

Institution: University of Leicester
Unit of Assessment: 27 English Language and Literature
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Academic staff in the University of Leicester's English Language and Literature UoA work across the full spectrum of literary, linguistic and visual disciplines, producing research characterised by chronological range, linguistic variety and disciplinary flexibility. Our profile is genuinely international, and our research priorities reflect our location in one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the UK. We engage in research that stimulates local and national debate, notable examples including projects on the legacy of Leicester playwright Joe Orton, particularly in relation to LGBTQ+ issues, and the previously overlooked implications of slavery and colonialism for country houses owned by the National Trust, which form two of our impact case studies (ICS4 and ICS2). We have built on our longstanding and dynamically evolving interests in gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity. Our research has forged new agendas for how literary and cultural research impacts on public policy in relation to diversity.</p> <p>This focus on diversity is reflected in the composition of our unit. As part of the University's strategic restructuring of its Colleges and Schools in 2016, the Departments of English, Modern Languages (ML) and History of Art and Film (HAF) united to form the School of Arts (SoA), a constituent part of the new College of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities (CSSAH). This institutional transformation enabled us to redefine the objectives and themes of our collective mission, and the staff base has been augmented by the strategic recruitment of 22% of current staff since REF2014. Bringing together colleagues with a range of approaches and overlapping interests has enhanced the interdisciplinarity of our research. Our collective research strengths include: race and ethnicity; migration and diasporas; gender and sexualities; health, including mental health; and cultural heritage. The decision to enter the SoA's 49.1 FTE as a single unit to UoA27 reflects the extent to which the varied research in our different subject areas addresses shared strategic objectives.</p> <p>Research across our unit is organised into three themed interdisciplinary clusters. Colleagues each contribute to one or more of these. The clusters reflect and strengthen our respective specialisms and exemplify our commitment to the University's strategy of fostering 'disciplinary and interdisciplinary research excellence' (Institutional Environment Statement (IES), 2.8)</p> <p>1) Literary and Cultural History (LCH)</p> <p>Colleagues in this cluster undertake research in literary and cultural history from medieval to modern periods, with strengths in the Victorian and early modern periods and in textual editing. 27 colleagues contribute directly to world-leading research and impact activities in this theme. Major grants include P. J. Shaw's 'Wordsworth 2020' and Dawson's 'Constructing Scientific Communities' (both AHRC). Among several notable monographs, Loveman's <i>Samuel Pepys and His Books</i> was named in the <i>Spectator's</i> Books of the Year (2016). The 43-volume <i>Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh</i>, with Stannard as chief editor, the outcome of a project that received a major AHRC grant (2013-18), was acclaimed in the <i>TLS</i> as 'one of the great monuments of twenty-first century literary scholarship'. The impact of research in this theme is seen in Loveman's involvement in a multidisciplinary project to create a multi-sensory, user-controlled, VR reconstruction of the experience of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in 1752, and D'Arcy's collaboration with Marsh's Library, Dublin on the exhibition 'James Joyce, Apocalypse</p>

and Exile' (2014-15), which attracted 22,540 visitors and continues online.

2) Contemporary Culture, Writing, and Language (CCWL)

Our research on key developments in literatures, languages and cultures from the 1940s to the present focuses particularly on questions of sexual and racial politics, and on creative writing. Research highlights include **L. Evans's** 'Crime and its Representation in the Anglophone Caribbean 1834-2018' (supported by the British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Scheme, 2016-18). Among many significant monographs, **Fulcher's** *Re-examining Language Testing* won the SAGE/ILTA award for Best Book on Language Testing (2016), while **Taylor's** novel *Melissa* was longlisted for the *Guardian's* Not The Booker Prize (2016). 3 of the 19 colleagues in this cluster are involved in commissioning new writing, such as the *New Walk* poetry pamphlets co-edited by Everett.

3) Visual Cultures (VC)

The 15 colleagues in this interdisciplinary cluster produce cutting-edge research on painting, sculpture, film, video production, photography and performance, with strengths in the relationship between text and image, and in cinema and television. Research awards include **Penn's** Leverhulme Fellowship for 'Bergson and Bergsonism in Literature and Film' (2018) and **North's** 2016 Paul Mellon Research Support Grant for work on visual and literary images of Charles Dickens. There have been several major monographs in film studies, including **Chapman's** *Swashbucklers: The Costume Adventure Series* (MUP, 2015), the primary output from his AHRC-funded project 'Spaces of Television' (2010-14). **Naiboglu's** *Post-unification Turkish German Cinema* (Palgrave, 2018) and **Feng's** *Chow Yun-fat and Territories of Hong Kong Stardom* (EUP, 2017) attest to growing strengths in international cinema. The outstanding impact of research in this cluster is evidenced by two of our Impact Case Studies, which centre respectively on **Garavelli's** work on Argentinian Experimental Video (ICS3) and on **Ekserdjian's** leading role in the attribution of Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi* (ICS1). Sold in November 2017 for USD450 million, this is the most valuable painting in history, and its attribution has had profound implications for the international art market.

Our three research clusters are augmented by five internationally-renowned research centres housed within the SoA:

1. Victorian Studies Centre (VSC, established 1966)
2. Medieval Research Centre (MRC, established in 1996)
3. Centre for American Studies (CAM, established in 1997)
4. Centre for New Writing (CNW, established in 2008)
5. Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies (LeCTIS, established in 2011)

The centres foster interdisciplinary collaborations within Leicester and externally with universities and non-HEI partners across the world. LeCTIS collaborates with our strategic partner, Shanghai International Studies University, while the VSC has strong links in Japan and India and helped Jadavpur University in Kolkata establish a comparable Centre. The CNW has created numerous dynamic commissions with writers and local communities.

Research and Impact Strategy

The three UoAs entered in REF2014 that now constitute our unit identified different objectives for this census period, but we have worked strategically to build shared goals, some of which have gained in significance in light of changing national and international priorities. As evidenced

by the projects outlined below, we are especially aligned with the University's strategic aim of forging 'vibrant partnerships and networks of excellence to address complex contemporary challenges' (IES, 2.8)

Research Objectives	Achievements
Enhance the quality, distinctiveness and visibility of our research outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on longer-form publications, with 30 authored monographs, 3 critical editions and 12 edited collections submitted to REF2021. These make up 68% of our output submission. Strategic targeting of funding enabling Gold OA publication, with Brock's monograph <i>British Women Surgeons and Their Patients</i> (2017), funded by the Wellcome Trust, a notable example.
Support impactful research, especially that which contributes to addressing the opportunities and challenges of diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted support for individual researchers' impact activity, including significant reductions in teaching where necessary, and individual impact development mentoring. Notable Impact Case Studies include Parker's work on Joe Orton (ICS4) in collaboration with Leicester's Curve Theatre, Leicester Arts and Museums Service, National Justice Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, and Arts Council England. This project has significantly raised the profile of Orton as a working-class gay writer. Fowler was lead academic author and co-editor, with National Trust Curators, of the 'Interim Report on the Connections between Colonialism and Properties now in the care of the National Trust' (September 2020), which has underpinned a major reinterpretation of the NT's 93 properties and stimulated vigorous national debate (ICS2).
Facilitate greater interdisciplinarity and collaborative research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of major collaborative and interdisciplinary projects supported by the Leicester Institute for Advanced Study (LIAS), including L. Evans's work on crime in the Caribbean. Working with interdisciplinary cross-University research networks, such as the 'Prisons Network', to which Halliwell belongs. This helped facilitate Halliwell's involvement in a collaborative ESRC-funded GCRF project on mental health in Guyana's jails (2018-22)
Strengthen postgraduate community, and registrations and completions of PhDs, especially through externally funded studentships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 100 PGRs currently registered in the School 136 doctoral completions since 2014 – an increase of more than 160% over the previous census period. 17 Midlands 3 Cities/Midlands 4 Cities research studentships awarded since 2014, more than doubling the previous AHRC Block Grant recruitment figure of one studentship per year.
Increase research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total cumulative external research income from

