

Institution: University of Liverpool

Unit of Assessment: 26 Modern Languages and Linguistics

1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

Our research and impact strategy as a UoA is based upon an integrated approach to Modern Languages which is transformative and translational, and which underpins our vision and our ambition for this REF cycle and beyond. Our approach now differs significantly from our 2014 strategy in two main aspects:

- 1) In REF2014, our Environment Statement was based on a departmental structure organised along individual language areas. Our vision this cycle is of a genuinely integrated Modern Languages approach which enables and champions interdisciplinary and transnational working, with impact embedded from the outset.
- 2) In REF2014, we foregrounded chronological and thematic breadth. Our vision this time takes a much more strategically focussed approach, building on and expanding our research groups, enabling cross-cutting research excellence, developing impact, networks and partnerships beyond the university sector, responding to external challenges, and positioning ourselves in relation to Faculty, institutional and national themes and priorities.

This integrated approach to Modern Languages has enabled us to be instrumental in shaping the field of Modern Languages nationally and internationally, particularly through the AHRC Translating Cultures theme (**Forsdick**), and we build on this strength in our vision for future Modern Languages approaches. We see ourselves as leading not just *in* Modern Languages but *through* Modern Languages: not only does our research contribute to national and international debates about how Modern Languages defines itself, but we envisage Modern Languages approaches as shaping the research agendas of a range of other disciplines, influencing their ways of working, and, as a result, championing challenge-based and linguistically-sensitive approaches to research. We thus conceive of Modern Languages as translational in that we see our role as translating between disciplines, between societal boundaries, and between the academy and policy and practice. We argue that in order to address the complex research questions of the twenty-first century, there is a genuine need for a Modern Languages-inflected approach to all research projects which would bring an ethical stance through an understanding of the other, a questioning of dominant Anglophone paradigms, and an attention to cultural and linguistic specificity. This vision underpins our strategy and our processes which we describe in the sections below, and which has resulted in significant successes during the current REF cycle,

including: increased external research funding; wider range of countries with which we collaborate and from which PGRs are drawn; increased interdisciplinary working; positioning ourselves in relation to major societal challenges; and ensuring our sustainability in the future.

The incubators for this work are our four interdisciplinary research groups which have cross-cutting themes that map onto and enable this vision, and which integrate all our researchers, from Masters research students through to academic staff:

Place, Space, Belonging: bringing together the research of staff members **Bermingham, Blackwood, Forsdick, Gu, Marven, Mercero, Smith, Spadaro** and **Tufi**, along with PGR members **Alsallum, Amiri, Bensalem, Coppola, Eidan, Gordon, Iubini-Hampton, Lu, Lu, Paine** and **Sacomani**, this group explores language, multilingualism, connection to place, minority languages and migration. The group leads research initiatives which have shaped and defined new and emerging research fields nationally and internationally, including the development of Linguistic Landscapes as an interdisciplinary field, bringing together sociolinguistics, sociology, geography, and media studies. The group has been instrumental in shaping and leading this field since its inception, with the launch of the new journal defining this field edited by colleagues at Liverpool (**Blackwood, Tufi**), grant successes (**Blackwood, Tufi**), and our continuing investment in strategic appointments in this area (**Bermingham, Gu**), one of our areas of strength.

Conflict, Memory, Heritage: with membership comprising staff **Chadwick, Croenen, Forsdick, Magedera, Mercero, Paoli, Plowman, Riethof, Rosenhaft, Saunders, Spadaro, Taylor** and **Thornton**, along with PGRs **McInally, Morley, Olver, Senel** and **Smith**, this group explores issues including political violence, representation of memory, conflict transformation, and dark tourism. Colleagues within the group have been instrumental in engaging with Faculty and institutional themes including Transforming Conflict, and Heritage. Taking a challenge-based approach, the group has enabled members to lead on national and international agendas in relation to cross-cutting challenges, with grants funded through the GCRF, AHRC and Leverhulme Trust (**Forsdick, Magedera, Marsh, Taylor**) which have addressed Sustainable Development Goals including Gender Equality, and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Media Histories: bringing together staff **Bromilow, Cullell, Dixon, Magedera, Marven, Rosenhaft, Taylor, Thornton** and **Yiacoup** with PGRs **Lu, Paine** and **Wells**, this group investigates textual practices, visual aspects of texts, circulation of knowledge, and transformations across media. Members have been instrumental in developing initiatives at the interface between disciplines, particularly Modern Languages and Digital Humanities. Collaborating in the Faculty Digital Humanities and Social Sciences theme, and nationally with the

AHRC's Digital Transformations theme, the group has secured AHRC and BA grants which are transformative and put digital at the forefront of developments in Modern Languages (**Philpotts, Taylor**).

Image, Sound, Performance: comprising staff members **Becher, Cullell, Loxham, Paoli, Shaw, Smith, Thornton**, and PGR members **Lockwood** and **Senel**, this group has expertise in embodied performance, visual studies, and soundscapes. Bringing together scholars in Film, Music, Performance Studies and Modern Languages, the group has been pioneering in developing translational understandings of cultural studies readings of film, and co-creation and co-curation practices with communities. The success of this group is exemplified in collaborative funded research projects that include filmmaking and user input (**Thornton**), and that mobilise film as a driver for health and wellbeing (**Shaw**).

In addition to interdisciplinary research groups housed within MLC noted above, we are leading and shaping interdisciplinary initiatives across the institution, in research centres which draw together researchers at all career stages from Modern Languages, History, English and Politics. These include the Eighteenth Century Worlds research centre (**Rosenhaft, Marsh**), and the Centre for the Study of International Slavery (**Forsdick, Rosenhaft**) – this latter leading to major awards focussing on contemporary slavery and anti-slavery measures (see Institutional Environment Statement).

Through these incubators, our translational approach to research means that impact is embedded from the outset, as we start from the premise that a Modern Languages-informed approach can enable new modes of engagement with external partners, such as co-curation of exhibitions, practitioner-led design of wellbeing activities and multimedia tools, particularly those of lower- and middle-income countries, and/or the global south. Impact Lead **Shaw** leads on the departmental strategy for impact, overseeing and nurturing others in their impact work, and building on our expertise in situated understanding to ensure projects avoid Anglophone paradigms when engaging with stakeholders. Cutting across language areas, our impact strengths are clustered around mental health and wellbeing (**Shaw, Thornton**), ongoing inequalities and impacts of colonial legacies (**Blackwood, Bermingham, Forsdick, Magedera, Marsh, Tufi**) and conflict representation and transformation (**Riethof, Rosenhaft, Taylor**). Through this approach, we have demonstrated and grown expertise in developing ways in which communities can become co-creators and co-curators, such as involving care workers in Brazil in co-design (**Shaw**), generating 'activated community memory' in sub-Saharan Africa (**Forsdick**), and co-designing major artistic outputs (**Marsh**).

