1.0 Publications and Other Individual Achievements.

Staff have continued researching and publishing whenever possible throughout the year and produced some notable pieces of work. They have also acted in a range of activities as part of the literary and critical academic communities. In the past year there have been over 15 books, over 12 chapters in book collections, and in excess of 12 articles and essays in peer-reviewed journals published, plus innumerable reviews, short stories and so forth. Many others have been prepared for future publication. A number of such achievements are set out illustratively below.

1.1 Dr. Rose Atfield published one article on “Postcolonialism in the poetry of Mary Dorcey” in Postcolonial Text, and has submitted another, “Eavan Boland & Nation” to Radical History Review.

1.2 Celia Brayfield, Reader in Creative Writing, has completed a book, Arts Reviews, was published by Oldcastle Books in February 2008. Brayfield has also had a paper, ‘Babelfish Babylon: Teaching Creative Writing in a Multiliterate Community,’ accepted by Dr Louise Tondeur of Roehampton for an edited collection, Creativity & the Process of Writing.


1.4 Dr. David Fulton offered an interesting paper at the Literary London Conference: ‘Heaven or Hell: Representations of Ilford in the Writings of Kathleen Raine and Denise Levertov’ which will be considered for publication in the conference proceedings.


1.7 Dr. Bill Leahy submitted a funding bid for £57,275 for a project on Working Class Autobiographies bid. During the year in terms of Shakespeare Authorship, Leahy began editing a collection for Continuum on the Shakespeare Authorship Question (due in 2009) and an edition of *Critical Survey* on a related subject. Leahy was the first academic to draw upon such research to build a study of the Shakespeare Authorship Question into an academic programme. News of the Shakespeare Authorship MA and Leahy's related research received worldwide attention (*Observer, New York times, Time Magazine*, CNN, BBC Radio (3 times), German radio, Spanish radio, *China Daily*, Wikinews, etc, etc, etc). Leahy also worked on a key section of the John Nicols Project on Elizabeth I's pre-coronation procession which will be published by OUP in the coming year.

1.8 Dr Anshuman Mondal, Reader in English, is a member of the AHRC Peer review college member and has assessed research proposals and block grants. His book *Amitav Ghosh* was published (Manchester Up, 2007) he submitted the manuscript for *Young British Muslim Voices* in March 2008 which is now in print (Greenwood World, 2008). Other items included an article 'Multiculturalism and Islam: some thoughts on a difficult relationship', in the peer-reviewed journal, *Moving Worlds*, and in April 2008. Article in *Prospect Magazine*, 'A Muslim Middle Way?' in July 2008. Shorter articles and journalism in *The Guardian*‘s Comment is Free and *Prospect*. Invited to give seminar, 'Reframing the 'Islamic turn' amongst young British Muslims' at the SOAS/UEL AHRC seminar series held at Senate House in December 2007 and invited to speak at the Oxford Secular Society and Foreign Press Association. He was awarded research leave in 2008/9 to finish book 'Multiculturalism and its Discontents'.


1.10 As an AHRC Peer Review College Member Dr Jago Morrison has reviewed proposals for the Research Leave, Early Career and Large Research Grants schemes; he has recently been selected by the AHRC as an academic with management experience to review UK University Block Grant proposals. Dr. Jago Morrison has published a single-authored book The Fiction of Chinua Achebe (Palgrave, 2007) and submitted a full manuscript The Post-War British Literature Handbook (Continuum, 2009) co-edited with Katharine Cockin, University of Hull.

1.11 While on maternity leave Dr. Sarah Penny submitted a Leverhulme funding bid for £22,598 to support a project and this has been selected to progress to the second round. Amabali aseKapa ('stories from Cape Town’ in Xhosa) aims to stage a pioneering experimental encounter between the techniques of drama therapy and the creative writing workshop in the challenging context of post-apartheid South Africa, using an experimental workshop which will test and refine a pedagogical model that can subsequently be applied in many other contexts within and beyond South Africa. It is intended to have an impact beyond the immediate subject area: on ethnography and anthropology, on primary historical material reflecting an important period of transformation, and on pedagogy.

