New Horizons
Impact in Arts & Social Sciences
at Royal Holloway, University of London
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lost and found: mining the past</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New order, creating order and digital worlds</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging and challenging the public</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global culture</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informing government and policy</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New perspectives and connections</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative works</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Front:** Human Chemistry by Mary Branson, an art installation in ceramics created in collaboration with Royal Holloway’s volunteering scheme and the local community.
At Royal Holloway academics in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences undertake a wide range of research. While some of this research produces outcomes which influence and affect the development of further research within universities, much of the scholarship undertaken produces knowledge which is of benefit to, and has impact upon, greater society.

What we do is very broad in its remit, covering areas of traditional scholarship, practice-based research and policy investigations. The product of our research not only benefits the wider community but also feeds directly into teaching at Royal Holloway, allowing our students to study at the forefront of knowledge.

Our publication’s title, ‘New Horizons,’ suggests the way in which we believe new knowledge can be gained through exploration into the unknown, and the potential of releasing that knowledge into the wider world. It is the name chosen for the NASA space probe launched to study Pluto: a foray into the unknown world to benefit greater understanding.

Professor Katie Normington
Vice Principal and Dean of Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Lost and found: mining the past

Royal Holloway’s research has unearthed many treasures in the arts – for instance lost or forgotten music, cinema, and archaeological sites. Our academics are leading the way in bringing these lost or obscured pasts into creative and critical focus, and presenting them to the public in new and dynamic contexts.

Rediscovered Roman ruins brought to light

A team led by Professor Amanda Claridge raised awareness of an extensive, hitherto unappreciated, Roman complex near Ostia, a coastal town occupied in the 1st-5th centuries AD. Using archaeological techniques the team were able to uncover for the first time the full scope of the site, and to generate a public awareness project there. Importantly, in conservation terms, Amanda and her team were also able to advise on how forest planting and other environmental factors might best be modified to protect the site.

[link]

Russian silent films come to life with music

Many silent films survive across the world, but very few of their musical scores. Dr Julie Brown discovered the original 1925 British score for the Soviet film Morozko [Father Frost] (Yuri Zhelyabuzhsky, 1924), one of only 12 known to survive in Britain – and, unusually, scored for string quartet plus bass and harp. Frederick Laurence’s score was then re-synchronised by Brown and performed at the British Silent Film Festival at London’s Barbican, conducted by Philip Ellis who conducts Birmingham Royal Ballet and other ballet companies worldwide.
Original dances discovered for The Royal Ballet

Working with Royal Ballet choreographer Will Tuckett, Professors Richard Cave and Liz Shafer have researched and recreated a repertoire of choreography and set design lost to dance for over 80 years. Richard’s work on *The King of the Great Clock Tower* led to him being invited to re-stage the work for The Royal Ballet School. The methodology brought together textual research, practice-based research in dance and musicology plus the physical resources of The Royal Ballet School in order to revivify Yeats’ dance play, which requires extensive choreography, mime and sustained tableaux, impossible to access via the literary text alone.

Pictures by Patrick Baldwin
New order, creating order and digital worlds

Arts and Humanities research covers much material where public access is challenging—exploring material that may be rare, site-based, or performative and ephemeral in nature. Royal Holloway leads the way in finding exciting and innovative ways to capture such events, material and performances for the digital age. We bring new critical interpretations to such material, as we present it back to the wider public.

TV programme resource base unites Europe

Professor John Ellis with his team in Media Arts has prised open the archives of over 20 of Europe’s broadcasters and made available almost 50,000 TV programmes for viewing by everyone free of charge. EUscreen receives over 40,000 hits a month and the material is used by everyone, from school projects to people researching their family history. The project has also enabled skill-sharing between TV archives across Europe, helping especially those just beginning to digitise their holdings. euscreen.eu

Italian Academies – British Library themed database

Professor Jane Everson has produced a comprehensive database of Academies active in Italy between 1525 and 1700, and of the people and publications associated with them. The project began in 2006, and currently involves Royal Holloway College, the British Library, and the University of Reading. The resulting database is one of the Themed Collection databases, accessible to all through the British Library website. The project revealed some interesting parallels with the use of modern-day social media in the way the Academies communicated. italianacademies.org
Poetry inspires the public: Poetry Archive