2. People

2.1. Staffing Strategy

Staffing in MLC comprises 6 Professors, 3 Readers, 6 Senior Lecturers, and 10 Lecturers as permanent members of staff, in addition to non-research staff, 11 funded postdocs during this REF cycle, and numerous visiting fellows and researchers. Our research strategy is underpinned by investment in researchers at all levels, from PGR through to established scholars. In keeping with our vision above, new appointments within this REF cycle have been made not to individual language areas but positioned to foster synergies across our areas of excellence, enable interdisciplinary working, promote a translational understanding of Modern Languages, and develop new growth areas in Modern Languages (**Becher**: film and visual cultures; **Birmingham**: sociolinguistics; **Gu**: translation and sociolinguistics; **Loxham**: film and memory; **Spadaro**: transnational Modern Languages).

2.2. Staff Development and Support for ECRs

Fundamental to our research vision of Modern Languages as linguistically sensitive and pluricultural, is our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), which is embedded throughout our staffing strategy, from the first stage of recruitment onwards. New colleagues are appointed in line with institutional EDI policies; all MLC staff have completed EDI training, with staff involved in recruitment additionally undertaking unconscious bias training, and the commitment to recruitment panels including at least two women. The staffing gender balance broadly matches that of the student body for our disciplines (currently standing at 67% female, 33% male staff).

Our Staffing Strategy is premised on the need to support and empower researchers from all career stages, from PGR, through ECR, to senior colleagues, to enhance their research expertise, develop their profile, embed impact in their work, and contribute to challenges at a local, national, and international level, and thus position themselves as leading researchers in our shared vision of Modern Languages as translational. We tailor the institutional Professional Development Review (PDR) within the department not only to consider past performance and to look to the future, but also to provide a forum for a dialogue on staff contributions to the evolution of Modern Languages as a discipline, as well as support in relation to EDI where relevant, with staff encouraged to discuss work/life balance, flexible working, and reasonable adjustments. The PDR is also supplemented by six-monthly Research Conversations, and the support of a Research Mentor who, as part of our deliberate strategy to establish a collective identity beyond traditional subject areas and enable interdisciplinary working, is normally drawn from another language group. This relationship is not hierarchical and can involve reverse mentoring. The Research

Conversations and the Research Mentor system are supportive, collegial mechanisms which have supported our staff in applying for internal research and impact development funding, external funding opportunities, writing outputs, developing impact, and building and extending their research profile.

The University's induction process is complemented by Faculty- and School-level inductions, and a range of training modules, which, for Early-Career Researchers, form part of the Continuing Professional Development programme. ECRs also participate in the Faculty's Early Career Researcher Forum, which not only offers workshops and training targeted to their career stage, but also functions as a facilitator for interdisciplinary working, and is complemented by the cross-Faculty engage@Liverpool initiative, offering training in interdisciplinary research methodologies. PGRs and ECRs will benefit from our new University partnership with the ESRC funded National Centre for Research Methods.

Within MLC, support for ECRs includes a reduced load whilst on probation, an ECR mentor, a weekly departmental writing group, and access to the University's Early Careers (and Returners) Fund, providing up to £5,000 to help establish ECRs as independent researchers through support for a major article or grant application. All of these initiatives support our ECRs in developing their research and impact profile, and help them to position themselves as successful proponents of interdisciplinary, translational Modern Languages, successes of which include ECRs being awarded competitive Official Development Assistance (ODA) seed-corn funding (**Bermingham**), and external OWRI Language Acts Small Grants Scheme funding (**Spadaro**) for projects that take Modern Languages research beyond its normal boundaries to engage with ODA challenges and transnational issues.

Since 2014, there have been 6 promotions to Senior Lecturer (5 female, 1 male), 1 to Reader (female), and 4 to Professorship (3 female, 1 male) in key areas of our research strengths. Our current demographic profile, with slightly less than 40% of staff at Reader/Professorial level, puts us in an excellent position as regards research leadership. The relative seniority of our staff profile speaks not only to institutional support for Modern Languages, with colleagues promoted due to the recognition of their research excellence, but also enables us to provide a supportive and broad leadership team for more junior researchers, and ensure ECRs are successfully mentored and supported in achieving our research vision. At the same time, we plan for succession and have actively enabled and supported our ECRs and mid-career researchers to take on leadership roles; similarly, senior colleagues help with career progression of junior colleagues, such as **Cullell**'s delivery of sessions on the institutional 'Insight into Promotion' scheme, some sessions of which are ring-fenced for women only.

Research and impact leave opportunities and plans are discussed with each colleague in PDR and research conversation meetings, focussing on the individual staff research development profile, and their contributions to our departmental vision. We are committed to EDI principles in this process, and take into account the relative needs of researchers at different stages, ensuring that ECR colleagues are not disadvantaged, supporting colleagues with protected characteristics, and ensuring part-time staff are able to apply for leave pro-rata. Our research and impact leave strategy has enabled us to support projects leading to significant outputs, including monographs and edited works submitted to this exercise (**Blackwood, Cullell, Marven, Mercero, Paoli, Plowman, Riethof, Smith, Taylor, Thornton, Tufi**) as well as grant applications and impact. We bear in mind that colleagues at different stages of their career, in particular those returning from an absence, might need flexible support, such as, in the case of one colleague, an additional 'mini-sabbatical' to help an output to the final stage of completion. We also coordinate light teaching semesters to carve out time for colleagues to complete projects identified as leading to major research outcomes that further our research strategy and make a transformative contribution to our research vision, including projects on Francophone postcolonial studies (**Marsh**), linguistic landscapes (**Tufi**), translation-anthology studies (**Marven**), and impact leave (**Shaw**). In the case of **Shaw's** leave, this demonstrates our commitment to supporting impact leave in the same way as more conventional research leave.

2.3. Support Mechanisms for PGR Students

This strategy and vision also apply to our PGR activity: as part of our strategy to nurture Modern Linguists of the future, we focus on thematic areas in PGR recruitment, rather than specific languages, and our areas of expansion in PGR in this REF cycle include sociolinguistics, minority languages, comparative literature, film and media, memory studies, and translation studies, all of which are integrated across language areas and map onto our cross-cutting research group strengths. We appoint a supervisory team which normally straddles traditional subject boundaries, and is interdisciplinary, thereby embedding our vision of a transnational and translational approach to Modern Languages from the outset; as a result, we have increased the number of staff supervising PGR students in comparison to the previous REF.

