

**Institution: University of Manchester**

**Unit of assessment: 27 (English Language and Literature)**

**Section 1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy**

**Overview**

English, American Studies and Creative Writing (EAC) is a large, ambitious department with 48 members (41.35 FTE). Distinctive in spanning the full chronological and thematic ranges of its three disciplines, it is part of the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (SALC) within the Faculty of Humanities (FoH), one of the largest concentrations of humanities researchers in the UK.

The Unit has expanded by 25% since REF 2014 with 12 new appointments to full and fractional posts, including four University Presidential Fellows. EAC engages with theoretical and methodological innovations to advance its disciplines, and is committed to producing socially-beneficial research which confronts inequality, promotes social justice and engages diverse communities. Looking outward and forging collaborations with cultural partners - from the United Nations to festivals, libraries, theatre companies, galleries and local community groups- has been central to our research culture during the survey period. Since REF2014 EAC researchers have:

- Led the city's successful 2017 bid for UNESCO City of Literature status, which links EAC and the city of Manchester with 120 Creative Cities globally through UNESCO structures, funding and staff.
- Guest edited the *Today* programme, co-written the ten-year strategy of the Irish Arts Council, had a prize-winning novel adapted into a BBC mini-series, and shaped eight exhibitions at galleries including Tate Britain (combined audience over 500,000).
- Published over 60 books and won 17 international prizes including the 2018 Women's Prize for Fiction.
- Doubled external competitive grant capture, including nine AHRC Awards over £100,000.
- Supervised 107 PGR students to PhD completion (some jointly with other UoAs – representing a 28% increase in recorded completions from the previous REF cycle) and supported 18 of these into academic posts.
- Examined over 50 doctoral theses in the UK and internationally.
- Served as peer reviewers for over 20 international funding bodies including the AHRC Peer-Review College (seven members).
- Performed leading academic service for the major international journals and publishers in our disciplines and fields.
- Continued to shape critical and creative agendas, presenting more than 350 keynotes, seminar papers and public talks and organising over 70 conferences, workshops, public lectures and symposia.

**Research Strategy and Structure**

At REF 2014 we set three key objectives: to invest in Early Career Researchers (ECRs) as a means to secure a vital and sustainable research culture; to increase grant capture to support long-term impact; and to deepen our coverage and interdisciplinary outlook. These objectives were achieved through a combination of appointments, mentoring and improved planning (see Sections 2 and 3). An

overhaul of EAC's research structures was undertaken to create a new configuration of aligned and fully resourced Research Groups (Department based, rooted in periods and subfields) and interdisciplinary Research Centres (led by EAC but SALC or University wide). These developments in turn supported the sharpened focus on increasing the distinctiveness and social benefit of our research by facilitating improved and mutually beneficial collaborations with international, national and local cultural and heritage partners, institutions, libraries, archives, and communities.

Five Research Groups have replaced the previous informal clusters. These drive the vitality of our research culture, engaging with and shaping debates and methodologies and consolidating and deepening our period coverage. They provide an intellectual home for all researchers and PGRs, and for the individual scholarship that remains important in EAC. Groups provide support through feedback on work in progress, review funding applications, run seminars, symposia and reading groups, and pool expertise to build collaborations with cultural partners. Resourced by an annual budget (£1,000 per group), they also run fully-funded annual lectures (six across the groups) and elect and host EAC's two annual John Edward Taylor Fellows (JETFs), internationally distinguished researchers who present their research to staff, students and the public in week-long visits to the department. JETFs since REF 2014 have included Jahan Ramazani, George Lipsitz, Michael and Edna Longley, Patricia Ingham and Michael Denning. The Research Groups' work is shared across the department via the fortnightly EAC research seminar and research away days.

The Research Groups comprise:

American Studies (**Brown, Coghlan, Fearnley, Field, Fraser, Geidel, Knight, Pearl, Quinn, Raymundo, Scott, Zacek**);

Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Studies (**Dawson, Gallagher, Gladfelder, Rawes, Rohrbach, Sanders, Taylor**);

Medieval and Early Modern Studies (**Bernau, Baker, de Groot, Matthews, Schurink, Paz**);

Modernism (**Booth, Caselli, Christou, Harker, Spencer**);

Postcolonial and Irish Studies (**Booth, Harte, McAuliffe, Spencer, Valassopoulos, Walther**).

Highlights of Research Group activities since REF 2014 include:

- hosting international conferences and the meetings of professional associations including 'Middle Ages in the Modern World' (2017), the International Conference on Romanticism (2019), and the Postcolonial Studies Association (2019);
- launching a new high-profile modernist studies lecture series, the Dora Marsden Lecture, in honour of the Manchester modernist and suffragist, presented by Professor Laura Marcus (2016), Professor Morag Shiach (2017), Dr Catherine Clay (2018) and Dr Rashmi Varma (2019).
- developing collaborative projects with international partners that integrate research, creative writing and social engagement, including the Curiosity

Project, run with former Taylor Fellow Patricia C. Ingham of Indiana University;

- producing field-defining books including **Spencer** and **Valassopoulos**, *Postcolonial Locations: New Issues and Directions in Postcolonial Studies* (2021) and **Harte** (ed), *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Fiction* (2020);
- producing and guest editing journal special issues around Research Group's national and international networks, including the special issue of the *European Journal of American Studies* (2019) based on the 'Spectacle and Spectatorship in American History' conference hosted by the American Studies Research Group (May 2017).

### Research Centres

EAC Research Groups underpin and support three EAC-led Research Centres. These promote interdisciplinarity within the School and University, and involve colleagues from all Research Groups. Research Centres benefit from additional SALC funding and are outward-facing in their promotion of research and creative activity.

The radical, socially-oriented work of the **Centre for the Study of Sexuality and Culture (CSSC)** (**Alderson, Caselli, Doan, Pearl, Stacey**) has broadened and intensified since REF2014. Directed by **Stacey**, **CSSC** is now a globally recognised destination for leading scholars (including JETF Elizabeth Freeman, 2019), and integrates queer and feminist scholarship and LGBTQ activism. Partnerships with cultural organizations, health professionals and client groups have been especially important during the current REF period. At the centre of **CSSC** work is the annual Sexuality Summer School. One **CSSC** highlight since REF2014 was **Doan's** research shaping the arguments of *Queer British Art, 1861-1967* (2017) at Tate Britain (110,000 visitors).

The **Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (CMEMS)** was established by EAC in 2017 to reinforce period breadth and consolidate Manchester as an international centre for the interdisciplinary analysis of the Medieval and Early Modern periods. Directed by **Matthews**, with its hub of EAC researchers from the departmental Research Group (**Bernau, Baker, de Groot, Schurink, Paz**), **CMEMS** involves colleagues from ten other University departments, shaping a community of researchers around shared critical agendas in collaboration with international partners. **CMEMS** works to develop and promote the city's archive holdings, including the special collections of the John Rylands Library (JRL). It hosts events and projects including the archive-focussed 'Connecting Collections', run in collaboration with the University of Melbourne (2017), and an annual interdisciplinary research forum (since 2018). In 2020 **CMEMS** secured a Simon Visiting Professorship to bring Janet Marquardt (Eastern Illinois University) to Manchester in 2021.

