

Institution: Leeds Trinity University
Unit of Assessment: 27 English Language and Literature
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>[Note: Category A submitted staff in bold. Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) in CAPITALS.]</p> <p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>1.1. <u>Unit context</u></p> <p>Research in English Language and Literature at Leeds Trinity University (LTU) is collegiate, collaborative, interdisciplinary and international. The UoA is returning 9.2 FTE Category A staff based on a headcount of 11. Of these, 10 are researchers who are members of the English team (Alyal, Bedford, de Gay, Hardwick, Hermeston, Lister, Storer, Taylor-Batty, Uglow, Walz). The English team supports and is in turn supported by the University's flagship interdisciplinary Research Centre, the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies (LCVS). LCVS Co-Directors (Sayer and de Gay) are both returned in this UoA. The LCVS has been central to the UoA's interdisciplinary strategy since its inception as a collaboration between English and History in 1994, and it was one of the Impact Case Studies returned by the English UoA for REF2014. The LCVS facilitates national and international collaborations through its Visiting Fellows, by hosting conferences, colloquia, and research seminars, and engaging an annual Visiting Professor to speak publicly and deliver workshops to PGRs. The Centre also promotes research within LTU through its MA and PhD programmes. The LCVS founded the <i>Journal of Victorian Culture</i> (JVC), now edited by Oxford University Press, and has a representative on the Editorial Board (de Gay).</p> <p>The four values of collegiality, collaboration, interdisciplinarity and internationalism are also central to the UoA's longstanding reputation for Creative Writing: LTU is an established nexus for creative engagement internationally, nationally and regionally, through on-campus readings and festivals (most notably the annual Writers' Festival), open mic sessions (particularly the monthly gathering, Wordspace, currently online), civic engagement, online creative connections, national and international lectures, workshops, performances and collaborations.</p> <p>The English team sits within the Communications Department of the School of Communications, Business and Law, established in 2019. The Communications Department fosters strategic collaboration between researchers in English and in Media, Film and Journalism, most notably between the LCVS and the newer Research Centre, the International Research Centre for Interactive Storytelling (IRIS) established in 2016. The work of the LCVS and IRIS is overseen by the School Board and the University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee. The UoA also continues to benefit from the outcomes of strategic collaborations between English and Theology/Religious Studies (TRS) fostered by the former Humanities Department (2007-19).</p> <p><u>1.2 Research themes</u></p> <p>The UoA has three overarching Research Themes: The Long 19th Century; Creative Writing; and Language, Linguistics and Translation.</p> <p>1. <u>The Long 19th Century</u>: The LCVS provides a strategic focus for the interdisciplinary interests of staff exploring the long 19th century and the lasting effects of the Victorian era on the present day. This encompasses the history and material culture of sex work (Lister); history, art history, literary criticism and philosophy (Uglow, Sayer); Virginia Woolf's literary and religious heritage, encompassing church history, theology, art history, architecture, and literary criticism (de Gay); the relationship between 19th-century writing and Modernisms (Taylor-Batty, de Gay); work on Victorian popular fiction, collaborative authorship, Victorian</p>

Shakespeare scholarship, and the use of Anglo-Manx dialect (**Storer**); and environmental histories, history of science, and the reading of literary, artistic and material cultures (**Sayer**).

2. Creative Writing: Research in this Theme is promulgated by three research-active creative writers in the permanent staff – novelist **Bedford**, and poets **Hardwick** (publishing as Oz Hardwick) and **Alyal**.

3. Language, Linguistics and Translation: Since the last REF, the Unit has strategically expanded its research in this theme in recognition of the growing prominence of language within English Studies. It has therefore appointed two ECRs, **Hermeston** and **Walz** to work alongside **Storer**. Their work has synergies with that of **Taylor-Batty**, an established researcher in multilingualism, translanguaging, and the use of translational processes in literature.

There are synergies between and across these research areas, including:

(a) Places and spaces: This includes **Sayer's** Wellcome Trust project on environmental histories and associated husbandry practices and animal histories in the North of England, which has enabled her to recruit a Postdoctoral Researcher, Dr James Bowen, working on environmental histories of weather, landscape and livestock in rural communities; **Storer's** work on 19th-century Anglo-Manx dialect poetry; and **Hermeston's** work on 19th-century pitmen's dialects in the North-East of England.

(b) Intertextuality, allusion and experimentation: **Taylor-Batty** and **de Gay** research these in relation to modernism and its relationship to the literary and cultural past, whilst creative writers practise these techniques (**Alyal** on myth and **Hardwick** on medievalism).

(c) Encounters across languages and cultures: seen in the work of **Taylor-Batty** and **Walz**; **Sayer** (d/Deaf and H/hearing cultures), and the creative work of **Alyal** and **Hardwick** (including Tanka poetry and collaborations with [Alliance Française](#)).

1.3 Research strategy

The UoA's research strategy emphasises collegiality and collaboration within the UoA and across LTU, working in an interdisciplinary way, to facilitate national and international reach and engagement. During 2014-21, the Strategy has focused on achieving these goals by building national and international external links, and growing capacity within the UoA by investing in staff, ECRs and PGRs.

1.3.1 Review of plans

The UoA has achieved both its aims from 2014:

Aim 1: The UoA has enhanced its research profile nationally and internationally. This is evidenced particularly in 4.1 and 4.2 below.

Aim 2: All members of the UoA have been encouraged and enabled to develop their publications record. We are returning a headcount of 11 in REF2021, up from 6 for REF2014. These include ECRs who have been supported in their research, as well as researchers with a long track-record of publications who had more publications than could be accommodated in REF2. No Category A staff members in UoA27 have sought exemption.