Our community of postgraduate researchers has grown during this REF cycle, with PGR completion at the end of the census period at 19.9, a figure representing doctorates per eligible FTE at 1.0, which is above the REF2014 sector average of 0.8, and Russell Group average of 0.9. We have also seen an exponential growth in PGR applications and offers; OSI PGR applications and offers over this REF cycle rose from 2 for 2014-2015 to 43 for 2019-2020. Our annual intake remains buoyant, with 10 starting in 2018/19, and 8 starting in 2019/20. We actively recruit through both the ESRC-funded North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP) and

the AHRC-funded North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP), with **Riethof, Thornton** and **Tufi** as pathway leads, and **Marsh** former overall NWCDTP Institutional Lead. Through these pathways we position ourselves at the interface of Humanities and Social Science approaches, and with cross-cutting interdisciplinary expertise. We have consistently secured competitive Research Council studentships through these pathways. In addition to 4 Research Council-funded students completing during this REF period who started prior to this cycle (ESRC: **Grover, Bradbury**; AHRC **Burgess, Müllneritsch**), we have recruited a further 5 ESRC NWSSDTP (**Drummond, Amara** 2015; **Morley** 2017; **Smith** 2018; **McEvoy** 1+3 2019), and 5 AHRC NWCDTP (**Hiscock** 2014; **Osei** 2017; **Paine** 2018; **McInally, Olver** 2019) new starters during the current REF cycle.

As well as Research Council-funded studentships, we have secured competitive internal John Lennon Memorial and Duncan Norman doctoral studentships, and we regularly attract postgraduates from the Middle East with government scholarships. We have hosted a significant number of doctoral students registered at other European institutions who wish to gain 'Mención Europea' doctoral status with us (Palmas de Gran Canaria 2014, País Vasco 2015 and León 2018), and have outstanding success with the University of Georgia Athens (UGA) PGR Franklin exchange, hosting international doctoral students **Lira** (2015), **Bundy** (2016), **Lozier** (2017) and **Saccomani** (2019) - evidence that PGRs internationally are attracted to us for our interdisciplinary research excellence and our vision.

PGR progress is supported and monitored by monthly meetings with supervisors, driven by the student to encourage ownership of the research project and as part of the training to become independent researchers. All PGRs join at least one of our interdisciplinary, cross-language research groups where they are full members, contributing to the range of the groups' activities, suggesting speakers, and co-organising research events, thus further reinforcing the shared identity of researchers within Modern Languages; during this cycle they have organized conferences, workshops and exhibitions (**Amari, Doman, McInally, Osei**), including in our Language Lounge, an outward-facing hub for Modern Languages activity. PGRs also influence the direction of the department research environment and vision formally, through dedicated roles on Staff Student Liaison Committee and through the PGR Rep system. They are also supported to develop synergies beyond the department, including cross-Faculty research themes, Networking Lunches and Humanities Research Speed-Dating events.

We further support the career development of our PGR students through tailoring the annual Development Needs Analysis to build with each PGR a bespoke package of support including courses and workshops organised by the Liverpool Doctoral College, the Faculty's PGR Team, and the University Library. This is supplemented through our contributions to the

engage@Liverpool programme, at which **Croenen, Riethof** and **Thornton** have given sessions, and for which **Thornton** is Arts and Humanities Lead. Our PGRs also lead debates, share readings and resources at our regular tertulia sessions, as well as presenting at our Annual PGR Presentation Day, and at the Faculty PGR Showcase, an annual interdisciplinary event profiling PGR research, and at which external creative and cultural organizations, including FACT, Biennial and NML, participate in judging and providing feedback.

All PGRs are entitled and encouraged to apply for PGR support funding, for which the School provides up to £500 per student per year. MLC PGRs have been awarded total of £9,036 during this period from this internal funding, which has supported conference attendance, research-related travel, field work and archival visits. This is in addition to fee-waivers provided by the department for Open Languages courses where a specialist language skill is required (**Oliver, Senel**).

These support mechanisms and processes have enabled our PGRs to make an invaluable contribution to our research environment. They have won highly competitive grants from national bodies during this period, including Society of Latin American Studies (**Peate**), Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland (**Peate, Adimora**), and Leverhulme (**Rodríguez**). They have secured highly competitive placements and secondments, including Library of Congress (**Osei**), and LiNK placement scheme (**Peate**, World Museum, 2015-2016; **Hiscock**, Social Justice Alliance for Museums, 2016-2017; **Doman**, Sefton Women's and Children's Aid, 2017-2018; **Iubini-Hampton** NHS-Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospital Trust, 2018-2019), and the Tate Exchange programme (**Francis**, 2020). They have also been active in the committees of national associations, including PILAS, organizing the 2018 annual conference (**Brandi, Doman, Grover**), as well as undertaking high-profile international fieldwork and impact in collaboration with international bodies, including the Colegio Paulo Freire, Mexico (**Brandi**), and the European Parliament (**Morley**).

Moreover, our commitment to nurturing the next generation of researchers is demonstrated by the success of our doctoral students supervised during this cycle who have progressed to academic and academic-related posts. These include **Amos**, Associate Professor in French sociolinguistics and translation, Warwick; **Asquith**, Leverhulme ECR Fellowship, Nottingham; **Brandi**, PDRA on URKI-funded research project, Liverpool; **Gwinn**, Lecturer in Politics, Bournemouth; **Müllneritsch**, PDRA, Uppsala; **Parry**, Policy Officer, Strathclyde; **Peate**, Lecturer in Spanish, Westminster; **Webb**, PDRA on Postcolonial Print Cultures Network, Newcastle.

