

Introduction:

There is an established research culture in English at Westminster that has been considerably enhanced and extended since the last RAE. Our reputation for excellence has grown quickly through publications with major presses and in internationally-recognised journals, organisation of and participation in conferences at home and abroad, and a variety of other scholarly activities. Our two major research forums, the Westminster English Colloquium and Westminster-Smithsonian Colloquium, have each extended their activity, and we have organised a series of high-profile events with institutions like Tate Britain and the National Portrait Gallery that reflect our particular research strengths. There have been five new full-time and seven fractional appointments in English, and we are entering more than twice as many staff in RA2 as was the case in RAE2001. This expansion in the subject area has been enthusiastically welcomed by the Department, and has provided the opportunity to create a dynamic and forward-looking research environment at Westminster.

1. Research Structure:

1.1 English Language and Literature is located within the Department of English and Linguistics, in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages (SSHL). The Department also includes EFL and the Academic Writing Centre, and has benefited from research expertise in Linguistics (UoA58), which achieved a 5 in RAE2001. In 2003 SSHL established a series of seven Research Clusters, defined by cognate areas and working across established subject boundaries, thereby facilitating the sharing of existing good practice and collaborative partnerships. Research time in Literature is largely funded through the European Historical and Cultural Studies Cluster (EHCS), and Language through the Language and Linguistics Cluster. We have also consolidated collaborative relations with other research groupings both within the School and across the University, in particular the Centre for Arts Research, Technology and Education (CARTE), Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD), and School of Architecture and the Built Environment.

1.2 The School is the basic administrative unit for the management and coordination of research, responsible for the general terms of policy and practice. Strategy is led by the Dean of SSHL, and overseen by a School Research Director and Research Strategy Committee, with responsibility for the promotion and monitoring of all research activity across the School. (Cunningham is currently the representative from English.) EHCS maintains a Research Support Office with an administrator to provide practical assistance with applications and events organization. At University level, WestmARC (Applied Research and Consultancy Office) supports all staff seeking external funding.

1.3 As the English subject area has expanded at Westminster so has the range and diversity of its activities. Our work in literary studies embraces a variety of critical approaches, with particularly strong concentrations of activity in the nineteenth and twentieth century, contemporary writing and cultural

theory. The study of contemporary literature has intersected with a growing presence of creative writing activity, as reflected in Nath's outputs. Other teaching staff have included a number of important contemporary practitioners, such as Toby Litt, who joined us in 2006. Matthew Morrison, appointed to a 0.5 position (2006), is a playwright and former Literary Manager of Theatre 503, London, recently awarded \$5000 by the Smithsonian to carry out the research and writing of a play about African-American airmen in the 1930s. In English Language, along with the outputs of Preece and Sylvester, Avery has also published extensively on academic English, including the co-edited *Writing With Style* (Longman 2001). Other work has concentrated on pedagogic research into practices underpinning English Language teaching, and is not submitted in RA2. However, the international recognition that this work has received is reflected in the number of invited keynote papers given by staff such as Hugh Dellar, including at the Switzerland ETAS, Malta MALTESOL, Peru TESOL, and Chile IATEFL conferences. Two coursebooks by Dellar and Andrew Walkley were nominated for the British Council Innovations in English Language Teaching Awards.

1.4 Alongside our monthly seminar series of visiting speakers, the main research forum in English is the one-day Westminster English Colloquium, held around twice a year, with four/five invited speakers, on a topic chosen by a departmental group. As well as functioning as a focal point for the research culture, it has provided an initial basis for more extensive outputs. For example: 'Sidelined Sciences' (2002) led to a collection co-edited by Warwick entitled *Repositioning Victorian Sciences* (Anthem 2006); 'Photography and Literature' (2004): a collection co-edited by Cunningham and Mays (CSP 2005); 'Marx, Architecture and Modernity' (2004): a survey article by Cunningham, with a colleague in Architecture (*Journal of Architecture*, 2006); 'Gender, Sex and Subjectivity' (2007): a collection edited by Mitchell scheduled for 2009.