Professor Sir Andrew Motion, former Poet Laureate, launched the Poetry Archive, the world’s leading online collection of poets reading their own work. Internationally famous and still growing, the archive has recordings of over 350 poets from all parts of the English-speaking world. Each month 250,000 visitors from schools, universities and from the general public listen to or download nearly two million pages of poetry. The archive also runs Poetry by Heart, the first ever national competition for secondary school children to learn and recite poems by heart.

poetryarchive.org

Ancient music made modern

In collaboration with the British Library Dr Stephen Rose led a team that digitised over 300 books of 16th-century music. This digital resource makes over 10,000 compositions accessible to amateur and professional musicians across the globe, including the growing markets for classical music in Asia and Latin America. The digitised material has been incorporated into the databases of libraries worldwide (including the Library of Congress, Washington DC) and also used as a basis for concerts at London venues such as King’s Place.

earlymusiconline.org
Engaging and challenging the public

Many of the Faculty’s research initiatives not only engage with the public but also provide new innovations and challenges. They have been inspiring the public – especially young people, and those whose voices may struggle to be heard.

Olympic tweets aid the BBC

Professor Ben O’Loughlin used Semantic Polling to monitor tweets during the 2012 London Olympics on behalf of the BBC who were using social media as a journalistic tool. The BBC, found the outcome constructive for future endeavours. Prior to this Semantic Polling had been used in the 2010 UK Parliamentary Elections.

Enthusing young citizenship

Dr James Sloam conducted new research on the political participation of young people in British democracy. His work has highlighted the relatively low levels of youth engagement (in different forms of politics) in the UK in comparison to elsewhere in Europe and the United States. James has worked with a wide range of institutions – local authorities, the European Commission, youth advocacy groups, HEFCE, as well as the British and American political sciences associations – to develop initiatives to strengthen young people’s civic and political engagement. His research was credited with shaping the work of the Brown Government’s Youth Citizenship Commission, and he recently convened a Beyond the Youth Citizenship Commission event (at Royal Holloway) designed to engage with the current political debate over Votes at 16.
Bringing museums into public life

Royal Holloway is involved in several exciting new initiatives with museums and historical trusts, such as the National Trust, the Houses of Parliament, Historic Royal Palaces and others. The Centre for Public History, Heritage and Engagement with the Past, under Dr Anna Whitelock, promotes original research, projects with local and international partners, and collaborations between museums, archives, historic monuments and houses, heritage sites and the media. The Centre for Victorian Studies, headed by Professor Juliet John, has close links with the Museum of London and the Charles Dickens Museum, hosting events and bringing in a wider public.

Empowering marginalised communities in the policy process

Dr Frank Keating and Alix Walton have been working with older members of the Afro-Caribbean community in Ealing to participate in decision-making about street-level social services. Have Your Say is a collaborative project with the community to represent their views on Health, Housing and Support to local government.

Recognising separated young people in the law

A cross-departmental project between Anna Gupta, Professor Katie Willis and Sue Clayton led to a conference, Facing the Abyss, on the transitions to adulthood for separated young people. Its proceedings were submitted to the Select Committee on the Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children. Anna was also an expert witness in a court case that led to the Home Office having to review their interpretation of the requirement to promote the best interests of refugee children in accordance with the UN Convention on Human Rights.
Royal Holloway is a truly international university (no.1 in the UK*) and our perspectives in Arts and Social Sciences embrace diverse communities. We have particular strengths in promoting indigenous theatre and music, and diasporic and world cinema – and this critical work in global culture, social justice and ecology meshes with work done by colleagues in Geography, Politics and Social Sciences.

Filmmakers act against the diasporic stereotype

Professor Daniela Berghahn undertook extensive research into the representation of migrant and diasporic communities in European cinema. Through conferences, digital platforms and workshops, her research has enhanced awareness of diasporic filmmaking in both the industry itself and the cinemagoing public. It has also led to the foundation of an audio-visual development programme, BABYLON, which has supported film projects of and has provided training for 100 ethnic minority filmmakers with a migratory background. Eight BABYLON alumni have gone on to get their movies into production, and have won awards on the festival circuit.