income, from more diverse sources and per FTE	<p>August 2013 to July 2020 is £2,939,541, a yearly average of £420,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This compares with a cumulative income in the REF2014 census period of £1,273,622 across the three previous UoAs, an increase of 130%. • In addition to the AHRC, ESRC, BA and the Leverhulme Trust, significant funding has been received from the Lottery Heritage Fund, the Arts Council and private philanthropists such as the Hilaria and Alec Baldwin Foundation.
Increase externally funded postdoctoral researchers and enhance support for all early career colleagues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2013 and 2020 we were awarded 3 Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships, 6 Research Associates funded by AHRC (x5) and Leverhulme (x1) and 1 Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship, drawing on the University's 5-year Wellcome Trust ISSF award of £1.5M (2017), matched by the University, one of 30 in the UK • We have implemented the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, and, in 2018, created an ECR forum. We have reinforced our targeted mentoring programme. The effectiveness of our staff development strategy for ECRs is seen in notable grants and prestigious publications by, for example, M. Evans and Wood.

Our support for colleagues seeking research funding makes strategic use of schemes including the University's International Development Fund, which awarded £9,987 to **L. Evans's** project 'Representing Gender-based on Crime in the Anglophone Caribbean' (2018). Building on the work facilitated by this funding, in March 2020 **L. Evans** was awarded an AHRC Research Grant of £210,168 for a 2-year collaborative project with the University of the West Indies focusing on the representation of gender-based violence in Caribbean popular culture and engaging Jamaican and Trinidadian school children in activism against GBV. This work underlines the importance to us of the University's strategic aim to 'optimise the impact of our research' (IES, 2.8), while supporting research that is meaningful in the wider world, promoting positive change, and having the widest possible impact.

Our strategic involvement in intra-institutional initiatives to develop interdisciplinarity has resulted in, for example, **Loveman's** involvement, with colleagues from History, Informatics and Museum Studies, in the 'Virtual Vauxhall Gardens' project. This project received networking funding from the University and won the Research Team of the Year award at the 2019 'Discovering Excellence' awards ceremony.

The strength and excellence of our postgraduate research provision is evidenced in our contribution to the Midlands4Cities AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership (M4C, previously M3C), which brings together eight universities in four cities across the East and West Midlands. A senior colleague from our School has been joint site director for the DTP throughout the census period (**Halliwell, P. J. Shaw, Knight**). **Halliwell** was Leicester Site Director between 2013 and 2018 and was Leicester lead on the 2018 M4C DTP bid, ranked 1st out of 11 successful bids

nationally, which has enabled the UoA to benefit from increased capacity in doctoral awards.

Future Research and Impact Strategy

Our strategy for 2020–25 is to:

- foster research excellence, especially in relation to interdisciplinarity and work that addresses complex contemporary challenges;
- optimise research impact, particularly in relation to public policy on diversity and inclusion;
- forge vibrant collaborations and networks of excellence and nurture the next generation of scholars, helping them to produce innovative world-leading research and impact, and to become leaders in the sector;
- build capacity for internal and external leadership roles through targeted mentoring and support of ECRs.

The achievement of our objectives will be facilitated by the marked increase in our research income and postdoctoral awards. Six projects, with research awards totaling £792,808, will continue beyond 2021. Income growth will be facilitated by colleagues with experience of managing larger grants supporting ECRs in developing ambitious and collaborative research projects. For instance, **Wood's** recent AHRC Networking Grant for 'The Dickens Code' (2021–22) builds on the citizen-science methods of knowledge-making generated by **Dawson's** 'Constructing Scientific Communities' project (2014–18) and will establish the groundwork for another large interdisciplinary project, with several non-HEI partners.

Other projects in development enhance our strategic focus on diversity. The growing urgency of issues of racial injustice internationally has given further impetus to our research in this area. With guidance from **Fowler** and our Leverhulme ECR Fellow **Bhanot**, this research informs our initiatives to decolonise our curricula.

L. Evans's new AHRC-funded project on gender-based violence in Jamaica and Trinidad (2021–23 – originally due to start 2020 but delayed by COVID-19) will also expand and internationalise the impact of our research relating to diversity, and forms part of a growing strategic emphasis on challenge-led research. We will enhance this focus by offering targeted mentoring and cross-institutional training for ECRs. This defining aspect of our future strategy will ensure the vitality and sustainability of our research and impact in the changing landscape for subject areas in our UoA and HE more widely and equip ECRs to be sector leaders in the future.

2. People

We prioritise the recruitment of staff with excellent research profiles and ambitious objectives incorporating clear plans for publication, impact and grant capture, in full observance of the University's equalities policy. We engage fully with the University's strategy of nurturing 'the next generation of researchers to become world-leaders in their field' (IES, 2.8). Through the strategic appointment of new permanent academic staff and the hosting of postdoctoral fellows we have been able to strengthen our expertise in our three research clusters. New permanent appointments contribute to Literary and Cultural History (**Feghali; Wood; M. Evans**); Contemporary Culture, Writing and Language (**Hadjidemetriou; Taylor; Uoz de la Fuente**;

Ying); and Visual Cultures (**Garavelli; Jenkins; Feng; Naiboglu**). These strategic appointments have enhanced research excellence in Victorian Studies, Digital Humanities, American Studies, Spanish and Latin American Studies, English Language, Creative Writing, Film Studies, and History of Art. For example, **M. Evans's** work in historical linguistics, Renaissance writing, and digital textual editing, intersects with several of these areas. We have been able to extend the international and cross-cultural aspects of our research, with a concentration of research on Europe, the Americas, and Asia. **Feng** brings expertise on East Asian and transnational cinema, based on research she conducted at the Hong Kong Film Archive, **Naiboglu** research on Turkish-German film was underpinned by work at the Deutsche Kinemathek and Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin, and **Hadjidemetriou** has conducted empirical sociolinguistic investigations of English use among Greek-Cypriot communities in the UK.

The sustainability and vitality of research and succession planning for academic leadership roles, have been enhanced by a total of 19 promotions (12 women; 7 men) during the census period, with 5 promotions to Professor, including 2 women, (**Dawson, Knight, Fowler, Rogerson-Revell** and Lindley who has since left) and 14 to Associate Professor (**Barefoot; Brock; D'Arcy; L. Evans; James; Louwagie; Lund; Parker; Parsons; P. A. Shaw; Storchi; Taylor; Whitehead; Wylie**). These promotions have replaced colleagues who have retired or left (12 FTE) in the census period and have re-energised our core research activities. We are mindful of the need to ensure a better gender balance and increased BAME representation at professorial level, and this will be achieved through continued engagement with the full range of EDI initiatives supporting staff development and leadership skills, in line with the University's commitment to 'valuing equality and advancing diversity', outlined in the institutional EDI strategy (IES, 3.1). This has informed our staff recruitment. The gender distribution of our new appointments over the period is 10 female and 1 male.

