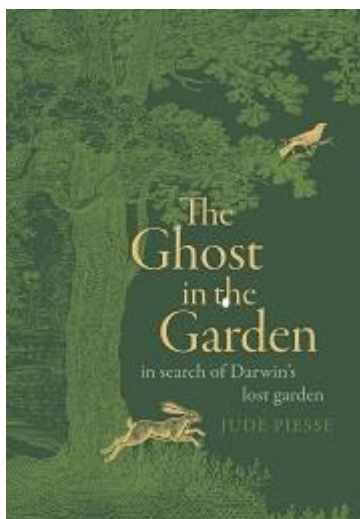




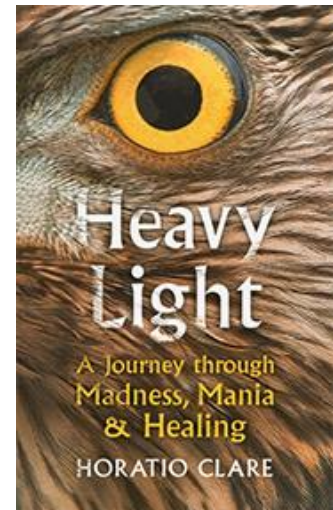
Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History

Research Institute Strategy Document – 30 September 2021

The Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History was launched in September 2019 with an event attended by world-renowned scholars, local civic leaders, and academics at the Tate Liverpool. Its members represent the disciplines of English, Cultural History, Creative Writing and Drama and its focus is scholarly research, impact and public and community engagement in the Humanities and Creative Arts. Founded in 2019 after extensive consultations between academics, local and national stakeholders and the community, RILCH conducts and disseminates its research to both the academic and the wider community in the UK and internationally.



In the two years since its inception, RILCH has proved itself a thriving and successful research group, producing more than 60 published outputs and applying for 16 external grants gaining during a short and intensely challenging period, not least due to the Covid-19 pandemic (see Appendices 1 and 2). During the last two years, we have maintained our high-quality outreach activities and events, with public lectures and talks including those by Deaglan O Donghaile, Jude Piesse, and Horatio Clare and regularly reaching a diverse audience of over 50 including local community, general public nationally, academics and colleagues in publishing and book-sales (see Appendix 3). These events have been advertised across Merseyside and nationally and have been integrated into both staff research interests and student learning activities, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level.



Over the last two years, RILCH has also supported through local funding a series of impactful and productive projects (see Appendix 4). These projects have been instrumental as seed-funding for larger external grant applications and in disseminating the work of the Institute more widely.

RILCH has also built a vibrant postgraduate student culture which supports and sustains postgraduate research and activities (see Appendices 5 and 6). It forms a hub for sharing strategic wider research across the Schools of Humanities and Social Science and Liverpool Screen School. During the last two years, RILCH has supported and encouraged our post-



**The Research Institute for Literature
and Cultural History**

Between two worlds



Or how I learned to stop worrying and love the [Lockdown](#)

graduate community in holding regular, monthly (virtual) meetings, which have been integral to continuing a sense of mutual support and encouragement amongst the post-graduate community and was an integral part of the recent enhanced results in the APSS Faculty PGR Survey (PRES) results. RILCH has provided a platform for activities and events which showcase their achievements and research, including the 'Between Two Worlds' event.

Statement of Priorities: 2021 – 22

The Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History Management Committee meets monthly to analyse progress, discuss new opportunities, organise events and identify funding priorities. The RILCH Management Committee will use the findings of this Strategic Plan to take stock of its key successes and take forward its priorities set out below. As we progress, the priorities listed below will each have its own list of actions, activities and projects which will be reported on in due course.

This strategic plan sets out the Institute's key strategies for 2021/2022 with particular emphasis on the Institute's commitment to research, knowledge exchange, community engagement and equality and diversity. These activities will bring together the critical, creative, traditional and non-traditional aspects of our work in a manner that demonstrates excellence, inclusivity and innovation to support an increase in the number of funding applications, publications, and dissemination through public talks and research seminars through our multi-disciplinary and collegial approach.



1. We will consolidate and enhance our reputation as an organisation of excellence, influence and impact in the Merseyside city region, across the UK, and internationally.

