

<b>Institution:</b> University of Northampton
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> English Language and Literature (UoA27)
<p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><b>1.1: Unit context and structure</b></p> <p>English Language and Literature represents one of the more mature research disciplines at the University of Northampton (UoN) and since REF2014 has built on its research strengths. This maturity is reflected in the Unit having a number of senior researchers including two Professors and three readers over the REF period. Since REF2014 declining undergraduate student numbers and a University restructure has led to a reduction in staff FTE from 12 in REF2014 to 8.7 for REF2021. Despite this, the UoA has remained stable in that the majority of those submitted in REF2014 will be submitted in REF2021. In 2019 as part of the restructure, a wider Humanities group within the Faculty of Arts, Science and Technology was created which placed English and Creative Writing alongside History, Media, Performance and Journalism. With the decline in student numbers, the aim of these changes is to build sustainability in key research disciplines and to encourage greater collaboration and interdisciplinarity in research in-line with the University Research Plan 2020-2025.</p> <p>Key to this UoA is the Centre for Critical and Creative Writing (CCCW). CCCW was developed in 2016 to consolidate two earlier research centres – the Centre for Fiction and Narrative (CCFN) and the Centre for Contemporary Narrative and Cultural Theory (CCN&amp;T). CCCW brings together the research of scholars working in the areas of postcolonial literature, trauma studies and popular culture. Alongside these well-established research specialisms, CCCW is cultivating strengths in life writing, childhood and adolescent studies, and fantasy and wonder. CCCW brings together staff, postgraduates and visiting scholars to build on its interdisciplinary research base and to support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. High-impact scholarly research from inception to publication in journals and monographs.</b> There has been a strong focus via the Academic Interactions Map (AIM) process (Section 2.1) to support authored monographs (<b>Allen, Jowett, Mackley, Reese, Rosenquist, Simmons, Starr, Wilson</b>) alongside chapters, journal articles and compositions. We have supported longer-term, more in-depth research that makes a significant contribution to knowledge and thereby extends the reach and significance of the research.</li> <li><b>2. A thriving postgraduate research community.</b> The growth in postgraduate research (PGR) students (home and international) has been a key success for this UoA. Substantial time and resource have been put into fostering a research environment that promotes diversity, gives a range of opportunities (presenting, teaching, conference organising, research assistant roles) to the PGR community. Since REF2014 21 students have completed their PhDs and a further 13 are in progress. (Section 2.2).</li> <li><b>3. UoN's social impact agenda by focusing on contemporary social issues and cultural heritage through literature and performance.</b> Projects aimed at engaging and impacting on audiences beyond academia and using literary scholarship, composition and film to broach wider issues of loneliness, aging, equality and inclusivity, and cultural heritage have been supported in this UoA. (Section 4.2)</li> <li><b>4. Sustainable research networks locally and globally.</b> Members of CCCW are well networked and have actively worked to develop sustainable networks. First, by research activity that has involved leading on and contributing to scholarly societies (<b>Jowett, Starr, Wilson</b>), committee membership (<b>Jowett, Starr, Rosenquist, Wilson</b>), journal editorial boards (<b>Jowett, Starr, Wilson</b>) and regular conference</li> </ol>

attendance and presenting keynote lectures. Second, by working more closely with local and international public sector institutions to support wider engagement initiatives (**Jowett, Starr, Wilson**). Third, by hosting visiting researchers and appointing visiting professors and fellows within CCCW and fourth by developing networks such as the AHRC-funded Diaspora Screen Media Network (DSMN), and providing an institutional base for academic journals and societies such as the Journal of Postcolonial Writing, *Ibidem*'s book series 'Studies in World Literature' and the Katherine Mansfield Society.

5. **Regular seminar, conference and public engagement activity.** Since 2014 CCCW members have organised or co-organised a total of 25 academic conferences or symposia, many at the University of Northampton alongside large scale international conferences (**Andermahr**, 'Decolonizing Trauma Studies' 2015; Black British and British Asian screen media symposium 2019; **Wilson** and **Simmons** 'Diaspora Screen Media Symposium' 2020). (Section 4.3)

## 1.2: Research and impact strategy

There is considerable evidence of positive step changes in the research culture, strategy, and impact within this UoA. In REF2014 there were five ambitions for CCCW:

1. **Consolidate research groups and grow international reputation.** The formation of CCCW in 2016 (section 1.1) consolidated research activity across the disciplines of English literature, creative writing, film and media studies fostering a more inclusive and interdisciplinary research group. External Visiting Professors and Fellows were also appointed to support the research environment of the group and to build its international reputation. Appointments were made in the areas of African, Black British and Diaspora theatres (**Ukaegbu**), postcolonial literature (**Kimber**), gay literature (**Parker**) and 19<sup>th</sup> century print culture (**Drew**). The Centre also provided a stronger hub for postgraduate students and visiting doctoral students. The consolidation and reorientation of the research group was key to the following four objectives.
2. **Expand collaborative and interdisciplinary research within and beyond the Department.** Internal and interdisciplinary collaborative work has developed with, for example, the Institute of Health and Wellbeing (project on the social impact of placemaking, titled 'Wellbeing through Heritage, Arts and Technology' (co-investigators **Wilson, Mackley** and **Rosenquist**)) and external networks like the Diaspora Screen Media Network in partnership with Birmingham City University (principal-investigator **Wilson**, co-investigator **Simmons**). Researchers have continued to pursue interdisciplinary and broad-reaching projects beyond individual outputs or publications. These projects and collaborations have led to many of the more public-facing activities within the unit, and thus helped to provide pathways for impact.
3. **Increase the level of research income.** In an increasingly competitive funding landscape, there has been some modest successes in terms of funding awards, and postgraduate student income has increased since REF2014. GBP142,656 of external funding has been won alongside GBP40,704 of internal funding. This comprises of funding that crossed over from the last REF cycle and came from the EU Marie Curie Initial Training Network, entitled 'Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging' (CoHaB), led by Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Muenster (GBP88,000). Further success came from the AHRC-funded Cult TV: TV Cultures Network (2015) of GBP22,590 (**Jowett**), UoN's share of the DSMN (**Wilson** as Principal Investigator). Smaller awards include an Arts Council 'Grants for the Arts' award of GBP6,150, won by **C. Bennett** to serve as poet in residence for Wicken Fen, and two Santander travel grants (GBP1,000 each for **Andermahr** 2014 and **Wilson** 2018) to attend international research events. Internal seed funding has been won, including pedagogic Innovation bids (**Andermahr** and **Simmons** 2015, GBP6,000; **Burnapp** and **Reese** 2017, GBP6,000); travel to research archives (**Rosenquist** GBP1,910 (2017) and GBP942 (2018)); and a collaborative internally-funded Changemaker Challenge Fund bid,

with the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, on the subject of 'Wellbeing through Heritage, Arts and Technology (**Wilson** as co-investigator, multiple partners, including **Mackley** and **Rosenquist**, GBP11,000).

4. ***Sustain external networks and international research collaborations.*** International networks in trauma studies and postcolonial literatures have expanded. This has been facilitated by the DSNM which combines strengths in both diaspora studies texts and cult screen studies. Similarly, the Katherine Mansfield Society has expanded its reach and significance illustrated by annual international conferences, regular publications and increased impact through heritage initiatives across Europe and New Zealand. Members of CCCW sit on editorial boards for journals and play key roles in scholarly societies alongside academic bodies such as the National Council of Professors (**Wilson**, Vice-President). (Section 4.1)
5. ***Enhance public engagement and increase partners and beneficiaries of research.*** The dissemination and reach of the research of CCCW has developed since REF2014. This is demonstrated by collaborative projects internal to the University but also those involving new external partners. Examples include **C. Bennett's** collaboration with Age Concern with the publication and performance of 'The Voyage', as part of a campaign to end loneliness and also 'Wenceslas' which was supported by John Lewis in recognition of 150 years of the partnership. CCCW members have been active in organising events, giving public-facing interviews and talks. In literary studies, engagement with local radio book clubs, regular blogging and podcasting, school visits and public lectures (including the annual John Clare Memorial Lecture, in honour of local writer Clare) has led to a wider dissemination of research ideas. Media and film studies initiated the monthly Cult Film Club at the Errol Filmhouse.

Building on the developments outlined above the following objectives have been identified moving forward. These are linked to the wider University and Faculty research plans and focus on:

1. ***Sustaining the research quality and strengthening the resource base via strategic collaborations within and beyond the University.*** CCCW will look to continue to produce quality research outputs, with the focus on collaborations and interdisciplinary work to be strengthened. The recent restructure which places CCCW in the subject area of Culture alongside cognate disciplines such as History, Media and Performance facilitates the opportunity to develop collaborative projects. It will also be important to build on regional and international networks to further establish and build on key research strengths to sustain the research environment for staff and PGRs. Recent success with a small Association of Commonwealth Universities Gender Grant (**P. Bennett** and **Andermahr**) with a colleague in History (GBP1,000) is evidence of the interdisciplinary synergies that exist. Building on an already strong record of interdisciplinarity and collaborative research within and beyond UoN will become a key priority.
2. ***Building pathways for impact and developing the reach and significance of research projects.*** CCCW will use UoN's researcher development training and work more closely with the Research and Innovation Funding Support Team (RIFS) to develop project proposals that have clear pathways to impact and the evidence to support impact. This fits closely with the UoN's commitment in the Research Plan 2020-25 to produce purposeful research that has social value and to align research to the United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goals 2030. There are clear opportunities in terms of the research specialisms in trauma studies, life stories, postcolonialism, identity and in building on existing work around equality and inclusion (**Andermahr**, Decolonising Trauma Studies Symposium 15/5/2015 and Investigating Identities in Young Adult YA Narratives 2017)). CCCW has on-going work that focuses on reducing inequalities (UN Goals 5 and 10) and fostering strong and just institutions for sustainable communities (UN Goal 16).