1.5 The Westminster-Smithsonian Colloquium is a university-wide forum co-ordinated by Alan Morrison, Principal Lecturer in the Department. This is a major international collaborative programme consisting of scholarly exchanges and joint symposia. Cunningham was a visitor at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, in October 2006, as was Barfield in March 2002. Visitors from the Smithsonian have included **Arthur Molella, Director of the Lemelson Center at the National Museum of American History, and Lonnie Bunch, Director of the new Museum of African American History and Culture.** The Department also maintains a number of established links with other international institutions, including the University of Alicante, with which we have had regular staff exchanges since the 1990s. Richard Humphreys, curator at Tate Britain, has been a Visiting Professor in the Department since 2006, while, on the London Theatre programme, Visiting Research Fellows have been Mike Bradwell (Bush Theatre), Helen Eastman (Floodtide), and critic Aleks Sierz.

1.6 Staff take full advantage of our central London location, regularly working on collaborative ventures with other London institutions, including a series of conferences convened in conjunction with Tate Britain: *The American Sublime* (2001), *Down and Out: Deconstructing Bohemia* (2004), *The Thames: History, Representation and Culture* (2005), and *Seduced by the City* (2007). The Thames conference resulted in a special issue of *Literary London* (2007) co-edited by Warwick and Barfield. In 2003 staff were involved in the organisation of *Square Politics* at the National Gallery, and in 2006-7 we convened a number of public events with the National Portrait Gallery as part of our London Studies programme, with speakers including Peter Ackroyd, Will Self, and Edmund Wilson. We also organised the 2007 NPG study day *John Donne: Portraiture, Painting and London*. Other conferences have included two on Beckett (2002, 2003), the co-organised *Interface With Linguistics* (2006) – with a keynote from David Crystal on pronouncing Shakespeare - and ‘Teaching Contemporary British Fiction’, co-convened with the British Council (2004). A ‘Teaching London’ conference was organised with the Centre for Metropolitan History (2006). We hosted the annual *Literary London* conference in 2007. Recent Creative Writing events have included symposia, organised by Litt, on ‘Being a Writer’ (2007), while our regular theatre programme has included workshops with, among others, director Natalie Abrahami and actor Woody Harrelson. We have organised several events with the UK Network for Modern Fiction Studies (UKNMFS), including an annual summer seminar series and conferences on B.S. Johnson (2004), Iain Banks (2006), and Responses to 9/11 (2007).

1.7 While key research outputs in English reflect the interests and expertise of individual staff, the richness and originality of our activity is considerably enhanced by a lively collaborative culture. Significant clusters of shared interest have formed around Beckett (Barfield, Cunningham), the Brownings (Avery, Baker), and gothic (McEvoy, Warwick, Wilson, Witchard), and an especially distinctive area of research activity concerns the relations between textual and urban form, particularly as regards London. This embraces various ventures, such as the two conferences on London, the *Thames* special issue, Preece’s research on London ‘stories’, Witchard’s writings on Limehouse, Cunningham’s publications on the metropolis in *Radical Philosophy* (2005, 2007; not entered RA2), and Warwick’s *Jack the Ripper* book (to which Cunningham contributed). The Department’s innovative MA London Studies (launched 2007) involves collaboration between English and colleagues in Architecture, History, and CARTE.

2. Staff and Students

2.1 Since 2001, we have placed particular emphasis on the appointment of staff starting out on their research careers. Of the fourteen staff listed in RA1, seven entered the academic profession since 2001. Wilson and Cunningham were first appointments in 2001 and 2002. A series of transfers of PTVL staff to permanent teaching and research posts in 2005, including McEvoy, Nath, and two early-career researchers, Baker and Mitchell (who departed in September 2007 to take up a post at Manchester), served to expand significantly our research base in Romanticism, Victorian Studies and

Modernism. Mays and McGettigan were appointed as fractionals, working with Cunningham, to provide specialised teaching and research in critical theory/aesthetics. In 2007, we made two more senior appointments (Avery, Sylvester), so as to strengthen the Department's future research work and management, and an early-career appointment (Witchard; previously a PTVL). A further full-time appointment in Creative Writing has been funded for January 2008. The Department has long run a mentoring scheme in which younger scholars are paired with more experienced staff able to advise them on their research career. Following the appointments in 2005, this mentoring policy was more explicitly formalised and extended, with regular scheduled meetings. New staff are encouraged to join supervisory teams for new PhDs, and to take the University's MA Higher Education module 'Supervising Research Students'.