The University's Academic Career Map (IES, 3.2) underpins the vitality and sustainability of our research environment by articulating expectations for colleagues at each stage of their career in relation to teaching, research, impact and knowledge exchange, and leadership and citizenship activities, including the mentoring of junior colleagues. It informs annual Personal Development Discussions (PDD) and the work of the SoA Staffing Group (comprising the Research Director, the Equalities Chair, the PGR Director, an ECR representative, the School's three Directors of Studies, and the Head of School) in supporting the promotions process.

We implement a detailed academic workload model in compliance with the University's model, enabling us to plan individual workloads openly and transparently, manage the equitable allocation of teaching and administrative tasks, and maintain a sense of fairness, shared endeavour and collegiality. Research time – 40% for colleagues on Teaching and Research contracts – is built into the workload model. During teaching terms, colleagues have at least one day per week without teaching or administrative commitments to focus exclusively on research projects and grant applications.

Strategies for staff development

We are committed to developing individual researchers at all stages of their careers, and our mechanisms, procedures and principles are updated regularly, ensuring the continuing provision of excellent support and training at every level. We promote individual and collaborative research through annual development funding for library and archive visits, conference attendance and other research costs (£170,000 over the REF census period). Additional funding is available from the College and University for large-scale events and activities, including

overseas conference attendance, and for pump-priming interdisciplinary research and impact development. The School has been awarded a total of £298,243 in such funding since 2014. Further funding is allocated to holders of overhead-bearing external grants.

All colleagues are eligible to apply for research leave of one semester in seven. During the census period, 45 colleagues have taken a total of 90 semesters of leave. 9 monographs submitted to REF2021 have been researched or completed during University leave. Study leave applications and post-study leave reports are scrutinised by the School and College to maximise high-quality research outcomes, with clear and manageable objectives for publications, grant applications, and impact activities, as relevant. Colleagues are strongly encouraged to augment institutional study leave with leave funded by external research grants. For example, **Lund's** AHRC Leadership Fellowship (2015-17) was followed by a semester of institutional leave, during which **Lund** was able to continue her work on Volume 13 of *The Oxford Edition of the Sermons of John Donne*.

We conduct annual research interviews at which colleagues can access support and mentorship, review their progress and achievements in research, and plan for the short (1-2 year) and medium (3-5 year) terms. These interviews provide the Research Director with data for holistic forward planning in relation to outputs, impact, grant applications and contribution to the research environment. Our PDDs allow discussion of the integration of research into colleagues' overall workloads. Current and potential Impact Case Study Leads attend an annual interview and receive targeted advice and support from the Impact Coordinator and the Research Director, agreeing action points, and determining what support is needed at School and institutional level to maximise the reach and depth of research impact. Pairing of colleagues either within or between research clusters are actively promoted as an opportunity for developmental discussions of research in progress, and to enable sharing of best practice and consideration of research ideas in a mutually supportive environment.

Research-focused information sessions and workshops are organised at School level to enable all colleagues to take full advantage of research opportunities. Recent events have included a Grant Writing Retreat, Collaborative Research Workshops, and an OA briefing session. 'Using the Arts for Impact', led by **Louwagie** and supported by CSSAH, brought together arts professionals and academics to discuss working together on impact (scheduled for April 2020, this took place online in July 2020).

We benefit from a wide range of researcher development events at College and University. For grant writing, these cover all key stages of project costing, design and development and the application, management and delivery process. The University's E-learning Academy provides online training materials to develop skills in project management, coaching and mentoring, leadership development, planning, and transformational change. We engage with the University's Researcher Development Programme which consists of events grouped in relation to themes including Engagement, Influence and Impact, Researcher Effectiveness, Quantitative Skills and Supporting Postgraduate Research. We participate in institutional initiatives that focus on EDI and staff development, including the Women Leading with Purpose Programme (**Wood**); the Leicester Coaching and Mentoring Academy and the Aurora programme (**Parker; Ying; Jones**). An example of the benefits of such training is that **Wood** now has a School level leadership role as Chair of the School External Relations group, responsible for the publicisation of our research activities.

Early-career researchers

We have made 9 permanent early-career appointments since 2013 (**M. Evans, Feghali, Feng, Garavelli, Hadjidemetriou, Jenkins, Naiboglu, Usoz de la Fuente, Wood**). During their three-year probation, colleagues receive a reduction in teaching hours of 30% in the first year, 20% in the second, and 10% in the third. They work closely with a mentor who has a pivotal and strategic role in supporting the professional development of ECRs. The mentoring scheme includes part-time staff, research assistants, and postdoctoral researchers, and takes place across subject areas. It involves regular one-to-one meetings, enabling new colleagues to review professional activities and objectives and discuss work in progress. Distinct from PDD, mentoring is confidential and aimed at giving the mentee the confidence and capability to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the School and University to develop their research and academic profile, and to make a full contribution to the School's work. This process forms part of the University's implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, designed to increase the attractiveness and sustainability of research careers and to improve the quantity, quality, reach and impact of research. All 9 appointees since 2013 successfully passed probation, reaching benchmarks in research and scholarship, teaching and supervision, and administration. Their mentors provided crucial guidance in ensuring the achievement of these goals.

The effectiveness of this staff development strategy for ECRs is illustrated by **M. Evans's** research as CI on the major, AHRC-funded project 'Editing Aphra Behn in the Digital Age' (2016-21), led by Loughborough University, with the University of Newcastle (Australia) as collaborator (£174k to **M. Evans**). She also received an internal award of £10K to fund teaching relief, supporting her in completing of her CUP monograph *Language and Power in Tudor England* (CUP, 2020). **Wood** received AHRC Research Network funding of £39,648 as PI for 'The Dickens Code' (2021-22, £26,521 to Leicester), to be undertaken in collaboration with a Co-I from the University of Foggia, and colleagues from the Universities of Manchester and California (Santa Cruz), in partnership with the Dickens Museum and the V&A. Her application was supported in the development stages by **Dawson**, drawing on his experience with 'Constructing Scientific Communities' (AHRC). The College Research Development Fund awarded **Feng** a grant of £2,666 for her 'Shanghai Made in Hollywood' project (2018) and, also in Film, **Jenkins** received £2,119 for 'Hollywood's Women Directors' (2018). **Feghali** was awarded an Early Career Researcher Visiting Grant of £3,848 for archive work in the US related to her project 'World Leaders and Citizen Readers' (2019) after developing her application at a School Grant Writing Retreat.

Postdoctoral researchers and research associates

Post-doctoral research fellowships are key to our research environment and to the sustainability and vitality of the discipline. Since 2013, we have hosted four postdoctoral Fellows whose research is largely interdisciplinary and related to equality and diversity. Externally-funded postdoctoral projects include 3 Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships, with the CSSAH contributing a total of £263k to supplement the Trust's awards. Fernandez Carbajal, now a Lecturer at the University of Roehampton, worked on 'Queer Diasporas' (2014-17). **Butcher** was named as BBC New Generation Thinker in 2017, just before beginning her postdoctoral project 'War and Childhood in the Nineteenth Century' and took up a lecturing post at Edge Hill University in September 2020. **Bhanot** joined us in 2018 to work on British Punjabi literature in English. Wiltshire's Wellcome Trust ISSF Postdoctoral Fellowship centred on 'Therapy and Health in Twentieth-Century Visual Arts'.

