

Institution: Nottingham Trent University (NTU)
Unit of Assessment: D34 - Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Context</p> <p>The Communication, Cultural and Media Studies Unit at Nottingham Trent (NTU) has a record of high-quality research in the major areas of Communication, Cultural and Media Studies. The Unit draws on well-established and internationally recognised research strengths in Media and Cultural Studies, Film and Television, Communications, Social Theory and Linguistics. The Unit's strength and diversity are reflected in the range and number of its publications and grants and the vibrancy of its impact activities, collaborative partnerships and postgraduate community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We returned 11.7 FTE in 2014 and are returning 18 FTE in 2021; • We have produced 21 books, 62 chapters and 113 journal articles as well as organising 11 conferences, workshops or external seminar series in the period and numerous outreach events; • We have seen an 8-fold increase in our research income from £90,000 for REF2014 to £749,350 for REF2021; and • We have more than doubled the number of PhD completions from 10 in 2014 to 21. <p>All D34 researchers, and 23 currently enrolled postgraduate researchers (PGRs) are members of the Centre for the Study of Inequality, Culture and Difference. The Centre's core strengths relate to transversal themes of gender and identity, globalisation and the transnational, digital and everyday cultures, language, power, and institution.</p> <p>Committed to collaboration, the Unit's researchers actively seek out local, national and international partners, bridging theory and practice and developing innovative forms of knowledge co-production with external institutions and communities. Since 2014, we have significantly extended the range and focus of our partnerships. We work at regional level, for example, with the Nottingham Contemporary gallery, the African Women's Empowerment Forum, Broadway Cinema and the National Justice Museum. At a national and international level, we have developed relationships with organisations such as the NSPCC, the National Coal Mining Museum for England, the PILL, Arter and Zilberman galleries in Istanbul and CONCORD, the Brussels-based federation of international development organisations. We are co-investigators in cross-HEI networks such as the AHRC-funded 'Centre for Hidden Histories', part of the AHRC World War One community heritage centres.</p> <p>Since 2014, the Unit has benefitted from the investment of £2.7 million in the School of Arts and Humanities, through the Valuing Ideas pillar of NTU's 2020 and 2025 Strategic Plans. This investment has supported postdoctoral research assistant appointments, impact and engagement activities and PGR recruitment as well as staff sabbaticals and output production. With its longstanding commitment to collaborations within and outside the institution, the Unit has also benefitted from NTU's provision of financial and infrastructural support for five over-arching Strategic Research Themes (SRTs): Health and Wellbeing, Medical Technologies and Advanced Materials, Global Heritage, Sustainable Futures and Safety and Security of Citizens and Society). NTU has also invested in an Associate Dean of Research (ADR) in every academic school which connects the Unit directly to the University Research Committee and University Leadership Team where research and institutional policy and practice are debated,</p> <p>Structure</p> <p>All aspects of the Unit's work are overseen by the D34 Research Strategy Group which comprises senior and earlier career researchers representing the different areas of research expertise. O'Shaughnessy is the Unit's research leader; Allwood and Braber are its impact champions and Coffey-Glover convenes the research seminars. Senior members of the group</p>

act as mentors for other researchers in the Unit. The Unit works in active dialogue with the School's Athena Swan and Research Concordat Champions.

The Unit's Research Centre, the **Centre for the Study of Inequality, Culture and Difference**, is directed by **O'Shaughnessy** and its activities are distributed across five Research Groups:

- **Gender and sexuality** (feminism and post-feminism, queer theory, transnational sexualities, masculinities); **Allwood, Boulé, Çakirlar, Coffey-Glover, Genz, McCaffrey**.
- **Globalisation** (transnational communication, intercultural translation, exile and diaspora, migration and gender, globalisation and culture); **Alexander, Bailey, Çakirlar, Lee, Poberezhskaya, Wittel**.
- **Cultures of the everyday** (digital media, social media, material cultures): **Coffey-Glover, Genz, Wittel, Wright**.
- **Language, power and institution** (cultural policy, public diplomacy, critical discourse analysis, forensic linguistics, dialect and identity, cultural heritage, critical journalism): **Alexander, Braber, Fuggle, Coffey-Glover, Wright**.
- **Media and film cultures** (Media and gender, national and transnational cinema cultures, cinema, the body and the senses, political cinema, transnational stardom and celebrity): **Çakirlar, Coffey-Glover, Genz, Hardy, Lee, Lundy, McCaffrey, O'Shaughnessy, Poberezhskaya**.

Some researchers find their home in a specific group but, underscoring connections and convergences within the Unit, others participate in the activities of more than one group. For example, **Braber's** ground-breaking work on East Midlands English makes its important contribution to a burgeoning awareness of the importance of intangible heritage to regional identities while sitting squarely within the **language, power and institution** group. **Wright's** innovative research into the application of the resources of forensic linguistics to institutional contexts finds its natural home in the same group. In contrast, **Alexander's** work on public diplomacy and on aid, development assistance and communication feeds into the work of both the **language, power and institution** and **globalisation** groups. Working at the intersection of politics and media analysis, **Poberezhskaya's** important research on representations of climate change in Russian mainstream and social media contributes to the same two groups.

Wittel's work, in the **media and film cultures** group, explores the political economy of digital technologies and the complexities of questions of on-line anonymity. Contributing to both the **globalisation** and **media and film cultures** groups, **Bailey** explores the use of social media by diasporic groups. Complementing **Bailey**, bringing together Queer theory, transnational cultural analysis and a deep sensibility to artistic practices, **Çakirlar** explores questions of cultural translation and mobility in a globalised world while contributing powerfully to the **gender and sexuality** group in the Unit.

