

Research Assessment Exercise 2020
Impact Overview Statement

University: The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Unit of Assessment (UoA): 31

Total number of eligible staff of the university in the UoA: 14

(1) Context - context for the individual case study(ies)

The Department of English at CUHK carries out a broad range of cutting-edge and interdisciplinary research in Applied English Linguistics and English Literary Studies in seven main research areas: **World Englishes; Postcolonial Studies and World Literature; Digital Literacies; Shakespeare; Romanticism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism; Creative Arts; and Critical Theory.**

Underpinning our research is the exploration of English languages, cultures, and literatures across Asian and global contexts. Our research has generated local and international impact in: **a) The preservation of cultural heritage; b) Creative practice, and c) Influencing policy and practice** in government and education. It has generated impact at local, regional, and international levels with a range of **user groups, beneficiaries, and audiences**, including: a) Educational practitioners, policy makers, and students in institutions in Asia, Europe, Australia, the Middle East, and North America; b) Government policy makers and professional organizations in Asia, Europe, Australia, and North America, including the Education Bureau in Hong Kong; the Asia-Pacific Association of International Education; the European Association of International Education; NAFSA: Association of International Educators; the Council on International Education (CIEE); c) Non-government organizations in Asia, Europe, Australia, and North America, including Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education; The Hong Kong Literary Festival; The Keats Foundation (UK); Kids4Kids; Shakespeare for All; HK Poetry Festival Organization; and Singapore's National Arts Council; d) Members of the general public who access our work through cultural, literary, and theatrical events, such as events and performances at Keats House, the TypoJanchi Biennial in Korea, The Shadow Players, and The Hong Kong Literary Festival as well as through our free access online platforms including *Hong Kong Studies*, *ICE Corpus*, *The Internet Grammar of English*, and *English Accents Worldwide*; and e) Emerging and established performers, creative writers, artists.

(2) Approach to impact - the unit's approach to impact during the assessment period for impact
The Department actively promotes a culture of impact and societal engagement. Faculty are supported in impact activities through various mechanisms: **a) Impact support**, including relief from teaching and/or sabbatical leave; assistance from office staff, one dedicated impact research assistant, and two dedicated impact postdoctoral fellows to develop and track impact cases; strategic planning at the department-level; support from professional editors for grant writing to support high-impact research. **b) Open and far-reaching research dissemination**, including support for open-access publishing of literary journals and magazines (*Hong Kong Studies*, *Hong Kong Review of Books*); faculty research websites and online media (*English Accents Worldwide*, *ICE-Corpus*, *The Internet Grammar of English*; *TEDxHKUST via YouTube*; *A Grain of Sand: Poems from Hong Kong*); *Masterclasses in ENGE@CUHK*, a series of workshops for members of the general public; over 100 department research seminars, workshops, guest talks, and poetry readings; and five conferences in the past 6 years. Faculty members also contribute to both local and international media including *The Times Higher Education* newsletter, *The Australian*, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, and *The South China Morning Post*. Our work has also had significant impact through translations into languages other than English, including Portuguese, Korean, and Finnish, as well as translations into English from other languages, including Chinese. **c) Outreach work and collaborations with** a range of organizations, including NGOs and charities (Kids4Kids, Shakespeare for All, The Keats Foundation), government institutions (Education Bureau in Hong

Kong; the Asia-Pacific Association of International Education; the European Association of International Education; NAFSA: Association of International Educators; the Council on International Education (CIEE); educational institutions (English Schools Foundation, local secondary schools in Hong Kong); as well as The Hong Kong International Book Festival, The Jockey Club Creative and Cultural Centre, and The British Council. **d) External funding to support projects to engage and support non-academic users:** One recent example of our success is the funding received by Hansen Edwards from the Social Innovation and Enterprise Fund of the HKSAR government to develop a digital archive to help preserve endangered languages and provide more resources for ethnic minorities and members of the deaf community in Hong Kong.

(3) Strategy and plans - strategy and plans for supporting impact

The Department is currently laying the groundwork for impact work in the next RAE cycle in five main areas: **a) Department-level impact planning:** The Department has been engaged in a series of strategic planning meetings to discuss impact; we have formed an Impact Advisory Panel to guide all faculty members in the development of high impact projects. **b) Expanding our current impact work** in 1) creative practice; 2) the preservation of cultural heritage; and 3) influencing policy and practice including work on the development of a digital archive of African literature, which may generate an entirely new field of enquiry for African literary studies; the genre of Korean adoption autobiographies, which aims to impact adoption laws and policies and provide more support for birth mothers; the humanities in higher education, to influence curriculum design and informed decision-making on the allocation of funding and resources by the government; and the preservation of endangered languages and providing resources for ethnic minority groups. **c) Developing impact in new areas:** We also aim to develop impact in new areas; our work on adoption autobiographies, running studies and life writing, and narrative therapy will *contribute to a wider public understanding of basic standards of wellbeing* while work on the humanities and education and adoptive autobiographies aims to *help professionals and organisations adapt to changing cultural values* and *contribute to continuing personal and/or professional development*. **d) Increasing our research visibility and dissemination to effect greater impact:** Supported by a full-time dedicated research assistant and two impact postdoctoral fellows, the Department aims to increase the significance and reach of our impact. We have developed a series of ‘*Masterclasses in ENGE@CUHK*’ as a pathway for our research to reach the public. We are developing partnerships and projects with a range of organizations, including The British Council, English Schools Foundation, The Hong Kong Parents and Teachers Association; Tai Kwun, a range of publishing houses (including Cambridge University Press), The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Shakespeare For All. **e) Reaching a wider range of user-groups, beneficiaries, and audiences** through more outreach and public engagement activities as well as the development of more online platforms. A dedicated impact coordinator will contact and foster relationships with new partners and beneficiaries, including NGOs, government agencies, charities, and industry stakeholders. In particular, we aim to expand our reach to international adoption communities (especially adoptees, adoptive parents and birth parents) and adoption practitioners; government and educational policy makers (linguistic diversity, ethnic minority, and endangered languages research); young creative writers and performers in Asia; and more in-service and pre-service teachers and educational administrators.

(4) Relationship to case studies - the relationship between the unit’s approach to impact and the submitted case studies

Our Case Study highlights the Department’s focus on **influencing policy and practice** including providing expert advice to government; changing the design and delivery of curricula in schools or other educational institutions; and influencing the methods, ideas, or ethics of any profession. Jane Jackson’s work on **intercultural interventions in education abroad** has had a far-reaching impact on the development of study abroad programmes in higher education around the world.