We will do this by organising an annual calendar of events and seminars arising from and speaking to our research interests and priorities. We will work more closely with local cultural institutions including the Bluecoat, the Tate Modern, the Everyman and Playhouse Theatres, the Maritime Museum, the Liverpool World Museum and Gladstone's Library at Hawarden. We will forge closer links with the community locally and nationally through an ambitious research project which seeks to analyse existing connections with these institutions and with local community groups and schools.

We will apply for funding in the next round for QR Institute Funding to underpin this project, to employ a Research Assistant responsible for conducting research into local and national networks of influence, including an audit and literature review. This will allow RILCH to benchmark our activities against local and national levels and target the influence of the Research Institute more directly, build more productive connections and to communicate our research and connect more closely with partners and the community in the Liverpool City Region, and with scholars and the wider public nationally and internationally. This will include diverse audiences, including the BAME community, and other groups who are not currently represented sufficiently in our audiences.



2. We will continue to invite and attract high-quality researchers and academics to work and study in the Institute in a number of roles: as students, researchers, collaborators and co-investigators, and advisors and mentors.

We will do this by maintaining and developing a vibrant web presence through the institutional website, including videos, papers and links to projects produced by Research Institute members (ongoing). This will enable us to reach scholars and the wider community more effectively and promote the on-going work of the Institute.

We will apply for QR Research Institute funding in order to appoint a PGR Intern to be responsible for the Research Institutes' web presence and social media outputs. We will continue to invite influential Visiting Researchers to work and study in the Institute.

We will apply for Arts Council Funding to initiate a Visiting Fellow Scheme to include an impactful and interdisciplinary focus reaching across the Institution and taking part in large-scale public lectures and events (Summer 2022). This will include topical and contemporary debates which will speak to and inform local and national developments including the Liverpool Free Port Initiative and other post-Brexit strategies.

RILCH will be a key focus for knowledge-exchange through its hosting of conferences. There are already a number of conferences being planned by members of the Research Institute such as Society of Renaissance Studies International Conference in 2023 (Rachel Willie). These events are central in showcasing ideas and developments in the Humanities and Creative Arts.



3. We will increase the number of successful research grants and fellowships awarded to the Institute as a whole and to its individual members. We aim to increase internal and external grant success by 20% in 2022 and 50% in 2023. This is an ambitious target given the reduction in our staff-base.

We will do this through targeted information sessions (from Spring 2022) and mentorship (ongoing). There is a history of active and successful grant application from the Research Institute for both competitive internal and external funding (see Appendix 2) and we will work with colleagues in Research and Innovation Services to share expertise across the English and Creative Writing Subject Areas to improve success rates. We will encourage and support members of the Institute in making applications to funding bodies not conventionally understood as within the remit of the Arts and Humanities and to be ambitious in seeking leadership roles in funding applications for multi-disciplinary, international projects.



4. We will consolidate our reputation for the production of high-quality publications, published in a range of diverse formats and media. We will highlight the production of substantial single-authored books and articles which have a crucial impact on REF performance, enhance our esteem in the wider scholarly community and among the wider public, and feed productively into our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

We will continue to gather and build established connections with our book-sellers, publishers and literary agents. We will continue to develop our international publishing connections, including current links with U.S. China, and Europe and through this maintain and develop our impact and reach. We will support and encourage staff in their writing, research and publication through mentorship, targeted seminars and support sessions and sharing work in regular research and writing groups, such as the Non-Fiction Writing Group, which will continue to meet monthly. Specialist colleagues from archives and special collections will be invited to Research Institute Management meetings and to research seminars to discuss the scope and contents of Special Collections in LJMU Libraries. (Emily Parsons (Special Collections Archivist in Aldham Robarts) to be invited to RILCH Management Committee meeting in November 2021 as an initial point of contact). We will continue to fund research visits and projects via competitive applications for Research Institute funds and encourage staff to make applications for QR funding at APSS Faculty Level (ongoing and Autumn 2021)



5. Whilst we have identified our intention to develop closer links with the community in the previous strategies, this last priority focuses on this area exclusively in order to ensure its centrality in our writing, projects and activities. We will work closely with key stakeholders in Liverpool institutions and local government to enhance our engagement with a range of audiences, including academic, professional, the general public, the BAME community, local schools, public institutions, centres of adult learning, galleries and concert halls.

