related Royal Society of Edinburgh-funded project '*World/Water Futures*' examining the role of arts and humanities perspectives in generating and supporting sustainable, resilient and just marine futures. As part of this project, **Campbell** co-hosted interdisciplinary workshops at St. Abbs Marine Station and the Scottish Fisheries Museum (Spring 2020).

Alder's work at the intersection of nineteenth-century gothic studies, literature and science has tackled similar questions of social and ecological relevance from a historical perspective and engaged public audiences through invited talks at the Anstruther Improvements Association's '*Anster Nichts*' (2015) and the Edinburgh Science Festival (2018).

Alder and **Artt**'s '*Age of Frankenstein*' project (2017-8) is a good example of our objective to critically engage audiences through a variety of different formats and collaborative partnerships. At a series of events, academic and non-academic audiences were invited to explore the legacies of Shelley's novel, and the ethical questions it raises regarding creative and scientific creation. These events included three screenings at Edinburgh's Cameo Cinema to view and discuss unusual filmic adaptations of the Frankenstein myth; an event with public talks and a performance on the original context for Frankenstein's creation at the National Library of Scotland; a creative writing workshop and competition hosted in collaboration with the Surgeons' Hall Museum in Edinburgh where participants were invited to engage with items from the Museum's collection and the history of medicine; and a conversation with celebrated playwright Nick Dear on his adaptation of *Frankenstein* for the National Theatre, also at Surgeons' Hall Museum and chaired by **Soto-Morettini**.

Other staff have collaborated with the National Library of Scotland, initiating and presenting at sold-out public events. **Lyal** organised and chaired an RSE funded event on Nan Shepherd (February 2020). **Schwan** was co-organiser of and speaker at an event considering the cultural legacies of the death penalty, with colleague Morrison (Criminology), further exemplifying our interdisciplinary approach to research and public engagement (January 2020). Alongside our established, embedded impact work with long-term partners, all these activities demonstrate the vitality of our research culture and the sustainability of our ability to contribute to the economy and society in the future.

CLAW has also collaborated with and hosted international researchers, including Dr Alexandra Peat, an RSE Visiting Fellow from Switzerland working with **Frayn** (2017), and we hosted a visiting MA student (**Silva**) from Brazil funded by the Sao Paulo Research Foundation to work with **Dryden** on Stevenson (2017).

CLAW members **Dryden**, **Fraser**, **Lyall**, **Schwan** and **Simpson** were invited and sponsored to participate in a workshop at the University of Stuttgart (2014). CLAW subsequently hosted a further international workshop at Merchiston in 2016. Participants included a number of CLAW staff as well as colleagues from across Europe: Professor Richard Ambrosini (Rome), Professor Laurence Davies (Glasgow), Dr Stephen Donovan (Uppsala), and Dr Saskia Schabio (Stuttgart). This workshop was funded by CLAW and resulted in submission of a major funding bid for Horizon2020 focused on transnationalism in literature and culture.

CLAW has further hosted or co-hosted a wealth of research and public engagement events to facilitate scholarly networking and contribute to wider social debates, some of them in collaboration with colleagues from other institutions. Research conferences have included the interdisciplinary, international conference '*Orange is the New Black* and New Perspectives on the Women in Prison Genre' (**Artt/Schwan**; 2015), with one speaker on special day-leave from prison and prison staff in attendance; the 42nd Annual Conference of the Joseph Conrad Society (UK) (**Dryden**; 2016); the Biennial International Conference on Robert Louis Stevenson '*Robert Louis Stevenson: New Perspectives*' (**Dryden**; 2017); the Annual Symposium of the Scottish Network for Modernist Studies '*We Moderns: Current Work in Modernist Studies*' (**Frayn/Lyall/Thomson**; 2018); the interdisciplinary conference '*Victorian and Neo-Victorian Narratives of Crime and Punishment*' (**Schwan** with PhD students **Burke** and **Duncan**; 2018); the two-day symposium on contemporary US television and the 'literary' 'Lit TV 2018', co-organised with a colleague from Durham University and co-sponsored by the US Embassy (**Keeble**; 2018); the interdisciplinary '*Fates of Frankenstein*' conference (**Alder/Artt**; 2018); a symposium on '*Children's Literature and Science*' (**Alder**; 2019); a series of workshops and a symposium on neo-liberalism and American literature (**Keeble**; 2019). **Dryden** and **Milne** work closely with the RLS Club to deliver the RLS Creative Writing for Schools Competition, which offers a workshop at our Merchiston campus with author Louise Welsh for the best entrants into the competition.

An international Conan Doyle seminar at Senate House, London (2019) featured high profile speakers including; Professor Roger Luckhurst (Birkbeck), Professor Stephen Arata (Virginia) and Professor Nick Daley (Dublin). A highly successful virtual conference on Conan Doyle, facilitated by the RSE funding for the new scholarly edition of the works of Conan Doyle took place in August 2020, with keynote speakers Owen Dudley Edwards (Edinburgh University) and Professor Nick Daley (Dublin University) (**Alder/Dryden/Schwan**). Aside from invaluable networking opportunities for colleagues at all career stages, including postgraduates, such events have enriched our research environment and resulted in invitations for scholarly publications, for example **Artt** and **Schwan**'s special issue on *Orange is the New Black* for *Television & New Media*.