1.12 Dr. Nina Taunton published Fictions of Old Age in Early Modern Literature and Culture (Routledge, 2007) and on the strength of her research was invited to contribute a chapter entitled 'Planning Ahead: a future for old age in Dialogue of Comfort, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 and All's Well that Ends Well' in a forthcoming volume of essays, Renaissance Futures, to be published by Routledge. She has just submitted the final proofs for an article in Shakespeare Jahrbuch 2009 entitled 'Food, Time and Age: Falstaff’s dietaries and tropes of nourishment in The Comedy of Errors’. She is about to give a paper at the Sixth International Symposium on Age at the University of Lleida, Spain. Dr. Nina Taunton published Fictions of Old Age in Early Modern Literature and Culture (Routledge, 2007) and on the strength of her research was invited to contribute a chapter entitled 'Planning Ahead: a future for old age in Dialogue of Comfort, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 and All's Well that Ends Well' in a forthcoming volume of essays, Renaissance Futures, to be published by Routledge. She has just submitted the final proofs for an article in Shakespeare Jahrbuch 2009 entitled 'Food, Time and Age: Falstaff’s dietaries and tropes of nourishment in The Comedy of Errors’. She is about to give a paper at the Sixth International Symposium on Age at the University of Lleida, Spain.

1.13 Prof. Philip Tew was on sabbatical during 2007 - 2008, funded largely with research income from an earlier project he had completed in 2006 – 2007 for the English Subject Centre the report of which has been published in late 2007 in revised form as: ‘Survey on Teaching Contemporary British Fiction,’ with Mark Addis in Changing English. Vol. 14, No 3 (December 2007): 313 – 324. He also published 4 books: Tew and Glyn White (eds) Re-Reading B. S. Johnson (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007); Tew, Fiona Tolan and Leigh Wilson (eds)

**1.14 Matt Thorne** produced numerous newspaper book reviews: 17 interviews or articles for the *Independent, Independent on Sunday and Sunday Telegraph* (see http://www.journalisted.com/matt-thorne for full list) plus 12 book reviews for the *Catholic Herald* and 12 book reviews for the *Literary Review*; Radio: at least one appearance each month on Radio 4’s Front Row discussing literature, films and TV; appearances on *Nightwaves and Saturday Review*; Short Stories: story 'Disappearer' published in *The Empty Page: Stories Inspired by Sonic Youth* (Ed. Peter Wild, Serpent's Tail); 'When She Returns' the *Independent*; Story 'Footprints' *The Times* 6/8/08; 'Messenger' in *Another Magazine* Autumn/Winter '08 issue; Essays: Essay on music, *Hang the DJ* Angus Cargill (ed.) (Faber); 4 essays on film, *Ten Bad Dates With De Niro* Richard T (ed.). (Faber); ongoing research for study of the musician Prince (Faber); ongoing work on longer fiction. Preparing critical essay for forthcoming analytic music periodical *Loops* to be published (Faber 2009).

**1.15 Prof. William Watkin** has been working on his third book, a theoretical reconsideration of British and American Postmodern Poetry. At the same time he is developing his interests into new fields, in particular the work of philosopher Giorgio Agamben, innovative British poetry, contemporary ethical theory and cognitive sciences. He was awarded research leave in 2008/9 to complete this project. Further details will be supplied later.

**1.16 Prof. Fay Weldon** has published two novels in the past year, *The Spa Decameron* and *The Stepmother Diaries*. She has contributed 7 major articles to *The Mirror, The Daily Telegraph, The Times and The Sunday Times* since last November. Her last novel reviewed in *The Observer, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph*, and *The Daily Mail*. A film of her novel *Puffball* was released worldwide in April 2008. Weldon has been a regular contributor to *Saturday Review*. She is currently working on another. She has offered a number of high-level papers including one on the subject of irony.

Overall, other items produced and published are far too many to itemize further. Suffice to say that the research culture and output of the English Department have been maintained successfully by all members of staff as a team.
2.0 BCCW Research Centre: There were four major conferences held at Brunel, numerous other seminars and events. Members submitted funding bids worth just in excess of £500,000. There was research income of approximately £6,000. Other details below.

2.1 BCCW Launch: Liaising with the Director, Tew (who was on sabbatical), Dr. Ashuman Mondal, the Deputy Director, organized a successful launch, which gained publicity on BBC Radio 4’s Today programme. The event took place at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, on Friday 18th April. The speakers were: Fay Weldon, Matt Thorne, Nadeem Aslam, Carol Watts, Nina Joshi and Robert Eaglestone, Chair: David Goodhart, editor of Prospect. It was well attended and received.

2.2 The Decades Project: Subsequent to the launch Tew and Hubble discussed forthcoming events, and have developed an idea for a Decades project that interprets contemporary fiction in terms of periods each with a different inflection, and this will be undertaken in a series of symposia each one on the different decades constituting the contemporary (from possibly the 1960s, but certainly the 1970s to the ‘noughties,’ each working toward a book with invited contributions (the format we have developed will allow a common framework and longer contributions than in an edited collection of essays). Continuum International are extremely interested in bringing this out as a BCCW series, which will enhance our academic identity, prestige and perhaps help overseas recruitment, particularly at postgraduate level. Tew and Hubble would act as series editors, but not edit each volume (we might jointly edit one or one each; other series editors would be from a range of established academics at prestigious institutions). After a solid start over the past two years, the flourishing MA in Contemporary Literature is testament to interest in this field, with 12 students studying the course in 2008 – 2009.