3. **Provide supportive and inclusive postgraduate research provision and staff development opportunities for all types of researcher.** As a research centre, CCCW will continue to act as a hub for researchers at all stages of their career. It will disseminate and consult with colleagues in relation to research updates, opportunities and events, be a focal point for research development opportunities and maintain and extend regional, national and international networks. The Centre will provide a collective identity and be a locus for discipline-based training. Mentoring and peer review opportunities will also form part of CCCW's remit. CCCW will look to build on its network of visiting academics in support of the ambitions outlined above.
4. **Enhancing Bidding Activity.** CCCW remains committed to building its research income and, as noted above, will support interdisciplinary and collaborative projects to submit competitive bids that align with ambitions of its members and those of the Faculty and University. Staff will be supported to undertake development opportunities to enhance bidding activity, to network and to development funding proposals. Colleagues will be encouraged to form part of wider bid teams in other disciplines, such as History and Education, across the University as part of our drive to increase the amount of interdisciplinary research undertaken.

### 1.3 Open access

English staff at the University of Northampton are encouraged to publish in the most appropriate venue for their publications, giving due consideration to copyright restrictions and opportunities for open access, making use of creative common licences where appropriate. The university has provided central funding and administrative support to assist researchers to make articles, book chapters and monographs open access where possible.

### 1.4 Research integrity

English staff support a culture of research integrity. It works within the UoN's Research Integrity Policy, which seeks to: maintain the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research; ensure that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards; support a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers; use transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise; and work together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.

## 2. People

### 2.1: Staffing strategy and staff development

Since REF2014 declining undergraduate student numbers and UoN restructure has led to a reduction in staff FTE from 12 in REF2014 to 8.7 for REF2021. This reduction has been mitigated by a strategy to consolidate fractional posts. Two members of the team (**Allen** and **Rosenquist**) were moved from fractional to full-time positions in 2017, with four out of five fractional contracts since then being voluntary. There has also been career progression with one colleague (**Allen**) submitted to REF2014 as an Early Career Researcher (ECR) who is now a senior lecturer. Since REF2014 a further three members of the unit also moved from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer during the period under review (**Allen** and **Rosenquist** in 2016; **Reese** in 2019). All colleagues are on permanent Teaching and Research contracts which means they have dedicated workload allocation hours for research activity and scholarly activity.

The long-standing staffing strategy for this UoA has been to recruit staff with demonstrable research experience at a level commensurate with their career standing. As all current CCCW staff are research active and have PhDs, recruitment of new staff requires a demonstrable record of research outputs and achievement. During shortlisting and at interview, candidates are

expected to address their capabilities for high-quality research outputs, research impact, postgraduate research supervision and contribution to the research culture of the University and the sustenance of the discipline externally. It is equally important that all new staff can contribute to the teaching portfolio and so experience of teaching and wider administrative responsibilities forms part of the recruitment strategy. All new members of staff are welcomed into the CCCW and offered a mentor. They are signposted to research events and opportunities alongside an early evaluation of any research support they may need.

Research activity and ambitions are primarily managed and audited through the University's Performance Development Review (PDR) process. Individual objectives and key performance indicators are agreed annually with line managers and appraised and reviewed after six and twelve months. At least one objective for all CCCW staff relates to research development and progress, and identifies any underlying support needed. In CCCW the formal PDR process is supplemented by a further meeting with the centre's director (**Wilson**) where an Academic Interactions Map (AIM) is completed with a specific focus on research and enterprise. These meetings allow individual researchers to identify and target specific projects or outputs; they seek to ensure that any required training or funding is identified, that research bids are prepared in connection with peer review and that University support systems, and individual aims and accomplishments, are integrated into the strategic aims of the Centre, Faculty and University. The AIM process is normally completed just prior to the start of a new annual PDR and feeds into more holistic professional development for each researcher, offering strategic support while the PDR is a more formal appraisal.