Formed in 2007, directed by **McAuliffe** and **Mitchell**, and expanded since REF 2014 with new premises and six more staff, the **Centre for New Writing (CNW; Brown, Clare, Gavin, Groarke, Leviston, McAuliffe, McGuire, Mitchell, Schmidt, Shamsie, Underdown, Winterson)** is at the forefront of debates on new writing, broadening the reach and enjoyment of contemporary literature, promoting new writers and shaping arts policy. **CNW's** development since REF2014 has focussed on building and deepening links with partner institutions and the creative industries.

It is a driving force behind both the UNESCO City of Literature initiatives and Creative Manchester (CM). The latter is a new University project supported by endowment investment (£3,300,000) and run from SALC. It promotes exchange and co-production between university researchers and cultural industry and community partners.

SALC's **Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts and Languages (CIDRAL)**, established by EAC in 2005, is a major forum for researchers and PGRs from across the humanities. EAC researchers continue to lead and shape **CIDRAL**'s interdisciplinary identity and work, with **Stacey** directing between 2010-2015 and **Alderson** since 2018. Both have built collaborations with external bodies to raise CIDRAL's profile across its multiple formats (public lectures, masterclasses, Theory Intensive symposia, Key Ideas seminars, book launches), to which EAC researchers regularly contribute.

### Impact

EAC has significantly increased the social benefit of its research since REF2014. Groups and Centres have been used to create partnerships with external organisations. We have increased and targeted resources: two thirds of the EAC's internal research support budget is now ring-fenced to support impact.

We have invested in longstanding projects, sustaining them to develop in new directions. **Quinn**'s REF2014 impact case study, 'Setting a Legal Precedent Through Research into Gangsta Rap', has been developed through her work with defence counsels in 12 UK legal cases. Her research on rap has directly influenced verdicts when prosecutors have attempted to use defendants' rap lyrics and videos as evidence of confession, bad character and 'joint enterprise'. The social benefit of the research, recently supported by an AHRC Leadership Fellowship, 'Prosecuting Rap: Criminal Justice and UK Black Youth Expressive Culture' (£201,168, 2019-2020), has become transatlantic. **Quinn** was a co-signee of amicus briefs submitted to the US Supreme Court in two cases involving rap lyrics (Taylor Bell, 2015; Jamal Knox, 2019) and acted as advisor on the development of a new 'rap on trial' manual for US defence lawyers.

Other projects have been developed as part of larger, multi-partner consortia. **Sanders**' REF2014 impact case study, 'Impact on the Public's Understanding of Nineteenth-century Poetry and Politics' has been developed through Co-I work on the AHRC-funded 'Piston, Pen and Press' project (2018-2021, £660,000), led by the University of Strathclyde, run in collaboration with the National Railway Museum, York and also involving Quarry Bank Mill and the Working Class Movement Library. **Valassopoulos** is a Co-I on a Global Challenges Research Fund project, 'Maghreb Action on Displacement and Rights' (2020-2024, £1,872,000), which pursues a regional, interdisciplinary approach to respond to the complex protection needs of refugees and other displaced people in the region.

The new research structures have built critical mass for impact work; this is evident in the four impact case studies we have selected for this REF. Two case studies track the impact of our expanded Research Centres, 'Queer Arts as Activism' (CSSC), and 'The Centre for New Writing: Developing New Writers and Audiences and Enriching Public Debate and Informing Arts Policy' (CNW). The other two case studies crystallize expertise of two Research Groups: **Harte**'s 'Changing Public

Perception and Creative Practice Around the Migrant Experience in Britain' showcases the Postcolonial and Irish Studies Research Group's analysis of migration and identity; **Knight's** 'Show Me the Money: Improving Public and Professional Understandings of Economics and Finance', foregrounds questions of capitalism and culture analysed by the American Studies Research Group. These two case studies also reflect and benefit from our increase in grant capture, having attracted eight awards in total. This portfolio marks collaborative progression from our REF2014 submission, where all four of EAC's impact case studies centred upon the work of individuals, and only one was supported by significant grant capture.

New systems of EAC research mentoring (Section 3) have enabled the early identification of projects for support, notably **de Groot's** AHRC-funded project (£167,556, 2017-19), 'Double Helix History: DNA and Understanding the Past.' This project exemplifies new EAC priorities in integrating partnership-building (National Archives, community groups, businesses including Ancestry.com), knowledge transfer (findings communicated through formats including the open access blog, *The Conversation*, with its monthly readership of 10.7 million), and direct social engagement. Facing outwards, the project challenges and enriches the ways in which 'amateur' historians think about their relationship to their past, to their genetics, to archives and libraries, and to local, national and international history. Other projects with the potential for significant impact currently in development cover the meanings of mourning (**Baker**); medical humanities (**Gallagher**); trans identities and science fiction (**Gavin**); craft and curiosity (**Paz, Bernau**); and Ecocriticism and the Digital Humanities (**Taylor, Dawson**).

### Research and Impact Objectives

Over the coming period we will continue to develop our Research Groups as central hubs through which EAC researchers are supported to engage with and challenge their disciplines, periods and subfields. We will make replacement and (resources permitting) expansion appointments to nurture our period coverage and our particular strength in gender and sexuality studies. To increase the resource and social impact of our research, we will increase the number of our researchers engaged with the more public-facing interdisciplinary work of school-wide Research Centres and engagement with the University's SALC-led Creative Manchester platform. One strategy here, following the example of our Medieval and Early Modern researchers, will be to assess the viability of upscaling the activity of some of our Research Groups into School-wide interdisciplinary centres, a process underway in the case of the Modernism Research Group. Another strategy is targeting EAC resources to nurture new fields of interest that cut across disciplines and periods with a view to the creation of new, socially-engaged collaborative projects and the structures to support them. Promising fields currently being developed through symposia and day-schools include the environmental humanities (**Bernau, Christou, Dawson, de Groot, Geidel, Spencer, Taylor, Quinn, Paz, Walther**) and the analysis of world-systems, capital and class (**Alderson, Fraser, Harker, Knight, Sanders, Spencer, Quinn**).

### Embedding Research in the Region

Developing outward-facing work and embedding our research in the region's cultural infrastructure is one of our major achievements in this REF cycle. We intend to extend and deepen this work, with the overarching goal of supporting and

enhancing mutually beneficial, sustainable collaborations with diverse cultural partners in order to consolidate and develop the UNESCO-recognised status of the city as a cultural global leader. More targeted work will be undertaken to develop and lead multi-partner funded projects based in the holdings of the John Rylands Library, especially the Modern Literature Archive (Section 3). Recent and ongoing work with existing partner libraries, archives and community groups will be intensified and new collaborations developed through large scale grant applications. EAC will also continue to extend the international reach of its research culture, drawing on UNESCO structures and resources and continuing to forge connections with global scholars, libraries and archives through our Research Centres, Research Groups and JETF scheme. Building on the success of the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies and the American Studies Research Group, we will seek to scale up our collaborations with Universities of Toronto and Melbourne, strategic institutional partnerships which the University is supporting through pump-prime funding. We will seek low carbon modes of collaboration to offset the potential environmental impact of such work.