We have fulfilled the enabling plans set out in REF2014, by:

1. Hosting at least one international conference during the period (we hosted three international conferences, as described in 4.1.1.1 and 4.1.1.2).

2. Developing research networks, for example by members of staff contributing to national and international research bodies (we increased the range of national and international research networks, as described in 4.1 and 4.2).
3. Increasing our externally funded research income by drawing on the developing research infrastructure within the University (notably, Wellcome Trust National Collaborative Award (PI **Sayer**) totalling £1.5 million, of which LTU has been awarded c. £223,000. See 3.1 and 4.1.1.3).
4. Increasing the recruitment, progression and completion of PGRs from the UK and overseas (we increased our PGR community by 500% from 1 completion and 2 current in REF2014; to 8.0 completions, based on a headcount of 9, and 6 current. As demonstrated in 2.2, the growth in our PGR community has had a hugely beneficial impact on our research culture. It will contribute significantly to the University's subsequent application for Research Degree Awarding Powers).
5. Developing a web presence to promote the research culture of the department and the research activities of individual staff members (successes include the website [Whores of Yore](#) founded by **Lister** in 2015 (463.8K Twitter followers: see the ICS), the LCVS blog and Wordspace podcast).
6. Enabling and encouraging all staff in the UoA to attend national and international conferences (significant UoA successes have been used strategically to build networks for research projects).
7. Enabling and encouraging all staff in the UoA to take regular study leave, by supporting applications to the University's Research Fellowship Scheme and supporting bids to external funding bodies (as reported in 2.1.4 UoA members have benefited from this scheme and from external funding).

1.3.4 Research Strategy 2021-26

During 2021-6 we plan to build on this by:

1. As a UoA, further increasing our international reach and collaboration, and public access to our research and practice, through in person and virtual research seminars, and showcase events.
 - In LCVS, building on our successes in funding for the long 19th-century through development of new collaborative bids for research that has a positive impact.
 - In the Creative Writing Theme, increasing our international and national reach by drawing in new and building on existing partnerships with festivals, publishers, charities, and the creative industries.
 - In the new Language, Linguistics, and Translation Theme, including multilingualism, continuing to develop our research through external collaboration, and research funding.
2. As a UoA, ensuring the sustainability of our research culture by investing in ECRs and by developing staff expertise and experience through mentoring, encouraging more members of the UoA to apply for promotion to Reader and Professor.
3. As a UoA, continuing to grow our PGR community by recruiting a diverse body of PGRs across all three themes, recruiting strong candidates nationally and internationally, and by continuing to nurture our own BA and MA students towards PGR study.

1.4 Strategies for impact

Collaboration is central to the strategy for impact within the UoA. Emphasis has been placed on building and sustaining partnerships with the **cultural/heritage industries**, **publishers**, the **media**, and **charities** to impact people, communities, and places. Partnerships with charities remain particularly important because the Unit's strategy for research and impact is grounded in LTU's mission for **social justice and inclusion**, embedded in its Mission Statement, which espouses 'principles of dignity, respect, social justice, equality and inclusion ... the University is here to make a difference to the people, the professions and the places that we serve'.

The LCVS has longstanding collaborative relationships with **regional** museums and galleries such as the Abbey House Museum (Leeds), Leeds Library (Leeds), Thackray Medical Museum (Leeds), Brontë Parsonage Museum (Haworth), and Mercer Gallery (Harrogate). The UoA's collaborations with **cultural/heritage providers** now reach the **national** level and include the Science Museum (London) (**Sayer, Lister**), Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) (Reading) (**Sayer**), Vagina Museum (London) (**Lister**) and Culture Vannin (Isle of Mann) (**Storer**).

Researchers in the UoA have influenced **publishers**, **internationally**, **nationally** and **locally**: Creative writing researchers have collaborated with the International Poetry Studies Institute (IPSI), University of Canberra and the Prose Poetry Project (**Hardwick**), and with publishers including Recent Works Press, Valley Press, Stairwell Books, and Yaffle Press. **Lister** has used social **media** for impact and has also disseminated her research through a regular column in the 'I' (see ICS). Partnerships and collaborations with **charities** include: the Wellcome Trust (**Sayer, Lister**), Basis Yorkshire (**Lister**), Mind (**Hardwick**), Interact Stroke (**Bedford, Alyal, Hardwick**), National Deaf Children's Society, Action on Hearing Loss (**Sayer**), and Leeds Church Institute (**de Gay**).

The focus on social justice in the LCVS has been developed strategically, beginning with the Austerities Project (2015), a series of seminars launched by Professor Rosemary Mitchell then Director of the LCVS: this brought together **Storer, de Gay, Sayer, Hardwick** and colleagues in TRS to engage members of the local community in dialogue about how humanities subjects could address issues such as disability and exclusion, the Occupy Movement, foodbanks, and global poverty. Researchers in LCVS have gone on to use their insights into the social, cultural and literary history of the long 19th-century to advocate for the rights, opportunities, inclusion, and quality of life of disadvantaged groups, including sex workers and those with hearing loss. These include **Sayer's** work with the Thackray Medical Museum on assistive devices and **de Gay's** use of her research on Virginia Woolf and Christianity to engage church groups on questions of social justice and inclusion. This concern for social justice is reflected in both Impact Case Studies for the UoA: **Lister's** work on sex workers and the work of Creative Writers in nurturing aspiring writers from a range of backgrounds to find their voices and get published.