As regards postdoctoral positions, our robust mechanisms to support applications to funding calls through scoping workshops, departmental mentoring, and departmental and Faculty peer review

has led to success across a range of schemes. We have hosted a significant number of postdocs during this REF period, including British Academy postdoctoral Fellows (**Hodgson, Cooijmans**), Fullbright Fellows (**Rocha**), PDRAs on AHRC-funded grants (**Blejmar, Kamali, Peate, Spadaro, Spisiakova**), PDRAs on joint AHRC-LABEX-funded grants (**Asquith**), PDRAs on UKRI-funded grants (**Brandi**), and PDRAs on HERA-funded grants (**West**). Similarly, our vision has attracted visiting fellows with institutional funding (**Sangrador-Vegas**, NUI Galway; **Correa-Díaz**, UGA), and Erasmus-funded visiting fellows (**Rodriguez**, Alicante). We also host externally-funded fellows from cultural bodies, including Etxepare-funded Visiting Fellows (**Irujo**, Nevada; **Arruti**, independent researcher; **Calvo**, KCL; **Zulaika**, Nevada; **Eguia**, independent researcher), Buchanan Endowment-funded masterclass speakers (**Fiedler, Leipzig; Jansen, Amsterdam; Alcade**, Autònoma de Barcelona; **Greatrex**, Ottawa), and Peers-funded Visiting Writers (2014-15 **Nadal**; 2015-16: **Centeno**; 2016-17: **Jansky**; 2017-18: **Montero**; 2018-19: **Jurado**; 2019-20), each year, amongst others. All these PDRAs, Visiting Fellows and other researchers and practitioners make a vital contribution to our research environment, being integrated into department activities, and functioning as full members of our research community. In line with our strategy and vision as outlined in Section 1, our recruitment of these PDRAs and visiting scholars is aimed at furthering our integrated Modern Languages approach, supporting applicants who contribute to our key areas of research excellence. Indeed, our successful approach is already lining up scholars for the future and ensuring our ongoing legacy, with two new postdoctoral researchers already secured for the next REF cycle (**Wimbush**, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Oct 2020; **Hayes de Kalaf** PDRA on AHRC-funded project, Aug 2020).

2.4. Supporting and Promoting Equality and Diversity

From the moment of appointment, we make new staff aware of, and encourage the uptake of as relevant, the Disabled Staff Network, BAME Staff Network, LGBT Staff Network, Parents Network and Carers' Network. We are active members of the School's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee on which **Thornton** sits, and who takes an active role in disseminating and advising on all issues relating to EDI. Our commitment to EDI is evidenced in our active participation in institutional and national initiatives; two staff were on the advisory committee for the successful School-level Athena SWAN Bronze Award in 2018 (**Marven, Thornton**). EDI issues are also taken into account when assisting colleagues with funding applications, with internal peer review expertise within the department advising on gender equality statements and ODI compliance. With EDI in mind, we support colleagues with particular circumstances, and assist them in applications to the university's Early Career Researchers' and Returners' Fund - aimed at those returning from maternity leave, parental care, prolonged periods of illness, or other similar circumstances, to help re-establish their career after a period of absence (see Institutional Environment Template for more details). We also encourage all staff, regardless of gender or career stage, to consider financial assistance to support EDI in grants and to build in support where possible – such as for

creche facilities for event/conference attendees and stakeholders. Moreover, we seek to embed EDI in our research environment more broadly, and have established an EDI Protocol for all our research events and activities, including family-friendly timing of research events, accessibility of venue, diversity of speakers and facilities for speakers.

We also support and encourage staff with protected characteristics to attend programmes aimed at diversifying leadership, with two completions within our UoA of Aurora training within this REF period (both female), and a member of staff put forward for Diversifying Leadership training (male).

Similarly, robust governance arrangements are in place for the unit's REF processes, including output selection, and selection of impact case studies, as outlined in the institutional Code of Practice, with the Departmental UoA Governance Group committed to the principles of transparency, consistency, accountability and inclusively; moreover, this group is gender-balanced, includes one ECR member, an EDI rep, and an independent observer, with all members having completed Advance HE EDI training.

Finally, our research vision and ethos as a department is informed by EDI regarding the subject matter of our research projects, and the approaches that we develop. Many of the research projects developed by the unit address issues for audiences with protected characteristics: from PGR work such as that of **Doman** with Sefton Women's and Children's Aid, or Brandi's with minority language education in Mexico, through numerous projects led by staff addressing the needs of marginalized or minority groups in ODA countries (**Bermingham, Blackwood, Forsdick, Magedera, Marsh, Shaw, Spadaro, Taylor, Tufi**), the research itself by members of the department addresses EDI issues.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1. Income

Our research vision and strategy as delivered through our interdisciplinary research groups articulated in Section 1, has, coupled with the significant infrastructure and support detailed below, translated into an increased quality and volume of our research grant applications and awards since 2014. There has been a notable year-on-year upward trajectory: our unit's annual income has increased by 87% from the beginning of the period to the end (£201,100 in 2013-14 to £375,420 in 2019-20), while maintaining a similar-sized staff base. As a result, we have improved our core data metric (income per eligible FTE p.a.) by 30% from REF2014 to REF2020. In REF2014, research grant income totalled £1.13m, whereas this REF cycle, income totals just above £2m (£2,048,443). Moreover, this figure represents just a fraction of the total grant value,

which stands at over £5m, comprising £4,708,977 total value to Liverpool (FEC) over the lifetime of all grants, stretching beyond the current REF cycle.

3.2. Strategies for Generating Research Income

The organisational infrastructure that has helped support this improved performance includes Institutional research themes, Faculty research themes, School research centres, and Departmental Research groups as outlined in Section 1. School Research Centres have invested a total of £123,675 in Visiting Fellowships, GTAs and Doctoral Scholarships, funding **Dekker** as Visiting Fellow and **Wells** as Doctoral Scholarship within this REF cycle.

Support is also provided by a wide range of institutional infrastructural mechanisms to aid staff in their applications for research funding, coupled with a robust infrastructure for research integrity institutionally, complemented at unit level by a research environment that helps to develop good research practice, and embeds a culture of research integrity. This also includes support for research ethics: all members of the unit are trained research ethics reviewers and serve on the School research ethics review panel, and several have sat on the central institutional ethics committee, leading to successful mentoring and support for junior colleagues and PGRs.

Another important form of infrastructural support are the University's libraries and collections, particularly the Sydney Jones Library which houses two major collections within its Special Collections and Archives that are of particular importance for our subject areas: the Edgar Allison Peers Collection, and the Manuel Irujo Archive, which regularly attract national and international scholars who join our academic community as visiting scholars, such as the Manuel Irujo Visiting Fellows, as noted above.

The success of our research support and infrastructure, and of our departmental research groups as incubators for major research projects, can be seen in major and prestigious awards made by external bodies. These exemplify our expertise in addressing global challenges, including two AHRC GCRF Follow-On Funding grants (**Magedera** £91,915, **Taylor** £100,008); a UK-India Education and Research Initiative Grant (**Magedera** £126,905); an AHRC GCRF Research Networking Grant (**Blackwood** and **Tufi** £60,428); a GCRF Area-Focused Network Plus grant (**Forsdick** CI £768,660), a Newton Fund grant (**Magedera** £178,497), and a UKRI GCRF Global Research Translation Award (**Taylor** CI, £652,258).