### Open Access

The re-thinking of the structure, resourcing and coordination of our Research Groups and Centres since REF2014 has enabled a more pro-active approach to opening public access to creative work and research outputs. The editorial work of EAC researchers across Research Groups has driven open access publishing initiatives and shared good practice: for instance, *James Baldwin Review*, co-founded by **Field** in 2015, is published open-access by Manchester University Press; *Manchester Review*, the online journal founded by CNW in 2008, brings free-to-view texts from authors including John Banville, Jennifer Egan, Paul Muldoon, Ali Smith and Jeanette Winterson to 5000 readers per issue. EAC staff have made public interventions into debates about open access research, with **Zacek** outlining strategies for connecting academic research with public activism in the *Times Higher* (5/7/18) and **Harte** sharing his experience of collaboration with creative partners in 'Transforming Research into Art' (2017) in *Irish Studies Review*.

EAC has collaborated with cultural partners - especially heritage organisations, public libraries and cultural institutions in Manchester and beyond - to advise on and promote collections for the benefit of diverse communities. **Coghlan** is an academic advisor for the Musée Franco-Américaine in Blérancourt, France. Researchers from the Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Studies and Modernist Research Groups support key libraries and archives in the city and nationally facilitating acquisitions and shaping public-facing initiatives to increase collection use. **Sanders** and **Harker** work closely with Salford's Working Class Movement Library (WCML), raising funds and increasing public engagement, and helping to acquire and promote new collections, recently including material from the estate of Ewan MacColl (2018). Both also work closely with the People's History Museum (PHM), **Sanders** through his convening, consultancy and teaching work with the General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust (GFTUET), while **Harker's** AHRC Leadership Fellowship (2016-17) enabled the cataloguing and opening to the public of 60 boxes of archive material held by the PHM's Labour History Archive and Study Centre, whose 1300 visitors per year include school-children and local historians. A free day-school (2016) showcased and contextualised the newly catalogued material for 60 academics, activists, amateur historians and the general public. Newer EAC

partners include Stockport's Art for Recovery in the Community (ARC), a creative arts organisation in an economically deprived neighbourhood for which **Bernau** ran a series of free-to-access workshops (2018), sharing and shaping her research into the historical meanings of curiosity with ARC participants. The creative work produced in response was exhibited online and in the ARC Community Gallery. EAC's development of these relationships is ongoing: **Caselli** (Modernist Research Group) was recently awarded for an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award project with the PHM (2021-2024) and will form part of an EAC team leading an application for a consortium of the city's archives and libraries to achieve AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership status in the next round (2023-2026).

## Section 2. People

### Staffing Strategy

A dynamic research culture relies on a flow of excellent researchers; EAC has seen significant, well-managed change in its staff since 2014. This has been the result of strategic recruitment of new staff facilitated by considerable investment by the University in our subject area. In total, 17 appointments have been made, including 12 new full and fractional posts to expand the unit: three in English Literature, three in American Studies and six in Creative Writing. This expansion has included four University of Manchester Presidential Fellowships (three-year research posts that lead to permanent lectureships). All posts were strategically designed to map onto emerging research priorities, and to deepen or extend our chronological coverage and theoretical scope. Recruitment decisions have been consultative, with Research Centres, Research Groups, staff away days and departmental meetings identifying priorities and shaping job descriptions.

To ensure vitality and sustainability, EAC has continued to prioritise ECR appointments, thereby balancing the department's composition (31 department staff are either Professors or SLs). The department has sustained its broad gender-balance at all levels (56% women, 44 % men): four of our eleven professors, ten of the new seventeen appointments and eight of the twenty colleagues promoted since 2014 are women. In line with our post REF2014 strategy, recruitment has also extended the department's international profile, ten of new appointees being from outside the UK. The department's historic BAME under-representation is being urgently addressed: two of the new CNW hires and two of the four Presidential Fellows are BAME women. These priorities have also changed the process of selecting JETFs, who are nominated by EAC research staff and selected through an annual poll. 50% of those now invited will be scholars of colour. Though initially teaching-focused, our 'decolonising the curriculum' initiatives, led by **Booth**, are conceived to engage more BAME students in research from undergraduate level onwards, and ultimately to foster a more inclusive research culture.

Investment in the CNW in the survey period has consolidated the distinctiveness and social benefit of our international creative work. **Winterson's** visiting professorship was made permanent in 2016. Several new appointments were

geared towards deepening areas of EAC strength (poetry, historical fiction), and to enhancing the dialogue between critical and creative practice-based research. Others were driven to support expansion into new areas (playwriting, screen writing, creative non-fiction) and to strengthen links with cultural partners. For instance, CNW hired poet Michael **Schmidt** (OBE), founder and Editorial Director of Carcanet Press whose archive is now held at the John Rylands Library's Modern Literature Archive Special Collection (MLASC), of which he is a co-director. This resource has attracted new PGRs and poetry scholars, including Florence Impens, a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow (2016-19) and CNW affiliate. EAC and CNW's commitment to poetry (**McAuliffe, Groarke, Dawson, Field, Paz, Rawes, Sanders, Taylor**) was strengthened by the appointment of **Leviston** (promoted to SL 2020), a poet and critic whose second collection, *Disinformation* (2015), was shortlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize. Novelist **Underdown** enhances EAC's strength in historical fiction. Her debut novel, *The Witchfinder's Sister* (2017), complements the award-winning fiction of **McGuire** and the critical expertise of **de Groot** in the field. Expansion appointment **Shamsie**, adds to our strength in post-colonial fiction (**Booth, Spencer, Valassopoulos, Walther**). The hiring of travel and nature writer and broadcaster **Clare** reflects the strategic priority of augmenting CNW's strength in creative non-fiction and media work. The hiring of **Gavin**, an experimental novelist (*Midland*, 2014; shortlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize) and critic (*Literature and Film, Dispositioned*, 2014), demonstrates CNW's dual commitment to creative and critical modes.