In addition to line managerial and CCCW director support, the Faculty has a research leader who has oversight of all research active areas and oversees researcher development opportunities within the Faculty. Colleagues have access to an extensive range of researcher development training aimed at all research career stages from ECRs, to mid-career, to Professors. Institutional support is provided by RIFS in conjunction with the Human Resources Staff Development Unit, the Graduate School and the Library and Learning Services. Annual programmes for Researcher Development also include workshops delivered by external experts related to the University's priorities (e.g. sustainable leadership in research, equality and inclusion in research, aligning research to UN Sustainable Development Goals) and those identified by research leaders. There is also tailored mentoring for ECRs, Associate Professors and Professors. Individual support for funding applications, research events, networking and conference attendance is provided. CCCW plays a key role in discipline-focused staff development in line with the AIM process outlined above. The Graduate School offers an in-house PGCert in Postgraduate Research Supervision, with two members of the team (**Allen** and **Rosenquist**) having secured the qualification within the period under review and two ECR contract staff members (**Reese** and **Bever-Donker**) having completed the first module of the programme. The Graduate School also provides regular training events to support supervisors and examiners of research degree students to ensure high quality provision and best practice.

Career progression for researchers can come more formally through awarding the title of Associate Professor (AP) and in Professorships. Associate Professors are supported by an institutional development programme and have fast-tracked opportunities to participate in Faculty and Institutional committees relating to research governance, strategy, ethics, and excellence. Members of CCCW sit on the Faculty Research and Enterprise Committee, the University Research and Enterprise Committee, and they are also members of the Readers, Associate Professors and Professors Group thereby ensuring research priorities and development needs can be fed into Faculty and University planning. As a further investment in the development of research leaders, Associate Professors are allocated additional hours for research leadership and dedicated support and allocated time in developing and evidencing research impacts and other REF activities.

## 2.2: Postgraduate research students

English has an excellent record of recruitment and progression of PGR students with 13 PhD students currently in progress and another 21 having completed their studies during the REF

period. This small unit is responsible for a proportionally large postgraduate research community. PGR numbers reflect a steady growth and at the census date another eight students have been recruited for the next academic year. 11 of our PGRs are full time overseas students with government funding and 14 are home students who are largely part-time and self-funding. Particularly strong recruitment during the REF period arises from networks in Algeria (**Burnapp**) and Saudi Arabia (**Wilson** and **Andermahr**), from which we have enrolled approximately 20 PGRs, all of whom are fully funded by their governments or education ministries. CCCW is active in supporting these students in acclimating to British research culture with induction sessions and dedicated workshops. Our home students, most of whom follow a part time route, tend not to hold major studentships reflecting the attractiveness of the University of Northampton's postgraduate offer to part-time students. Additional support is offered to these students with a number having successfully applied for small local grants. We have a strong record of recruiting students from non-traditional backgrounds including mature students and BAME students. Over half of our PGR students are women. Our research strengths in issues of equality, diversity, gender and sexuality often attract PGR students with protected characteristics.

At UoN all PGRs are supervised by a team of two to three subject specialists. As the Humanities subject area consists entirely of active researchers, we can provide balanced supervisory teams with both the appropriate subject expertise and experience of process for our students. Supervisory teams are allocated at the initial application stage and are designed to offer a balance of subject expertise, methodological background, and supervisory experience. The University's regulations require that supervisory teams include at least one colleague with PhD completions, and an experienced Director of Studies. Colleagues who are new to supervision are required to complete the Graduate School's training in research degree supervision. New supervisors are given experience as second supervisors in the first instance to ensure they are mentored by experienced colleagues. Supervisory teams meet regularly with their PGR students (typically monthly for full-time and 6-weekly for part-time students) and work closely with them to support and monitor the progress of their project, research skills and professional-academic development. Supervisors receive ongoing training from the University's Graduate School.

All PGR students receive a comprehensive package of induction and generic researcher development training from the Graduate School. This is complemented by discipline-based induction and training delivered by CCCW. Support is also available from the University's Assist, Learning Development and Educational Linguistics teams. Students initially enrol as Advanced Postgraduates in their probationary period, progressing through interim steps of initial project approval, development needs analysis, survey of resources, ethical approval and subject-specific development training. This leads to a transfer point to full PhD status at approximately 1 year for FT and 18 months for PT students, evaluated through submission of writing, transfer viva and seminar presentation to the research community. This rigorous system of support and preparation ensures the PGR students receive generic and tailored support according to individual needs. An annual progress review provides an auditable quality check of both the researcher's work and the supervisory team's work in support of the researcher's personal and professional development. This includes discussion and planning of the student's wider career aims and ambitions. UoN commits to all PGR students having the opportunity to teach if they wish to and its C@N-DO course is an accredited route to Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. Our PGR students have taught on BA modules in English and Media Studies. PGRs also receive an annual development fund (currently GBP500 for full time and GBP300 for part time PGRs) which can be used for anything related to their studies, such as equipment or conference attendance, and opportunities exist for PGRs to apply for additional internal competitive bursaries and scholarships such as the postgraduate Research Environment Enhancement Fund (REEF), the Chancellors fund, Dr Mike Daniel Research Degree Scholarship, Sir John Lowther Scholarship for Arts students, T D Lewis Scholarship and the Santander Travel fund. CCCW students have successfully applied for such funding such as Jamie Callison receiving Chancellors funding.