Significant contributions to the **gender and sexuality** group are made by **Coffey-Glover, Allwood, Boulé, McCaffrey** and **Genz**. **Boulé** and **McCaffrey** bring the resources of theory to bear on constructions of gender in cultural texts. **Coffey-Glover** draws productively on the resources of discourse analysis and linguistics to generate new insights into homophobic discourses in public debates and the consequences of naming practices in marriage and civil partnerships. More resolutely policy- and institution-centric, **Allwood's** work probes the gap between rhetoric and practice with respect to gender and EU and national policy design and application.

Contributing to both the **gender and sexuality** and **media and film cultures** groups, **Genz** combines high-level media analysis and feminist scholarship to analyse the interplay of neoliberalism and post-feminism both theoretically and as expressed in different media texts.

Addressing **media and film culture** and **globalisation**, **Lee** combines close analysis with an informed understanding of international film industry practices to cast significant new light on East Asian film industries and their products. Working within **media and film cultures**, **Hardy** and **O'Shaughnessy** bring theory and close textual analysis to bear on a range of cinemas, especially European ones. **Lundy** brings philosophical expertise to the group.

This rich network of interconnections and the Unit's capacity to combine traditional tools of media, communications and cultural analysis with insights and methods from other disciplines constitute its strength and originality. They find expression in its publications, conference and workshop organisation, and rich impact activity.

Matters relating to research integrity and ethics are overseen centrally (see REF5a) and managed locally. Scrutiny of staff and PGR projects in D34 is overseen by a cross-School committee to ensure that projects are scrutinised from different disciplinary perspectives. Resources are available to staff and students in the form of online modules which cover essential aspects of research integrity and these are complemented by training arrangements at School level.

The D34 impact case studies (ICSs) demonstrate how we have formed effective local, national and international partnerships to empower individuals and to influence social and policy debates, supported directly by institutional investment. Led by Allwood, **Mind the gap: improving alignment between rhetoric and reality in the implementation of European gender equality policy** demonstrates the international reach of our impact. It supports the work of NGOs, the EU, whose policies she helps shape, and the women and girls around the world who are affected by the policy implementation. NTU funding of £37K provided **Allwood** with research assistance and enabled her to carry out European meetings, transcribe interviews and provide translations critical to the project. Led by Braber, **Raising the Profile of Language as Heritage in the East Midlands** exemplifies our commitment to shape and inform the work of institutions and individuals at a more regional and local level. **Braber's** work put itself at the service of schools, artists, museums and communities in the East Midlands, helping individuals to understand and value their linguistic heritage while developing the necessary skills and self-confidence to use it creatively. **Braber's** work was supported with £48.5K of NTU funding for research assistance and a wide variety of outreach activities, including the development of the project's travelling exhibition.

Strategic aims and achievements

The Unit's REF2014 strategic aims focused on building research excellence in core disciplinary areas, building productive internal and external collaborations, enhancing the research environment, producing research that responds to global challenges and further integrating research and impact. Progress towards realising these aims is as follows.

1. To maintain research excellence within the core disciplinary areas and methodological perspectives characterising them.

A series of book-length publications from across the Unit underscore its continued strength across its core disciplines as well as burgeoning inter-disciplinary work. Important monographs in political or public health communication were produced by **Alexander, Poberezhskaya** and **Cummings**. The first wrote *China and Taiwan in Central America: engaging foreign publics in diplomacy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and *Administering Colonialism and War: the Political Life of Sir Andrew Clow of the Indian Civil Service* (Oxford University, 2019). The second contributed *Communicating climate change in Russia: state and propaganda* (Routledge, 2016) and the third, *Reasoning and public health: new ways of coping with uncertainty* (Springer, 2015). Underscoring the Unit's continued strength in the study of gender and sexuality, **Coffey-Glover** wrote *Men in women's worlds: constructions of masculinity in women's magazines* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2019), while **Genz** co-wrote a substantially updated account of her *Postfeminism: Cultural Texts and Theories* (Edinburgh University, 2018). Alongside his own work on art, film, gender and sexuality, **Çakırlar's** co-translation of Judith Butler's seminal *Bodies That Matter* into

Turkish (*Bela Bedenler*) was published by Istanbul-based Pinhan in 2014. Confirming the Unit's ongoing commitment to research informed by social theory and philosophy, **Lundy** wrote *Deleuze's Bergsonism* (Edinburgh University, 2018) while **Fuggie** co-edited *Foucault and the History of Our Present* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). **O'Shaughnessy's** *Laurent Cantet* (Manchester University Press, 2015) brought together social theory and film studies. Other major outputs confirm the Unit's commitment to multi- and inter-disciplinary research. **Braber**, for example, draws upon the resources of linguistics to probe regional identity in her co-authored *East Midlands English* (De Gruyter Mouton, 2018) while **Boulé** draws upon gender studies, psychoanalysis and postcolonialism in his monograph on the work of the important Moroccan cultural creator, Abdellah Taïa. **Wittel's** *Digital Transitions* (Lambert Academic Publishing, 2016) brings together the insights of social theory and the political economy of media and communications.

2. To facilitate interaction, both in research initiatives and in building a community of diverse but complementary perspectives within cultural analysis.