They also demonstrate our successes in fellowships which develop major projects and outputs, from ECR through to senior fellowships, including **Cooijmans** (British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship), **Philpotts** (British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship £99,199), and **Marsh** (Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship £52,648), as well as our commitment to broader

networking and to impact (**Rosenhaft** AHRC research networking grant £45,224, **Spadaro** and **Taylor** AHRC Follow-On Funding grants £73,721; £103,284).

They include large grants which have been influential across the field of Modern Languages and/or contribute to the development of UKRI themes, including a long-standing AHRC Theme Leadership Fellowship (**Forsdick** £934,533 in this REF cycle; £1,144,426 over the lifetime of the award) and an ESRC Scoping Review grant (**Taylor** CI £231,476), in addition to large and ongoing grants (**Taylor** AHRC Standard Grant £531,896), and which combine multiple funders (**Rosenhaft** European Commission HERA grant £689,163, **Forsdick** AHRC-LABEX grant £99,259).

Each of these research grants has made major and incisive contributions to the discipline nationally and internationally, establishing new directions in modern languages and translating cultures in our Place, Space, Belonging group (**Forsdick, Spadaro**), working at the interface between modern language and global challenges in our Conflict Memory and Heritage group (**Forsdick, Magedera, Rosenhaft, Taylor**), and developing new methodologies for modern languages-informed interrogation of historical sources and data as facilitated by our Media Histories research group (**Marsh, Philpotts, Taylor**).

As noted in Section 2, our supportive and collegiate Research Mentoring Scheme and Research Conversations, coupled with School research support, and internal peer review processes, ensures we support research staff from ECR through to senior colleagues in building up their research grant profile, and aspiring to and applying for grants relevant to their career stage – which has led to a healthy success rate of 37% for the unit over the REF period. We also encourage the inclusion of junior members of staff on bids where the PI is senior member of staff, so more junior colleagues can learn and develop, a successful model which has borne fruit in **Blackwood's** AHRC GCRF Networking Grant noted above, on which ECR **Bermingham** is a member. We also support ECRs in applying for national funding that leads to larger grant opportunities, evidenced by the recent award to **Becher** of the British Academy UK-China Research Collaboration Seed Funding Workshop, which will lead to grant opportunities for the next REF cycle.

Internal seed funding is also used to spur on larger grants and activities across a wide disciplinary range; as an example, four of our staff have been awarded internal ODA Seed Funding during this cycle for projects relating to multilingualism, heritage, ageing populations, and transitional justice (**Bermingham, Blackwood, Shaw, Riethof**), of which **Shaw's** has led to external grants from the Northern Network of Medical Humanities (£1,041), and Happy Older People (HOP) Network small grant (£300), **Blackwood** to the AHRC Networking Grant with **Tufi** noted above (£60,428), and **Riethof** to an Endangered Archives Grant, awarded in this cycle but starting late 2020. Our successful strategy with ODA Seed Funding, through our research groups as incubators,

contributes to our forward planning and ongoing legacy, not only through these external grants due to start in the next REF cycle, but also with further successful ODA Seed Fund grants secured; **Saunders** has already secured ODA Seed Funding to lead a project in Kazakhstan on difficult heritage, multilingualism and memorialisation. Similarly, GCRF Global Impact Accelerator Accounts awarded to **Magedera** and **Taylor** in 2018 led to **Magedera's** AHRC GCRF Follow-on Funding award, and to **Taylor's** UKRI GCRF Translation Award and AHRC GCRF Follow-On Funding award as noted above.

In terms of infrastructure to support impact, this is provided at departmental level through the Impact Lead as noted above, at School Level, and at Faculty level, which funds a number of Impact PDRAs to support and develop Impact Case Studies, and prepare future, longer-term impact. Impact is well-embedded across the unit, has been carefully nurtured, via targeted financial support, the sharing of best practice, expertise and contacts, and peer mentoring, including supporting ECRs with impact likely to come to fruition for the next REF cycle (**Becher, Bermingham, Gu**). We also make strategic use of competitive internal seed funding specifically targeted at impact, including HEIF Flexible Faculty Funding to accelerate impact secured by **Marsh** £250, **Rosenhaft** £4,250, **Shaw** £241, and **Taylor** £2,000, three of whom are our selected ICS for this REF cycle. Likewise, **Shaw's** successful application to internal Industrial Strategy Pump-priming Fund and Impact Acceleration funding (2018, £14,733) has led to grant applications, two co-authored articles, and expansion of her impact work. **Taylor's** successful application to internal HEIF Impact Acceleration Funding (£9,360) led to her successful large AHRC Standard Grant noted above (£531,896), whilst her internal Interdisciplinary Network Funding grant (£3,327) led to a successful ESRC Scoping Review grant, with Yates (Communication and Media) as PI (£231,476). **Marven's** Methodological Innovation & Development Awards grant in 2018-19 (£1,521) will lead to a survey of academic translation practice and a position paper.

In addition to this, significant funding has been secured to develop our research and impact through endowments and other external income, including investment from the Buchanan endowment, committing a total of almost **£90,000**, comprising **£74,160** to fund a PGR GTA who started this REF cycle (**Iubini-Hampton**), and **£15,000** for associated research events and masterclasses; **£10,000** from Santander MRes bursaries; and E. Allison Peers doctoral studentships and MRes bursaries to a total of **£53,548**, supporting, in this REF cycle, research students **Appleton, Brandi, Cunliffe, Evans, Halbert, Magana, and Rodríguez**.

3.3. Significance of Major Benefits-in-kind

As a unit, we have had notable success with a wide range of funding bodies not reported in HESA returns, evidencing our engagement and attraction of funding at local, national, and internationally

levels. Totalling **£140,994**, this includes Spanish Embassy (**Cullell**), Instituto Cervantes (**Cullell**), Institut Ramón Llull (**Cullell**), Hispanex (**Cullell**), Spanish Ministry for Science, Innovation and Universities (**Cullell**), Institute of Modern Languages Research (**Loxham, Shaw**), Goethe Institut (**Marven**), Extepare Basque Institute (**Mercero**), DAAD Writer in Residence Scheme (**Marven, Plowman**), Foreign Ministry of the German Federal Republic (**Rosenhaft**), Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (**Paoli**), Rockefeller Archive Center (**Riethof**), UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (**Riethof**), and Santander Travel grants (**Blackwood, Riethof, Taylor, Thornton**).