1.5 Open Access (OA)

The UoA recognises the importance of creating an open research environment for its research to benefit a wider community. The LCVS was instrumental in moving the *Journal of Victorian Culture* towards OA, which uses APCs, read and publish agreements, and the [Journal of Victorian Culture Online](#). All members of the UoA maintain their personal profiles on the University's institutional repository, the PURE CRIS system. The UoA has three Gold OA publications, by [Hardwick](#), [Taylor-Batty](#) and [Sayer](#). All publications from **Sayer's** WT National Collaborative Award will be OA, as required by the Wellcome Trust.

1.6. Research Ethics and Integrity

The UoA requires all staff and PGRs to undertake an online training programme on research ethics and integrity developed by the University of Leeds (UoL) and run through FutureLearn. Staff and PGRs in the UoA apply for ethical approval for new projects and funding bids via the School's Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee (REISC). PGRs submit a Research Ethics Self-

Assessment form within 3 months of registration, followed by a full Application to SCBL REISC where necessary.

The UoA recognises the importance of research ethics and integrity, including professional engagement with archivists and the scholarly community, responsible use of archival and copyrighted material, transparency in the use of data and sources, sensitive handling of personal information according to GDPR, and an awareness of the importance of risk assessment and health and safety during field-trips and archival visits. Particular care was taken, both by the REISC and the Executive, over ethical approval for Lister's research into sex work, with regard to the use of sensitive material and the risks to vulnerable people.

2. People

2.1 Staffing strategy and staff development:

The UoA recognises the importance of staffing to growing a research culture and it supports the ambitions stated in the [People Plan 2018-2021](#) to recognise the link between the wellbeing of our staff and students and our overall success. In accordance with our collegial and collaborative approach, we place emphasis on valuing staff, enabling them to progress in their research by encouraging engagement with formal training, providing mentoring and peer-support, and mitigating potential causes of inequality, as well as having clear criteria for promotion to encourage and reward research successes.

2.1.1 Staff recruitment and promotion

- The English team has a good track-record for staff retention: all 6 [Category A staff returned in REF2014](#) are still in post.
- Staff recruitment has been strong, with 9.2 FTE (as opposed to 6 in REF2014).
- Two ECRs (**Hermeston** and **Walz**) have been recruited on permanent contracts to develop research expertise in Language and Linguistics.
- The UoA has been successful in implementing its strategies for mentoring and supporting its staff, thereby contributing to the discipline. This is evidenced in the case of **Lister**. **Lister** was an undergraduate and PGR at LTU: during the reporting period she has completed her PhD, completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship, and been appointed as a Lecturer through open competition (since the census date, she has been promoted to Senior Lecturer). **Lister** has been mentored in her research for *Whores of Yore*, which established the groundwork for the subsequent publication of her best-selling book *A Curious History of Sex* (2020).
- Through our collegial approach, the UoA contributed to the career progression of Dr Helen Kingstone, who came to LTU as a PGR co-supervised by **Uglow** and was subsequently appointed Postdoctoral Fellow. **Lister** and Kingstone collaborated on several projects including fostering a community among PGRs within the UoA, teaching on the MA and organising an LCVS day conference among Victorian objects (2015), that resulted in jointly edited book *Paraphernalia! Victorian Objects* (Routledge 2018). Whilst at LTU, Kingstone published a monograph *Victorian Narratives of the Recent Past: memory, history, fiction* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), before going on to a lectureship at the University of Glasgow and then Research Fellowship at the University of Surrey.
- One member of the UoA (**de Gay**) was promoted to Professor during the reporting period, under the University's published promotions scheme. She has since provided mentoring for colleagues within and outside of the UoA.

2.1.2 Staff development

- Research is an item considered within appraisal (Performance and Development Review) and time is allocated for research in Workload Planners.
- Research mentoring is available for all new staff. In 2020, the Pathways scheme was

implemented to provide a career framework for academic staff, aiming to provide a clearer structure for development and progression for all academic colleagues currently on Grades 7 and 8. UoA members have both provided and received mentoring.

- The UoA has been proactive in setting up networks to promote research across LTU. These include Writing Groups that meet at scheduled times in a physical or virtual room, to enable staff and PGRs to write and research in a collegial atmosphere and to share research and time-management tips, and a Research Café that meets once a month (initially in person, now virtually), to enable colleagues from across LTU to exchange ideas, share good national and international practice and support one another in research.

2.1.3. Staff Training

- UoA members are actively encouraged to engage with the training programme offered by the LTU Research KE Office. Members are also encouraged to attend courses at UoL and training provided by GuildHE and CREST, with fees paid by LTU.
- Staff have undergone formal training in PGR supervision and examination.
- Training has also been delivered through mentoring: all PGRs at LTU are supervised by teams, which means that colleagues new to supervision (classified as Model 2 supervisors) can be guided by more experienced colleagues (classified as Model 1 supervisors), who have achieved at least 1 PhD completion. Initially, all supervisory teams had to include a mentor from UoL (the Accrediting institution). However, after several successful completions, the UoL have allowed supervisory teams to be made up entirely of LTU staff, which is a sign of maturity.
- Through taking this team approach, the UoA has grown its pool of Model 1 supervisors to 7: **Alyal, Bedford, de Gay, Hardwick, Sayer, Taylor-Batty** and **Uglow**. In September 2020, **de Gay** was appointed Deputy Director of Postgraduate Studies for LTU, with responsibility for coordinating research training and building a postgraduate community.

2.1.4. Research Support and Leave

Staff in the UoA received c. £16,000 in financial support for research collaborations, networks and partnerships through the Research Development Scheme and the Financial Support for Conference Attendance scheme, by which each member of staff may apply for funding to attend one national and one international conference each year: the expectation is that staff should present research and produce a publication, and criteria for international travel include a specific expectation that the member of staff will engage in networking.