Whilst prizing individual research, the Unit is committed to an expanding and highly productive web of collaborations with colleagues across NTU, other UK and international scholars and local, national and international institutional partners. **O'Shaughnessy**, for example, was part of an Erasmus+ network which produced a documentary film about migrant musicians and a syllabus and MOOC examining how European cinema could be used to probe the meaning of hospitality in the context of the contemporary migrant and refugee crisis. He participated in events in Madrid, Uppsala, and Graz and online that disseminated the project among audiences of students, academics and trainee teachers. The project's film featured among Nottingham's Refugee Week events in 2020. Working with Broadway Cinema, Nottingham-based filmmakers and his Erasmus+ partners, **O'Shaughnessy** organised a highly successful study day in 2019 that attracted representatives of local government, education, migrant support groups and the general public to explore film's use for migration education. Similarly committed to international collaboration, **Bailey** worked with the Complutense University (Madrid), the Artemisszió Foundation (Budapest) and Elan Culturel (Paris) on an Erasmus+ Artivism (Art as Activism) project to empower young people through artistic production and generate transformative intercultural dialogue. She co-organised an Artivism festival in Budapest which gathered young people from France, Hungary and Spain for five days of workshops and cultural production, with 150-200 participants and visitors each day. With Nottingham Contemporary, she assembled artists and members of the public to pool expertise around using art for socially transformative purposes. **Bailey** also continues to do important work with the African Women Empowerment Forum, the subject of her 2014 ICS, helping them with funding bids, giving talks on empowerment, recruiting guest speakers, chairing their board of trustees and participating in their latest project on vulnerable women, mental health and domestic violence.

Wright's research expertise in forensic linguistics allowed him to build partnerships with colleagues from NTU Psychology, Education, Sociology and Law as well as with Nottinghamshire Police, British Transport police, Notts LGBT+, the Everyday Sexism Project and Stonewall. Supported by £19,851 from NTU's Health and Wellbeing theme, he worked with them to raise awareness of and develop resources for tackling the street harassment of young people. **Wright's** forensic linguistic expertise and **Braber's** command of sociolinguistics fed into an NTU-wide collaboration with colleagues in Psychology and Law, supported by £13,282 from NTU's Safety and Security of Citizens theme, which saw them work with local police, lawyers and politicians to improve the reliability of protocols used in 'earwitness' testimony. The success of the project saw it develop to become part of a collaboration with Oxford, Cambridge and de Montfort Universities, funded by £872,120 from the ESRC, to pursue work on voice identification. **McCaffrey** was awarded a grant of £21,852 from the British Academy's *The Humanities and Social Sciences Tackling the UK's International Challenges Programme* (2019-21) to lead an inter-disciplinary team exploring contemporary understandings of borders and the internal and cross-border dynamics they generate. His collaborators combine expertise from the Humanities (Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, University College Dublin) and the Social Sciences (Professor

Cathal McCall, Queens University, Belfast) to explore the concept of 'bordering' from historical, regional, community and European perspectives.

3. To continue to develop a stimulating and enabling research culture and infrastructure to meet the needs of staff and PGRs.

The Unit runs a monthly seminar series with speakers drawn from both our own staff and PGRs and scholars from other British and international universities. Recent invitees include noted feminist scholars Lynne Segal (Birkbeck) and Catherine Rottenberg (Nottingham) to discuss their groundbreaking *Care Manifesto*, Jim Wolfreys (King's, London) to present his work on French Islamophobia, Angelos Koutsoukaris (Leeds) to talk about documentary film, re-enactment and critical history and Karen Ritzenhoff (Central Connecticut State) to discuss the politics of costume in *The Handmaid's Tale*. Unit staff and PGRs also participate in our annual School research conferences while PGRs are invited to take part in regular work-in-progress seminars which allow them to take their work out to a supportive audience. The Unit has taken positive advantage of the AHRC Midlands3Cities (now M4C) DTP, recruiting 11 students via this route. A further five students have been recruited through NTU's studentship scheme and the Unit continues to attract an impressive number, 13, of EU students. Compared to the last REF period, our 21 PhD completions represent a twofold increase, while the current number of students, 23, underscores the ongoing vitality of our postgraduate community.

4. To shape the profile of our research in recognition of the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly globalized culture and economy.

The Unit continues to demonstrate its commitment to work in a global frame while also operating increasingly productively on a more local or regional level. The continued international thrust of our activity is exemplified by **Allwood's** important research on gender mainstreaming and EU policy as expressed in her ICS. It is evident in **Alexander's** research on propaganda, public diplomacy and ethics which has seen him contribute to the rewriting of the UN's in-house module on Public Information and Strategic Communications which forms part of staff training within the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration section of the UN's Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions. **Poberezhskaya's** work on Russian media and climate change enabled her to work as an associate member of the international, not-for-profit, Climate Strategies research network and contribute to one of its policy reports. Engaging global issues at a more local level, **Poberezhskaya** also initiated a collaborative research project with the infrastructure consultancy company AECOM and Nottingham City Council. The project investigates the likely future localised impacts of climate change, based on the UK's new climate projections (UKCP18) and their interplay with the socio-demographic composition of the city for the 2040-2069 and 2070-2099 timeframes. This is a multi-disciplinary investigation that involves academic (NTU) and industry (AECOM) expertise and experience and will ultimately benefit the local economy and communities, especially vulnerable citizens across Nottingham.

Unit members have organised important external events that address pressing global concerns. **Lundy** was co-convenor of the 'After Progress' symposium series at Goldsmiths sponsored by the Sociological Review Foundation which assembled an array of leading international scholars including Marisol de la Cadena (UC Davis, California), Iris van der Tuin (Utrecht), Isabelle Stengers (Université Libre de Bruxelles) to discuss understandings of the future. With the support of the King's College Russia Institute and funding from the British Association of Slavic and East European Studies and the Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies, **Poberezhskaya** organised the 'Soviet and Post-Soviet Imaginings of Climate' workshop with keynotes from Jon Oldfield (Birmingham) and Elana Wilson Rowe (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs). In 2019, **Alexander** organised 'Recognising Taiwan: Taiwan's Society and Political World,' the 16th annual conference of the European Association of Taiwan Studies at NTU. The event was attended by a host of international speakers and the Taiwanese ambassador.