A commitment to sharpening CNW's industry focus led to the hiring of former Tindal Street Press commissioning editor and *Granta* deputy editor and novelist **Luke Brown**, author of *My Biggest Lie* (2014) and *Theft* (2020, shortlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize), who organises a programme of visiting speakers from the book world, strengthening CNW links with the publishing industry. To improve knowledge transfer and industry links for the benefit of its practice-based research environment, CNW also appointed additional new colleagues in a range of capacities. An emerging focus since REF2014 has been in drama and screenwriting, a development signalled by the launch of the Screenwriting MA (2015) and, jointly with Drama (UoA33A), a Playwriting MA (2020). To support these programmes and enable staff to keep their research rooted in externally-facing professional practice, CNW made fractional appointments of playwright and screenwriter Tim Price (winner of the 2018 James Tait Black Award), Emma Clarke (producer of films by Andrea Arnold, Jane Campion and Shane Meadows), playwrights Anders Lustgarten (winner of the 2011 Harold Pinter Playwriting Award), and Chloe Moss (winner of the 2009 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize). To strengthen links with key cultural partners, CNW appointed actor, writer and Associate Artist at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, Maxine Peake as Honorary Professor of Literature and Ellah Wakatama Allfrey (OBE), editor-at-Large at Canongate Books and a former Man Booker judge, as CNW Senior Research Fellow. Central to Allfrey's role is the further development of EAC collaboration with Manchester's leading cultural centre HOME, established in 2015 with a cross-arts focus.

In English Literature EAC made four Lecturer appointments (**Dawson, Schurink, Paz, Rohrbach**) to replace retiring professors (Duncker, Pearson, Owen-Crocker, Tambling). **Dawson** brings the expertise in poetic form and nineteenth-century cultural networks demonstrated in her OUP monograph, *Victorian Poetry and the*



*Culture of Evaluation* (2020). **Schurink** links existing strengths in late medieval and seventeenth-century literature, and contributes the expertise in manuscript studies, book history, translation and classical reception displayed in his two-volume, 750-page scholarly edition, *Plutarch in English, 1528-1603* (2020). **Paz**, a specialist in early medieval literature, adds the expertise in early science fiction, material history and the history of sound demonstrated in his open access *Nonhuman Voices in Anglo-Saxon Literature and Material Culture* (2017), nominated for the University English Book Prize and for the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists' best first monograph prize. **Rohrbach** brings new expertise in British Romanticism, comparative Gothic literature and the voice, publishing in the survey period her debut monograph, *Modernity's Mist: British Romanticism and the Poetics of Anticipation* (2015). **Harker** strengthens connections with the region's cultural organisations. His AHRC Leadership Fellowship (2016-17), run in collaboration with the People's History Museum, supported the completion of his University of Toronto Press monograph, *The Chronology of Revolution: Communism, Culture, and Civil Society in Twentieth-century Britain* (2021). Two of the four new Presidential Fellows were also appointed to further diversify and strengthen our work in modern and contemporary literature. **Christou** adds the expertise in critical theory, modernism and postmodernism demonstrated in her CUP book, *Eating Otherwise: The Philosophy of Food in Twentieth-century Literature* (2017), runner up in the 2018 University English prize for first monograph. Mentored by colleagues in the Modernist Research Group, in 2020 she was awarded British Academy funding for 'The Art and Artifice of Prediction,' a project that brings together researchers from City University, London, and Monash University, Melbourne. **Walther** contributes expertise in Indian writing from the late colonial period to the present day, and particular knowledge of contemporary South Asia and multispecies interactions in postcolonial literature. **Taylor**, Presidential Fellow in Digital Humanities based in the Department of Art History and Cultural Practices, is an active member of EAC's research culture, complementing our work in Romanticism and Victorian culture with expertise in literary geographies of the long nineteenth century, spatial poetics, and environmental humanities.

An EAC expansion appointment in American Studies, **Geidel** added the expertise in Cold War cultural politics demonstrated in her University of Minnesota Press monograph *Peace Corps Fantasies: How Development Shaped the Global Sixties* (2015). She was subsequently awarded the Warren Centre Faculty Fellowship at Harvard (2018-19). Two of the Presidential Fellows extend American Studies' cultural and historical breadth. **Fraser** adds specialism in nineteenth-century literature, print culture, and the history of science. His first book, *Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America*, is under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press. **Raymundo** brings expertise in Asian-American culture within the racial and gendered formations of multiculturalism and is currently completing her first monograph, 'Asian America at the End of Multiculturalism.'

### ECRs

Having recruited several early career colleagues during this REF cycle, EAC takes its responsibilities toward them seriously. New lecturers benefit from a reduced teaching and administration load (these duties are reduced by 25% in year one, tapering to 15% in year three) which supports their ability to publish, while

Presidential Fellows' research time is set at 100%, 75% and 50% respectively in their first three years. ECRs are assigned an experienced colleague as a mentor with whom to discuss strategic planning of their research career and to identify the most suitable training and development opportunities from the many offered by the University. They are guided through a four-year probation structured around the FoH's New Academics Programme (HNAP) - accredited by the Higher Education Academy (HEA) - which includes research training and career planning advice. A portfolio covering research, teaching and administrative strategies is drawn up at the end of the programme, in consultation with the mentor.

### **All Researchers**

Research time is protected; all nominate a weekly 'research day', accommodated in the department's 'workload allocation model' (WAM). All staff in receipt of external, and in some cases internal research funding, are given commensurate relief from teaching and administrative duties as part of their annual WAM allocation. EAC researchers at all career stages benefit from voluntary annual Professional and Development Reviews (P&DRs), which identify objectives for progression and promotion. All are supported through the annual Personal Research Expectations and Plans (PREP) process, during which priorities are identified through one-to-one meetings with the Research Coordinator or another senior colleague. Newly published outputs are peer-reviewed and graded by the University's annual Research Review Exercise (RRE), a rolling process which assists colleagues to plan their REF submission. All academics are entitled to apply for a semester of Institutional Research Leave (IRL) every seventh semester. The FoH and SALC offered supplementary research leave and seed-corn funding during the current REF cycle to support the completion of grant applications, outputs and impact work (sixteen EAC staff benefitted). Staff can apply for up to an additional £6000 per annum to fund research and impact activity from the SALC Research Office. All research active staff receive a Personal Research Allowance (PRA) of £1000 per year (increased from £600 since REF2014) for conference attendance and research trips. The SALC Carer Support Scheme provides financial assistance for eligible staff to attend conferences, research seminars and to conduct archive and library visits.

### **Research Students**

107 EAC PGRs have been awarded doctorates since REF2014, a 35% increase on the previous REF cycle. Students are fully supported at every stage. Prospective doctoral students are guided through the application process, receiving detailed feedback on proposals and being interviewed by their prospective supervisors. PGRs are assigned a panel of three academics (two supervisors and an Independent Reviewer) and attend fortnightly supervisory meetings. Formal progression panels convene twice a year, where supervisors and Independent Reviewers assess work-in-progress. Students are also supported through the University's online system, eProg, which maps and measures progress on the route to PhD completion.

PGRs are supported in professional development by interlocking Faculty, School and Department structures. FoH PGR Support Services and Researcher

Development activities emphasise developing work for publication, employability and knowledge transfer, and are complemented by FoH's Developing Intellectual Leaders Programme. Faculty also hosts and administers the AHRC North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership, for which **de Groot** is director (from 2020; deputy director in 2016-17).