Members of the UoA benefited from the University's Research Fellowship Scheme, to a total of ~£1,400. **Storer** was awarded periods of research leave in 2014-15 and 2015-16 and **Taylor-Batty** was awarded research leave in 2015-16 and received a Research Support Grant in 2017-18. **Sayer** was bought out of some of her teaching during 2015-16 through seed-funding from the Wellcome Trust for her project 'Thinking Forward through the Past'.

2.2. Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs)

2.2.1 Recruitment

The UoA has increased its PGR community by 500% as the result of a strategy that aims to develop staff, give opportunities to young researchers (including creating a climate of ambition among our strongest BA and MA students), and grow the vibrancy and sustainability of the Unit. To further this objective, the UoA has put in competitive bids for the doctoral studentships that LTU has offered to increase PGR numbers across the institution: the UoA has had a good track-record of success and 8 of the PGRs recruited in the reporting period have come from this route. Another is funded as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. Three are self-funded and one has a fee-waiver under a scholarship scheme for LTU graduates. In line with our strategy of creating a climate of achievement, 4 PGRs were outstanding graduates from our Masters programmes and 1 PGR was a BA graduate. 6 were outstanding external candidates recruited through the

studentship competition. General recruitment for PGRs is advertised via the University website and staff willingness to take PhD researchers is indicated on their personal profiles: 3 PGRs were recruited through this.

2.2.2 Integration of PGRs into research culture

The UoA has worked strategically to integrate PGRs into its research culture to create a vibrant and inclusive research community. Researchers in LCVS and Creative Writing have provided PGRs with opportunities to engage in seminars, international conferences, readings and workshops, to organise events, and edit and contribute to blogs and anthologies (such as the LCVS Blog, the LTU-wide Explorers blog, the annual Wordspace anthology and a volume in the LCVS Working papers series on Imagining the Victorians).

Two international conferences held by the UoA have provided particular opportunities for PGRs:

- a) The International Virginia Woolf Conference 2016 was co-organised by REUS and BRECKIN working alongside **de Gay** on all aspects from assessing abstracts to editing the Selected Papers. Other PGRs chaired panels, gave papers and wrote blog postings. We also drew several undergraduate students into the conference on work placements, as a way of engaging them in the research culture and raising aspirations: one of these students is now a PGR.
- b) The British Association for Victorian Studies (BAVS) Conference 2015 involved all the LCVS PGRs: chairing panels, giving papers, and working on front of house.

PGRs have been encouraged to develop their own initiatives: for example, one conference was organised entirely by PGRs PADGETT and BASDEO: 'Pernicious Trash? Victorian Popular Literature, c.1830-c.1880' (2016).

UoA members have involved their PGRs in external networks: **Sayer** involved GANN in her collaboration with the Thackray Medical Museum to redesign its Victorian Street. Gann's thesis examined Victorian Street Scenes in museums and the Thackray Medical Museum had formed one of his case studies (for his thesis, he interviewed its original designer, Ian Dawson, as well as curators). Gann specifically offered guidance on issues of disability access for neurodiverse visitors, and representation of societal issues including disability and health/disease, based on his research.

2.2.3 PGR Publications

PGRs are encouraged and supported to get their work published. Several PGRs have published in peer-reviewed journals and collections before completing their theses. For example, CLEMENS published "["Making flowers": the first English translation of a short story by Dutch modernist Carry van Bruggen](#)" in *Feminist Modernist Studies* and REUS and BRECKIN had chapters published in the peer-reviewed collection, *Virginia Woolf and the World of Books* eds. Nicola Wilson and Claire Battershill (Liverpool University Press, 2018). Staff in the UoA have drawn their PGRs into editing projects: BRECKIN and REUS co-edited *Virginia Woolf and Heritage* (Clemson University Press/Liverpool University Press, 2017), with **de Gay**, and since graduating, CLEMENS has been co-editing and contributing to a cluster of essays on 'Eliot and Europe' with **Taylor-Batty** for the T.S. Eliot Annual (forthcoming 2021).

Creative Writing PGRs engage in local and national publishing networks, meeting agents and publishers, and they have a good track record of getting published. For example, STOCKDALE published *The Glower of the Sun* (Red Squirrel, 2019), and he planned and co-edited *An Insubstantial Universe* with **Alyal**, an anthology of poems for the George Eliot bicentenary (Yaffle Press, 2020), a collaboration with LCVS. MISTRY published several novels in the DI Gus McGuire series, including *Uncommon Cruelty* and *Unseen Evil* as well as "Expanding the Creative Narrative: Why it Matters," *Writing in Practice* 6 (2020) (pp. 63-80).

As a result of this nurturing, two have had the 'book of the thesis' accepted for publication shortly after graduating: BASDEO, *The Life and Legend of an Outlaw: Robin Hood* (Barnsley: Pen and Sword, 2019), and REUS, *Virginia Woolf and Nineteenth-Century Women Writers: Victorian Legacies and Literary Afterlives* (under contract with Edinburgh University Press).

2.2.4 PGR Training and Professional Development

The UoA encourages its PGRs to attend institutional-level research training sessions, research seminars across the University, and the annual workshop or masterclass offered by the LCVS Visiting Professor. Most of our PGRs have also completed the in-house Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching at Higher Education Level programme, with associated application to Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. PGRs are encouraged to attend training sessions at UoL (with their fees covered by LTU), as well as using free online training courses and resources provided by the University of East Anglia and the Researcher Development Framework through LTU's membership of GuildHE Research Shared Services. LCVS doctoral candidates are encouraged to join BAVS and engage in its professionalisation workshops. PGRs are encouraged and supported to attend national and international conferences, and they have received funding from the Postgraduate Researchers Support Fund (total of c. £13,000). The UoA has also given PGRs ample opportunities for professionalisation through shadowing staff and observing lectures, as well as gaining experience in giving seminars and lectures.