PGR students have dedicated space at the University of Northampton which is equipped with state-of-the-art workspaces, social areas and meeting spaces. The Graduate School and the Faculty have undertaken significant work in the current REF period to develop PGR representation

and engagement through a number of development activities including student-led peer support, digital inclusion, new PGR representative roles and forums alongside representation at key Faculty and University Research Committees. CCCW PGRs have served as representatives and had membership on every committee concerned with Level 8 provision.

UoN as a whole performs exceptionally well in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey, coming first nationally for overall satisfaction in 2020, and regularly featuring in the top ten across all categories. Breaking this down into subject areas PGRs within CCCW rank well above the national average in all categories: Supervision (97%), Resources (100%), Research Culture (77%), Progression (97%), Responsibilities (100%), Research Skills (100%), Professional Development (93%) and Overall (100%). This showcases our thriving research culture within our PGR community.

Central support is supplemented by discipline and subject-specific skills enhancement delivered in level 7 modules which focus on Critical Theory, Trauma Fiction, Literary Transmediations, and Twenty-First Century Storytelling. Where possible we provide PGR students with the opportunity to co-deliver on wider research projects. Examples include SuCCEED @8 (2017-2018) a project that explored supporting the PGR community to collaborate and emotionally engage in digital shifts, Exploring the use of Socratic Dialogue in Teaching and Learning (2017), Exploring the Ethical Implications of Staff-Student Research Partnerships (2018) and TECH4ALL Enhancing Digital Literacy in HE (2019). Over the last REF period, our students have been involved as attendees, organisers, chairs and/or presenters in conferences and symposia. Wider opportunities for our PGRs to share their work and develop key transferable skills are offered via University-wide PGR competitions, an annual PGR conference, the East Midlands Doctoral Network Conference and a number of discipline-based symposia linked to CCCW themes such as the Decolonising Trauma Studies Symposium (2015), The Dark Fantasy Symposium (2016), and Investigating Identities in Young Adult Narratives (2018). PGRs are actively involved in the organisation of these events. Monthly research seminars offer further opportunities for PGRs to present and share their research. A Chancellor-funded video series drawing awareness to PGR opportunities at UoN has been organised by a PGR from English with active support and involvement by senior researchers in the team, including a member of staff (**Jowett**) speaking in depth about diversity and inclusivity in research.

### 2.3 Equality and diversity

There is a strong tradition of inclusive practice within this department having a keen focus on equality and inclusion in research. Equal opportunities for all researchers is a central principle for all work of the CCCW, from staff recruitment, to training, development, progression and assessment. The research centre, through the AIM and PDR processes seeks to support researchers from all protected characteristics and pay special attention to individual needs. While staff remain underrepresented in certain areas – notably lacking in racial diversity, at present – there is evidence of diversity across other categories, including age, sex and sexual orientation, religious belief, and family status. The research activity of all staff members is supported regardless of these characteristics and special measures are put in place to foster good working environments: for example, cover and allowances are made for parental leave, adoption leave, flexible and remote working arrangements and flexible timetabling of research events to work around non-work-related demands placed on individual researchers. Individual and bespoke needs are supported through the PDR process.

All Institutional and Faculty Research Committees must have fully representative membership. All Institutional and Faculty research policies and strategic plans are required to undergo a formal Equality Impact Assessment. All English Language and Literature colleagues must participate in mandatory, regularly refreshed institutional training on equality and diversity in the workplace. Attention to equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion has also informed the REF selection process for this unit, following the University's code of practice. All REF leaders and coordinators have undertaken equality and diversity and unconscious bias training in preparation for the REF selection processes to ensure all decisions are made in a transparent and fair way.