SALC's Associate Director of Research, PGR (**Valassopoulos** from 2019), manages research development and training in coordination with [Artsmethods@manchester](mailto:Artsmethods@manchester), which focusses on technical and theoretical training, providing 20 seminars per year taught by academics. Funds are available in £500 blocks to support conference organisation and other student-led initiatives. SALC's Graduate School provides PGRs with equipment, a dedicated conference suite, seminar rooms, a viva suite and social area, and runs events geared around publication and impact strategy, raising and supporting PGR participation in conferences and workshops, CV building, and job and funding applications. A dedicated budget of up to £400 per student per annum supports these activities. Each student has a free interlibrary loan and printing allowance.

Training in academic skills is embedded into EAC's graduate research culture. EAC's annual autumn Postgraduate Welcome Symposium, initiated in 2017, features presentations by advanced PhD students, with responses from an academic. PGRs also present their work in the weekly EAC Seminar Series (alongside more senior colleagues and in designated PGR sessions). Groups and Centres regularly hire PGRs as Research Assistants, enhancing employability by providing experience in editing, conference organization and data collection.

SALC's PGR Carers' Network supports students with caring responsibilities. Students with long-term illnesses or disabilities are supported by the University's Disability Advisory and Support Service (DASS) and Counselling Services, with its dedicated PGR Coordinator. SALC has a designated lead for wellbeing and runs weekly workshops and activities. The EACW PGR coordinator offers pastoral support to students in the capacity of Academic Advisor.

The quality of support and development that EAC PGRS receive before, during and after their programmes is reflected in their achievements:

- 18 have been hired in academic posts since REF 2014 including Doyle and Smith at Royal Holloway, Imsir at City University, Istanbul, Kilburn at the University of Notre Dame, Kim at Birkbeck, Moore at the University of Amsterdam, Kinnear at Cardiff and Yablokov at Leeds University.
- 11 have secured fellowships including Bhanot (Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, Leicester), Bradbury-Rance (Liberal Arts Early Career Development Fellowship, King's College, London), Bride (British Research Council Fellowship, Library of Congress), Coluzzi (Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Cork; Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, Warwick), Jones (ESRC Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Manchester), Stallard (Jacob M. Price Visiting Research Fellowship, University of Michigan) and West (Leverhulme Early Career

Fellow, Northumbria University).

- At least five have published books: Bradbury-Rance's *Lesbian Cinema After Queer Theory* (2019) and Pountney's *The Literary Afterlife of Raymond Carver* (2020) were published by Edinburgh University Press, O'Brien's *The Working Class and Twenty-First Century British Fiction* (2019) by Routledge, West's *Ebony Magazine, Lerone Bennett Jr., and Popular Black History* (2020) by the University of Illinois Press and Yablokov's *Fortress Russia: Conspiracy Theory in the Post-Soviet World* (2018) by Polity.
- EAC PGRs have published articles in leading journals and won prizes. These include *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (Saeed), *Textual Practice* and *Literature & History* (O'Brien), *Key Words: A Journal of Cultural Materialism* (Rushton, Vardy), *Journal of American Studies* and *The Black Scholar* (West) and *Feminist Media Studies* (Jones). Redfern won the Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature Essay Prize (2018), Hoshino the British Association of Modernist Studies postgraduate essay prize (2018) and Jones the International Network for Social Analysis prize for Best Student Paper (2020).

### Section 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Creating a more outward-facing research environment supported by grant capture has been a core priority for EAC post REF2014. Our progress is reflected in significantly increased research income (more than 40% higher) and a doubling in the value of research awards within the REF period. Colleagues have been more actively matched by EAC's Research Co-ordinator to suitable funding opportunities and given resources to help them prepare applications (seedcorn money, access to the grant-writing support team, research time). The focus on better embedding our research in the region, supported by our new research structures (Research Centres, Research Groups), has underpinned another key shift: before REF2014 the majority of EAC researchers applied for individual fellowship grants, with diminishing returns. Our new strategy encourages researchers to develop projects suited to collaborative and team-based grants, with particular emphasis on partnership with the region's and University's libraries, archives and cultural institutions. The success of these strategies is reflected in the upward trajectory of grant capture, with a 100% increase in income between 2016 and 2017, and sustained increase since then.

#### University Infrastructure

To support grant capture, knowledge transfer and impact work, EAC has made more systematic and strategic use of the University's resources, especially the John Rylands Library, the largest non-legal deposit library in the UK and the only National Research Library in the north of England (Section 4.2 Institutional Statement). Key has been building activities and applications around Special Collections (1.4 million items, 250,000 printed volumes), in particular the Modern Literature Archive Special Collection (MLASC), co-directed by **Schmidt**, with **McAuliffe** as an advisor. MLASC holdings, for instance, were used to structure 'Archival Afterlives: Post-war Poetry in English' (2017) a conference which brought together international poets, critics and publishers including EAC's **Field**, **McAuliffe**, **Groarke** and **Schmidt** into dialogue around the collection's significance.

**McAuliffe** is currently developing an AHRC Research Grant application based on the MLASC Carcanet archive.

MLASC has also formed the basis of EAC research projects run in conjunction with the John Rylands Research Institute (JRRI). **Baker, Caselli, Field, Schurink** and **Rohrbach** have received JRRI seed-corn funding to support outputs, events and grant applications since REF2014. Open to the general public, **Baker's** workshop 'Good Grief: Historical Perspectives on the Regulation of Mourning' (2018), for instance, brought together 30 researchers from five academic disciplines, raising awareness of archive holdings through talks and a display. EAC also collaborated with the JRRI to co-host the interdisciplinary Lives and Afterlives of Letters Network (2017-18), which in turn shaped the new Manchester Centre for Correspondence Studies (MCCS), co-founded and co-directed by **Field**. Another JRRI / MLASC collaboration led by **Field** has extended and raised the profile of MLASC's holdings of avant-garde and counter-cultural archives. **Field** advised on the expansion of the Jeff Nuttall Collection, suggesting key items for purchase and was part of a team that also secured the papers of Nuttall's associate Dave Cunliffe for the MLASC. **Field** subsequently co-curated two exhibitions based on this material including 'Off Beat: Jeff Nuttall and the International Underground' at the John Rylands Library (2017) and created an innovative digital map of Nuttall's networks hosted by the library (120,000 visitors). This JRRI-funded project demonstrates EAC research shaping and developing new archive resources, raising public awareness of collections and promoting the region's cultural resources.

Other researchers in the American Studies Research Group have collaborated with the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Archives and Cultural Engagement Centre (RACE), an open-access resource and community centre managed by the University and accommodated in Manchester Central Library specialising in the study of race, ethnicity and migration and dedicated to encouraging 'confidence and pride in BAME people.' Supported by two SALC Social Responsibility and Engagement awards, **Quinn** partnered with the centre to establish their Hip Hop Collection (2017), a resource for researchers, teachers and the public. American Studies colleagues also collaborated with the centre in planning public events as part of the 2016 Taylor Fellow visit of Black Studies professor and activist, George Lipsitz.