During the census period, 6 research associates have worked on major projects: Findell, now Assistant Professor in Historical Linguistics at Nottingham University ('Linguistic Variation in

Early Anglo-Saxon England', part of the major Leverhulme-funded project 'The Impact of Diasporas on the Making of Britain [£1.37M]); Cooke, now a Lecturer at Loughborough, and Boland ('The Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh', AHRC-funded research project, £822k); Murphy (AHRC-funded 'Exploring the Easter e.g.' project, £189k to Leicester); Hogarth (AHRC-funded 'Editing Aphra Behn' project, £174k to Leicester); Belknap (AHRC-funded project 'Constructing Scientific Communities: Citizen Science in the 19th and 21st Centuries', £409k to Leicester). Belknap is now Senior Curator at the National Science and Media Museum, Bradford.

Postgraduate Researchers

We recruit high-calibre PGRs from across the globe with more than 100 currently studying in the School. We have enhanced and developed our MA programmes to generate high-quality applicants for PGR study. Our PGR cohort is diverse: approximately 64% are female; about 30% identify as BAME; more than 30% are international.

We provide a supportive research environment within which PGRs can thrive, in 2020 PGRs reported 98% overall satisfaction with the experience of their research degree programmes, compared with a national average of 80.1% (PRES). We have developed and implemented training and review protocols to ensure that PGRs become effective researchers, network with others at institutional level and externally (nationally and internationally), successfully complete their degrees, and embark on academic careers. Holders of Leicester PhDs have secured academic posts in the UK (e.g. Durham; York; UCL; York St John; Swansea; Falmouth; Portsmouth; Leicester; De Montfort) and abroad (e.g. Germany; France; Italy; USA; China; South Korea; Thailand; Turkey; Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Tunisia).

PGR Training and development

Comprehensive support mechanisms help to ensure PGR progress and completion. Each PGR is allocated a lead and second supervisor, with compulsory training for supervisors being delivered by the Doctoral College and ongoing support for supervisors overseen by the School's PGR Director (currently **Chapman**). Colleagues consistently share good practice in relation to the diverse needs of our PGRs, who include campus-based, distance learning and part-time, international PGRs, and those with accessibility or other special requirements. PGRs have access to dedicated and fully equipped shared office space in the School and at the Nicholas Corah Doctoral College Reading Room in the David Wilson Library. MyPGR, an online tool, assists PGRs in recording and reflecting on their progress, and is used to view and book training sessions and record supervisory meetings and training events attended. In 2020 on average 96% of PGRs expressed satisfaction with the supervisory processes, against a national average of 86.9% (PRES).

PGRs present a Probation Review at the end of their first year and have an annual Progress Review in each of the following years. Reviews are led by two colleagues who are not members of the supervisory team and who assess progress, give feedback on written work and, provide advice on future directions and on training needs. Successful completion of those reviews informs progression to the subsequent year of study.

The University's support for PGRs, overseen by the Doctoral College, is informed by Vitae's Researcher Development Network which identifies the knowledge, behaviour and attributes of successful researchers (IES, 3.3). As well as an induction programme, the Doctoral College offers a range of opportunities for PGRs to showcase their research, including the Festival of Research, which features a PGR poster competition with shortlisted PGRs presenting their work to judges from the government, charities, the media and the public, 'Images of Research', and

'Yes Competitions', enabling PGRs to present their research to diverse audiences. The Doctoral Inaugural Lectures celebrate and showcase outstanding research. Palmer Heathman was chosen by the Doctoral College to present her research on the English folk revival in 2017.

PGRs are strongly encouraged to engage with experiential learning in a supportive environment and to take opportunities to practice their skills by delivering talks, participating in competitions and community events or work placements. Fallon, an M3C-funded PGR, undertook a 3-month placement with Nottingham City Council Museums and Galleries in connection with the exhibition 'Dinosaurs in China', and had a central role in providing interpretative materials.

Our PGRs benefit from and contribute to: *Frontier*, the University's Postgraduate Research Magazine; Café Research, evening events featuring short PGR talks and an opportunity for discussion with other PGRs in an informal setting; and Lunchtime Lectures organised with the Leicester Adult Education College, enabling PGRs to present their work to the public. Lane spoke about her research on director John Schlesinger in this series in 2018. The Doctoral Writing Group gives PGRs the opportunity to set regular writing objectives in the context of an interdisciplinary community, while the University's English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) provides pre- and in-session courses for international PGRs focusing on a range of academic English skills, as well as one-to-one support.

Research activities

PGRs are fully integrated into the broad range of the School's research activities, including seminars involving internal and external speakers, annual lectures and public talks featuring speakers from other UK and overseas institutions. They contribute to events (conferences, workshops, seminars, publications and outreach) in the five Research Centres. PGRs make an active contribution to the School's research culture by organising workshops, and conferences and they can bid to College for up to £500 contribution to the cost of conference attendance and organisation. In May 2018, Fallon and Wale organised 'Self-Fashioning Scientific Identities in the Long Nineteenth Century' (June 2018), a postgraduate workshop that formed part of the AHRC-funded 'Constructing Scientific Communities'. Hannigan, an M3C-funded PGR, co-organised 'Borders and Crossings 2019', an interdisciplinary conference on travel writing, held at Leicester in July 2019, with £200 funding from the Centre for New Writing.

The annual School PGR Conference gives all PGRs the opportunity to deliver presentations and network. First year PGRs produce poster-style presentations on their research topics and PGRs at later stages give research papers. This enhances the sense of research community among PGRs and embeds them in the wider research culture of the School and College. PGRs are encouraged to present papers at other University and external events, and to publish academic outputs. Recent PGR publications include Coster's articles in *Review of English Studies* and *Marvell Studies* and her chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Andrew Marvell*, and contributions by Choi to *Journal of Translation Studies*. The work of our PGRs has been recognised in the award of prizes, with Senturk winning the Doris Lessing Graduate Student Essay Contest in 2017, and Hannigan the 2020 SELVA Thesis Award.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

We work closely with the College and the University to embed and promote equality, diversity and inclusion in our daily practice, research culture, activity and strategy, and in our decision-making and management structures. Our activities are closely aligned with the latest University Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (2017-21) and the Equality Action Plan, the objective of which is to 'build our reputation as a Beacon of Equality excellence' and all FTEs complete

EDI training. 66% of colleagues submitted in this UoA are women and 60% of submitted outputs are by female academics.

Colleagues with caring responsibilities are supported by the UoA's three Directors of Studies and their timetables adapted to their circumstances wherever possible. The University's flexible working policy helps staff manage their commitments more effectively. Specific support is put in place for colleagues with special needs or major illness to make sure that they can continue with or return to work. Colleagues are supported through pre- and post-maternity leave meetings with the Head of School and can use 'Keeping in Touch' days to maintain a connection with research activities during maternity leave if they wish. Thirteen colleagues took a total of 17 periods of maternity leave during the census period.

The Equalities Chair (currently **Feghali**) coordinates and promotes EDI at all levels in the School and attends key committees at School and College level, working closely with colleagues to ensure that strategic developments relating to PGRs and staff are informed by best practice, and furthering our commitment to providing an inclusive and accessible work environment. As part of our strategy to address the EDI issues we have identified, a Self-Assessment Team in the School is preparing an application for an Athena Swan Bronze award, which we will submit before the end of 2022. The Self-Assessment Team includes colleagues from a mixture of grades, roles, and career stages, encompassing a range of protected characteristics, as well as PGR representation.