5. To orient our research increasingly towards achieving impact, particularly around questions of inequality, culture and difference.

The rich impact activity across the Unit confirms the strengths established by the two ICSs as expressed in their reach and ability to draw on support from the University and, where appropriate, its institutional partnerships. The work of **O'Shaughnessy** and **Bailey** discussed above and that of **Çakirlar** and **Fuggle** underscores the Unit's contribution to the creative and cultural spheres, and commitment to changing attitudes and sharing knowledge. That of **Wright**, **Alexander** and **Poberezhskaya** demonstrates our record of informing and shaping the policies and practices of institutional actors.

Çakirlar has consistently mobilised his expertise in transnational queer theory, visual arts and film to challenge national stereotypes and promote the transnational mobility of cultural practices. His research responds to demand from publishers or cultural institutions and in turn shapes practice, whether by helping develop the queer studies curriculum in Turkish universities, translating Judith Butler, or informing the curatorial activity of galleries and museums. He was commissioned by the PILL, Arter and Zilberman galleries in Istanbul to write parts of their catalogues for exhibitions by artists including Jake and Dinos Chapman and Soufiane Ababri. Promoting the international mobility and understanding of Turkey-based artists, he wrote catalogue sections for Sotheby's (London) and prestigious galleries in New York, Berlin, Stuttgart and Moscow. Working with the Çukurcuma Collective and the UK-based Queer Art Projects, and with £3,950 from NTU, he brought work by more than forty artists to a major Nottingham-based exhibition, 'The House of Wisdom', exploring the geopolitics of censorship in the Middle East. He curated its public programme and enabled dialogue between Turkish and Nottingham-based artists. He also draws productively on NTU's institutional links with the Broadway Cinema and Nottingham Contemporary. He curated an international LGBTQ film season for the former with Nottingham Pride in 2017 and did exhibition walk-throughs for the latter. With **O'Shaughnessy**, he supervised Meneses' AHRC/M4C sponsored postdoctoral research project Bauhaus Imaginista with its significant curatorial input to the ground-breaking exhibition, *Still Undead: Popular Culture in Britain Beyond the Bauhaus*, at Nottingham Contemporary in 2019.

Fuggle's cultural engagement activity similarly bridges local, national and international frames. Funded by an AHRC Leadership Fellowship, **Fuggle's** work on French colonial penal heritage led to collaborations with museums in French Guiana, New Caledonia and Vietnam. More recently, it has generated a podcast series, 'Postcards from the *bagne*', which takes the work to an on-line audience. **Fuggle** organised a public conference in 2015 at the Nottingham Galleries of Justice on the impact of Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*. She co-organised a two-day event at Nottingham Contemporary exploring prison-related documentary films with directors from France, Ireland and the USA. Working with the same organisation, she organised two workshops, 'Reframing prison photography' (2018) and 'Carceral Ecologies' (2019) bringing together prison workers (artists, educators, lawyers, librarians) and ex-inmates.

Outside her ICS, **Braber** is a co-investigator on the AHRC-funded 'Centre for Hidden Histories,' part of the AHRC World War One community heritage centres. The project engages with communities previously alienated from WW1 commemoration to bring their histories to attention through academic and community research projects. Mobilising her (socio) linguistic expertise, typifying her engagement at regional level, **Braber** has collaborated with three secondary schools and local history groups to examine internment of German miners around Nottingham and with a youth theatre group in Chesterfield to explore how Germans were treated in the UK at the war's outbreak.

Wright and his internal and external partners in the street harassment team presented their work and a specially made video at a 2018 event in Portcullis House, Westminster hosted by Lilian Greenwood MP. He provided related evidence to the Women and Equality Parliamentary Select Committee.

Beyond this engagement with specific groups, institutions and publics, the Unit more broadly shapes public debate through contributions to national and international media. Drawing on his research expertise in public diplomacy, propaganda and communication and collaborating with a range of media organisations (BBC television and radio, *The New York Times*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Star*, *The Independent* and *Sputnik News*), **Alexander** has informed public debate around Trump's engagement with Taiwan and North Korea, and British policy in colonial India. His pieces on the latter two in *The Conversation* have received more than 155,000 hits while the Korea piece was republished by seven news outlets and used by *The Conversation* to launch its podcast service in 2017. **Braber's** three language-related articles in the same publication received more than 120,000 hits with one piece republished by 24 outlets, including *The Scotsman*. **Poberezhskaya's** work on Russian media and climate change policy led to citations by the *New York Times*, Reuters, OpenDemocracy, the *Washington Post*, *International Business Times*, *Carbon News*, the *Daily Times* (Pakistan) and *Wirtschaftsblatt* (Austria). She has written pieces on the same topic for *Geographical* magazine and *The Conversation*. **Coffey-Glover's** work on gender stereotyping led to interviews for articles in *The Sun* and *The Mirror*. She wrote a related piece (about stereotypes and Lego cards) for *The Conversation*. Tara Coltman-Patel, one of our PhD students, won the M4C 2019 Cultural Engagement Award for work with @WorldObesity on their #EndWeightStigma campaign.

Future Strategic Aims

As an established research unit committed to values advanced for over two decades, our future aims build on those espoused in 2014 but update them to ensure they remain current. The future aims are:

1. To undertake pioneering research work addressing questions of inequality, culture and difference, drawing on the inter- and multi-disciplinary approaches characterising the Unit and engaging with its shared research interests.
2. To respond to the challenges of a shifting global environment while maintaining a clear sense of embeddedness in local contexts and communities.
3. To generate socially productive impact, particularly around questions of inequality, culture and difference, working in close collaboration with regional, national and international partners and responding to their needs.
4. To make full use of NTU's institutional support for research and impact and participate actively in cross-cutting research activity related to the University's Strategic Research Themes.