2.2 The University recognised that English, although it did not generate any QR monies in RAE2001, is a particularly strong area of developing research and has sought to support it accordingly. We have been assisted in this respect by the top-slicing of QR income earned by SSHL in RAE2001 and by the University's own centrally-administered Research Development Fund. All research leave is subject to competitive and clearly defined bidding and monitoring processes through the Clusters, and new researchers have access to the same support as those already established. Further support for research is made available through the Departmental Staff Development Budget. This predominantly funds conference attendance, staff training, and research-related travel expenses. For example, Mitchell was funded to visit the Lesbian Herstory Archive and National Archive of LGBT, New York (summer 2007), as research for a forthcoming monograph. In 2005-6 this fund was also used to provide targeted research time for newly-appointed researchers, including Baker, McEvoy, Mays and Mitchell. Alongside the availability of funds to support new and established researchers, the support of existing staff has been crucial. Barfield, who had no publications to return in RAE2001, has, for example, now been able to produce a number of highly regarded outputs.

2.3 Research in English directly influences teaching. Special Author/Topic modules, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, provide a specific opportunity for staff to base a semester-long module on their current research. Our commitment to the connection between research and teaching is also apparent in the extensive research into pedagogy that takes place within the Department, as reflected in various outputs in RA2. We have further been involved in research into educational issues beyond those specific to the subject area. Barfield, for example, was co-organiser of the conference *Perspectives on Personal Tutoring* held at Westminster (2005) with the Higher Education Academy. Staff in English also have a close relationship with the Academic Writing Centre, and have benefited considerably from the presence of a Royal Literary Fund Fellow (currently Shelley Weiner), available to all postgraduates for advice on academic and creative writing.

2.4 Postgraduate research is overseen by a School Research Degrees Committee, whose Chair is ultimately responsible for PhD students' progress

and achievement. Such Committees have consolidated processes of good practice to support research students, including transfer from MPhil to PhD (incorporating an oral viva) and submission of regular supervision logs. Both the EHCS and Language and Linguistics Research Clusters conduct an Annual Progress Review that is incorporated into the School audit, and provide designated office space for doctoral students, with computers and other electronic resources, located in the Wells Street 'hub' of research centres (with CSD and CARTE).

2.5 The Cluster system has encouraged the sharing of a number of resources between subject areas, and brought together a sizeable cross-disciplinary postgraduate community for seminars and other events within the School. Alongside a range of university-wide training courses, SSHL provides a specific Research Training Programme for all doctoral students, running across the first year of registration, and co-ordinates an annual research student conference. Our PhD students also have the opportunity to gain teaching experience on the undergraduate programme, working with a mentor from the full-time staff, and are invited to undertake training in teaching and assessment via the Postgraduate Certificate of Special Study for Supporting Learning. Students are able to bid for research-related expenses in the same way as staff.

2.6 Three completions in 2002 meant that we effectively started afresh at that time. Two of these went on to permanent academic jobs and published related work, including Carol Morley's first edition of the complete works of William Heminge (Fairleigh Dickinson 2005) based upon her thesis. Part-time students make up the majority of our community, and since 2002 we have enrolled five such students. Additionally, one full-time student who enrolled in 2002 also switched to part-time in 2004, and will submit 2008. Another full-time student began in 2003, funded by the Sardinian government, and is now writing up. A PhD by publication was awarded to Aleks Sierz for his writings on contemporary theatre (2006). Staff have further acted as supervisors for students elsewhere in the University, with Warwick acting as second supervisor for a student in Visual Culture, and Cunningham for a student in Architecture. The latter also acted as internal examiner for two doctorates in Art and Design. Maria Jesus Perea Villena visited the Department for six months during 2004, from the University of Granada, Spain, to work with Cunningham for her PhD on Peter Ackroyd. Sylvester co-supervised students to successful completion at King's College, London (2006) and Manchester (2005).