We actively support the University's Time to Change Pledge Action Plan to raise awareness and support in relation to Mental Health wellbeing (one of the priorities of the School Plan), and its engagement with the Race Equality Charter, the Stonewall Inclusive Employers initiative and the HeForShe campaign launched by the United Nations (UN Women) (IES, 3.1). In 2018, under the aegis of HeForShe, Senturk, a PGR in English, developed an initiative to use visual art to raise awareness of all forms of gender-based violence, resulting in the University commissioning an artwork from a local artist and displaying this on campus.

We make a major contribution to organising Black History Month events in Leicester. In May 2019, we hosted the annual Black British History Workshop in collaboration with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Studies (University of London), and Black British History (with financial support from the SoA and the School of History, Politics and International Relations). The Literary Leicester Festival (2007-17) had an inclusive remit, with events including 'Black British Writing' with *Guardian* columnist Gary Younge, events relating to Fernandez Carbajal's 'Queer Diasporas' project, and 'Migration Stories: South Asian Histories and Cultures', which was sponsored by the British Council (India). These activities have helped to shape how our research addresses diversity.

Our research areas speak directly to our EDI agenda, with priority themes relating to gender, race and ethnicity, sexualities, migration and diasporas, faith and religious practices, health including mental health and ageing. Examples include:

Race and ethnicity, migration and diasporas: representation of slavery in Milton's work (**Dzelzainis**); representation of indigenous cultures in Mexican literature (**Penn**); the poetics of plants in Latin American literature, with special attention to Chile and Cuba (**Wylie**); representations of the Holocaust in contemporary French-language and British literature (**Louwagie**; **Stewart**); migration in film, and Turkish-German cinema (**Naiboglu**); ethno-national identity and film (**Feng**); language, hybridity and belonging in the Greek Cypriot community in

the UK (**Hadjidemetriou**); ethnicity, racism, colonialism and migration in France (**Aissaoui**).

Gender and sexualities: sexualities in medieval texts (**Clark**); medieval education and masculinity (**Parsons**); Pepys and women (**Loveman**); women writers and life writing in the Victorian period (**James, North**); women surgeons in the late-19th and early 20th centuries (**Brock**); masculinity in Caribbean literature, culture and society (**L. Evans**); tackling gender-based violence (**L. Evans, Fayard**); Crossing borders and queering citizenship in America (**Feghali**); gender in Spanish literature and rights for women and homosexuals in Spain (**Usoz de la Fuente**); women's experimental video in Argentina (**Garavelli**, ICS3); gender, sexuality and class in the work of Joe Orton (**Parker** ICS4); language, youth and gender (**Waters**).

Health, including mental health: scientific and medical genres (**Brock**); the history of mental health in the United States and a collaborative ESRC-funded GCRF project on mental health in Guyana's jails (**Halliwell**); Dickens and death (**Wood**).

Faith and religious practices: Milton and the toleration of Catholics (**Dzelzainis**); culture and religion in Renaissance England (**Knight**); The Oxford Edition of the Sermons of John Donne (**Lund**); translation and reception of the Quran (**Elimam**).

Throughout the REF census period we have fostered a diverse research community that embraces and celebrates equalities. This has enriched our research culture and enabled researchers to thrive, while supporting them in developing creative ways of thinking and in promoting collaboration and interdisciplinarity.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

In the current census period, we have diversified and significantly increased our sources of grant income. External grant income has more than doubled in the REF2021 census period compared to REF2014: £2,939,541 as against £1,273,622. This has been achieved through a strategy of:

- targeted support for colleagues at different career stages, including mentoring and a robust peer-reviewing system, that has improved the quality of applications;
- use of institutional support via LIAS for pilot projects and impact activity;
- encouraging and supporting colleagues in seeking more diverse funding sources;
- in 2014 our income came from a total of 7 funding bodies; this has been increased to 13, including research councils, charities, and philanthropic donations.

Colleagues at all stages in their careers are assisted in strengthening funding applications by mentoring and reviewing processes, integrated support at School, College and University level and the expert guidance of experienced grant holders and reviewers. Successful applications are made available as best-practice models. Applications for funds of up to £150,000 are reviewed by the Director of Research and a member of the School Research Committee, and larger grant applications receive additional review at University level by members of Key Funder Working Groups (AHRC, ESRC, Leverhulme Trust and Wellcome Trust). These procedures have contributed to the significant increase in grant capture compared with REF2014, representing an 18% growth per FTE for REF2021.

Since 2014, we have been awarded funds by the AHRC, for example for **P. J. Shaw's**

'Wordsworth 2020' (PI, £149,418) and had notable success with Leverhulme Research Fellowships (**Penn, Wylie, James** and **Dawson**, worth £153,478 in total). Interdisciplinary funding awarded in collaboration with other Schools and Colleges in the University, has included **Halliwell's** award from the ESRC/AHRC for 'Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Disorders in Guyana Jails' (CI, with History, £1,243,030 with £94,143 to **Halliwell**) and his leading role in the University's Wellcome Trust ISSF award (bringing £1.5M to the University in collaboration with the College of Life Sciences). The AHRC-funded 'Dons, Yardies and Possies: Representations of Jamaican Organised Crime' Network (**L. Evans**, 2016-19, £45,092), allowed research to be undertaken with partner institutions in the Caribbean. Over the census period we received awards ranging in value from £1,200–£58,000 from the British Council, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Toni Schiff Memorial Fund, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, Hilaria and Alec Baldwin Foundation and Leicestershire County Council.

Funding awarded in 2008–13 has supported outputs and impact in the current cycle. In addition to the ongoing outputs from the AHRC-funded the *Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh* project (2013-18), led by Stannard, **Parsons's** AHRC Early Career Fellowship in 2012-13 enabled the research for *Punishment and Education in the Middle Ages* (Boydell and Brewer, 2018). The Wellcome Trust awarded £108,343 to **Brock** for 'Women Surgeons in Britain' (2012-14), with her OA monograph *British Women Surgeons and Their Patients* (Cambridge, 2017) its major outcome.

Further support for research activities has come from significant institutional investment. £1.2M was invested by the University into our research (2013-14 to March 2020), enabling significant research outcomes.

Table 2: Institutional Investment

Source	Amount	Projects Included
College Research Environment Expenditure Fund	£855,000	Matching funding for Leverhulme ECFs, GTAs, PGR fee waivers, Literary Leicester
LIAS	£79,000	Halliwell's Prisons Network; Tiger Team funding that supported development of 'Virtual Vauxhall Gardens', with Loveman as contributor
Research Development Fund	£20,040	Conference and research travel grants including support for Spunta's work on Luigi Ghirri and Whitehead's on Soviet Creative Writing programmes
Grant Writing Fund	£19,800	Teaching buyout for M. Evans to complete bid; professional support for 2017 Grant Writing Retreat
Impact Development Fund	£31,034	Research Assistance and teaching buyout for Impact Case Study Leads
Research Excellence Fund	£3,572	Development of Loveman's impact work on Pepys
International Research Development Fund	£9,987	L. Evans's International symposium 'Representing Gender-based Crime in the Caribbean'

Infrastructure and facilities

The University's David Wilson Library houses significant archives and special collections that support specialist research and underpin grant applications. The Modern Literary Archives hold key materials, notably the Orton Collection, a unique gathering of manuscripts, letters and original material written or compiled by the Leicester born playwright. This underpins **Parker's** Impact Case Study on Orton (ICS4).