The updated aims give greater prominence to the inter and multi-disciplinary nature of our research because, while keeping the same essential foci as embodied in its Research Centre, the Unit now draws on a broader range of disciplines to investigate its objects of study, not least because of the expansion and renewal of the staff base. The goals recognise how essential academic and non-academic collaborations are to our activity as well as responding actively to the University's prioritisation of transversal themes that call for innovative partnerships. The Unit is confident of the vitality of its impact activities: some of those described above are already solid achievements, in some cases (notably **Bailey's**) building productively on earlier work. Others (**Wright** and **Braber's** 'earwitness' project and **Poberezhskaya** on climate change, **Fuggle** on the colonial prison and **Alexander** on public diplomacy) are developing strongly. While a focus on the global still remains a priority, it is balanced by more explicit attention to the regional and local, especially because of the University's determination to support and inform activity in the region, notably in the cultural sector which is so important to the Unit's impact activities.

Specific immediate plans include:

- Development of our strengths in research in gender, sexuality and development and collaboration with a range of external partners to effect positive change in these areas not simply by fostering education and shaping attitudes but also by inflecting policy and its implementation.
- Developing inter-institutional collaborative research to explore the functioning of queer arts in repressive international contexts. Relatedly, further collaborations with local,

national and international cultural institutions to support curatorial activity, facilitate international cultural exchange and promote awareness of cultural diversity while bringing neglected cultural and linguistic heritage into visibility.

- Further development of our growing profile for research into international cinema, a significant vector of cultural diversity.
- To work with the Safety and Security of Citizens and Global Heritage SRTs, to deliver research and impact in both harassment in public spaces and intangible heritage.

2. People

Staffing strategy and staff development

Of the 18 staff researchers attached to the Unit, the gender and career-stage balance is: 10.0FTE women/8.0FTE men; 5.0FTE professors (2 women/3 men); 3.0FTE associate professors (3 women); 10.0FTE lecturers/senior lecturers (5 women/5 men). One-to-one mentoring is available to all staff to ensure bespoke support relating to research matters including pre-publication output review, grant-writing and the promotions process. In this REF period, D34 has seen the successful promotion of **Braber** (from senior lecturer to associate professor then to professor), **Bailey** (senior lecturer to associate professor) and **Fuggle** and **Poberezhskaya** (lecturer to associate professor). This represents five promotions in total, all achieved by women. Since REF2014 we have recruited early career academics (ECAs): **Coffey-Glover**, **Hardy** and **Wright** to underpin and renew strengths in feminism and discourse analysis, forensic linguistics and film studies.

O'Shaughnessy holds annual Individual Research Planning meetings with staff and the School's ADR ensures that appropriate resources are in place so that individual ambitions may be realised. Twice-yearly appraisal meetings monitor the relationship between research and other academic responsibilities. Individual Research Plans also identify training needs, and delivery is supported by NTU's Organisational Development department. Exceptional achievements in research are recognised through the appraisal process and by internal awards. In 2019, **Allwood** received a Vice Chancellor's Outstanding Researcher award, an annual accolade recognising research excellence.

Colleagues engaged in ambitious projects are eligible for additional time allocations for research and the School's sabbatical scheme which allowed **O'Shaughnessy** and **Braber**, for example, to complete monographs. To support early-career researchers in applying for and securing their first competitive research grant and/or fellowship from a prestigious research funder, NTU has established a 'Winning Grant Funding' programme. The programme provides tutelage from senior researchers based at NTU and also external to the University. Support provided to participants includes peer review and mentoring and monthly masterclasses on proposal development, pathways to impact and development of external partnerships. Two Unit members, **Coffey-Glover** and **Hardy**, have benefitted from the course. The programme is now being extended to ensure colleagues have the skills required to manage larger grants as PI.

Training and supervision of PGR students

The Doctoral School is the principal support mechanism for the training and supervision of PGR students. It works collaboratively with Academic Schools, including each School's Postgraduate Research Tutor. The Doctoral School oversees admissions, selection and registration processes and examination arrangements, as well as administering a well-established and robust process of annual monitoring for all students. Supervisory arrangements are monitored by the School Research Degrees Committee (SRDC). All PGRs are allocated a Director of Studies (DOS) and all supervisory teams consist of two to three staff (sometimes drawn from other research units, and, in the case of M4C, from other HEIs, to ensure the best possible mix of expertise).

Regulations require supervisory meetings to be held on average once a month and with the whole supervisory team where possible. An independent assessor meets with the student and their supervisory teams at the end of each year and at key strategic moments (project approval, project transfer) to ensure due progress is being made. The student voice is represented on the

research degree committees by student representatives. The postgraduate tutor remains in close contact with student reps between committee meetings to ensure any problems are addressed in a timely fashion. Supervisors are required to update their knowledge of University procedures every three years.

Under the University's DoctoratePlus Programme, experienced academics and professional services staff deliver high-quality core research training and professional development activities (Library workshop, Doctoral Research Festival Preparation), a series of electives and support for progression, including training for supervisors. These activities have been mapped to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) and the requirements of UK Research Councils and the Quality Assurance Agency. Organisational Development at NTU provides additional support for the development of PGRs and offers training in university teaching practice. PGRs in D34 are offered the opportunity to teach to develop their careers.

Testimony to the effectiveness of the University's efforts to improve support, facilities, training and opportunities for postgraduate researchers is provided by the 2019 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey. The overall satisfaction score for NTU students of 82% moved the University ahead of the sector average. The score for Arts and Humanities increased from 71% in 2017 to 80%.