3. Strategy

3.1 We feel that we have made very significant strides since 2001, in many cases surpassing the goals we then set ourselves. Key to this has been the considerable expansion in our base of research-active staff, as well as the ongoing development of a robust infrastructure to support research and collaborative networks. The Department is committed to continuing research within its areas of established strength, such as nineteenth-century studies, modernism and gothic, and various forms of interdisciplinary work, but is also

seeking to increase its activity in the medieval and early modern with the appointments of Sylvester and a further part-time lecturer, Saul Frampton, who is not entered in RA2 on this occasion. As anticipated in 2001, this is the first RAE to which we have submitted work in English Language, and we envisage growing amounts of research in this area, as in creative writing.

3.2 We remain committed to increasing steadily our numbers of PhD students. One new full-time and two part-time students have enrolled for doctoral research in September 2007, and we have a good recent record in the transfer of some of our best Masters students to research degrees at Westminster. Given the increasing success, and expansion in scope, of our MAs, this should help to reinforce the developing strength of our graduate base, as should the appointment of new colleagues and growing reputation of younger staff. In the present climate, securing funding for doctoral work in English Studies is, as in other institutions, often difficult, but the university has committed itself to expanding its number of scholarships, as in the competitive Quintin Hogg scheme (which funded Morley; see 2.6). Additional funds generated by fee income in 2006-7, and awarded to EHCS, are being used to establish a series of new bursaries specifically for doctoral students in the subject area (starting 2007), and we have recently begun discussions to develop a joint PhD Scholarship in English with Xiamen University, China.

3.3 The organisation of conferences and interdisciplinary networks has been important in the development of a very strong research culture since 2001. Our work with institutions such as Tate Britain, the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian will continue to develop and expand. Future events include a colloquium on London Gothic, a major 2009 conference on Ezra Pound, to celebrate the centenary of his lectures on Romance Literature delivered at the Regent Street Polytechnic (part of what is now the University of Westminster), a Tate conference on the Camden Town painters, and an international academic event and postgraduate conference co-organized with the Browning Society.

3.4 Having made a concerted effort to bring into the Department a number of new researchers, we are very excited about the results to be expected as such careers mature. Staff have already commenced a number of major research projects that will come to fruition after 2007, and which constitute a key part of our plans for the immediate future. Avery is completing a critical history of Hardy for Palgrave; Baker is writing a study of D.H. Lawrence and masculinity; Barfield is co-editing *The Modernism Handbook* (Continuum 2008), in a series for which he is also co-editor; Cunningham is completing *Theory of the Metropolis*, with a colleague in Architecture, and co-editing an anthology on the future for Whitechapel/MIT Press; Frampton's book on Montaigne is forthcoming from Faber (2008), and he is writing a further monograph on the history of 'untruth'; McEvoy has co-authored *Beginning Gothic* (MUP 2008), and is working on a new edition of Charlotte Dacre's *Zofloya* (Valancourt Press); McGettigan's *Disputes in First Philosophy: Derrida versus Levinas* is forthcoming (Fordham University Press 2009); Mays is editing a collection on the image of the library; Nath is revising his novel, *La Rochelle*, for publication with Route; Preece is contracted for a

monograph, *Language and Identity in Higher Education* (Palgrave 2009); Sylvester is co-editing the *Encyclopaedia of Dress and Textiles* (Brill); Warwick's co-edited *Victorian Literature Handbook* is forthcoming (Continuum 2008), and she is writing a monograph on Archaeology and the Victorian Imagination; Wilson has written the book *Modernism* in Continuum's Introductions to British Literature and Culture series (February 2008), co-edited *Writers Talk: Interviews with Contemporary Novelists* (Continuum 2008), and is writing a book on Modernism and Spiritualism (EUP 2009); Witchard's *Thomas Burke's Dark Chinoiserie* will be published by Ashgate (2008), and she is working on a larger study of gothic *chinoiserie*.