We will continue to attract and develop our record of holding high-quality research events and will organise an annual calendar of events and seminars arising from and speaking to our research interests and priorities (ongoing Autumn 2021). There will continue to be a range of high-quality events ranging from public lectures and symposia to small-scale research seminars, both online and in-person so as to disseminate our work appropriately and engage as wide an audience as possible. This engagement will be fostered in the local community, nationally and internationally through a range of event formats: live, virtual and recorded.

We will offer a range of established events such as the successful ‘Creative / Critical Conversations’ and new ventures such as inviting a group of renowned scholars and authors to take part in a ‘Literary Salon’ event (Summer 2022). We will continue to invite a series of literary scholars, acclaimed authors, and experts in the fields of literary criticism and cultural history including members of the Research Institute Advisory Board, to contribute to our calendar of public-facing events both live and online (ongoing Spring 2022) (see Appendix 3) for events hosted since January 2020 – albeit limited by the pandemic).

We will ensure that staff have as wide an opportunity as possible to develop projects which have a positive impact on the community within the Liverpool City Region, and more widely across national and international fora. We will do this by bi-annual competitive rounds of funding calls for Research Institute funding (Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022), with a requirement for projects to engage with local community groups or civic cultural partners. We will expand the numbers of events which are accessible and of interest to members of the local community in the Liverpool City Region and to disseminate our research, projects and publications in ways which garner interest from a wider public. We will continue to forge and develop stronger links with partners at local publishers, cultural institutions and groups including The Writing on the Wall Festival, the Liverpool Literary Agency, Dead Ink Books, Liverpool University Press.

Appendices:

Appendix One: Publications by members of the Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History Since its formation in September 2019

Books

Cole C. 2019. *Sleep*. UWA Publishing.

Forsdick C, Kinsley Z, Walchester K. (eds.) *Keywords for Travel Writing Studies: A Critical Glossary*. Anthem Press.

Frieze J. 2019. *Theatrical Performance and the Forensic Turn*. Routledge.

Maxwell J, Grabham C. 2019. *Ace of Spies 1*. Babyface Books.

Bahri D, Menozzi F. 2021. *Teaching Anglophone South Asian Women Writers*. Modern Language Association of America.

Menozzi F. 2020. *World Literature, Non-Synchronism, and the Politics of Time*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Moran J. 2020. *If You Should Fail: A Book of Solace*. Penguin.

Norquay G. 2020. *Robert Louis Stevenson, Literary Networks and Transatlantic Publishing in the 1890s*. Anthem Press.

Donghaile DÓ. 2020. *Oscar Wilde and the Radical Politics of the Fin de Siècle*. Edinburgh University Press.

Piesse J. 2021. *The Ghost in the Garden: In Search of Darwin's Lost Garden*. Scribe.

Smyth G. 2020. *Music and Sound in the Life and Literature of James Joyce: Joyces Noyces*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Smyth G. 2020. *Sailor's Song: The Shanties and Ballads of the High Seas*. British Library Press.

Tookey H and Biggs, B. 2020. *Remaking the Voyage: New Essays on Malcolm Lowry and 'In Ballast to the White Sea'*. Liverpool University Press.

Tookey H. 2019. *City of Departures*. Carcanet Press.

Walchester K. 2019. *Travelling Servants: Mobility and Employment in British Travel Writing 1750-1850*. Routledge.

Gélleri G and Willie R. 2020. *Travel and Conflict in the Early Modern World*. Routledge.

Journal articles

Adams B. 2019. The Waste/d Spaces of Ruth Ozeki's *A Tale for the Time Being*. *Ex-Centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media*: 244-257.

Cuming E. 2019. At Home in the World?: The Ornamental Life of Sailors in Victorian Sailortown. *Victorian Literature and Culture*, 47: 463-485.

Croft, J. 2020. Treading water, hoarding swims. *Life Writing*, 17, 4: 561-72.

Croft, J. 2020. 'The Cruelty Towards Others Like Ourselves... is Difficult to Imagine Here as You Turn to Swim Your Twentieth Length': Swimming and Dreaming of Elsewhere with John Berger. *European Journal of Life Writing*, 9: 129-47.

Rogers H, Cuming E. 2019. Revealing Fragments: Close and Distant Reading of Working-Class Autobiography. *Family and Community History*, 21: 180-201.