2.3 'It Was Forty Years Ago Today: Of Grammatology 1967-2007’ Conference at Brunel: ’It Was Forty Years Ago Today: Of Grammatology 1967-2007’, 18 October 2007, a one day conference, under the auspices of the BCCW was held at Brunel University, organized by Gaston. Participants: Gaston (organizer); Nicholas Royle (Sussex); Sarah Wood (Kent); Ian Machlachlan (Oxford); Joanna Hodge (Manchester Metropolitan); Paul Davies (Sussex); Michael Syrontinski (Aberdeen).

2.4 Satire Conference at Marymount Manhattan College: The UKNMFS provided financial help and supported Tew’s trip in June 2008 to Manhattan (when the full funds proved not to be available at Brunel) and the UKNMFS was part of the framework set up to organize the Satire conference jointly with the BCCW and Marymount Manhattan College, with the event hosted by the latter. A number of UK and US-based members of the UKNMFS attended. It was great success, and over forty delegates attended.

2.5 ’Creative Writing and How to Teach It Conference:’

This highly successful one-day conference was held at Brunel University on Saturday 6th September 2008, with a keynote address by Brunel’s Professor Fay Weldon CBE, and the speakers included: Celia Brayfield, Reader in Creative Writing, novelist Tibor Fischer, poet Roddy Lumsden, Kate Waldegrave of First Story and Andrew Green, Senior Lecturer in Education. Subsequently it was agreed that in consultation with Andrew Green from
Education Brayfield will make plans to set up a research centre for Creative Writing Education, for which general approval has been given. There were 71 delegates. The event made a small profit, and was the subject of an article in the *Daily Telegraph* and in the British Council newsletter. The papers are under consideration by Routledge for a special edition of *New Writing*.

### 2.6 Literary London Conference Held at Brunel in July 2008.

As part of the BCCW activities, the Literary London Conference was hosted by the English Department and BCCW July 2008. A funding bid was submitted jointly (Prof. Philip Tew / Dr. Nick Hubble) to British academy for support for Literary London conference to be held in July 2008 at Brunel - approx. £1,975 awarded. Tew & Hubble co-organized a highly successful conference held over three days on campus, producing a small profit. We gave one bursary to an Eastern European postgraduate student; plus it enhanced contacts with Taiwanese academics and institutions initiated by VC, who was also one of our keynote speakers. Tew and Hubble anticipate a number of publications resulting from the conference, including an edited collection on the contemporary, which we will both edit. Several major publishers are interested. There were around and 125 delegates and their range were truly international, with the quality of papers excellent. Matt Thorne organized a literary panel including Toby Litt. Generally it was regarded as a landmark event and one of the best of the Literary London conferences to date. The event included several interesting paper by Brunel staff: Dr. David Fulton, ‘Heaven or Hell: Representations of Ilford in the Writings of Kathleen Raine and Denise Levertov;’ Hubble, 'J.G. Ballard and the New Proletarian Literature.' A small profit was made.

### 2.7 New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA): 'Fiction and the Mediation of Ageing: Reading, Writing and the Cultural Imagination 1945-present'

A planned three-year project, ‘Fiction and the Mediation of Ageing: Reading, Writing and the Cultural Imagination 1945-present,’ would involve Tew as lead investigator with co-investigators Morrison & Hubble. The NDA is a jointly funded initiative (AHRC / ESRC) and under the aegis of the BCCW the Brunel team prepared a submission for the NDA project in June 2008 for approximately £350,00. They also bid for a Brunel Research Development Fund Award which application for £1,745 was successful. The money helped preparation with a number of collaborators: the team has liaised with several outside consultants/organizations including Mass Observation, Demos and the Third Age Trust (U3A). The submission was been successful in terms of being selected to progress to the second phase (40 selected to go forward from 191 initial applicants in June) and received very positive feedback, which included the following comments:

‘The Panel were supportive of this proposal, which covered fiction and ageing from the author to the end user perspective. It was suggested by a member of the Panel that out of all the AHRC-interest proposals, this application was the most well-joined up. The panel were impressed by the proposal’s good sense of policy (in relation to outcomes and activities). [ ] It was agreed by the Panel that the focus of the proposal may need to be sharpened. However, the Panel agreed that the application was a very rich project and should be considered a high priority, in terms of the NDA Programme Specification.’
The team is currently working hard on revisions for a final submission on 4th November.