Equality and diversity (EDI)

NTU was awarded bronze Athena Swan charter mark in April 2019 and targets a silver submission after 2023. Supporting this, the School has established its self-assessment team (SAT) and has carried out cultural surveys and started work on data analysis. The Unit is represented on the SAT by **Coffey-Glover**. The School's Athena Swan champion signposts School-level EDI events including International Women's and Men's week and LGBT History month. The EDI intranet links staff to relevant policies, resources and staff networks. At Unit level, staff ensure our research environment is open, respectful, and supportive of all. All researchers in D34 have undertaken equality and diversity training. Our research Code of Practice ensures staff with responsibility for recruitment (whether staff or PGR) and research management undertake unconscious bias training. Our gender balance is very healthy, with 56% identifying as female and 44% identifying as male. Five out of seven staff appointed since 2014 identify as female. There were four promotions to associate professor and one to professor, all achieved by colleagues identifying as female and one colleague was funded to undertake the Aurora Leadership programme. With two out of five professors women, the Unit is actively contributing to NTU's Athena Swan target to increase the representation of women within the NTU professoriate to 35% by 2022.

Principles relating to research excellence, openness, transparency, equality and diversity, set out in the Vitae Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, underpin NTU's and the Unit's recruitment and selection procedures, as well as our professional practices more broadly. Echoing Principle Six of the Concordat, we believe that research, research environments, and the societal contribution made by research benefit from increased equality and diversity. Through both the NTU Doctoral School and the M3C/M4C DTP we actualise these values and principles. M3C/M4C 'values the diversity of all research students, stakeholders and staff' and is committed to 'promoting equality of opportunity and good relations across and between the defined equalities groups in all of their activity'.

If our commitment in this area is exemplified by the clear progress we have demonstrated towards achieving gender parity across the Unit, it is also manifest in the way our work engages with key EDI challenges. As its name implies, our Research Centre's work focuses on questions of inequality, power and difference as they play out in different cultural and institutional contexts. Similarly, as this document and our two ICSs testify, much of our impact work seeks to inflect and inform the behaviour of institutions, enable cross-cultural dialogue, challenge stereotyping and empower individuals and groups by sharing expertise and enabling the co-production of knowledge. Evidence of this commitment and its real-world effectiveness can be found across the Unit's research and impact activity from **Allwood's** work promoting gender mainstreaming,

through **Çakirlar**'s work on transnational Queer cultures to **Wright**'s research on on-line incitement.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income

Research income in REF2014 was £88k from research councils and £1k from charities. This time, the Unit has brought in £265k from research councils, nearly £66k from charities, £360k from the EU and just under £56k from the UK government and public sector, an eight-fold increase overall. Due to the success of mentoring, peer review, the acquisition and sharing of experience and the availability of institutional seed-corn funding and grant support, we have successfully moved to a broad-based and sustainable long-term funding situation, with a much larger number of colleagues bringing in funding and smaller awards leading on to larger bids.

The larger awards were as follows. **Braber** and **Wright** are co-investigators for a Cambridge University-led project entitled 'Improving Voice Identification Procedures' awarded £872k by the ESRC of which £150k will come to NTU. **Wright** is co-investigator on an inter-disciplinary University of Nottingham-led project called, 'Mapping the Changing Face of Cross-Examination in Criminal Trials' awarded £311k by the Nuffield Foundation. **Braber** is co-investigator for the University of Nottingham -led AHRC Hidden Histories project which was initially worth £655k but received subsequent additional awards of £85k and £88k. As part of the project, sums of £8k, £9k and £10k were specifically allotted to support her impact activity in Nottingham and Chesterfield around Germans in the East Midlands during the Great War. **Fuggle** was awarded an AHRC Early Career Leadership fellowship worth £232k for her work on legacies of French penal colonies. **McCaffrey** is principal investigator for an award of £22k to investigate shifting understandings of borders as part of the British Academy's 'The Humanities and Social Sciences; Tackling the UK's International Challenges' scheme. **Bailey** received £46k of EU funding to support her Erasmus+ Artivism project with its different impact activities.

O'Shaughnessy's University of Salamanca led Erasmus+ project on European Cinema and hospitality was awarded more than 200k euros of which 35k came to NTU. **Poberezhskaya** received £39,358 from the British Council for a researcher links workshop on sustainable energy and climate change in Russia. The Unit has also won eleven of the highly competitive AHRC-funded M4C bursaries, each worth between £53k and £69k, depending on the year of award. It is also proud to have won one of the inaugural M4C collaborative post-doctoral awards worth £45k.

Some examples of smaller awards that paved the way for larger ones or enabled impact and engagement activity are as follows. **Çakirlar** was a collaborator on an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant of £14k to bring artists and artworks to Nottingham for his House of Wisdom project. **Braber** received £19k from the Heritage Lottery Fund to finance her 'Dot Hills Midlands' impact work, itself part of her broader project on East Midlands English and pit-talk. She was awarded a BA Small Grant of £10k for another part of her pit-talk project, 'Pit Talk: Recording and conserving an endangered community language.' She received £2k from the British Association of Applied Linguistics for another element of her ICS: 'Charting the East Midlands: Engaging the Community in Heritage and Language Projects.' **Braber** was awarded a British Academy Small Grant of £10k to fund the early stages of the voice identification project she later developed with **Wright**. **Wright** also received £10k from the BA to devise strategies to counter online incitement of violence against women. **Fuggle** received a BA small grant (£10k) for her research on France's former penal colony in French Guiana. **Allwood** won a BA / Leverhulme award to research forced marriage in France. **Lundy** received £6k from The Sociological Review Foundation as a Seminar Series Grant.