The further development of EAC's work with the city's cultural archive holdings will be the focus of our research away day in Autumn 2021.

### **Research Income**

The more coordinated impact and income-capture strategy which has defined EAC's work post REF2014 has been supported by improved SALC processes. Introduced in 2015, the Personal Research Expectations Plan (PREP) (see Section 2) has improved processes for identifying and supporting new projects likely to attract competitive funding. Projects are now tracked via an Intent to Apply form (introduced 2018) through which researchers are assigned targeted assistance from the SALC research office and grant writing support team. This structured support in grant writing is underpinned with feedback by senior researchers through SALC Peer Review College, a body created in 2015 to improve the quality of grant applications.

We have more systematically targeted internal funds to support key priorities. Since 2014 **Harker, Harte, Knight** and **Quinn** have benefitted from combinations of FoH and SALC seed-corn schemes to support their successful AHRC applications while **Harte, Knight, McAuliffe** and **Stacey** have been awarded funds for ICS development.

We have improved our targeting of Research Council schemes geared around supporting impact, notably the AHRC Leadership Fellowship Scheme initiated in May 2014. Representing the work of three of the five Groups, **de Groot** (£167,556, 2017-2019), **Harker** (£143,026, 2016-17) and **Quinn** (£201,168, 2019-20) made successful applications.

We have also prioritised projects that have captured small or medium sized grants for developing research into more substantial applications, a successful strategy illustrated in the work of three EAC researchers. **Valassopoulos**, the recipient of a British Academy Research Grant in the last REF cycle (2011-2014, £30,000), followed with a British Academy/Leverhulme Senior Fellowship (£46,838, 2017-18) for 'Palestine in the Popular Imagination'. This in turn laid the ground for her collaboration with an international and interdisciplinary consortium as CI on a Global Challenges Research Fund award for Maghreb Action on Displacement and Rights (total £1,872,000). **Harte** secured AHRC Follow on Funding (£79,067, 2014-15) and an AHRC Connected Communities Grant (£4998, 2015) to develop the collaborations described in the impact case study 'Changing Public Perception and Creative Practice Around the Migrant Experience in Britain', followed up with an AHRC Standard Grant (£808,831, 2019-2021), 'Conflict, Memory and Migration: Northern Irish Migrants and the Troubles in Great Britain.' **Knight** was awarded two AHRC grants for his interdisciplinary work on the history of capitalism (£37,298, 2009-2011; £87,248, 2013-14), a project subsequently supported by two further awards, from the Arts Council (£13,500, 2014) and the AHRC (£362,320; Knight Col, £57,000 to UoM, 2016-19). This pattern of cumulative grant capture and international, interdisciplinary research leadership supports not only the impact case study, 'Show Me the Money: Improving Public and Professional Understanding of Economics and Finance', but also **Knight's** €650,000 EU COST Action for the Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories (COMPACT) (2016-20). With its network of 150 researchers from 35 countries, COMPACT organised 12 events between 2016 and 2020, including workshops involving stakeholders from government, NGOs and journalism.

In addition to academic publications (including the *Routledge Handbook of Conspiracy Theories*), new collaborative research projects, grant applications and the mentoring of ECRs (two went on to Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships), COMPACT also produced a podcast series and accompanying articles in collaboration with *The Conversation* (70,000 downloads of the podcast, 1 million readers of the articles). The collaborations created through this network enabled **Knight** to bid through the UKRI Covid-19 Rapid Response scheme, receiving an award (£277,000 total; £128,000 to UoM, 2020), in conjunction with researchers from King's College London and the University of Amsterdam, to analyse and combat the spread of coronavirus conspiracy theories on social media. He will now be extending his collaborative, interdisciplinary research on conspiracy theories as PI on a recently funded AHRC Research Grant project, 'Everything is Connected' (£922,000, 2020).

The success of these development reflects the increased ambition of EAC's collaboration-based, grant-supported impact work since REF2014. Continuing to increase grant capture remains a central objective. Key strategies here include intensified mentoring for ECRs, including Presidential Fellows, to ensure that researchers apply to the most appropriate early career schemes. Building on the 2020 success of **Harker** (£95,426), we will target AHRC Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement Applications to sustain funded projects. Colleagues with experience as Co-Is will be supported to develop new applications as PIs. More use will be made of the AHRC Networking Scheme to germinate collaborative international projects. Large grant applications will be developed by the Research Groups and Research Centres. Senior colleagues with strong records of grant capture will mentor mid-career colleagues, especially those recently successful in the AHRC Leadership Fellow Scheme, to develop larger applications for awards - including AHRC Research Grants, Leverhulme Major Research Fellowships and UKRI cross-council calls with an arts and humanities component.

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

Three mutually reinforcing objectives shaped our collaborative work in the current review period:

- embedding our research in Greater Manchester's infrastructure to support the development of the city and region as a cultural centre;
- raising the distinctiveness and profile of our research through improved, intensified and mutually beneficial engagement with cultural partners including galleries, museums, theatre companies and the media;
- continuing to develop leadership of our disciplines, shaping socially-engaged intellectual agendas and emerging methodologies through learned societies, publishers, journals, associations and conferences.

#### **City and Region**

As **McAuliffe** wrote of the UNESCO City of Literature designation, 'it felt as if the city's fragmented history and current disparate networks of writers, publishers and readers could be seen for the first time' (*Manchester Review*, December 2017). Integral to the University's Creative Manchester project, the application built upon and developed EAC's leading role in the annual Manchester Literature Festival (MLF, founded 2006), which runs over eighty events per year. **De Groot** was MLF Chair of the Board of the Trustees (2008-2019) and **Mitchell** shapes the programme as CNW co-director. Reflecting these roles, **de Groot** was lead and chair, and **McAuliffe** and **Mitchell** members of the UNESCO bid steering group, assisted by University resources including £7,500 from the Investing in Success scheme. The three-year core UNESCO funding, secured in partnership with Manchester City Council and Manchester Metropolitan University, supports three project managers across the city to promote the City of Literature. Key schemes include the 'Other Place' publishing hub, which works to consolidate Manchester as a publishing centre; with additional funding from Arts Council England (£10,000k) and Penguin Random House (£10,000k), the project supports the MLF and independent publishers in the city (Comma Press, Carcanet). 'Read Manchester', run in

partnership with Manchester City Council, confronts illiteracy, supporting local communities to make reading a priority in everyday lives. EAC's ongoing work with local archives and libraries, meanwhile, is reflected in two UNESCO-supported cultural festivals, the Manchester Libraries Festival and the International Mother Language Day. The latter celebrates language diversity and is run with SALC's Multilingual Manchester initiative (led by Modern Languages), and cultural partners including the Manchester Deaf Centre and the city's public libraries.