Our research benefits from extensive digital resources provided by the University Library. Our approach to using and managing these resources is embedded in the University's IT strategy (2011-16) and digital strategy (2016-20). Researchers benefit from targeted training to make full use of the latest enabling technologies (devices, software and services) to enhance digital creation, innovation and scholarship. The Leicester Research Archive, powered by Figshare since November 2019, enables the preservation and discovery of our outputs. Between November 2019 and July 2020, our journal articles received 6834 views and 3190 downloads via Figshare, with 168 views and 112 downloads of books by users from at least 25 countries in the same period. These resources have helped to streamline grant funding applications and generate higher research impact and have benefitted a range of high-profile research activities and digital projects, for example:

- **M. Evans's** 4-year AHRC project with international partners to produce a new scholarly edition of Behn's writings titled 'Editing Aphra Behn in the Digital Age (E-ABIDA)', the first to apply computational attribution to Behn's work;
- **Dawson's** AHRC-funded project 'Constructing Scientific Communities' with the development of the 'Science Gossip' online platform involving more than 10,200 volunteers contributing 161,397 pages of open data classifying science drawings in Victorian periodicals and helping map the origins of citizen science;
- **M. Evans's** seminar 'Historicizing the Digital', funded by the British Association of Applied Linguistics;
- **Loveman's** joint project with Informatics, Museum Studies and the School of History, 'Virtual Vauxhall Gardens', recreating part of the 1752 pleasure gardens in virtual reality;
- **Fowler's** AHRC-funded project 'Affective Digital Histories: Recreating De-Industrialised Places, 1970s to the Present' (2014-15) and a MOOC co-produced by school children and historians for the Colonial Countryside Project (ICS2);
- **D'Arcy's** 9 chapters for the University's first MOOC, the highly successful, 'England in the Time of King Richard III', with 82,790 students enrolled since it began in November 2013.

The School allocates £25,000 annually from its non-pay budget and makes use of an endowed bequest to support research. In addition to annual individual research allowances, support is provided for the organisation of high-profile research events, workshops and international conferences that are aligned with our three strategic research themes and reflect our focus on transnationalism, interdisciplinarity, and equality and diversity. Two linked conferences on 'Luigi Ghirri and Photography', co-organised by **Spunta**, were held at The British School at Rome (October 2013) and at Leicester (September 2014), and 'Visualising War: the Iconography of Conflict and the Italian Nation', co-organised by **Storchi**, took place at British School at Rome/Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna in Rome (September 2014). **Fowler** hosted 'What's Happening in Black British History?', the 10th Annual Institute of Commonwealth Studies conference on this topic, at Leicester in May 2019. In July 2019, 'George Eliot 2019', an

International Bicentenary Conference, was hosted by the Victorian Studies Centre with the collaboration of the George Eliot Fellowship, and supported by the endowed bequest.

Colleagues working on impact-related activities, including those submitting case studies to the current REF (**Eksjerdian** ICS1, **Fowler** ICS2, **Garavelli** ICS3 and **Parker** ICS4) and those whose projects are under development (**Loveman**, **D'Arcy**) have received support in the form of teaching relief. Projects which have secured institutional and external funding include: **Fowler's** Colonial Countryside project (ICS2); University pump-priming, Heritage Lottery Fund; Arts Council England); **Parker's** Joe Orton project (ICS4; University pump-priming; Hilaria and Alec Baldwin Foundation, Arts Council England); **D'Arcy's** 'James Joyce: Apocalypse and Exile' project, including a major exhibition at Marsh's Library, Dublin (University pump priming; Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, Government of Ireland).

Workshops are organised regularly in the School, at College level and via LIAS to promote funding schemes and highlight specific calls, and to help in the establishment of research teams, the facilitation of networks, and the development of interdisciplinary projects. We work closely with the University's Research and Enterprise Division (RED) which provides effective and targeted support for the organisation and administration of funding applications in the School, the development of research projects, and cross-departmental bids.

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

Much of our research activity engages directly with the economy and society, often with demonstrable impact in relation to matters of equality and diversity.

Partnerships, Impact and Engagement

The UoA has influenced the sector nationally and internationally. Since 1993, the English Association (est. 1906, the only English subject association with a Royal Charter) has been housed at the University and engages closely with the School. **Halliwell** was EA Chair (2014-18) and is its 90th President (2018-21), **P. J. Shaw** is a Trustee and both, along with **Dzelzainis** and **Knight**, are EA Fellows. The EA works across all education sectors, engaging closely with teachers, publishers and policymakers and embodying a full-spectrum approach to English Studies (in line with the English QAA Benchmark statement). It co-organised two landmark conferences 'English Shared Futures' (Newcastle 2017; Manchester 2020, rescheduled for 2021) dealing with internationalism, interdisciplinarity, OA, well-being and respect in the workplace, and equalities/diversity. **Halliwell's** other national roles include co-chair of the Arts and Humanities Alliance, memberships of the UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowships (UKRI FLF) programme, the British Academy Arts and Humanities Skills Advisory Group, and the AHRC Science in Culture Advisory Group. He is AHRC Lead on the cross-UKRI Mental Health Experts Group, ensuring that our research and equalities agenda is shaped by and responsive to national strategic priorities.

Since 2016, **Brock** has been a Member of Expert Advisory Group for the Wellcome Trust Funded Surgery and Emotions project based at the University of Roehampton and **Dawson** became an Honorary Fellow of the Natural History Museum in 2016. **Dzelzainis** was President of the Andrew Marvell Society until 2015, and a Mayer Research Fellow at the Huntington Library, California in 2017. **Knight** was appointed to the Academic Advisory Board, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Neo-Latin Studies, Innsbruck in 2017. From 2019 **Fayard** has chaired United Against Violence and Abuse, a consortium of three Leicester charities. In 2018,

Ekserdjian gave the prestigious Slade Lectures at Oxford University (2017-18). **D'Arcy** was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 2020.

University funding has facilitated and supported a variety of interdisciplinary and international projects and partnerships. The involvement of LIAS has been instrumental in the delivery of ambitious and impactful research projects. In addition to funding a visiting fellowship for an academic from the University of West Indies (hosted by **L. Evans**), LIAS has supported the 'Prisons Network', to which **Halliwell** contributes and which facilitates work with the University of Guyana. **Loveman** was part of a group that received 'Tiger Team' funding to investigate Virtual Reality Heritage, and Jones, **James** and **Whitehead** are working with the School of Medicine in a 'Tiger Team' that will engage medical students in work on Empathy in the Curriculum.

Jenkins's research on Hollywood's female directors has been supported by funding from the University's research institute for Cultural and Media Economies (CAMEo IES, 2.2).