Young asylum seekers document their epic journeys

Research carried out by Sue Clayton into youth immigration and asylum has culminated in over 100 public screenings and events around her film *Hamedullah: The Road Home* (UK, 2012). The film has had significant impact, engaging lawyers, policymakers and others with the issue of asylum-seeking children and young people in the UK, and the ethics of the UK’s policy of returning them at 18 to war-zones such as Afghanistan. Sue presented her film to the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) in Geneva and is now advising the House of Lords Committee on Immigration and Asylum.
Global theatre at The Globe

The Globe Theatre’s 2012 Olympic season, *Globe to Globe*, performed Shakespeare’s plays in different languages. Dr Christie Carson was central to *Shakespeare beyond English: a Global Experiment*, in which contributors worldwide responded to the performances. [globetoglobe.shakespearesglobe.com](http://globetoglobe.shakespearesglobe.com)

Indigenous theatre promotes social justice

In 2013, Professor Helen Gilbert curated *EcoCentrix*, an interactive multi-arts exhibition at Bargehouse on London’s Southbank. The event, funded by the European Research Council, featured performances, workshops and installations by over 60 indigenous artists from around the world and provoked new dialogues about the Earth’s resources, social justice, stereotypes and exhibition practices. This highly innovative work attracted a wide audience and helped pave the way for residencies by indigenous performance-makers at major museums in London and Berlin, and a collaboration with the Serpentine Gallery’s Centre for Possible Studies.

In summer 2014 Helen’s work on the exhibition was nominated for an Engage Competition award as part of Universities’ Week, for its innovative ways of engaging with the public. [indigineity.net/ecocentrix](http://indigineity.net/ecocentrix)
Informing government and policy

Many of our academic staff are not only experts and leaders in their research fields, but are actively engaged in policy debate, both through government and policy institutions, and through the national and international media.

**Muslim culture in the UK**

Professor Humayun Ansari and Dr Akil Awan have advised both UK and overseas governments on issues of religious discrimination and security, and briefed the UK Home Office on a variety of additional issues. Humayun was commissioned by the Minority Rights Group to write the policy-oriented *Muslims in Britain*, and by the Muslim Council of Britain to advise on issues faced by Muslims in the British Army. Humayun’s *The Making of the East London Mosque, 1910–1951*, formed the subject of a documentary, *Three Centuries of the British Mosque*, on BBC Radio 3. Akil was asked by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to assist on policy relating to security and counter-terrorism. Both have contributed to BBC Radio 4.

**Politics, security and the media**

Professor Ben O’Loughlin was invited to become a Special Advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on Soft Power and the UK’s Influence as a result of his important research into the media, policy, politics and security. His contributions to UK policy are ongoing and have received positive feedback from regional police forces for his research on responses to political extremism. The Council of Europe subsequently invited his research team to prepare and present a paper on security issues.
Holocaust Studies and anti-Semitism

Royal Holloway’s Holocaust Research Centre provides expert advice to the British and German governments, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and Holocaust Educational Trust and many national and international archive and media projects. The Centre works closely with the Imperial War Museum and Wiener Library, the world’s oldest Holocaust library, on research, exhibitions and communicating with the public. Most recently, Professor David Cesarani OBE, who has written extensively on Holocaust history, has been appointed to a working group set up by the Prime Minister, David Cameron, to find ways of ensuring the commemoration of the Holocaust. Professor Dan Stone, an expert on European and Holocaust history, advises the Final Account collection of video testimonies by former Nazis and Professor Peter Longerich, a world expert on National Socialism, advises on the preservation and use of archives in Germany and is co-Chair of the German federal government’s Independent Expert Committee on anti-Semitism.
New perspectives and connections

At Royal Holloway we pride ourselves on initiatives taken across disciplines, which help re-shape the national research and impact agenda. The university has five Research Themes reaching over the Arts and Sciences, which have been a catalyst for research and new funding, and making innovative cross-disciplinary connections.

Arts and theatre offer benefit to health

Professor Helen Nicholson and Dr Emma Brodzinski’s research shows how arts and theatre skills can transform the health of patients and the care they are given. Patients were stimulated through creative care used to encourage memories in dementia cases. Emma is a regional representative in the National Alliance for Arts Health and Wellbeing and her research on the arts in dementia care has been used to inform the training of medical students at St Bartholomew’s, Guys and the Maudsley NHS Trust and Age Exchange Theatre Trust. Training workshops based on Helen’s research have also taken place as far afield as Japan.
Reforming the teaching of English Literature

Professor Robert Eaglestone has advised government bodies and many exam boards on teaching English Literature at A-level, and is a commentator in the national press on education. His book for both undergraduates and year 13 students, Doing English: A Guide for Literature Students, is widely used in the UK and internationally. In summer 2014, Robert was awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy, for his innovative approach to teaching.