As a result of this training, 4 PGRs progressed directly to University posts. CLEMENS gained a Lectureship at University of Utrecht; REUS became a tutor and researcher at TU Dresden, Germany; BASDEO became Lecturer on the Richmond American International University's Leeds campus and CHATTERJEE (whose name appeared on the pass list after the census date) was awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship at TU Darmstadt, Germany.

2.2.5 PGR Support and monitoring

PGRs in the UoA are encouraged to make use of University support services described in REF5a, including support with study skills and mental health, and advice on finance and housing.

Supervisors in the UoA follow the formal monitoring process described in REF5a, through regular supervision meetings, a training plan, the transfer process, and annual reviews, keeping formal records. They meet with their PGRs regularly, in most cases exceeding the minimum requirements for formal meetings (10 times p.a. for FT; 12 times for international PGRs, and 6 times for PT), while LCVS Seminars and WordSpace create opportunities for regular informal contact. As a result of support and careful monitoring of progress, the UoA has a good track-record for student progress and 100% of our PGR completions passed their Viva at first attempt.

2.3 Equality and diversity

Inclusion, diversity, and social justice are at the heart of the research strategy of the institution and the UoA. One member serves on the University-wide Race Equality Charter (REC) Group, scrutinising practices and pedagogy in the light of racial equality, which contributed in 2020 to LTU's achievement of the Race Equality Charter Bronze Award. In line with institutional policies for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, the UoA operates in a way that is 'genuinely inclusive' and ensures 'equitable treatment' for all staff and PGRs, and as per the University's Code of Practice, all staff involved in the Unit's decision making for REF2021 have completed REF-specific Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.

As part of the Mindful Employer network, the University is a signatory to the Charter for Employers who are Positive about Mental Health, and UoA researchers have made use of Wellbeing advice via a bespoke website. Staff are also encouraged to make use of the Employee Assistance Programme that provides access to support with issues including employment, health, relationships, and finance. UoA members have engaged with a designated Microsoft Teams site set up to promote staff wellbeing during the Covid-19 pandemic.

UoA members with disabilities have accessed specialist software and equipment and support workers, to enable them to research productively. UoA members with caring responsibilities have been supported to make flexible working arrangements. Members have also engaged with Staff Equality Networks for women; staff with disabilities; international; BAME and LGBT+ staff, particularly those for women, and for staff with disabilities (54.4% of staff in the UoA are female and 18.2% consider themselves disabled).

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1. Income

Sayer is a PI on a Wellcome Trust National Collaborative Award worth £1.5 million: '[Thinking forward through the past](#): Linking science, social science and the humanities to inform the sustainable reduction of endemic disease in British livestock farming' (2018-22). LTU was awarded c. £223,000 of this, and so far, it has received £89,000. **Sayer** did the groundwork for this successful bid through her MERL Fellowship (c. £11,000, 2014-16) and seed-funding from the Wellcome Trust (c. £2,000, 2016-17).

Taylor Batty received a British Academy small grant (2015-16) of c. £5,000 for archival work at the University of Tulsa (for REF2 Taylor-Batty1 and Taylor-Batty2). **Storer** received £500 from Culture Vannin (Isle of Man cultural agency) for research in Manx National Heritage Archive.

3.2 Investment

The University has invested in research by the UoA through the PGR studentships (c.£17,000 p.a. per studentship), the Research Development Fund and the Financial Support for Conference Attendance. In addition to this financial support, staff and students have access to the print and electronic resources of the LTU library, as well as the opportunity to access further material via inter-library loans and to use other University libraries under the SCONUL scheme. Staff and PGRs also have individual access to the UoL Libraries including its Special Collections in the Brotherton Library, paid for by LTU.

LTU provides support-in-kind for conferences and seminars, including free use of rooms, IT facilities and technical support, as well as support from the Events Co-ordinator, Press Officer and marketing team for high-profile events. Additionally, the LCVS has used its JVC income of c. £21,000 during the reporting period to fund conferences, publications, and the Visiting Professor. It also has a good track record of securing small grants typically c. £200 from organisations such as BAVS and the British Society for the History of Science to support conferences.

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

4.1 Collaboration

4.1.1 Strategy for collaboration

The UoA's strategy is to generate interdisciplinary research and facilitate international collaborations, with the aim of producing impactful research that makes a difference to society. This accords with LTU's [University Research Strategy](#): 'We will engage in research that is true to our mission, vision and values in collaboration and partnership with other Universities, organisations, professional communities and individuals that seek to make a positive impact in society locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.' By collaborating with academics beyond LTU, we have contributed to the vitality of the research culture, making the most of national and international resources. International collaborations have enhanced the reputation of LTU, leading to further invitations to speak, examine theses and peer review.

4.1.1.1 The LCVS has established a reputation for collaborations and conferences that are well-supported by colleagues within LTU and that attract participants nationally and internationally. It

has established a reputation for academic excellence: publishers and the media regularly turn to the LCVS for expertise and the Centre has a good track-record of engaging leading scholars to take part in its activities, such as Harriet Ritvo (MIT, Boston, USA) who spoke at an LCVS seminar and offered a PGRs' career workshop, and most notably as Visiting Professors including Bernard Lightman (York University, Canada), Herbert Tucker, (University of Virginia, USA) and Miles Taylor, (University of York, UK). During the reporting period, it made a deliberate strategy of furthering its links with University of Cergy-Pontoise, Paris, Hull University and Huddersfield University through the [Northern Nineteenth-Century Network](#). One output from this was the collection *Victorian Cultures of Liminality: Borders and Margins* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2018), which grew out of an NNCN/LCVS event and was edited by **Alyal**, Dr Susan Anderson (Sheffield Hallam University) and Mitchell, and included chapters by **Hardwick**, **Uglow (REF2, Uglow1)**, **Sayer**, BASDEO, and TRS colleague, Dr Hannah Hunt, as well as colleagues from NNCN.