Intensified work with Manchester museums and galleries has further enriched EAC research and embedded it within the region's culture. **Knight's** AHRC-funded research on capitalism and the need for higher levels of economic literacy shaped 'Show Me the Money', a major exhibition which toured five venues in the UK including Manchester's People's History Museum, attracting a combined audience of 55,000. **Harker's** AHRC-funded project 'Wars of Position: Communism and Civil Society' created and funded a new archivist post at the same venue, shaped a four-month long pop-up exhibition (10,000 visitors) in 2017 and resourced and managed the redesign of sections of the museum's permanent display (80,000 visitors per year). **Stacey's** research on the queerness of the genetic imaginary in cinema informed the installation of 'The Agent Ruby Files' as part of *The Imitation Game* exhibition at the Manchester Art Gallery in 2016 (178,000 visitors). **Zacek's** research enabled the Portico Library's 'Bittersweet: Legacies of Slavery and Abolition in Manchester' (2017), an exhibition committed to educating the public about Abolitionism, and featuring the work of Turner Prize winning artist Lubaina Himid.

### Performance and Media

EAC researchers shape programmes at many venues across the city, notably Manchester's HOME. **Pearl's** research formed the basis of a collaboration to bring Avram Finkelstein of New York ACT UP to the UK to launch at HOME, *After Silence: A History of Aids Through Its Images* (2018); **Sanders** co-curated a season of films about women and trade unionism (2020); **Valassopoulos** co-curated the Middle Eastern sequence of the Celebrating Women in Global Cinema season (2019-20).

EAC is increasingly bringing its research and creativity to new audiences through theatre and performance. **Harte's** research on Irish identity was dramatized in Martin Lynch's play *My English Tongue, My Irish Heart*, seen by 2073 people across 16 venues in the UK and Ireland in 2015. **Stacey's** research informed the productions of lesbian theatre company Split Britches between 2014 and 2019 and **Sanders'** the work of Townsend Theatre Productions, notably *On the Road to Freedom* (2015). **Harker's** research fed into the same company's *Daredevil Rides to Jarama* (2016) and will form the basis of the company's next play, which deals with the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' 1971-72 work-in, and will tour the UK in 2021-22. **Booth** collaborated with Opera North, giving a public lecture in the series of events around their production of Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd* and wrote an essay for the programme (2016).

Film, television and radio have also been increasingly important for communicating our research since REF2014. **McGuire's** multiple prize-winning novel *The North Water* is being adapted as a mini-series for BBC television (2021). **Winterson** wrote and presented the BBC Radio Four series, *Manchester: Alchemical City* (2014). Her BBC Richard Dimbleby Lecture was broadcast twice on BBC One and once on BBC



Two, and she appeared on BBC Radio 4's flagship *Today* programme to discuss its arguments (2018). **Shamsie** guest-edited *Today* (2018), interviewing then Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP. **Scott** wrote, edited and featured in *Projections of America* (2015) which was screened at eighteen US film festivals and was the *Guardian* critic's choice on its UK television transmission. He was subsequently hired as consultant for the ten-part Radio 4 documentary, 'The Californian Century' (2020). **Clare** works extensively on BBC radio, recently writing and presenting three documentaries for Radio 3 and five for Radio 4. **Leviston** wrote and presented the Radio 3 Essay, 'An Ode to John Keats: To Autumn' (2019) and collaborated with composer Martin Suckling for 'Memento' / 'Emily Electrical Absence' also transmitted on Radio 3 (2017).

**EAC** researchers have also shaped programmes through prominent consultancy roles. **Field** was a consultant on Raoul Peck's Oscar-nominated and BAFTA-award winning documentary *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016). **David Brown** and **Booth** have been consultants and interviewees for BBC Radio 4's *In Our Time*: **Booth** on Rudyard Kipling (2014), **Brown** on the Lancashire Cotton Famine (2015). **Brown** and **Field** have been advisors and discussants on BBC Radio 4's *Great Lives* for the episodes on George Washington Williams (2015) and James Baldwin (2015) respectively. **Brown** was also an historical advisor for the BBC Two Documentary, *Black and British: A Forgotten History* (2016). **Harker** was a consultant and interviewee for 'The Real MacColl' (Radio 4, 2015, repeated on Radio 2; *Radio Times* pick of the week) and 'Soul Music: The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face' (BBC Radio 4, 2016; *Radio Times* pick of the day). **Zacek** was a consultant and interviewee for BBC Four's *Lost Masterpieces* (2018), and an interviewee for Turkey's TRT World news channel (25/6/20) and Cornelia Street Productions' series *Enslaved* (Epix, CBC and BBC Two). **Schurink** gave a pre-concert talk with the Director of the BBC Philharmonic at the Bridgewater Hall (2019).

### Research Base

Committed to shaping debates about our disciplines' futures, EAC researchers have been appointed to leading international committees and funding bodies. Colleagues serve on the AHRC Peer Review college: **Field** (2016-), **Caselli** (2009-18), **Doan** (2012-15), **Harte** (2016-), **Matthews** (2017-), **Valassopoulos** (2019-) and **Zacek** (2019-). **McAuliffe** was appointed to the Irish Arts Council in 2013, where he co-wrote the Council's ten-year strategy. EAC researchers peer review for international funding bodies, including **Doan** (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, 2018), **Coghlan** (US-UK Fulbright Commission Grant Assessor 2014-18), **Caselli** (Research Foundation, Flanders, 2016; Academy of Finland, 2018) and **Mitchell** (Research Foundation, Flanders, 2015). **Groarke** was on the judging panels of the International Dublin Literary Award (2018) and the Montreal International Poetry Prize (2017), and a selector for the Poetry Book Society (2015-17).

EAC researchers shape critical agendas by leading a range of learned societies. **Caselli** is President of the International Beckett Society, overseeing its international events, conferences, media work and publications. **Harker** is the Chair of the Raymond Williams Society, an organisation committed to advancing adult education, and **Alderson** an Executive Committee member. **Rawes** is an Executive

Committee member of the London Byron Society and Joint President of the International Association of Byron Societies. **Sanders** is on the Executive Committees of the Society for the Study of Labour History and the European Labour History Network. **Taylor** is on the Executive Committee of the British Association for Victorian Studies and **Quinn** on the Executive Committee of the British Association for American Studies, with an environment and sustainability remit. **Pearl** is on the Advisory Board of the Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick Foundation and on the Advisory Board for the Cultural Legacy of AIDS in Denmark research project. **Coghlan** served as an elected member of the steering committee of the British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (2014-17).

The international profiles of EAC researchers have been reflected in fellowships and visiting lectureships in many countries. Visiting chairs include **Alderson** (Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 2014-15), **Caselli** (Universities of Tokyo 2017, Rome 2018), **Field** (Minsk Linguistic University, Belarus 2018), **Scott** (Central Washington University, 2016-17), **Stacey** (Gothenburg University, 2014) and **Zacek** (Minsk Linguistic University, Belarus 2019). **Baker** was Visiting Academic at the University of Queensland (2019), **Mitchell** was awarded an Experienced Researcher Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2014-15), **Dawson** was an Affiliated Fellow at the Central European University, Budapest (2017), **Geidel** secured a Research Award at the Rockefeller Archive Centre in 2017, and **Groarke** was Cullman Fellow at New York Public Library (2018-19) and Visiting Fellow of the Bogliasco Foundation, Italy (2019).