The income from these cultural bodies is in addition to important grants from subject associations, including the British Association for Applied Linguistics (**Bermingham**), Institute of Latin American Studies Seminar Series Grant (**Riethof**), Society for Latin American Studies Seminar Grant (**Riethof**), PILAS (**Riethof**), German Historical Society (**Rosenhaft**), HOP Network (**Shaw**), and Northern Network for Medical Humanities (**Shaw**). We have also secured income from charitable bodies, including a Joseph Rowntree Foundation grant (**Riethof**); and from research consortia not captured through HESA, such as **Blackwood**'s participation on the MEITS OWRI grant, **Paoli**'s participation in an Australian Centre for Italian Studies-funded grant, **Riethof**'s Northwest Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership methods grant, and **Rosenhaft**'s Sogang University grant.

The significant income and support that we receive from such a wide range of bodies is evidence of our truly international reach, and our commitment to our pluricultural and plurilingual vision that underpins our research strategy.

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

4.1. Research Collaborations

Building on our vision, the department has developed a strategic approach to partnerships, clustering these not by language area but around our cross-cutting interdisciplinary themes as articulated in our research groups, and setting in place common goals where the vision of the department aligns with the needs of external stakeholders, partners and user groups.

Regarding firstly **external academic collaboration**, during this REF cycle, the department has established and cemented significant research collaborations with a wide range of academic partners as part of our funded research activity and our impact case studies, with partnerships stretching over 16 countries and working across language areas and boundaries. International collaborators on funded projects relating to our research groups include:

Place, Space, Belonging group: collaborations with universities in **Algeria, Portugal, Spain** and **Zambia** through funded projects led by **Bermingham, Blackwood** and **Tufi** have developed significant interdisciplinary research projects on multilingualism, memorialisation, heritage, and language in the education system.

Image, Sound, Performance group: funded collaborations with international partners in **Brazil** led by **Shaw** have made major interventions in interdisciplinary medical humanities projects addressing memory, dementia, and care.

Conflict, Memory, Heritage group: funded projects led by **Forsdick, Magedera, Riethof, Rosenhaft** and **Taylor** have collaborated with institutions in **Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Ghana, India, Poland, South Korea** and **Spain** to deliver major interdisciplinary projects in the areas of dark tourism, transitional justice, cultural heritage, and representation of minorities.

Media Histories group: funded projects led by **Cullell, Spadaro** and **Taylor** with collaborators in **Colombia, Spain** and **Tunisia** have delivered projects on multilingual heritage, new literary genres, and digital artistic practice.

This range of international academic institutions with which we have worked provides evidence of how scholars are attracted to work with us, enthused by our vision of Modern Languages as a translational, interdisciplinary, and collaborative undertaking. Moreover, we are gaining increasing profile in championing equitable research partnerships with institutions in the developing world, informed by our ethos of transformational impact, ethical working, and of embedding EDI into our partnerships, with funded projects (both from external research grants, and internal seed-corn funding) working with countries on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of ODA recipients including **Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Ghana, India, Tunisia** and **Zambia** to deliver on particular Sustainable Development Goals.

Additional measures of the success of our translational and transnational approach to research collaborations can also be evidenced in the high number of external collaborations in the form of visiting fellowships that MLC researchers – including our PGR students - have held at other institutions during this REF cycle, often in interdisciplinary settings, and/or settings that straddle academia and practice. These include **Blackwood** (MultiLing Oslo, **Norway** 2018); **Croenen** (Flanders Heritage Libraries, **Belgium** 2019-2020); **Forsdick** (Getty Research Institute, LA, **USA** 2017, Dartmouth College, **USA** 2017, Montpellier, **France** 2018); **Mercero** (CUNY, **USA**, 2018), PhD student **Morley** (Aalborg, Denmark, 2019), PhD student Rodríguez, (Barcelona, **Spain**, 2014), **Rosenhaft** (Sogang, **South Korea**, 2018-2020); **Spadaro** (IMLR, **UK** 2015); and **Cullell**

(University of Georgia at Athens, **USA** 2014). Similarly, invited external collaborations in the form of summer/winter schools, including **Cullell** (Complutense Madrid, **Spain** 2017), **Rosenhaft** (Herzog August Library, Wolfenbüttel, **Germany** 2015; United States Memorial Museum, **USA** 2018) and Erasmus+ funded visiting fellowships (**Cullell**, XJTLU **China** 2017; **Croenen**, Ghent, **Belgium** 2018-2019; **Riethof**, Paris-Sorbonne, **France** 2018-2019; **Yiacoup**, New University of Lisbon, **Portugal** 2014) have been key ways in which our researchers engage in interdisciplinary and transnational collaborations. These prestigious visiting fellowships and exchanges have not only profiled our excellent research internationally, but have also been facilitators for interdisciplinary working, enabling our staff to work in new units and structures, taking Modern Languages research out well beyond the normal departments in which it sits.

4.2. Relationships with Key Research Users, Beneficiaries and Audiences

Just as with our academic collaborators, our key collaborations as regards stakeholders and beneficiaries are informed by our translational approach to research that underpins our research vision (see 'Context', above), where we start from the premise that a Modern Languages-informed approach can enable new modes of engagement with external partners at local, national, and international level.

Locally, we have particularly strong and long-standing relationships with leading cinema and art gallery FACT, with whom we have worked through **Taylor's** AHRC Follow-On Funding grant, **Paoli's** ongoing film presentations, and **Thornton's** Brews and Brows project, this latter also collaborating with Open Eye Gallery and Homotopia Festival, as well as local hair and beauty salons in a series of public engagement and impact events. **Marsh's** consultancy work for Unilever examined their unseen Niger Archives, bringing insight into the business which has influenced decision-making, not only leading to positive outcomes for Unilever, but also training opportunities for two PGR students. Many of our local connections also span out internationally; for instance, **Paoli**, **Spadaro** and **Tufi**, along with T&S colleague Biasini, collaborated on an OWRI-funded *Italian Cultures in Multilingual Liverpool* project with Mammamia and the Dante Alighieri Association, as a result of which the organisations are collaborating to obtain funding from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for PLIDA certificates.