Disciplinary Contribution

Like our work with partners within and beyond the University, our disciplinary contribution is sustained by our Research Centres. Both those with long-established reputations, and others founded more recently, hold annual lectures, seminar series, conferences and workshops, thus engaging with the wider academic community and local groups. **North** chairs the Victorian Studies Centre's public seminar series and its Annual Lecture, hosted the conference 'Writing Lives Together: Romantic and Victorian Biography (2015), and was Associate Curator for 'Technicolour Dickens' (2020), an exhibition which continues the VSC's long-standing association with the Dickens Museum. The Medieval Research Centre hosts the annual Richard III Public Lecture and international conferences, for instance, 'Troublesome Elements' (2018) co-organised by **Parsons**. Events hosted in 2019 by the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies included 'Literary Encounters with Québec Writers', supported by the Québec Government Office in London, and 'Translating Memories in Contemporary Narratives of Migration', a series of public talks and events in collaboration with Leicester's New Walk Museum and Art Gallery.

Our most recently founded Centre, The Centre for New Writing, has issued over 100 creative writing commissions on topics including 'Adrian Mole's 50th Birthday', 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'Colonial Countryside', collaborating with archivists, historians and scientists to create projects which develop writers' professional profiles. Many of its resources, including a repository of sound recordings of readings by and interviews with writers such as Amitav Ghosh, and a discussion forum, are open access. Since 2018, standalone events, including the Annual Creative Writing Lecture, continue to run under the 'Literary Leicester' banner. Through such initiatives, we contribute to the University's position as an 'anchor' for local social and cultural development (IES, 2.1), enhancing the appreciation and understanding of English as a discipline beyond academia.

Along with events hosted by the Centres, we have organised many other high-profile international conferences and workshops, ranging from 'The Iconography of Conflict and the Italian Nation/Arte di Guerra in Italia. Iconografia e nazione' (2014) to 'Rethinking Film Genre: East Asian Cinema and Beyond' (2017), and 'On Difficulty in Early Modern Literature' (2018), and several distinctive cross-disciplinary seminar series in areas including Early Modern Studies, Victorian Studies, Modern Languages, and Film Studies.

As part of our international strategy, we currently host Lambert, Academic and Cultural Liaison Officer for Wallonia-Brussels International, the agency representing French-speaking Belgians

Abroad. WBI sponsored 'Tradition and Innovation in French-Belgian Bande Dessinée', a symposium co-organised by **Louwagie** that also received sponsorship from the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France and the Society for French Studies. This event, in March 2020, was partially moved online in order to include international contributions.

We work closely with other interdisciplinary Centres in the College, such as the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, of which **Louwagie** and **Stewart** are core members, and research networks across the University including the LIAS/Wellcome ISSF-funded Migration, Mobility and Citizenship Network, launched in 2019. **Aissaoui** is a core member, alongside colleagues from Medicine, Law, History and Geography. The SBC supported 'Dissent and Displacement', a public seminar series organised by **Louwagie** and Wiltshire to complement an exhibition of the same name at Leicester's New Walk Museum. These events were part of the national 'Insiders/Outsiders' Festival, which highlights the contribution of refugees from Nazism to British culture. Collaborations with researchers in other Schools include **Fowler's** work with Museum Studies and **Halliwell** and **Brock's** projects on the history of medicine, with the School of History, Politics & International Relations and the School of Criminology.

The many high-profile contributions to extending the research base in cultural history through interdisciplinary collaboration include **P. J. Shaw's** leadership of the AHRC-funded network, 'Passions of War Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Gender, Sexuality and Conflict, 1550-1945' (2015-17), with Ghent University, the Amsterdam Centre for Comparative Emotion and Sensory Studies (ACCESS, VU University), the Museum Dr Guislain (Ghent), and the National Army Museum (London). Stakeholders in this work, which fostered a re-examination of traditional accounts of war, gender and sexuality in the light of alternative, emergent and marginalised histories, included members of the Army LGBT+ Forum. **Dawson** was Co-Investigator of the AHRC-funded project 'Constructing Scientific Communities: Citizen Science in the 19th and 21st Centuries' (2014-18), an innovative collaboration with Oxford University, the Natural History Museum, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Royal Society which worked closely with Zooniverse, the internet's largest citizen science platform. The project's stakeholders included a distributed community of volunteers, who, via a range of online projects, including 'Science Gossip' and 'Orchid Observers', contributed to the advancement of science and to their own scientific education.

Parker leads the AHRC- and Hilaria and Alec Baldwin Foundation-funded Orton project (ICS4) in collaboration with Curve Theatre (Leicester), Leicester Arts and Museums Service, National Justice Museum (Nottingham), Museum of Contemporary Art (London), and Arts Council England. This project has raised the profile of Orton as a working-class gay writer locally and nationally among a variety of publics and has included a range of activities aimed at 11-18-year olds. **Louwagie** jointly led an interdisciplinary project, 'Across the Seasons: Memory Matters Today' (2015-16), funded by the Toni Schiff Memorial Fund, with the University of Central Lancashire and in conjunction with drama company CCM Theatre, and co-organised the BA-funded workshop, 'France, Vichy, and Me' (2015), in collaboration with Queen's University, Belfast.

The Contemporary Culture, Writing and Language group is notable for its sustained engagement with cross-cultural and transnational issues. **Fowler's** major Arts Council/Heritage Lottery-funded project, 'Colonial Countryside', (ICS2) assembles authors, writers, historians and primary pupils to reveal National Trust properties' Caribbean and East India Company connections, work that has prompted national debate and brought about a paradigm shift in how the NT and other

organisations present and interpret their collections. **Halliwell's** interdisciplinary and archival work on the triangular relationship between American medicine, politics and cultural representation in the twentieth century informs his contribution as Co-Investigator on the collaborative ESRC/GCRF Mental Health project, 'MNS Disorders in Guyana's Jails, 1825 to the Present Day'. This project has produced capacity building and policy-relevant materials on mental health, cognitive impairment, addiction and substance abuse among prisoners and prison officers.

The Visual Cultures group engages in multi-disciplinary research in a wide array of fields, with particular emphasis on Europe and the Americas. Among examples of our European research, **Ekserdjian** helped to authenticate Leonardo's *Salvator Mundi*, sold for a world-record amount at Christie's, New York in 2017 (ICS1), and his attribution of a drawing to Mantegna underpinned its sale for \$11.7 million at Sotheby's, New York in 2020. **Spunta** was Principal Investigator for the BA/Leverhulme-funded project, 'Viewing and writing Italian landscape. Luigi Ghirri and his legacy in photography and literature', with the British School at Rome. Research on the Americas include **Garavelli's** cutting-edge work on Argentine video (ICS3), in collaboration with the universities of Lincoln, Carlos III (Madrid), SOKA (USA), and the National University of Central Buenos Aires, which has helped consolidate the School as a leading site for Latin American studies. **Penn** was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship to work on the interdisciplinary project 'Mexican Time and Identity: Bergson and Bergsonism in Literature and Film' and has made extensive use of university and public research facilities in Mexico City. Exemplifying these research strengths, the School hosted a conference on 'The Legacy of 1968 in Latin America' in 2018 and the Society for Latin American Studies Annual Conference in 2019. **Morley's** recent research includes a consideration of engagements with Dutch Golden Age painting in the work of American novelist Willa Cather. In UK-focused research, **Chapman** was a Co-Investigator on the AHRC-funded project, 'Spaces of Television - Production, site and style', in association with the University of Reading and University of South Wales, while **North's** work on the interactions between biography and portraiture includes a Paul Mellon-funded project on visual and literary images of Charles Dickens, 1830-80.