On the strength of its reputation for hosting successful conferences, and through fostering links with BAVS, the LCVS was chosen to host the annual BAVS conference for 2015. This high-profile event was also used to mark the 21st anniversary of the LCVS: the theme 'Victorian Age(s)', being chosen to highlight this coming-of-age. The conference was organised by Mitchell and Kingstone (LCVS Director and Research Fellow at the time), with the participation and support of colleagues and PGRs across the UoA. A further LCVS conference, 'Science and Spiritualism, 1750-1930', was held in 2019 collaboratively organised by Dr Efram Sera-Shriar (Science Museum), Mitchell and **de Gay**.

4.1.1.2 The reputation of the LCVS for effective conferences was instrumental in **de Gay's** successful bid to host the International Virginia Woolf Conference at LTU (2016). As this conference had normally been held in North America, the reputation of LCVS for conferences was instrumental in persuading the international committee to accept our bid. The event also grew from networks that de Gay had built with the International Virginia Woolf Society and the Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain through regular conference attendance, sponsored by the University. The theme of 'Virginia Woolf and Heritage', was chosen to draw on the LCVS connections with the heritage industry (international, national and local partners included the Brontë Parsonage Museum, Leeds Library, Giggleswick School, Charleston, Washington State University, Smith College Massachusetts, and the New York Public Library). A further partner was the AHRC-sponsored 'Woolf and Music' Project, a collaboration between pianist Lana Bode (Trinity Laban Conservatoire) and Dr Emma Sutton (University of St Andrews), who put on a concert of new music inspired by Virginia Woolf's work. The conference gave rise to two books: the conference proceedings, and *The Edinburgh Companion to Virginia Woolf and Contemporary Global Literature*, ed. Jeanne Dubino and Paulina Pajak (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming 2021), which grew from a significant strand of research on international heritage presented at the conference. The event secured the reputation of LTU for modernism and Woolf Studies, and it has given rise to opportunities for staff and has attracted new PGRs (since the census date, Marielle O'Neill has begun a PhD on Woolf at LTU).

4.1.1.3 Strategic partnerships between the heritage industry and the LCVS provided the foundation for **Sayer's** long-standing relationship with Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds, who invited her to interpret their national-level collection of assistive hearing devices, as a historian with a track record of working closely with artists, heritage providers and museums such as MERL at the national level. Work with the museum, and engaging d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in Leeds, liaison with Action on Hearing Loss and the National Deaf Children's Society resulted in the co-authored *Managing the Experience of Hearing Loss, 1830-1930*, (Palgrave Macmillan 2017) (REF2, Sayer2) in collaboration with Professor Graeme Gooday (UoL).

This networking and these strategic partnerships between LCVS and the heritage industry underpinned **Sayer's** successful application for a stipendiary MERL Fellowship, which she drew on to build a relationship with King's College London, Newcastle University, University of Hull, University of Edinburgh, Glasgow University, and to bring MERL in as a collaborative heritage partner on two successful Wellcome Trust grant applications – one Seed Grant and one

interdisciplinary National Collaborative Award 'Thinking forward through the past'. These were forged from links with the Agricultural History Society (US), the History of Science Society meeting (Boston, USA), and the American Environmental History Society, the biannual EURHO Rural History conferences, and biannual ESSRC conferences. 'Thinking forward through the past', for which she is a PI runs until 2022; the first output is 'The Changing Landscape of Labour: Work and Livestock in Post-Second World War British Agriculture' (REF2, Sayer1).

4.1.1.4 Research in the Creative Writing Theme at LTU has attained international standing through collaboration with colleagues in Australia, the US, Europe and South-East Asia as well as the UK. **Hardwick** has been associated with the International Poetry Studies Institute (IPSI), University of Canberra, for 5 years, which brings together scholars to research and disseminate the theory and practice of prose poetry and workshop creative material. Through this collaboration, Hardwick was invited to join the Prose Poetry Project, which comprises 20 poets from across Australia, Israel, Singapore and the UK. Developed by Prof Paul Hetherington, University of Canberra, this project focuses on the creative practice of prose poetry, and it has resulted in [creative publications](#) in collaboration with Recent Works Press, Australia. Through networking with IPSI, Hardwick is producing an edited volume *Prose Poetry in Theory and Practice* (under contract with Routledge).

Connections with the Prose Poetry Group at IPSI have also led to Hardwick being invited to national and international events and symposia. These include an invitation to speak on ekphrasis at the Art and Soul Conference at the University of Winchester (2019), organised by Professor Andrew Melrose, where Hardwick spoke alongside academics from the US, UK and Australia. Publications are pending from this project. Hardwick also collaborated with Dr Anne Caldwell (Open University) to organise the first-ever UK conference on Prose Poetry: the International Prose Poetry Symposium (LTU, 2019). This event, which drew academics and practitioners from Europe, the US and Australia, was funded as part of an Arts Council England project, which gave rise to *The Valley Press Anthology of Prose Poetry*, edited by Hardwick and Caldwell (2019), and featured new writers alongside poets of international standing.

Hardwick has also initiated and developed international networks of medievalist poets through his participation in The International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University. His edited volume *New Crops from Old Fields: Eight Medievalist Poets* (Stairwell Books, 2015), featuring the work of poets from the US and UK, resulted from this collaboration.