Colleagues from English participate in a number of staff-led institutional advocacy groups such as the Global Ethnic Majority network, the LGBTQ+ group and the Equality and Inclusion staff forum (**Andermahr**, and **P. Bennett**) which monitors progress against the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2020-2025. **Andermahr** is Equalities Representative and **P. Bennett** is the Women's Officer for the University College Union at UoN and both work actively to support and advance equality and inclusion issues across the University. Colleagues have also benefited from the University's Navigator (men and transmasculine) and Springboard+ (women, trans and non-binary) staff development programme for colleagues in academic or professional services roles which provides an opportunity for staff to undertake personal and professional development and support for leadership, goal-setting and strategic visioning skills.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

#### 3.1: Research funding and strategies for income generation

Despite a competitive external funding environment, UoA colleagues have been awarded a total of GBP142,656 of external funding. The largest sum GBP88,000 came from the EU Marie Curie Initial Training Network, entitled 'Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging' (CoHaB), led by Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster. Further success came from the Cult TV: TV Cultures Network (2015) an AHRC award of GBP22,590 (**Jowett**), CCCW's share of the Diaspora Screen Media Network (DSMN), GBP23,916 of a total GBP29,560 FEC led by **Wilson** as Principal Investigator. Smaller awards include an Arts Council 'Grants for the Arts' award of GBP6,150 won by **C. Bennett** to serve as poet in residence for Wicken Fen, and two Santander travel grants (GBP1,000 each for **Andermahr** 2014 and **Wilson** 2018) to attend international research events. GBP40,704 of internal competitive funding has been won. This includes pedagogic Innovation bids (**Andermahr** and **Simmons** 2015, GBP6,000; **Burnapp** and **Reese** 2017, GBP6,000); travel to research archives (**Rosenquist** GBP1,910 (2017) and GBP942 (2018)); and a collaborative internally-funded Changemaker Challenge Fund bid, with the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, on the subject of 'Wellbeing through Heritage, Arts and Technology' (**Wilson** as co-investigator, multiple partners, including **Mackley** and **Rosenquist**, GBP11,000).

Successful funding applications have involved collaboration across national and international networks, and thus extending research collaboration and networking will be a key focus over the next five years in line with CCCW's themes. It is also the case that since 2014 there has been success working with a number of external organisations (charities, business, local government) to deliver research with impact and we anticipate expanding our research in this area. UoN has funding pots for impact-related research projects working with external partners and stakeholders and thus we will look to develop projects based on research strengths in trauma studies, equality, and identity.

The pursuit of research funding is central to the AIM process (Section 2) and mentorship is widely offered and taken up. In particular, **Wilson** – with strong experience in bidding, winning and assessing research grants across a number of different funders – regularly reviews and offers feedback on research bids, as well as leading on grant bidding strategies. RIFS supports bidding activities through regular workshops and training events also offering one to one support with funding applications which CCCW members have used.

#### 3.2: Organisational and scholarly infrastructure for research and impact

UoN has recently invested heavily in its facilities and infrastructure with the move to the new Waterside Campus, which opened in autumn 2018 at the cost of GBP330,000,000. The campus has won the 2019 Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors coveted 'Design through Innovation' award. While it is not possible to attribute a precise portion of this investment to CCCW it has brought a number of tangible benefits. Prior to 2018, the unit was based on one of two campuses within Northampton, with library materials and faculty structures spread across both. With nearly all academic activity now rooted in three buildings on the same purpose-built campus, and with



office space organised around subject areas, finding shared research interests (arts, humanities and media all located in the same study space) is facilitated. For example, English and History research seminars are now cross-listed and more regularly lead to interdisciplinary responses to research subjects. A majority of the library's physical resources are located in the same 'learning commons' building where academic staff have office space and do their teaching, thus rendering better opportunities for the de-cloistering of the unit's research culture. The investment into new facilities extends to a state-of-the-art IT infrastructure and new office space. This also includes a dedicated PGR workspace in the Senate building used by staff and students alike. The success of the strategic investment in the PGR workspace is evidenced in the PRES results (2018 and 2020).

UoN has also invested substantially in electronic resources. These now represent 85% of the total holdings and facilitate more flexible working and greater access to key publications. CCCW has negotiated strengths in resources that reflect key research strands, including postcolonial, modernist and contemporary literatures. Where the unit already drew upon resource strengths like Project Muse, JSTOR journals and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Periodicals, since 2014 the library has added access to approximately 500,000 e-book titles via subscriptions to Gale Literary Sources, Cambridge Core, Academic Complete, JSTOR EBA and Sage Knowledge EBA. This has served to significantly strengthen research across levels and disciplines especially for the PGR community and serves to attract visiting students and scholars to the University. (Section 4.1)

As part of the University's wider transition to flexible and active blended modes of learning and teaching, this UoA has been able to support enhanced online and virtual collaborations for research. This has been extremely important in the context of COVID-19 where virtually all staff and PGR research projects have shifted to online/virtual formats.