THE CULTURE CAPITAL EXCHANGE ENHANCES CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Royal Holloway’s Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences is an active partner in this new organisation which provides a vital link between Higher Education, business and the cultural and creative sectors across London, bringing together the best ideas and talent. theculturecapitalexchange.co.uk
Creativity

Many Arts Faculty staff are highly successful writers, directors, composers, performers and dramaturges in their own right. Their work contributes significantly to Royal Holloway’s reputation for teaching and research in the arts, and has considerable public impact.

Professor Jo Shapcott was awarded the Queen’s Medal for Poetry in 2011, and has won many other awards for her poetry. Her collection, Of Mutability, won the Costa Book of the Year Award in 2010. She is currently President of the Poetry Society.

Professor Sir Andrew Motion was the Poet Laureate from 1999 to 2009. He continues to write widely: most recently a book of poems, The Customs House, a novel, Silver, and as editor, Bedford Square 7: New Writing from the Royal Holloway Creative Writing Programme. He attracted recent media attention for his war poem A Moment of Reflection (28 June 1914), a profound reflection on the views of war poet Siegfried Sassoon.

Professor Adam Roberts, through his research and his own writing, challenges the stereotypes of the science fiction form and is considered to have reinvigorated it as a literary genre. Jack Glass (Gollancz 2012) won the British Science Fiction Award for best novel and the US John W. Campbell Award for best novel 2013. His most recent novels are Twenty Trillion Leagues Under the Sea (2014, with Mahendra Singh) and Bête (2014). His novels have been translated into 12 languages.
As well as writing a steady stream of theatre successes (We, Margaret, Theatre 503; Whistleblower, Royal Exchange Theatre) Professor Dan Rebellato has made significant contributions to radio drama, including two recent works, Negative Signs of Progress: Here, There, & Somewhere and My Life is a Series of People Saying Goodbye, both for BBC Radio 4.

John Roberts’ feature film Day of the Flowers (UK/Cuba 2013) was released internationally and features acclaimed ballet star Carlos Acosta. It is the first British feature to be shot in Cuba in over 50 years, and successfully challenged the country’s significant filming restrictions.

Adam Ganz’s BBC4 radio drama The Gestapo Minutes (2013) following on from his prior success Listening to the Generals (2009) was nominated as Best Radio Drama in the 2014 National Audio Awards.

The Road: A Story of Life and Death (2013) a film looking at the effects of immigration on a road running from Wales to London by Marc Isaacs was screened on Channel 4 and in cinemas nationally and was nominated for a Prix Europa award.
**Dr Mark Bowden** has recently premiered a number of major new works – *Parable*, commissioned by the London Sinfonietta for Simon Haram; and percussion concerto *Heartland* premiered by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in 2013. Mark is currently Resident Composer at the BBC NOW, and was Rambert Dance Company’s Music Fellow in 2011-12. **Helen Grime** has had a number of works, including premieres, performed at the BBC Proms, and is Associate Composer with the Hallè Orchestra.

**Sonic Archaeologies for Melodic Lines, Laptop and Orchestra and Music for Flute, iPad and Birds** (2012) by **Brian Lock**, which fuses classical and technological compositional techniques, has been performed in Philadelphia, New York, Shanghai and at the Composition in the 21st Century Festival, Dublin, and the Center for Experimental Music at the University of North Texas, Dallas.

Every ten years, the literary magazine *Granta* names ‘20 under 40’, the brightest talents to watch: many have become world famous (Salman Rushdie, Ian McEwan, Martin Amis). In 2013, **Ben Markovits**, Reader in Creative Writing, and two alumni of our Creative Writing Programme, **Tahmima Anam** and **Jenni Fagan**, were on this influential list.
The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London features a unique combination of creative arts, humanities and social science disciplines. Along with our wealth of rich academic resources, research expertise, cultural opportunities and links with the creative industries we provide a dynamic platform for developing the talents of our staff and students.

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