Nationally, **Hardwick** has collaboratively edited several anthologies, including *The Valley Press Anthology of Yorkshire Poetry* with Miles Salter (Valley Press, 2017), which was a 2017 National Poetry Day Recommendation. **Hardwick** and **Alyal** have contributed to discussions of creativity within and without the curriculum through their participation – both academic and organisational – in National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE) conferences. This led to Hardwick hosting a NAWE Networking Event at LTU (2019).

Bedford has developed high-profile national interdisciplinary collaborations through the science-into-fiction and history-into-fiction initiatives from Comma Press. Bedford wrote the short story 'The Sayer of the Sooth' (in *Beta Life: Stories from an A-Life Future* (Comma Press, 2014)) in a collaboration on artificial intelligence with Dr James O'Shea (Manchester Metropolitan University), and 'My Soul to Keep' (in *Spindles: Stories from the Science of Sleep* (Comma Press, 2015)) in collaboration with Professor Ed Watkins (Psychology, University of Exeter). **Bedford's** story 'Withen' (in *Protest: Stories of Resistance* (Comma Press, 2017)), a collaboration with Professor David Waddington (History, Sheffield Hallam University), was chosen by *Doctor Who* actor Christopher Eccleston to read at the online book launch.

4.1.1.5 International collaboration is integral to the UoA's research in language, linguistics and translation. **Taylor-Batty** has collaborated internationally with the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, and nationally with the UoL and University of Sheffield. In 2015 and 2017, **Taylor-Batty** was invited to collaborate as co-I on two international funding proposals to HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) and ERC (European Research Council) respectively (both circa €1,000,000). **Taylor-Batty** was a keynote speaker at the conference organised by her colleagues

in Warsaw: 'Poetics of (Mis)understanding conference' (2017). [A book chapter](#) based on her keynote was published in a collection edited by the PI and Co-Is. **Taylor-Batty** is currently building on this to develop an interdisciplinary project with collaborators from the UoL and Sheffield, looking at literary multilingualism from the perspectives of linguistics, language education and theatre.

4.2 Contributions to research base

UoA members have contributed to the wider research base by sharing their research and expertise with the academic community beyond LTU. These interactions, in turn, enrich the research culture within the UoA.

4.2.1. Keynotes and invited talks

Lister has given four keynote talks on sex work at conferences since 2018, including one at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. **Taylor-Batty** has given keynotes at the international conferences in Warsaw and Oslo, and five invited talks including one at the Sorbonne. **Sayer's** invited talks include a seminar at MIT on 'Thinking Forward Through the Past: Requiem for the Farm Animal' and **de Gay** has given a seminar at Harvard Divinity School on Woolf and Christianity. **Storer** has given an invited talk on Hall Caine in an event organised by University of Liverpool Centre for Manx Studies, and an invited talk on F.R. Leavis at the University of York. Members have been invited to join expert roundtable discussions nationally at the University of Oxford and the UoL (**Taylor-Batty**), and internationally at the American Academy of Religion, San Diego (**de Gay**).

4.2.2. Fellowships and residencies

UoA members take their research to other universities and scholarly institutions on a longer-term basis through **fellowships and residencies**. **Sayer** is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society; Visiting Fellow in the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science, UoL; Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of History, Kings College London; and from 2014-15 she was stipendiary Gwyn E. Jones Fellow at MERL.

Within Creative Writing, **Bedford** was Royal Literary Fund Fellowship, UoL (2018–2019). **Hardwick's** 5-year association with IPSI, Canberra has led to opportunities including an invited talk for 'Poetry on the Move: Inhabiting Language' (2018) and an invited talk at 'Art and Soul', University of Winchester (2019). Member's contributions have also been acknowledged in the award of prizes including the Coventry Inspiration Book Award 2017 (**Bedford**) and the Sentinel Annual Poetry Prize 2014 and Rubery International Book Award 2019 (**Hardwick**).

4.2.2 Peer reviewing, examining and judging

UoA members have an influence on the future direction of research in their areas by **peer reviewing manuscripts, book proposals, grant applications and journal articles**. Members have reviewed for publishers Routledge, Palgrave Macmillan (**de Gay, Sayer, Taylor-Batty**); Edinburgh University Press (**de Gay**); Cambridge University Press, McFarland Publishing (**Hardwick**); Manchester University Press (**Sayer, Hardwick**); McGill-Queens University Press, White Horse Press (**Sayer**); Amherst College Press and Brill (**Taylor-Batty**). They guide future research by peer-reviewing grant applications: Sayer has reviewed applications for the ESRC, Marie Curie, and the University of Leuven, Belgium. Members nurture research outside the institution by peer-reviewing articles for *JVC* (**de Gay, Storer**); *Woolf Studies Annual*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, *Journal of Victorian Studies*, *International Journal of the Book*, and *Postgraduate English* (**de Gay**); *Axon*, *Speculum*, *Writing in Practice* (**Hardwick**); *Agricultural History Review*, *Agricultural History*, *Social and Cultural History* (**Sayer**); *Journal of the History of Ideas* (**Storer**); *Modernism/Modernity*, *Journal of World Literature*, *Comparative Critical Studies*, *CLC Web: Comparative Literature and Culture*, *Studies in the Novel*, *Pilgrimages: The Journal of Dorothy Richardson Studies*, and *Symplokē* (**Taylor-Batty**); and *Discourse, Context & Media*

(Walz). **De Gay, Hardwick, Lister, Sayer, Storer** and **Taylor-Batty** have all supported new researchers as external examiners for PhD theses.