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

##### 4.1: Effectiveness and impact of research collaborations, networks and partnerships

Established research collaborations have continued and developed since 2014. Examples include **Andermahr's** ongoing partnership with researchers at the University of Zaragoza, resulting in a number of research events, a PhD student exchange programme and collaborative bid for European funding, and **Wilson's** key role in a network of partners, primarily the University of Münster, resulting in key events, doctoral projects and the essential *Routledge Diaspora Studies Reader* (**Wilson** and Stierstorfer co-editors, Routledge 2017). Further research networks and collaborations have emerged during the period under review. **Wilson** is a founding member of the South Asian Diaspora International Network ([SADIRN](#)), **Rosenquist** is a founding member of the [Cultures of Trust](#) research network (active 2014-15), while **Andermahr** serves as member of the Mapping Maternal Subjectivities, Identities and Ethics ([MAMSIE](#)) research network. **Wilson** also serves as Chair of the [Challenging Precarity Network](#), a global collaborative research group with focus in India, Spain and the UK, while **Wilson** and **Simmons** launched [DSMN](#) with key stakeholders at Birmingham City University. Each of these networks has not only developed individual projects and led directly to research outputs, but also established partnerships beyond academia: e.g., local organisations such as Royal & Derngate Theatre, Threshold Studios and FilmHub Midlands. **Wilson** has also developed a Santander-funded project on populism and post-truth politics with a colleague in History (Jackson) as part of the Challenging Precarity global network she chairs. **Rosenquist** and **Mackley** collaborated on an internally-funded Changemaker project on Heritage and Placemaking with colleagues from the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, revealing some of the opportunities afforded within UoN.

A number of Visiting Professors and Fellows have been associated with the unit during the period under review, including John Drew (University of Buckingham); Victor Ukaegbu (University of Bedfordshire); and Peter Parker and Gerri Kimber (both affiliated solely with University of Northampton during their tenure). Likewise, **Wilson** has served during the REF period as Visiting Professor at other institutions, including University of Auro (Gujurat, India) and Monash University

(Melbourne, Australia). Close associations with external researchers and institutions has enriched the research culture in the discipline, helped members identify good practice and potential networks, and broadened the reach and esteem of the unit. The activities of visiting researchers to UoN include delivering seminar papers (Parker and Kimber) or taking part in conferences (Parker), sitting as an external member on the Arts and Humanities Research Degrees Board (Ukaegbu) and co-supervising research degree students (Kimber and Ukaegbu), as well as producing and disseminating their research in affiliation with CCCW staff (Kimber and Parker).

CCCW has also welcomed eight visiting PGR researchers testifying to the international reach of our research. This has included seven visiting researchers from Algeria, Brazil and China and a number of PGRs staying three months from the University of Zaragoza in Spain. Visiting researchers enrich the research degree students' chances for sharing good practice and networking, as well as fostering the research of students across the globe who may not have access to the research culture and resources we can provide.

Key collaborative projects have been undertaken during the period under review by members of the unit, including co-editing of key research publications (such as: *TV Horror* (Bloomsbury 2013) and *Global TV Horror* (UWP 2021), edited by **Jowett** with Stacey Abbott (Roehampton); *Creating Myths* (2016) and *Order and Disorder* (2017), edited by **Mackley** with researchers at University of Jendouba; 'Modernism in Public' special issue of *Modernist Cultures*, edited by **Rosenquist** with Alice Wood (DeMontfort) and 'Transatlantic Celebrity' special issue of *Comparative American Studies*, edited by **Rosenquist** with Paraic Finnerty (Portsmouth); *Reassessing the Twentieth-Century Canon* (Palgrave 2014), edited by **Simmons** with Nicola Allen (Wolverhampton); and **Wilson** with researchers at UIB, Monash, Liège and Edinburgh).

#### 4.2: Public engagement and relationships with key research users and beneficiaries

Members of CCCW have engaged in a wide range of research activities for academic and public audiences. Highlights include heritage events (**Wilson**), public performances of work (**C. Bennett**), national and international keynote lectures and invited talks (**Jowett** and **Wilson**), public lectures (including at Film Institute, William Morris Society), media interviews, podcasts, blogs, consultative work and educational reading lists. Further examples include **Andermahr's** work on Jeanette Winterson leading to consultation on development of course materials for Open University English, **Wilson's** article on the Turner Diaries which led to a consultation following Christchurch mosque attack in 2019, **Jowett** writing for the *Washington Post*, *Vice UK*, *The Guardian* and BBC website; and research outputs leading to keynote addresses or expert panellist spots (**Jowett** at British Film Institute, Southbank; **P. Bennett** at Bodleian Library, Oxford; **Rosenquist** at Dimbola Lodge, Isle of Wight; **Wilson** at Prospect Dinner, Oxford. Recognition for **Wilson's** work came with the unveiling of the Katherine Mansfield Sculpture/public address in BadWorishofen and culminated in **Wilson** being runner-up New Zealander of the Year in 2018. **Simmons** and **Starr** have also curated and led a regular 'cult film' series through the period under review, with regular public lectures and public engagement arising explicitly from areas of research expertise. UoN also sponsored the Althorp Literary Festival until 2016 where CCCW members hosted sessions and presented.

