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Conference or Workshop Item

Title: Research in the School of the Arts

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Example citation: Allwork, L. (2015) Research in the School of the Arts. Invited Presentation presented to: *The Spring Meeting of the Court of the University of Northampton, The University of Northampton, 12 March 2015.*

Version: Presented version

<http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/7421/>



Dr Larissa Allwork (English, The School of the Arts) – Presentation to the University Court

In this presentation, I will outline my specific research and how it contributes to the research environment in the School of the Arts. I will then also say a few words about some of the research projects that I am involved in co-ordinating within the School of the Arts more broadly.

I am a scholar of the collective memory of the Holocaust, or I analyse the different ways in which various societies have remembered the Holocaust since 1945. I have a number of research outputs in relation to my work including: a monograph with Bloomsbury Academic, to be published in June 2015 and two chapters to be published in essay collections by Palgrave Macmillan. I have also promoted the University of Northampton by appearing at national and international conferences. Eg. Uppsala (2013), Zaragoza (2013 and 2015) and Leeds (2015). In addition, I do a range of community engagement work. For example, a workshop convened by the Imperial War Museum, London and the Lithuanian Embassy in relation to Lithuanian museums in 2012; co-organising with Dr Paul Jackson (History), University of Northampton Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 which featured a keynote lecture by Professor David Cesarani OBE and talks by representatives of the Searchlight Archive. I have also performed pre-screening film talks at the Errol Flynn Film Theatre in 2014 and 2015; and I will be giving a public talk in relation to artist, Pam Foley's exhibition, 'Routes of Sorrow' at NN Gallery, Northampton in April 2015.

My work intersects with the research projects of my colleagues at the School of the Arts in a number of ways. For example, I have worked as part of the EU Marie Curie Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging International Training Network. The Northampton component of this network is led by Professor Janet Wilson (English). This network has facilitated the research of two PhD scholars and has been a highly prestigious project for the University of Northampton. Our network partners are the University of Oxford, SOAS, Stockholm University, WWU Münster and the University of Mumbai. My research also ties into the activities of the Interdisciplinary Research Group in Trauma, Narrative and Performance led by Dr Sonya Andermahr (English). In particular the work of this research group facilitates particularly close links with the University of Zaragoza's Centre for the Study of Contemporary Narratives in English, and we welcome a number of visiting scholars from Zaragoza University each year. Other work in the trauma research group relates to Andermahr's work on narratives of maternal loss, and Professor Richard Canning's (English) research on AIDs narratives.

My wider research co-ordination work within the School of the Arts involves enhancing the research environment for staff and students and encouraging research impact. We were very pleased with our results for REF 2014, particularly in relation to the social, cultural and economic impact of the School of the Arts. REF Unit of Assessment English delivered 56.8% of research outputs at the standard of 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent' and 70% of impact recognised as internationally excellent. Unit of Assessment Art and Design performed exceptionally well in impact with 20% recognised as 'world leading' and 20% assessed as 'internationally excellent'. We are continuing to promote and strengthen research within the School, particularly in relation to our impact on the culture and heritage of Northamptonshire. For example, in 2012 the English Department inaugurated the annual John Clare Memorial Lecture on Literature and the Environment; Dr Lorna Jowett is running an AHRC Cult TV Network which complements the Media team's Cult Film nights at the Errol Flynn Film Theatre; Dr Ross Prior and the Acting Team continue to cultivate close links with the Royal and Derngate theatre and Art and Design are exploring new avenues for knowledge transfer partnerships with local, national and global industries.