The Literary and Cultural History group is involved in several multi-institutional and multi-national editorial undertakings, and standalone projects (**Dzelzainis, M. Evans, Loveman, Lund, Knight, Parsons**, and Stannard), with a world-class constellation of expertise in the editing of early-modern texts by Greville, Donne, Milton, Marvell, Clarendon, Behn, and Pepys. As part of her involvement as Co-I on 'Editing Aphra Behn', **M. Evans** is a general editor of the *Complete Works of Aphra Behn* (CUP, first volume forthcoming 2021), which will include for the first time all Behn's extant correspondence, and she is personally editing Behn's spying letters. **Dzelzainis** is editing *Volume 10: The Histories* for *The Complete Works of John Milton* (OUP) and Marvell for the Oxford 21st Century Authors series, facilitated by his Huntington Library Fellowship. He is a general editor, with Paul Seaward (Director, History of Parliament), of *The Works of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon* (OUP), in collaboration with the Bodleian Library, and is editing the *Essays and Dialogues* volume. **Loveman** edited *The Diary of Samuel Pepys* (Everyman, 2018) and is on the management board of 'Editing Aphra Behn'. Finally, Stannard led the AHRC-funded Evelyn Waugh project (2013-18) and is co-executive editor of the *Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh* (2017-ongoing) a ground-breaking event in twentieth-century literary scholarship. The editorial principles established by this project will be employed in OUP's forthcoming complete works of Ford Madox Ford, with Stannard as Editorial Board member and editor of Ford's letters.

Since REF 2014, the following 20 journal editorships, memberships of editorial boards, and

series editorships have been added to the existing portfolio: *Northern Studies* (**Clark**); *British Journal for the History of Science*; *Journal of Victorian Culture*; *Notes and Records of the Royal Society* (**Dawson**); *Marvell Studies* (**Dzelzainis**) *SKASE: Journal of Translation and Interpretation* (**Elimam**); *Multicultural Shakespeare* (**Fayard**); *Journal of American Studies* (**Feghali**); *Siyi: A journal of Arts and Culture* (**Feng**); *Modern American Literature and the New Twentieth Century* (**Halliwell**); *Humanistica Lovaniensia: Journal of Neo-Latin Studies*; *Bloomsbury Neo-Latin Series* (**Knight**); *Contemporary Women's Writing*; *Writers in Conversation* (**Parker**); *Literature Compass* (**P.J. Shaw**); *Tulsa Studies in Women's Writing* (**Stewart**); *Writing in Practice* (**Whitehead**); *Dickens Quarterly*; *Research for All*; *Victoriographies* (**Wood**).

Our research thus has a national and global footprint. Colleagues have made extensive use of archives and research holdings across Europe and in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad, Hong Kong and China, and we have given more than 280 lectures and papers in the UK and more than 150 internationally in 32 different countries, including keynote talks in the UK, USA, Guyana, Canada, Argentina, Italy, Spain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Turkey and Indonesia.

Public Engagement, Exhibitions and Consultancy

In Contemporary Culture, Writing, and Language and Visual Cultures, **Aissaoui's** work on race, ethnicity and immigration in the context of Franco-Algerian relations, informed his contributions to the catalogue for the exhibition 'L'Histoire des présences arabo-orientales en France', which was shown across France during 2013-18. Led by the ACHAC research group on colonialism, immigration and postcolonialism, the Pangée Network and the University of Nice, this was supported by French governmental bodies and media organisations. It has had a direct social and political impact, being cited in the French Parliament as showing how the shared cultural history of France and Algeria can foster future relations between these countries. **Aissaoui** was also on the steering committee for the major exhibition 'Générations' (2009-13), led by the Association Génériques, which, after touring from Paris to other major French cities attracted 20,000 visitors in Toulouse in Oct-Dec 2013. An unprecedented assessment of a century of cultural, political and artistic encounters between France and the Maghreb, it was sponsored by national and regional government bodies in France.

Garavelli's continuing work on experimental Argentine film and video (ICS3) included the curation of a major exhibition, 'Entre Lenguas: Video Experimental Argentine' which was held in the city of Rosario, October 2019-March 2020, and attracted more than 6000 visitors. The Cultural Secretary of Rosario acknowledged the major cultural significance of the exhibition to the city's population.

Elimam's work on the problematics of translating the Qur'an has informed his co-directorship of an EU-funded SME project to help enterprises in Leicester resolve work-related problems and provide language support in targeting new markets. **Fuente's** work on the post-Franco cultural transition (La Movida) establishes its relevance in achieving democratisation and equality for women and homosexuals. **Hadjidemetriou's** sociolinguistic analyses of discourses of identity and belonging in the London Greek Cypriot community and the impact of a dominant language on a heritage community inform her collaboration with Civic Leicester and the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival in addressing linguistic and cultural diversity in the city.

In Literary and Cultural History, **Brock's** work on women surgeons showed for the first time how they participated in developing surgery and demonstrated how working-class hospital patients

actively negotiated their surgical encounters rather than simply being operated upon. She participated in the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Outreach Programme to increase public awareness of women's historical contributions to science in the UNESCO International Year of Light (2015) and contributed to the Royal College of Physicians public exhibition 'This Vexed Question: 500 Years of Women in Medicine' (2018) in the centenary year of the Representation of People Act and the end of the First World War. These interventions have helped to make the general public and medical profession more conscious of how women fought for equality and contributed to medical and surgical developments.

Parker's work on Orton, and her commissioning of creative responses to Orton's life and writing, engages with and challenges the stigmatisation of homosexuals and women by psychiatry (ICS4). Over four months in 2019, **Parker's** crowd-funding campaign raised £115,000 to commission a statue of Joe Orton to be sited in Leicester city centre, highlighting in the process the importance of recognising the achievements of working-class and gay public figures.

Fowler's cultural-historical work drawing attention to British black and British Asian interventions into discussions about English heritage and empire, has had a direct impact in the commissioning of BAME writers under several auspices; the AHRC-funded project on 'Affective Digital Histories: Recreating De-Industrialised Places, 1970s to the Present', profiling forgotten black and working class histories in Leicester (6 commissions); the 'Colonial Countryside' project (10 commissions, ICS2); and the Centre for New Writing, in collaboration with Arts Council England, Harborough Museum, National Trust, and Phoenix Cinema (over 100 pieces by BAME authors), in the process elevating CNW to a national leadership role in fostering BAME writing talent.

Our expertise has been recognised in invitations to contribute to radio, TV and Podcasts. **Parker** has spoken about Orton on many local and national BBC radio programmes (ICS4). **Lund** contributed to three of the ten episodes of Radio 4's 'History of Delusions' (2018), and **Stewart** was interviewed on an edition of Radio 4's 'A Good Read' (2018) marking the centenary of Armistice Day. **North** was the historical advisor for the ITV drama *Beecham House* (2017). **Dawson** spoke about Victorian spiritualism on the BBC4 documentary *Victorian Sensations* (2019)

Conclusion

During this census period, major infrastructural changes, together with a 130% increase in our research income, have facilitated new and impactful research. Much of this work is interdisciplinary in nature, and a significant number of our research projects have set the agenda for national debates relating to heritage, identity, and diversity. Our 160% increase in PhD completions and our highly successful programme of support for ECRs demonstrates our commitment to the future of the disciplines that contribute to the UoA.

In order to address current and emerging funding priorities and global challenges over the next decade, our collective research has the interdisciplinary vitality, geographical reach and infrastructural depth to ensure that we will continue to make a major contribution to the rapidly re-shaping cultural landscape, locally, nationally and internationally.