Researchers in Creative Writing support a diverse international generation of new writers by **judging entries for prizes**. **Bedford** was a member of the judging panel for the children's category and main prize panel for the Costa Book Awards 2015; he judged the Leeds Writers' Circle short-story competition, 2019; and was Chair of Judges for the Dinesh Allirajah Prize for Short Fiction 2020. **Hardwick** has judged a number of international competitions: Aesthetica Creative Writing Award, The Daniil Pashkoff Prize (Germany), Poetry on the Lake Short Poetry Award (Italy), Segora Flash Fiction Award (France), The Vice-Chancellor's Poetry Prize (University of Canberra).

4.2.3. Committees

UoA members encourage excellence in research by sitting on prize committees: for example, **Sayer** is a judge on the Fite Dissertation Prize Committee, Agricultural History Society (US) and has judged for the Joan Thirsk Prize Committee (for the Best Book in British or Irish Rural or Agrarian History), British Agricultural History Society (BAHS). Other committees supported by the UoA include: NAWHE Committee (**Hardwick**); Executive Committee, BAMS and Organising Committee, Northern Modernism Seminar (**Taylor-Batty**); the International Virginia Woolf Conference Committee (**de Gay**); BAHS (2015-19), and UK Representative to the International Federation of Research in Women's History (**Sayer**, ex-officio WHN Steering Committee member 2014-19). **Lister** is on the Board of the Vagina Museum.

4.3 Public Engagement and contributions to society and the economy

The UoA puts three key principles of public engagement into practice: informing and inspiring the public, engaging with stakeholders, and drawing the public into collaboration with our research. Our public engagement is developed in partnership with local and national charities and heritage organisations. Social justice is at the heart of our public engagement, and UoA members are engaged with diverse communities outside the academy, including sex workers, the d/Deaf communities, Leeds' West Indian community, inner-city schools, and stroke patients.

Four examples are offered here:

4.3.1 Lister's Whores of Yore website, along with its associated twitter feed, is a public engagement resource that informs the public about the history of sex and sex-workers, as well as interesting and inspiring viewers through carefully-curated stories and illustrations that challenge their attitudes and perceptions. It is also public engagement in the sense of collaboration, as Lister takes a democratic approach to the contributors she publishes, including writings by sex workers, activists, artists, and therapists as well as academics. Her use of social media particularly encourages the public to engage in debate and to share insights and examples. Lister has developed particular collaborative projects with Basis Yorkshire, working with them to develop the online timeline, 'The History of Sex Work', and on an oral history project supported by the Rosa Fund, *Our Voice: Perspectives to Challenge Stigma and Stereotypes Around Sex Work* (Leeds: Delta, 2017), for which Lister was the consultant. As described in the ICS, Lister's work has made a contribution to society by changing public attitudes to sex and sex work and by providing research to support Leeds Council's Managed Approach to street sex work. Lister's work has also had an economic benefit by helping to raise money for Basis Yorkshire by publicising a fundraising event that made £40,000, and by donating the £7,949 proceeds of her book, *A Curious History of Sex* to them.

4.3.2 Sayer's Wellcome Trust Project 'Thinking Forward through the Past' has public engagement as part of its core funding, for the public are factored as creative participants in events such as the Being Human Festival (2019), the Royal Institution 'You and the Planet' (2020), agricultural shows, and 'games' in markets. Sayer and the Wellcome Trust researchers also engage with, and report to, stakeholders through an advisory group that includes DEFRA, veterinarians, and farmers.

4.3.3 **Sayer's** research on hearing loss cultures was conducted in collaboration with the Thackray Medical Museum (see 4.1.1.3), and she has had an impact on the presentation of hearing assistive devices within the collection, and consequently on the public understanding of hearing loss. She is involved in accessioning new donations to the collection and advised on a redisplay that was carried out in 2020, though its opening has been delayed by lockdown. Sayer has informed the public at presentations at the Science Museum London, Leeds City Museum, and the Thackray Medical Museum. She has also provided training for health professionals, including delivering a 4-hour session to 20 international trainee audiologists at the annual training event (IPAB) organised by the UoL Medical School.

4.3.4 Creative Writing Theme researchers engage with the public through high-profile, public-facing events including the annual Writers' Festival Day and Wordspace, as well as in schools' visits, literary festivals and workshops. Additionally, they have collaborated with organisations over particular initiatives, including:

- a) **Bedford's** short-story collection, *Letters Home*, was included in the books used in the "Time to Read" scheme run by the North West Libraries Reader Development Partnership (January-June 2020). This project involves public library authorities in Cumbria, Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside, working together to promote reading and reader development activity among adults aged 16+.
- b) **Alyal, Hardwick** and **Bedford** have supported the stroke charity [Interact](#) by writing stories commissioned by 'A Thousand Word Photos,' a national creative project in which photographers and writers collaborate to create original fiction. The stories (each of which is exactly 1000 words long) are published in an online library and read by actors to stroke patients at hospitals across London. Bedford's story "The Interaction" (2018) was paired with a photograph by Chloe Dewe Matthews, Hardwick "Primavera" (2019) with a photograph by Alexander Parkyn-Smith, and Alyal's "Escape from Gravity" (2019) with a photograph by Yigit Gunel. Bedford's story was also performed on stage by an actor at a fund-raising event for the charity at the Arcola Theatre, London (February 2020).
- c) **Hardwick** worked with Mind (the mental health charity), as an invited reader at *Mindfest*, reading and talking about his poems relating to mental health issues online to a live audience of nearly 800. Organiser Holly Taymar-Bilton described Hardwick's contribution as 'the perfect fit for *Mindfest York*. His easy, measured way of describing real people, easily relatable to, with complete authenticity, made his performance utterly compelling.'

These examples of public engagement further demonstrate the importance of social justice to the research produced by the UoA, to its dissemination and its benefits for users.