Colleagues at all levels have delivered keynote addresses in many countries. Professorial keynotes include **Caselli** at the ICA (2018), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2017) and the University of Leuven (2016); **Doan** at the British Academy (2014) and Wellcome Trust (2014); **Gladfelder** at the University of Toronto (2016); and **Schmidt** at the Robert Graves Conference, Majorca (2018). **Stacey** gave the Film Studies Lecture at Cambridge (2017) and the keynote at 'The Cultural Politics of DNA' conference, University of Calgary (2019). Senior Lecturer keynotes include **Alderson** (Chuo University, Tokyo, 2015), **Booth** (D.H. Lawrence Society Birthday Lecture, 2015; 'Kipling and Europe', Bologna, 2016), **Gallagher** (Edinburgh's Royal College of Physicians, 2019), **Rawes** ('Between Worlds, Between Works: Byron in 1817', 2017) and **Zacek** ('Ireland, the British Empire, and the Caribbean' conference at University College, Dublin, 2017). **Groarke** gave a reading at the Irish Embassy, Tanzania (2016) and at Columbia University (2019), the latter introduced by the Irish Ambassador to the US. Lecturer keynotes include **Clare** (British Council Nature Writing Conference, Munich 2018), **Pearl** (ACT UP 30th anniversary conference, 2017), **Rohrbach** (Keats Foundation conference, 2019) and Presidential Fellow **Taylor** gave the keynote at the HistFest Postgraduate Conference, Lancaster (2019).

EAC researchers shape their fields through work for major journals. This includes founding important publications: **Schmidt** founded and edits *PN Review*. **Field**, who has published over 25 reviews and articles in the *TLS* since REF2014, co-founded and edits the *James Baldwin Review*. **McAuliffe** founded and edits *Manchester Review*.

Colleagues edit leading publications. **Groarke** was editor of *Poetry Ireland Review* (2014-17), **Bernau** is editor of *Exemplaria: Medieval / Early Modern / Theory*, **Mitchell** is UK editor of *Contemporary Women's Writing* and **Zacek** editor-in-chief

of *American Nineteenth Century History*. **Alderson** is an editor of *Key Words: A Journal of Cultural Materialism* and **Baker** of *Literature and Theology*, **Caselli** an editor of the *Journal of Beckett Studies*, **Knight** of *Finance & Society*, **Harker** of *Twentieth Century Communism*, and **Harte** of *Irish Studies Review*. **Mitchell** is an editorial board member of *Open Gender* and *C21*, **Rawes** of *The Byron Journal*, **Rohrbach** of the *Keats-Shelley* review, **Schurink** of *Renaissance Studies* and **Spencer** of the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* and the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*. **Stacey** is a co-editor of *Screen* and on the editorial boards of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* and *Feminist Media Studies*. **Taylor** co-edits the *Journal of Victorian Culture*'s digital forum. **David Brown** was reviews editor for *American Nineteenth Century History* (2005-16), and **Valassopoulos** is an editor of the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* and an associate editor of *The Contemporary Levant*.

Colleagues peer-review submissions for international journals and academic publishers and edit book series. **Bernau, Paz** and **Matthews** edit the Manchester Medieval Literature and Culture series for MUP; **Bernau, de Groot** and **Field** are on the MUP editorial committee, as was **Caselli** (2009-18). **Knight** is co-editor of the Literature, Culture, Economics book series at Palgrave and the Conspiracy Theories series at Routledge. **McAuliffe** is a board member at Carcanet and was appointed as Associate Publisher in July 2020. **Rawes** is a series editor for Liverpool University Press's Romanticism: English Texts and Studies series and an advisory board member for OUP's *Complete Works of Robert Burns*. **Spencer** is a series editor for Palgrave's New Comparisons in World Literature book series, and **Mitchell** for Bloomsbury's Contemporary Critical Perspectives. **Scott** is on the editorial board of Bloomsbury's War, Culture and Society series, **Schurink** is an editor of the MHRA Tudor & Stuart Translations, and **Zacek** is a series editor for a monograph series run by the Royal Historical Society (New Historical Perspectives) and the European Association for American Studies.

EAC writers and researchers have won seventeen international prizes between them during this REF period. **Clare** won the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year Prize (2015) and the Branford Boase Best Debut Children's Book (2016), **Coghlan** the Arthur Miller Institute First Book Prize (2017), **Knight** and **Quinn** the British Association of American Studies Book Prize (2017, 2020). **Fraser** won the William Riley Parker Prize (2015) and the 1921 Prize in American Literature (2019). **Leviston** won the Andrew J. Kappel Prize (2015). **Groarke** won the Pigott Prize (2017) and was the 2017 inductee into the Irish Literary Hall of Fame. **McAuliffe** won the Michael Hartnett Award for the best poetry collection (2016), **McGuire** won the RSL Encore Award (2016), the HWA Golden Crown Award (2016), the Prix des gens de Mer-Etonnants Voyageurs (2017) and the Costa Smeralda Prize (2019). **Underdown** won the Historical Writers' Association Debut Crown (2017) and **Shamsie** the 2018 Women's Prize for Fiction. **Scott** won the Dallas VideoFest's award for Best Documentary.

EAC researchers have led the organization of over a dozen major international conferences since REF 2014. **Alderson** organised the first annual Raymond Williams Society Conference (2019), **Coghlan** was on the organizing committee of the second and third biennial symposia of the British Association of Nineteenth-century Americanists (2015,2017), **Fearnley** co-organized 'Race Capital?: Harlem

as a Place and Symbol Since 1900' (2015). **Mitchell** co-organised 'Writing Affect' at the Humboldt University, Berlin (2015), **Paz** brought to Manchester the Teachers of Old English in Britain and Ireland conference (2019), **Rawes** has co-organised international conferences on Byron in Manchester (2014), Bath (2015) and Genova (2017). **Schurink** co-organised the conference 'Sir John Cheke and the Cambridge Connection in Tudor England' (2014) and 'Editing Tudor Literature' (2014). **De Groot** is the University lead for the 'English: Shared Futures 2020' conference, co-organised with Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Salford. Postponed until 2021, this event will bring 750+ delegates to the city. Its concerns with defining the discipline, interdisciplinarity, collegiality, period coverage, knowledge transfer, social benefit and securing the vitality and sustainability of English studies reflect the core concerns of EAC's research culture since REF2014.

In sum, EAC is an intellectually vibrant unit, which makes significant and often internationally leading contributions across its three disciplines. Through collaborations with its regional, national and international cultural partners and networks its research confronts inequality, promotes social justice and engages diverse communities.