Nationally, **Forsdick's** wide-ranging work through his AHRC Translating Cultures Theme Fellowship has, amongst his many projects, played an integral part in engaging with national non-academic collaborators, including a Translator-In-Residence scheme at the British Library, an International Translation Day with Free Word Centre, co-hosting events with UNESCO, co-organizing Black History Month events at Kelvingrove Museum, sessions at Cheltenham Literature Festival, and collaborations with HMP Canterbury. Forsdick was also co-investigator on an

AHRC-funded project in collaboration with the Runnymede Trust, supported by Arts Council England, called 'Common Cause Research: enriching the Arts and Humanities through collaborations between universities and BME community partners'. Similarly, **Riethof's** work, funded through a Joseph Rowntree Foundation grant, contributed to community-led approaches for reducing poverty (2015-16).

Internationally, highlights include **Magedera's** Newton-funded Hugli River of Cultures project, which has engaged heritage activists, third sector organizations and policy makers to influence large-scale heritage initiatives at national and West Bengal state level, with key outcomes including a Heritage Audit, three photographic exhibitions, an augmented reality app, a documentary film, and a Heritage Management Strategy, leading to the creation of a Hugli chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage. **Riethof's** ground-breaking work with archives and museums in Chile and Argentina strengthens the evidence base for human rights campaigns and contributes to the memorialization and commemoration of human rights violations and repression. **Spadaro** has developed extensive knowledge exchange and impact in her AHRC Follow-On Funding project, which took a major exhibition to the Italian Cultural Institute in Tunisia and worked with local schools and cultural institutions across Tunisia. **Taylor** has worked extensively in collaboration with victims' groups, museums and cultural institutions in Colombia on issues of representation of victims of the armed conflict.

Within this cycle, we are already supporting and planning future non-academic collaborations including **Becher** on art festivals, **Birmingham** on language teaching in ODA countries, **Cullell** on poetry slams in the Hispanic world, **Dixon** on fashion and clothing, **Marven** on translation practice, **Paoli** on film screenings, **Smith** on language exchange in cinema, **Riethof** on transnational solidarity and activism, **Yiacoup** on interfaith relations, all of which are instances of future impact work that has been and continues to be nurtured by the department for the next REF cycle. These projects are already starting to lead to changes in helping strengthen the evidence base for understanding human rights violations, greater understanding of public engagement in the transformations of space through performativity, and enhanced understanding of issues of societal inclusion and disadvantage, amongst others. All these projects, and many others like them, demonstrate our wider commitment to impact and public engagement at a wide range of scales, and across all career stages and languages areas of our department, as well as forming part of our strategy of nurturing collaborations, and incubating impact case studies for the next REF cycle.

4.3. Wider Activities and Contributions to the Research Base, Economy and Society

Above and beyond the development of our own research and impact, the department makes an incisive contribution to sustainability of the discipline nationally and internationally, responding to and indeed spearheading national and international priorities and initiatives.

Forsdick as AHRC Translating Cultures Theme Leadership Fellow has provided intellectual and strategic leadership for this theme which has been crucial to the development and sustainability of Modern Languages as a discipline. Co-ordinating a diverse portfolio of over 120 interdisciplinary projects, and having contributed to hundreds of events nationally and internationally, Forsdick has played a pivotal role in supporting, promoting and championing research in Modern Languages as it relates to major societal challenges relating in particular to translation, multilingualism, migration, social cohesion and transnational connectivity. We are also long-standing contributors to, and organisers of, Being Human Events, having hosted a hub led by **Taylor** in 2015, coordinating contributions across the institution, including by **Forsdick** and **Dixon**, and running individual events in 2018 (**Shaw** and **Rosenhaft**) and 2019 (**Taylor**), proof of our commitment to public engagement with Modern Languages research.

In addition to this, our leading contributions to national and international priorities can also be seen in our longstanding and sustained relationship with the prominent cultural agencies and embassies relating to the languages and territories on which we work. The fact that, as noted above, we regularly secure competitive funding from, and organize high-profile events in conjunction with, the Spanish Embassy, Instituto Cervantes, Institut Ramon Llull, Etxepare Basque Institute, German Academic Exchange Agency, Foreign Ministry of the German Federal Republic, Institute of Modern Languages Research, Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Hispanex, Goethe Institut, Società Dante Alighieri, and Spanish Ministry for Science, Innovation and Universities, evidences not only our excellent relationship with these institutions, but also our vision of our department as plurilingual and pluricultural.

Similarly, our annual public lectures - flagship events to promote new developments in the discipline - are delivered by cultural figures and practitioners as frequently as by academics, demonstrating how we embed our vision of translational ways of working into our research environment and events. These events regularly attract large and diverse audiences; the annual E. Allison Peers Symposium 2018 sold out all tickets within 20 minutes, with a further waiting list closed at 400, whilst our Lucrezia Zaina lecture regularly sells out on an annual basis. We do not, however, solely measure our success in engaging with audiences in terms of numbers, and we work seriously to connect with hard-to-reach audiences, and to ensure we enable communities to engage with us. Building on our departmental EDI protocol for events as outlined in Section 3 above, we commit to ensure gender balance, accessible venues, and facilities for attendees.

Examples of the success of this approach can be seen in the *Re-visiting the Black Atlantic* (2019) organized by **Shaw**, at which 9 of the speakers (including 2 keynotes) were Afro-descendant, and only 2 of the speakers were not female; in **Forsdick's** exhibition with the Kumba Imaani Centre, Toxteth, on shared histories of the transatlantic slave trade, and his work with the cohort of AHRC UN International Decade for People of African Descent networks; and in **Marsh's** Slaves of Fashion exhibition with the Singh Twins at the Walker Art Gallery, which uncovered hidden histories of colonialism and exploitation in museum objects.

Similarly, regarding engagement with audiences internationally, and particularly in ODA countries, we take particular care to ensure real and meaningful engagement, including, to date, local transport costs, creche facilities for women who are single-parent heads of household, and per diems for those on low incomes (**Blackwood** and **Taylor** grants). We aim, in so doing, to ensure that meaningful opportunities are in place for relevant communities to engage, regardless of their financial situation, and to take into account the complex intersectionalities that influence who may or may not have the opportunity otherwise to engage with our research.