Wider Contributions to the Discipline and Research Base

CLAW staff members actively participate in and take leadership roles in scholarly networks and societies. **Lyall** has been *ex officio* member and officer of the Council of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies for the entire census period; **Frayn** was Secretary of the Ford Madox Ford Society until 2019, and since 2019 has been on the Executive Steering Committee of the British Association for Modernist Studies. **Keeble** is Vice-Chair of the Contemporary Studies Network, and **Alder** is Membership Secretary of the British Society for Literature and Science (since 2018), and on the judging panel for the Society's annual Book Prize (2019-20).

Bishop serves as a member of the National Association of Writers in Education's Higher Education Committee. **Dryden** and **Schwan** are official Associates of the cross-institutional Scottish Centre for Victorian and Neo-Victorian Studies (SCVS), and CLAW hosted one of SCVS's inaugural events. **Schwan** was also a member of the organising committee and plenary

chair for the annual conference of the British Association for Victorian Studies (BAVS), hosted by SCVS and the University of Dundee (2019).

CLAW routinely sponsors external events like the Edinburgh International Book Festival, and was a sponsor for the Bedtime Stories exhibition at the Museum of Childhood (2016). REG funds from CLAW are made available for all projects, such as *Frankenstein*, *The War Poets*, *The Prisons project*, *RLS Day*, and *Lit/Long*, where it is clear that impact will be maximised. Staff working on RLS in CLAW are collaborating with the Colinton Railway project in the local village of Colinton to publicise their artistic graffiti in the old village railway tunnel. The artwork is done by local artists and school children based around Stevenson's poem, '*From a Railway Carriage*'.

We contribute through journal editorship and peer reviewing. CLAW staff are General Editors of *Gothic Studies* (**Alder**), *The Journal of Stevenson Studies* (**Dryden**) and *Scottish Literary Review* (**Lyall**), and guest editors for a number of journals. **Neill** is a series editor for the Palgrave Lacan Series. We have peer reviewed for numerous presses and journals, including: Manchester University Press, Liverpool University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Routledge, Palgrave, Bloomsbury, *Studies in the Novel*, *Genre*, *European Journal of American Studies*, *English*, *Studies in Gothic Fiction*, *Irish Gothic Journal*, *First World War Studies*, *Journal of War and Culture Studies*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *Modernism/modernity*, *Comparative Literature*, *Modern Language Review* and *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice*. We also peer-review for national and international funding bodies: AHRC Academic and Knowledge Exchange Peer Review Colleges (**Schwan**, 2017-20); Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland (**Lyall** since 2019; **Schwan** since 2014); Israel Science Foundation (**Schwan**, 2019-20).

Dryden is on the Editorial Board for *Victorian Popular Fictions* and its series of publications. **Dryden** is also a key member of the Editorial Board for a publication to mark the 100th anniversary of the RLS Club. The volume includes contributions from Ian Rankin, Michael Morpurgo, Nicola Sturgeon, Nigel Planer and Paul McCartney, as well as **Dryden's** own contribution.

Staff have held visiting research fellowships and have been invited to give research talks nationally and internationally. For example, **Dryden** had Visiting Professorships at St. Tikhon's University, Moscow (2017) and the University of Bordeaux Montaigne (2019); **Schwan** was Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) at the University of Edinburgh (2017). **Lyall** was invited keynote speaker at the University of Jena, Germany (2016). **Schwan** gave invited research talks at Nazareth College and Rochester Institute of Technology in the USA (2015), and **Thomson** at the University of Victoria, Canada (2019). **Artt** gave invited talks at the University of Split, Croatia (2014), the University of Amsterdam (2019) and the Royal Society's AI Narratives workshop (2018).

Dryden and **Schwan** are Fellows of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA), and two colleagues were selected as Members of the prestigious Royal Society of Edinburgh's Young Academy of Scotland (**Schwan** until 2019; **Alder** since 2016) and in that capacity have participated in the Young Academy's interdisciplinary community to address pressing social issues of national and international importance.

Schwan co-organized '*Arts and Humanities at the Parliament*' (2014) to showcase arts and humanities' contribution to society at an event attended by researchers, practitioners and politicians. She was member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Working Group to prepare a response to the British Academy's call for evidence on skills in arts, humanities and social sciences (2017), thus contributing to debates about our and other humanities disciplines' sustainability.

Further indicators of influence and recognition include prizes and nominations. **Shand's** novel *Fallow* won the Society of Authors' Betty Trask Prize (2017), awarded to authors under thirty-five

for a first novel of '*outstanding literary merit*'. It was also shortlisted for the Saltire Award for Best First Novel (2017), and his *Crocodile* was shortlisted for the Encore Award for Best Second Novel (2019).

Neill works at the intersection between psychoanalysis and culture. He has written articles on poets such as Paul Celan, and more generally on the function of poetry as expression. He has published a complete guide to the reading of Lacan's *Écrits*, as well as articles on, or utilising psychoanalysis. Neill also works on psychoanalysis and film, notably *Bladerunner 2049*.

Lam's *Pantomime* won the 2014 Bisexual Book Award for Speculative Fiction. **Thomson** was part of a team that was Research Category Award runner up for the 'Palimpsest: Literary Edinburgh' project at the British Library Lab Awards (2015). **Schwan's** collaboration with the Scottish Prison Service and Fife College won the *Herald* Higher Education Partnership Award (2016).

We contribute to co-operation and collaborative arrangements for PGR training: **Schwan** is the Edinburgh Napier representative on the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities (SGSAH) Executive Committee and **Lyall** is a member of the SGSAH Discipline+ Catalyst for Literature. Both are thus formally involved in shaping PGR training at the world's first national graduate school in the Arts and Humanities in collaboration with colleagues across Scotland.