3.5 Sylvester is co-investigator on a £750,000 five-year AHRC-funded project, 'The Lexis of Cloth and Clothing in Britain c.700-1450' (2006-2011), with Professor Gale Owen-Crocker at Manchester (<http://lexisproject.arts.manchester.ac.uk/>). Westminster has a one-third share of the funding, including a research assistant, working on Middle English, French and Latin vocabulary, based at Westminster from September 2007. The project involves collaboration with the *Middle English Dictionary* at Ann Arbor, Michigan, the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary* at Aberystwyth, and the Historical Thesaurus of English project at Glasgow. A significant output will be a searchable online database of text and images. The Department's major target for the next five years is to improve our chances of gaining more such external funding for individual and group projects. The University has committed resources through the Research Clusters and WestmARC to assist staff in pursuing this aim, and we are confident of our growing capacity to secure such funds in the future. As one of the most distinctive forms of research activity taking place within the Department, we are looking, in particular, to develop further our work on relations between literary, cultural and urban form. Led by Cunningham, staff are currently involved in establishing a new Forum for the Study of Urban Cultures, with colleagues in Architecture and History, as well as at the Smithsonian. This will provide a base for several exciting new research projects, including a study of Chinese urban diaspora, involving Witchard with colleagues in CSD's Asian Studies programme (UoA49). We are currently drawing up a funding bid for the AHRC Research Networks and Workshops scheme.

4. Additional Information

4.1 Our researchers have produced a significant number of important outputs not included in RA2, including some 35 articles and book chapters, and seven further edited collections/journal special issues. Westminster also encourages staff to disseminate the results of their research to the widest possible public. Avery contributed to *The Continuum Encyclopaedia of British Literature* (2003); McEvoy: *Encyclopaedia of European Romanticism* (Fitzroy Dearborn 2004); Sylvester: *Companion to Pre-1600 British Poetry* (Facts on File 2007) and *Jewish Writers of the Twentieth Century* (Fitzroy Dearborn 2003); Warwick: *Routledge Companion to Gothic* (2007); Wilson: *Encyclopaedia of British Women Writers, 1900-1950* (Palgrave 2006), and *Edinburgh Encyclopaedia of Modern Criticism and Theory* (2002).

4.2 Our commitment to interdisciplinarity is reflected in various staff activities. Cunningham has published extensively on architecture and urbanism in, for example, *The Journal of Architecture* (2001, 2006), *Architectural Design* (2005), and the collection *Critical Architecture* (Routledge 2007). Two of these articles were written with a colleague in Architecture (Goodbun, UoA30). He has been invited to speak at, among other places, the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL and Architecture Department, Edinburgh University. Mays has taught in Westminster's Department of Photography and Digital Media, with whom we are currently organising a symposium on spiritualism and photography for 2008. Warwick's work on crime narratives has led to joint research seminars with the Law School.