NTU's REF5a details the University's increased investment in research as part of its 2015-2020 strategy. We have successfully engaged with this strategy and have benefitted from substantial levels of institutional funding - £2.7m to the School - to support research, impact activity and participation in inter-disciplinary University-wide projects. Investment in the Unit allowed us to enhance the impact of **Braber**'s and **Allwood**'s ICSs. More broadly, University funding has

enabled our impact, engagement, and knowledge exchange activities, conference attendance, primary research activities (such as archival visits), our research seminar series, and the research leave and teaching buy-out vital to the completion of key outputs submitted to the REF such as monographs by **Braber**, **O'Shaughnessy** or **Boulé**. The Unit also benefitted from considerable funding in the form of the NTU PhD bursaries that, demonstrating the institution's commitment to the renewal of the research base, have brought in five postgraduate researchers. Our researchers were also enriched by workshops organised by the University with major funding bodies: senior representatives from the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, and the Arts Council have visited NTU in recent years, providing our researchers with invaluable insights into funding schemes and processes and helping us achieve the step-change in research income shown since 2014.

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

Underscoring the Unit's belief in the importance and productiveness of academic collaborations and the co-production and sharing of knowledge, its researchers participate in an impressive array of collaborative research networks with British and International partners.

For the 'Hidden Histories' project **Braber** collaborates with colleagues from universities including Nottingham, UCL and Goldsmiths. She also collaborates regularly with Jansen (University of Paderborn, Germany). **Allwood** was Co-Chair of the US-based Council for European Studies Standing Group on Gender and Sexuality and Co-Chair of the European Union strand of the European Conference on Politics and Gender until 2018. **Bailey** worked with colleagues from the Elan Intercultural Association (Paris), Complutense University (Madrid), and The Artemisszió Foundation (Hungary) for her Artivism project. **Coffey-Glover** joined with colleagues from Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Hull and Sheffield Hallam Universities to form 'The discourses of marriage' research group whose members co-authored work and organised a conference. **O'Shaughnessy** collaborated with colleagues from the universities of Salamanca (Spain), Uppsala (Sweden), Maynooth (Ireland), Graz (Austria) and the UNED, the Spanish Open University, to deliver the Hostfilm (migration and hospitality) project. **McCaffrey** works with colleagues from Queens (Belfast) and the Universities of Kent, Zurich and Aberdeen in the Critical French Medical Humanities Group. His Irish border project involves collaborations with prominent researchers from University College, Dublin and Queens, Belfast. **Fuggle** is co-investigator with a colleague from Ton Duc Thang University in Vietnam on a Newton Mobility Exchange grant worth £10K for a project entitled 'Political Ecologies in Vietnam' looking at dark heritage and ecotourism. **Poberezhskaya** has co-authored with colleagues from the Open University, the University of Exeter, Trinity College Dublin and Manchester Metropolitan University. She initiated a collaborative research project with colleagues from University of Aberdeen, Pavlodar State University (Kazakhstan) and Altai State University (Russia) on climate change discourses in Central Asia. She organized a workshop titled 'Soviet and Post-Soviet Imaginings of Climate' in 2017 at King's College, London, an event supported by King's Russia Institute, the British Association of Slavic and East European Studies (BASEES) and the Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES). **Wright** has academic collaborations with researchers from Universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Nottingham, Lancaster and Leicester.

Committed to knowledge co-production and collaboration with civil society and public institutions, Unit members have a growing array of non-academic local, national and international external partners, some already mentioned. **Alexander** collaborated with the ex-Secretary General of Diplocat (Catalunya's external diplomatic wing) to analyse the Catalonian independence crisis. **Braber** has a substantial collaboration with Jonnie Robinson, Sociolinguistics Curator at the British Library for their work on British regional dialects. **Wright** collaborates with Spool, UK, a Nottingham-based film, television and sound production company. **Allwood** works with the Brussels-based Confederation of International Development NGOs. **Fuggle** collaborates regularly with the Nottingham Contemporary Gallery and was a member of its Academic Working Group from 2015 to 2018. She has organised events through the Nottingham Galleries of Justice. Her research and impact activity around colonial prisons has involved collaborations

with museums in French Guiana, New Caledonia and Vietnam. **O'Shaughnessy** works regularly with Nottingham Broadway Cinema and Çakirlar with Primary, a Nottingham gallery. **Çakirlar** has collaborated with galleries in Turkey, Europe and North America, his most recent commissions being to collaborate with the Martch Art Project for the 'Venus in Furs' exhibition in Istanbul and Garage, the contemporary art museum in Moscow.

Unit members contribute to the maintenance and health of the UK research base. **Allwood** and **O'Shaughnessy** are Executive and Co-editors respectively for *Modern and Contemporary France* and collection editors for the Liverpool University Press book series by the same name. **Allwood** has been Co-editor for the *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* and is on the editorial board of the *European Journal for Politics and Gender*. **Bailey** is on the editorial boards of *Popular Communication*, *Communication Theory*, *Journalism and Education* and *Intertext*. **Çakirlar** is an invited member of the advisory board of the newly founded *The Garage Journal: Studies in Art, Museums and Culture*. **Coffey-Glover** is on the *Journal of Language and Discrimination* editorial board (2016-present). **Lundy** co-founded and edits *The London Journal of Critical Thought*, 2016-present and is co-founder and ongoing organizer (since 2012) of the London Conference in Critical Thought. **Boulé** served as Executive Editor for *Sartre Studies International* and is a member of the editorial boards of *Autofiction*, *Contemporary French Civilization* and *Portal*. **Poberezhskaya** is Associate Editor *Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media* and was convenor for the Political Studies Association annual conference at Nottingham Trent University in April 2019. **Wittel** is on the editorial boards of *The Journal for Peer Production*, *tripleC*, and *Media Theory*, **Wright** is book reviews editor for *Language and Law*. **Fuggle** is on the editorial board of *Mimesis International*. She also mentored two post-doctoral students as part of her AHRC award. **McCaffrey** is Cultural Studies Editor for the *French Studies Bulletin*.