Graham E. 2019. 'Licentious gaddyng abroad': a conflicted imaginary of mobility in early modern English Protestant writings. *L. Etudes Epistémè*, 35.

Graham R. 2019. Paying close attention, thinking to some purpose. *New Writing*.

Graham R. 2019. Reading to imitate, reading to steal. *Writing in Practice*, 5.

Kandola S. 2020. Lucas Malet, *Dissident Pilgrim: Critical Essays*. *Journal of Victorian Culture*, 25: 470-473.

Menziozzi F. 2021. Ernst Bloch and the Subject of Orientalism. *Textual Practice*.

Menziozzi F. 2021. Marxism in plural times: Decolonising subsumption. *Rethinking Marxism: a journal of economics, culture and society*, 33: 111-133.

Menziozzi F. 2020. Blue Sublime and the Time of Capital. *Humanities*, 9.

Menziozzi F. 2019. Inheriting Marx: Daniel Bensaïd, Ernst Bloch and the Discordance of Time. *Historical Materialism: research in critical Marxist theory*.

Menziozzi F. 2019. Fingerprinting: Imtiaz Dharker and the Antinomies of Migrant Subjectivity. *College Literature*.

Moran J. 2021. A Virtual Island Journey: Place and Place Writing in Lockdown. *Cultural Geographies*.

Moran J. 2021. To the Anxious Humanities Scholar. *Critical Quarterly*, 63: 4-23.

Moran J. 2021. The Scattering: A Family History for a Floating World. *History Workshop Journal*.

Muller N. 2020. Deceit, Deservingness, and Destitution: Able-Bodied Widows and the New Poor Law. *Journal of Victorian Culture*.

Muller N. 2020. Desperately Funny: Victorian Widows and the Comical Misfortunes of Husband Hunting. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 29: 926-936.

Norquay G. 2020. 'Daughterlands': Personal and Political Mappings in Scottish Women's Poetry. *Contemporary Women's Writing*.

Norquay G. 2020. Aileen Christianson 1944–2020. *Scottish Literary Review*, 12: 159-161.

Perfect M. 2019. 'Black holes in the fabric of the nation': Refugees in Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*. *Journal for Cultural Research*, 23: 187-201.

Piesse J. 2020. The History and Afterlife of Darwin's Childhood Garden. *Journal of Victorian Culture*.

Smyth G. 2019. 'Gardens All Wet With Rain': Pastoralism in the Music of Van Morrison. *Irish University Review*, 49: 171-187.

Smyth G. 2019. Displacing the Nation: Performance, Style and Sex in Eimear McBride's *The Lesser Bohemians*. *Studi Irlandesi: a Journal of Irish Studies*, 1: 161-178.

Tookey H. 2021. North and South. *Hinterland*: 27-34.

Tookey H. 2021. The Beach at Sonderho. *Moxy Magazine*.

Walchester K. 2021. Working, travelling, and identity: J.B. Priestley's *English Journey* (1934). *Studies in Travel Writing*, 24: 157-169.

Book Chapters

Adams B. 2019. Environment, Justice, Aesthetics: Through the Arc of the Rain Forest and My Year of Meats. Lee AR, Karen Tei (eds.) *Yamashita: Fictions of Magic and Memory*:73-89. University of Hawai'i Press.

Bailey R. 2020. 'Thy sceptre to a trident change / And straight, unruly seas thou canst command': Contemporary representations of King Charles I and the Ship Money Fleets within the cultural imagination of Caroline England. Blakemore R, Davey J (eds). *The Maritime World of Early Modern Britain*: 193-193. Amsterdam University Press.

Dawson R. 2020. The Uncollegial Precariat: Millennial Academic Fiction and the Problem of Flexible Labour. Hauthal J, Arteel I, Aerts J (eds.) *Campus Fictions: Literary and Intermedial Constructions of the University*. World Academia Press.