2.8 UK Network for Modern Fiction Studies 2008 Summer Seminar Series: The BCCW continued relations with the UK Network for Modern Fiction Studies of which Tew is Director, helping organize the 2008 Summer Seminar Series. These were held at the University of Westminster.

2.9 Leverhulme Funding Submission: Tew submitted a funding bid in autumn 2007 for 2 year Leverhulme project on Post-9/11 Anglo-American Novel. This was unsuccessful. Various publishers (Continuum, Edinburgh UP, Manchester UP, and Palgrave Macmillan) were very interested, but unfortunately without support it was decided the project would not be finished in an appropriate time frame (for publication on the tenth anniversary of 9/11)


There were also regular literary-critical research seminars on a variety of topics throughout the year with both internal and external speakers, and in 2007-08 English included papers from Hubble, Tew, John McLeod (University of Leeds) and Wendy Knepper (BCCW affiliate).

3.0 Symbiosis: Journal of Anglo-American Literary Culture.

The peer-reviewed Symbiosis: Journal of Anglo-American Literary Culture continued to be based at Brunel, and Tew was its co-editor: 2 excellent issues were produced during the year.

4.0 Research Students

There are currently 16 postgraduate research students enrolled, and offers have been made to 5 more students. Good recruitment to the Contemporary Literature MA may feed more home students into the research cohort.
5.0 Other Research Activity/ Information

5.1 RAE 2008 A key event was the submission for RAE 2008, into which all members of staff were submitted with four good outcomes: a 100% total (in comparison to the University's 87% overall). The university indicated that the English Department’s narrative was one of the strongest and may have been used as a model for other less coherent submissions. In addition the raw data is impressive. Based on the most recent count members of staff have completed and published during the RAE period between them 38 books, over 100 articles, and at least 15 editorial projects. This is approximately on average 2 books per person, 6 articles and 1 edited collection. English continues to publish the most books in the university and are very strong in terms of per capita article publications. Overall in terms of narrative and quantity English as a group has excelled and if the panel judges the quality as strong the department should be successful in attaining some research money. That the RA5a narrative document was received well was down both to individual research efforts and a great deal endeavour on the part of Prof. William Watkin in preparing the narrative and submission documents. Even in the tight financial situation we anticipate at least a degree of success.

5.2 Peer Recognition: English at Brunel has attracted favourable informal comment among our peers in English Studies, and is beginning to be noticed especially for the work in the contemporary field, as well as its evident strengths in the early modern field.

5.3 External Seminars / Events: staff attended various conference and offered research papers at the research seminars of other universities.

5.4 New Project Planning with British Library: During the academic year Prof. Philip Tew was contacted by the British Library archivist responsible for post-1900 material after they had recently purchased the B. S. Johnson archive. The BL wishes to jointly organize an event with the BCCW in 2009 (probably November) to mark this acquisition, and Tew have been in negotiations and had several meetings with them over this. Several meetings were held with BSJ biographer, Jonathan Coe, and the BL has agreed to co-organize a conference on Johnson jointly with the BCCW at the BL Conference Centre, funded by the BL. The BL also wishes to jointly bid with Brunel for a doctoral student or postdoctoral assistant (to be decided upon) to work on the archive and be based at the BL. This will be both prestigious and relatively cost-free. It also helps foster relations which may help the B. S. Johnson volume of uncollected and unpublished works which Tew plans to edit with Coe (a contract has been offered by Manchester University Press), and which has the support of the literary estate (widow etc.). I will have to further research the funding possibilities concerning the archive.

5.5 Three Appointments to AHRC Peer Review Panel: three members of English staff, Mondal, Morrison and Tew were appointed to and received training concerning the AHRC Peer Review Panel. This allowed early access to information about the NDA bid (see above) which may have proved useful. All three have undertaken reviews of proposals and will undergo further training this autumn. It is generally felt that this level of peer recognition reflects well on the English Department.
5.6 Promotion for Research Staff: Watkin was promoted to Professor; Mondal to Reader. Their elevation reflects favourably as to their significant contribution to the highly successful research profile of the English Department at Brunel. Formal congratulations from their colleagues to both.

5.7 Editorship of Post-War Fiction Literary Encyclopaedia: Tew was appointed in June as chief editor for post-war fiction for the online Literary Encyclopaedia, and commenced in July 2008. Dr. David James (Nottingham University) was recruited as deputy editor. A number of new contributions have been processed, and a CFP for more will occur in the coming year.