5. Evidence of Esteem

5.1 We have presented more than 100 papers at conferences and seminars since 2001. Examples include: **Avery** was keynote speaker at the international Barrett Browning conference, Armstrong-Browning Library, Baylor University, Texas (2006), where he has also been awarded a Visiting Fellowship to work on the Browning manuscripts (to be taken up 2008). **Barfield** was a panellist at *The Copenhagen Interpretation: Science and History on the Stage*, Smithsonian Institution (2002), and gave invited lectures at Beijing International Studies University and Xiamen University funded by those institutions (2006). **Cunningham** was funded by the Office for Contemporary Art Norway as a speaker at *ISMs: Constructing 'the Political' in Contemporary Art* in Oslo, and gave invited papers at, among other places, the School of Science, Medicine and Technology, Johns Hopkins University (on the metropolis and network culture), and a symposium on Adorno, University of Tampere, Finland (all 2006). He was also invited speaker at the Royal Academy of Arts series of public events on Jane Jacobs (2006), and led the Whitechapel Art Gallery 'Salon' on the avant-garde (2007). **McGettigan** was invited speaker at *Ending Up With Religion Again?*, Jan van Eyck Academie, Holland (2004), and in the Art History Department, Woodbury University, Los Angeles (2007). **Mitchell** was invited contributor to a British Council symposium on Contemporary British Literature, with participants from Cairo, Tunis and Karachi (April 2007). **Nath** was invited speaker at the Courtauld/Tate conference, *Wyndham Lewis: One Man Avant-Garde* (2005). **Preece** gave invited papers at the Annual BAAL Meeting, Edinburgh (2007) and Sociolinguistics Symposium, University of Limerick (2006). **Sylvester** gave an invited presentation at the Swiss Romande troisième cycle, Lausanne (2004). **Wilson** gave an invited seminar on contemporary British fiction in the English Department, SUNY, Buffalo (2004). **Witchard** spoke at the Fin de Siècle Seminar, Oxford (2004). Members of staff have also convened significant events elsewhere, including: **Avery**: *Masculinities in Text and Teaching*, Goodenough College (2007), with the English Subject Centre; **Barfield**: *Beckett, Death and Dying*, Northampton (2006), with UKNMF; **Cunningham**: *Surrealism and Architecture*, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (2003), with the AHRC Centre for Studies of Surrealism and its Legacies.

5.2 Our researchers take active roles in editorial and other scholarly work. **Avery** is Associate Editor for a new five-volume edition of Barrett Browning's *Collected Works*, with scholars from the US and Canada, and was guest editor for a special issue of *Critical Survey* (2001). **Barfield** is Associate Editor of *Symbiosis: A Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations*, a member of both the editorial committee of *Literary London* and reading committee of *EREA: Revue d'Études Anglophones*, and joint Managing Editor of the new journal *Critical Engagements (UKNMFS)*. He is also joint series editor of the Continuum Handbooks to Literature and Culture, and Deputy Director of UKNMFS. **Cunningham** is an editor of the internationally-respected left-wing journal *Radical Philosophy*, and was guest editor of a special issue of RIBA's *Journal of Architecture* (Routledge 2001). **Sylvester** was co-editor of *Lexis and Texts in Early English*, a volume of essays presented to Professor Jane Roberts (Rodopi, 2001). **Warwick** is editorial consultant for the BBC's *Nation's Favourite Poetry* series (nine volumes). **Wilson** is a member of the UKNMFS advisory board. We have also undertaken a range of refereeing work for publishers and journals, including: **Barfield**: Palgrave, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*; **Cunningham**: Palgrave, Routledge, *Angelaki, Comparative Literature, New Formations*; **McEvoy**: *Gothic Studies*; **McGettigan**: *Historical Materialism*; **Sylvester**: CUP, Routledge, *English Language and Linguistics, Chaucer Review*; **Warwick**: *Women: A Cultural Review, Gothic Studies*; **Wilson**: *The Philological Quarterly*.

5.3 **Sylvester's** scholarly recognition is acknowledged in her AHRC funding for the project detailed above. **Barfield** served as a paid consultant to the Higher Education Academy (2005-present), and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Royal Asiatic Society. **Cunningham** was an invited participant in the 'Magazines Project' of the international art exhibition *Documenta* held in Kassel, Germany, 2007. **Mays's** photographic and text work has been included in several group exhibitions. Further esteem indicators include various external PhD examinations and other invitations. For example, our international profile is reflected in **Cunningham's** appointment as examiner for a PhD on Ballard at the University of Western Australia (2005), while **Barfield** was interviewed on contemporary theatre by *The Sunday Telegraph* and *Sunday Times*.