- Ferrebe A. 2019. Introduction to *Bright Day* by J. B. Priestley. Valancourt Books.
- Frieze J. 2019. The Builders Association. Vanden Heuvel M. (ed.) *American Theatre Companies 1995-2017*. Bloomsbury Methuen.
- Kandola S. 2019. Maverick Modernists: Sapphic Trajectories from Vernon Lee to D.H. Lawrence. Sandy M, Boyiopoulos K, Patterson T. (eds.) *Literary and Cultural Alternatives to Modernism: Unsettling Presences*: 85-100. Routledge
- Norquay G. 2021. Temporal deconstructions: narrating the ruins of time. Hedon M-O, Hames S. (eds.) *Twenty-First Century Scottish Fiction*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Perfect M. 2021. Monica Ali. Bradford R. (ed.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Contemporary British and Irish Literature*: 471-480. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Price J. 2019. 'Affect' and 'Subjectivity'. Forsdick C, Kinsley Z, Walchester K. (eds.) *Keywords for Travel Writing Studies: A Critical Glossary*. Anthem Press.
- Smyth G. 2020. Coda: Making Spaces, Saving Places: Modern Irish Popular Music and the Green Turn. Mangaoang A, O'Flynn J, O Briain L. (eds.) *Made in Ireland: Studies in Popular Music*. Routledge: 238-246.
- Smyth G. 2020. The Role and Representation of Betrayal in the Irish Short Story since Joyce. Harte L. (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Fiction*: 237-252. Oxford University Press.
- Smyth G. 2020. *Irish Literary Criticism During the Revival*. Howes M. (ed.) *Irish Literature in Transition 1880-1940*: 339-355. Cambridge University Press.
- Tolan F. 2021. Margaret Atwood's Revisions of Classic Texts. Howells CA. (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Margaret Atwood*. Cambridge University Press.
- Walchester K. 2019. Norway and the Northern Tour. Colbert B, Morrison L. (ed.) *Continental Tourism, Travel Writing, and the Consumption of Culture in the Nineteenth Century*. Palgrave.
- Whitehead J. 2020. 'A song in the night': reconsidering John Clare's later asylum poetry. Kövesi S, Lafford E. (eds.) *Advances in John Clare Studies*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Willie R. 2021. 'I thought my blood derived a Crown to us, / But now I find it derives only Treason': Remembering and Forgetting the civil war. Bayer M, Navitsky J. (eds.) *Shakespeare and Civil Unrest in Britain and the United States*. Routledge.
- Willie R. 2020. William Cavendish: Virtue, Virtuosity and the Image of the Courtier. Hopkins L, Rutter T. (eds.) *A Companion to the Cavendishes: Writing, Patronage, and Material Culture*.

Willie R. 2020. Lunar travel and lunacy: reading conflict in Aphra Behn's *The Emperor of the Moon* (1687). Gélleri G, Willie R. (eds.) *Travel and Conflict in the Early Modern World*. Routledge.

Willie RJ. 2020. Inscribing Textuality: Milton, Davenant, Authorship and the Performance of Print. Depledge E, Garrison J, Nicosia M. (eds.) *Making Milton: Writing, Publication, Reception*. Oxford University Press.

Appendix Two: External Grant Applications made by members of the Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History since September 2019

Project Title	PI Name	Funder	Sum of Grant
Adaptations	Jonathan Cranfield	British Academy	£120, 433.25 (unsuccessful)
Forensics Aesthetics Network	James Frieze	AHRC	£17,393.40 (unsuccessful)
Levy's Legacy	Michael Perfect	British Academy	£6,805.00 (successful)
Soundscapes Conference	Rachel Willie	Various	£12,600.06 (successful)
Understanding Quarantine	Kathryn Walchester	The British Academy	£5,621.10 (unsuccessful)
Topographies of Identity	Glenda Norquay	The British Academy	£58, 975.37 (unsuccessful)
Uncertain Futures	Helen Rogers	Wellcome Trust	£178,979.28 (unsuccessful)
Hear Us O Lord	Helen Tookey	AHRC	£5,605.00 (successful)
War Widows' Quilt	Nadine Muller	AHRC	£76, 950.50 (unsuccessful)
Global Relations	Emily, Cuming	The Leverhulme Trust	£50, 688.17 (unsuccessful)
Travelling Gardens	Kathryn, Walchester	The Leverhulme Trust	£25, 229.17 (unsuccessful)
Oscar Wilde's England	Sondeep, Kandola	The Leverhulme Trust	£47, 043.40 (unsuccessful)
BA War Widows' Quilt Showcase	Nadine, Muller	The British Academy	£330 (successful)
Moon Migration	Rachel, Willie	UK Research and Innovation	£890, 713.58
OFS Building Back Better	Catherine, Cole	Office for Students	£52,8104, 56 (unsuccessful)
Malcolm Lowry and Me	Helen, Tookey	The British Academy	£2,730.00 (unsuccessful)