#### 4.3: Contribution to the sustainability of the discipline and wider influence

CCCW make wide-ranging contributions to the sustainability of the discipline with staff having supported and lead on a number of scholarly societies within the English discipline. **Jowett** as Vice President of the Joss Whedon Society; **Rosenquist** as executive committee member for the British Association of Modernist Studies; **Wilson** is Vice Chair of the Katherine Mansfield Society, Vice President and (from 2020) President of National Conference of University Professors, and Chair of the Challenging Precarity: A Global Network. **Wilson** is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts as well as trustee of the New Zealand-UK Link Foundation.

We have supported funding bodies with **Wilson** serving as AHRC Strategic Reviewer for College of Peer Reviewers; External Reviewer for Marsden Fund, Royal Society of New Zealand; for

Research Association Flanders; for the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, Peer Review panel (MIUR); and for the South African National Research Foundation.

Researchers in CCCW have organised or co-organised a total of 25 academic conferences or symposia. Many of these events are directly responding to national or international priorities in the discipline, including expanding and decolonising the curriculum (e.g., **Andermahr** organising 'Decolonizing Trauma Studies' 2015, or **Wilson** and **Simmons** organising 'Diaspora Screen Media Symposium' 2020); or examining precarity, risk and social forms of trust (e.g., **Rosenquist** organising 'Cultures of Trust', 2015, or **Wilson** organising three events on Precarity 2018-2020); or expanding academic perspectives on popular cultures and otherwise marginalised literatures (e.g., first international conference on 'Brigid Brophy' 2015 and 'Fleur Adcock' 2016, or events on 'Daughters of Fangdom' (**Jowett** 2015) and 'The Art of Punk' (**Allen** 2016). Members of the unit are also regularly invited to deliver keynote lectures at international conferences or specialist seminar series, amounting to 38 invited lectures delivered during the last REF period. This includes keynotes delivered across the world, including University of Queensland, Australia, and King Saud University, Saudi Arabia (**Andermahr**), University of Seville, Spain (**Jowett**), Jendouba University, Tunisia (**Mackley**), and a number of other universities across Australia, New Zealand, India, Hong Kong and Europe (**Wilson**).

Many colleagues have editorial and specialist review roles such as **Wilson** has serving as editor for the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* throughout the period under review, which has opened opportunities for postgraduate and early-career researchers to engage with scholarly publishing at an advanced level and has attracted broader networks of researchers to the University. **Wilson** is an International Advisory Board Member for *European South: A Transdisciplinary Journal of Postcolonial Humanities*, an International Board Member for the *Journal of Alterity and World Literature* and on the Editorial Board of *ARIEL*. **Wilson** has also served as one of two general editors of the 'Studies in World Literature' series for *Ibidem-Verlag* publishers. Other members of the team have served on advisory or editorial boards for major scholarly publications – for 13 academic journals and 1 scholarly book series – including (but not limited to) *Contemporary Women's Writing* (**Andermahr**), *The Journal of William Morris Studies* (**P. Bennett**), *Intensities: The Journal of Cult Media* (**Jowett**), *Journal of Popular Culture* (**Simmons**) and *Journal of New Zealand Literature* (**Wilson**). Beyond this, all members of the unit have been asked during the period under review to serve as specialist peer reviewers for scholarly journals or book publishers, including academic presses like Bloomsbury, Edinburgh University Press, Gale, Lexington Books, Oxford University Press, The Open Library of the Humanities, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge and University of Mississippi Press, and leading research journals including titles not listed under editorial boards above: *Alterity Studies*, *Americana: The Journal of American Popular Culture*, *The BAAS Journal*, *C21 Literature*, *Journal of Multicultural Discourse*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Modernism/Modernity*, *Speculum* and *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*.

CCCW remains committed to the relevance, vitality and sustainability of research in the themes central to CCCW in wider activities such as peer review (articles, books, funding applications); dissemination activities and pedagogic developments (**Andermahr**, *Ops for Apps* 2015).