The department also has a significant influence on, and makes a long-standing contribution to, the wider national and international research base, including journal editorship, grant advisory boards, research council committees, and peer review colleges. During this REF cycle, colleagues within the department have been Editor-in-Chief for three journals which are recognised internationally as leaders in the field: *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* (**Taylor**), *Bulletin of Contemporary Hispanic Studies* (**Cullell**), *Linguistic Landscape: an International Journal* (**Blackwood**), as well as sitting on the editorial committee for a further 21 journals across a wide interdisciplinary remit. Colleagues have additionally undertaken regular peer reviewing for over fifty leading peer-reviewed journals which span the full breadth of our language areas and historical coverage, many of which are interdisciplinary, and we also regularly review monographs for a range of prestigious presses. Several of our staff are series editors for book series which have been instrumental in promoting high-quality Modern Languages research and are crucial to the visibility of the discipline, including Contemporary French and Francophone Cultures, LUP (**Forsdick**) Anthem Studies in Travel (**Forsdick**), Entangled Memories in the Global South (**Rosenhaft**), Eighteenth-Century Worlds, LUP (**Rosenhaft**), Migrations and Identities, LUP (**Rosenhaft**), whilst many are on editorial boards for book series: Contemporary French and Francophone Cultures, Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment (**Marsh**), Liverpool Online Series (**Bromilow, Chadwick, Croenen**), Devenir Ensayo (**Cullell**). **Forsdick, Loxham** and **Taylor** also play major roles on the Editorial Advisory Board of Liverpool University Press, shaping the national agenda and leading new, transformative book series in Modern Languages – not least in the establishment of major new book series during this REF cycle, and in attracting major Modern Languages journals to LUP.

Our vision of Modern Languages as translational and transformative has also informed our strategic contributions to the pioneering of Open Research in a Modern Languages context, reflected particularly in our spearheading of the major national initiative, Modern Languages Open (MLO). Five of our members of staff act as Series Editors and provide leadership of language and thematic areas (**Birmingham** – Linguistics; **Chadwick** – French; **Loxham** – Film; **Marven** – German; **Thornton** – Hispanic) in this innovative platform for the open access dissemination of peer-reviewed scholarship from across modern languages at scale to a global audience. This national initiative which has transformed Modern Languages research enables new forms of engagement, including short form pieces, manifestos, collaborative endeavours, and many other flexible outputs. The time and dedication that our colleagues bring to MLO evidences our commitment not only to supporting the development of Modern Languages scholarship nationally, but also to Open Research, and contributes to our commitment to EDI, supporting forms of dissemination that are not behind a paywall, and free to view for scholars of the global south.

The success of our departmental vision, and evidence of our standing nationally and internationally can also be seen in the variety and frequency with which colleagues have been invited to examine research degrees, often across language areas and in emerging and interdisciplinary areas. **Nationally**, colleagues have examined during this REF cycle PhD theses at Birkbeck, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, KCL, Kent, Leeds, Manchester, Oxford, Queen's University Belfast, Royal Holloway, St Andrews, Stirling, UCL, and Warwick, and **internationally** at Aix-Marseille, Auckland, Bari, Bremen, Cergy-Pontoise, Columbia, Cork, Galway, Granada, George Washington, Macquarie, Carlos III Madrid, Santiago de Compostela, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Melbourne, Oslo, Paris-Nanterre, Paris-Sorbonne, Rio de Janeiro State, Trinity College Dublin, UPTC Colombia, Western Australia, and Zacatecas.

Our championing of Modern Languages as transnational and translational has also led to a large number of our staff being elected to key roles in a wide range of subject associations, providing intellectual leadership and representing the Modern Languages community at a high level, including: President, International Association for the Study of Spanish in Society (**Birmingham**); Hispanic Studies Representative, University Council of Modern Languages (**Birmingham**), Membership Secretary, Society for French Studies (**Bromilow**); International Secretary, International Courtly Literature Society (**Dixon**); President, Society of French Studies (**Forsdick**), President, Society of Francophone Postcolonial Studies (**Marsh**); Executive Secretary, Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland (**Loxham**) Chair, European Society for Periodical Research (**Philpotts**); Social Media Officer, Society of Latin American Studies (**Riethof**), Secretary, Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (**Saunders**), President, Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland (**Taylor**).

Similarly, the success of our research vision can be seen in the high-profile role that members of our unit play in advising major externally-funded grants at other institutions. These include the GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub (**Forsdick**, chair), Transnationalizing Modern Languages, Bristol (**Forsdick**), AHRC OWRI Creative Multilingualism, Oxford (**Forsdick**), AHRC OWRI Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies, Cambridge (**Forsdick**), AHRC Research Network Writing, Analysing, Translating Dalit Literature, NTU (**Forsdick**), AHRC/FAPESP-funded Intermedia grant, Reading (**Shaw**), AHRC OWRI grant, Language Acts and Worldmaking, KCL (**Taylor**), AHRC GCRF grant, Precarious Publishing in Latin America, Surrey (**Taylor**), AHRC-Newton-Colciencias grant, Bringing Memories from the Margins: Inclusive Transitional Justice and Creative Memory Processes for Reconciliation in Colombia, Bristol (**Forsdick, Taylor**). Through these grant advisory roles, we play a significant role in the sustainability of Modern Languages, supporting the work of the discipline nationally, and contributing to strategies to help support its future.

These advisory roles on grants are matched by our engagement with high-level national and international research funding bodies. Three of our colleagues are Elected Fellows of the Royal Historical Society (**Chadwick, Croenen, Rosenhaft**), one is member of the Academy of Europe (**Forsdick**), one is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (**Rosenhaft**), and one a member of the Wissenschaftlicher Beirat of the Institut für Zeitgeschichte in Munich (**Rosenhaft**). As well as reviewing at national level for the AHRC Peer Review College (**Bromilow, Chadwick, Cullell, Forsdick, Marsh, Philpotts, Saunders**), and the British Council Newton Fund (**Magedera, Riethof, Shaw, Thornton**), colleagues also review for international research councils, including the Irish Research Council (**Taylor, Tufi**), the European Research Council (**Taylor**), the German Research Foundation (**Rosenhaft, Tufi**), and the College of Experts for the European Science Foundation (**Rosenhaft**).

Colleagues have also been appointed to strategic roles including the AHRC Strategic Peer Review College (**Forsdick, Marsh, Philpotts**), the AHRC Advisory Board (**Taylor**), the AHRC Digital Transformations Theme Strategic Advisory Group (**Taylor**, chair), and the UKRI Global Challenges Strategic Advisory Group (**Taylor**). Through these influential positions, we are advising at high level, contributing to the strategy of UKRI and the future direction of major research initiatives and priorities. Colleagues' representation on advisory boards, panels and peer review colleges means that our department plays an important part in agenda-setting for Modern Languages nationally and internationally, holding key roles and positions that speak for the discipline, and contributing to the sustainability of the discipline for the future.