Appendix Three: Events hosted by the Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History since January 2020

Date	Event	Presenters / facilitators
13 th February 2020	Seminar: The Uncollegial Precariat, Academic Fiction and the NeoLiberal University	Ross Dawson
25 th November 2020	Seminar: Reading and Writing place	Helen Tookey & Jo Price
8 th December 2020	Book launch: The German Nurse / If You Should Fail	Mike Hollis & Joe Moran
18 th March 2021	Seminar: Oscar Wilde: a Radical Life	Deaglán O Donghaile
13 th April 2021	PGR student 'showcase': Between two worlds	PGR students
11 th May 2021	Seminar: 'Waiting for Liberation: Charlotte Elliott's Advent Verse as Gynocentric Biblical Exegesis'	Nancy Cho
20 th May 2021	Book launch: In Search of Darwin's Lost Garden	Jude Piesse
3-4 June 2021	Symposium: Jackie Kay	Fiona Tolan
5-9 July 2021	International online Conference: Soundscapes	Rachel Willie

Appendix Four: Projects funded by the Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History

Project	Lead	Amount	Approval Date
Shakespeare North Community Symposium	Elspeth Graham	£250	27/11/19
Fin de Siècle Symposium	Sonny Kandola	£541.97	27/11/19
Representing Disembarkation Conference co-organised with the University of Naples Spring 2020 (did not go ahead due to the pandemic)	Filippo Menozzi	£600	27/11/19
Writing Places poetry event at the Bluecoat (did not go ahead due to the pandemic)	Jo Price and Helen Tookey	£660	27/11/19
Liverpool, Sea and Music (did not go ahead due to the pandemic)	Gerry Smyth	£350	27/11/19
Book images	Jude Piesse	£373.60	02/12/20
DVD production	Helen Tookey	£500	02/02/21
Archival research	Emily Cuming	£500	02/02/21
Quilt for War Widows Project	Nadine Muller	£500	02/02/21
Research Assistant to support production of a special issue of Huntington Library Quarterly	Rachel Willie	£500	17/03/21
Creative writing course	Robert Graham	£410	17/03/21
Book purchase	Sonny Kandola	£175	08/06/21
Jackie Kay symposium	Fiona Tolan	£600	08/06/21
Soundscapes	Rachel Willie	£600	08/06/21

Appendix Five: Current PGR students in the Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History and their Supervisory Teams

Jennifer Cavanagh (Helen Tookey (DoS), Robert Graham, Kate Walchester)

Nick Cohen (Keith Marley (DOS) Cathy Cole, Rachel McLean)

Ryan Coogan (Colin Harrison (DoS), Jamie Whitehead)

Victoria Crozier (Joe Moran (DoS), Fiona Tolan)

Lynsey Hanley (Joe Moran (DoS), Jude Piesse)

Mike Hollows (Cathy Cole (DoS))

Rachel Jones (Jon Cranfield (DoS), Sondeep Kandola, Jude Piesse)

Gaynor Llewellyn-Jenkins (Jude Piesse (DoS), Rebecca Bailey, Kate Walchester)

Ian Loftus (Cathy Cole, DOS Jackie Newton, Conan Leavey)

Jon Roberts (Cathy Cole DOS) Richard Monks

Simon Sanders (Cathy Cole,DOS Simon Piasecki, Helena Gosling)

Caroline Smailes (Cathy Cole DOS, Robert Graham, Emma Roberts)

Katie Taylor (Colin Harrison (DoS), Fiona Tolan)

Wayne Turnbull (Emily Cuming (DoS), Lucie Matthews-Jones)

Lynne Wainwright (Emily Cuming (DoS), Jude Piesse, Kate Walchester)

Helen Walsh (Cathy Cole (DoS), John Maxwell)

Appendix Six: PGR Completions in the Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History since 2019

Sam Caddick (PhD)

Christinna Hazzard (PhD)

Chloe Holland (PhD)

Sham Rakaf (MPhil)

Sam Saunders (PhD)

Joseph Thorne (PhD)

Aimee Walsh (PhD)