Unit members have reviewed series and book proposals and book manuscripts for a range of prestigious academic publishers: Bloomsbury, Cambridge University Press, Edinburgh University Press, I. B. Tauris, Liverpool University Press, Manchester University Press, Oxford University Press, Palgrave, Polity Press, Routledge, Sage, Taylor & Francis, and Wayne State University.

Testimony to the growing esteem and international reputation of Unit members is provided by invitations to serve as reviewers for the AHRC and ESRC (**Allwood**, **Braber**), the ESRC (**Genz**), the DFG (German Research Council) (**Wittel**), the British Academy (Heritage, Dignity and Violence and Responding to the UK's International Challenges calls) (**Wright** and **Fuggle** respectively) and the Austrian Science Fund (**Wright**). **Poberezhskaya** was invited to act as an expert on the panel for the Open Society Foundation Civil Society Leadership Award in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2015, **Çakirlar** acts as expert and rapporteur for the EU Horizon 2020 scheme and has assessed no less than 24 Marie Curie projects. **O'Shaughnessy** was invited to be an external assessor for a Marie Curie Fellowship at Trinity College (Dublin) and an Ipodii fellowship at the Technische Universität Berlin.

Unit members took up prestigious international invitations to teach or to present their research. **Allwood** has been appointed to a visiting professorship at the College of Europe in Bruges, with responsibility for co-convening and co-delivering a course entitled 'Gendering EU External Affairs: Towards a more Inclusive Diplomacy?', as part of the International Relations and Diplomacy programme for the academic year 2020-21. The College of Europe trains postgraduates for careers in EU institutions, think tanks and NGOs. **Poberezhskaya** took her work on climate change discourse to the Institute for Geography and the Swiss East European Library in Bern, the Tyumen State University (Russia) and an academic audience in Moscow. **Wittel** was invited to act as Head of the Department of Anthropology at University of Bremen during 2017-2018. **Wright** delivered a keynote lecture at the Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics annual conference (Graz, Austria). **O'Shaughnessy** was invited to be part of a panel on 'positive' cinema organised by the French national film body, the Centre National de la Cinématographie, at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival. **Lee** was invited to be one of the UK delegates in the Sino-UK Global Screen Industry Education and Skills Collaboration Pilot

Programme held at University of Nottingham, Ningbo Campus and in the UK-China Creative Challenge workshop, funded by AHRC UK-China Partnership Development Grants Scheme and held at Shanghai Jiaotong University and Shanghai Theatre Academy. **Alexander** was funded by the Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be part of a symposium on Taiwan's exclusion from the World Health Assembly at Aberystwyth University.

Unit members were also invited to give a range of keynote lectures around the UK. **Wright** delivered a keynote lecture at the Centre for Forensic Linguistics Annual Symposium (Aston University). **O'Shaughnessy** was keynote speaker at the Studies in French Cinema Conference at King's College, London in 2014. **McCaffrey** gave keynote presentations at Queens, Belfast and the Institute for Modern Language Research in London. **Çakirlar** gave a keynote on queer art in the new autocracies at a symposium at Goldsmiths organised by the London-based Queer Art Projects and funded by Arts Council England.

Braber gave papers for the AHRC at Senate House London and the British Library. She also spoke at York St John, Leicester, Newcastle and Sheffield Hallam universities as well as giving talks to Pinxton Working Men's Club, Nottingham and the D. H. Lawrence Society. **Çakirlar** gave invited papers at CRASSH, University of Cambridge, the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich and Haus der Kunst, Munich, and the Kuenstlerhaus, Stuttgart. **Lee** was invited to give papers at The Korean Screen Culture Conference, Sheffield Hallam University, The AHRC Chinese Film Festival Studies Research Network Workshop, University of Hong Kong, The Korean Screen Culture Conference, University of Copenhagen, The East Asian Media Studies Conference, Harvard University, USA, The Chinese Cinema in Global Context Conference, University of Idaho, USA. **Lundy** was invited to give papers at the University of Dundee, (twice), Leuphana University, Luneburg, Germany, Goldsmiths, University of London, Deakin University, Australian Catholic University, University of Wollongong, Oxford University, and The University of Queensland. **Wittel** was invited to deliver papers at The University of Lüneburg, Post-Media Lab, The Goethe Institute, Teilen und Tauschen (twice), The University of Frankfurt, by the German Cultural Studies Association, The University of Frankfurt and The University of Warwick. **Poberezhskaya** was invited to speak by the Royal Geographical Society and at the University of Cambridge. **Wright** has given invited papers at the universities of Mosul (Iraq), Santiago (Chile), Basel (Switzerland) as well as at Portsmouth, Nottingham, Huddersfield, Manchester Metropolitan and Lancaster Universities, and the Institute of Forensic Linguistics at Aston University. **O'Shaughnessy** gave invited papers at the Sorbonne, Leeds, Limerick, Liverpool, London Birkbeck, Uppsala, Sheffield, and Babelsberg (Berlin). **Fuggle** has been invited to speak at RMIT (Melbourne), New York University Paris Campus, Nottingham and Liverpool Universities, Canterbury Christchurch and Ton Duc Thang University (Vietnam). **Alexander** was invited to give a paper at Amnesty International (London) on Taiwan's public diplomacy.

The Unit's strength finds expression less in any individual achievement than in this rich array of collaboration and what it represents in terms of the co-production and sharing of research.