

Film, theatre & television

Research interests

The research interests of academic staff are wide ranging. The department aims to research across historical periods and genres. Its research strategy is coalesced closely around those research centres which it accommodates or with which it has close links:

The Centre for Film Aesthetics and Cultures (CFAC), which fosters links with Reading Film Theatre.

Beckett at Reading, working in collaboration with the Beckett International Foundation, which supports research into Samuel Beckett and the development of the internationally important archive based in the University.

The Television Drama Research Group, which promotes the study of the past development and current trends in television fiction of all kinds, both in Britain and abroad.

Current research projects include:

Giving Voice to the Nation. The Arts Council of Great Britain and the Development of Theatre and Performance in Britain 1945-1995;

Spaces of Television: Production, Site and Style;

Staging Beckett: The impact of Productions of Samuel Beckett's Drama on Theatre Practice and Cultures in the UK and Ireland.

The department's research interests also have close links with the University's major research themes, especially the 'Heritage and Culture' theme.

General research interests across film, theatre and television:

Critical, theoretical, historical and performance studies

New media

Space and place in performance

Theatre:

Theatre productions and performance from the late 19th century to the present day
British Theatre

World theatre

Contemporary mainstream and avant-garde theatre in Europe and the United States

Irish theatre

Cultural transfer in eastern European theatre

The Holocaust in Polish theatre

Diasporic identity and theatre

Film:

- World cinema
- Classical and contemporary Hollywood film
- Documentary film
- Avant-garde film
- Gender in film and media
- Pedagogy in film
- Digital media, film style and technology
- Film aesthetics
- Cinematic time and space, and narration in film
- Early sound film
- The spectacular in film
- Mise-en-scène
- Action cinema
- Authorship in cinema
- Representation of conflict in film
- Cinema and the politics of erasure in the war on terror

Television:

- American and European Television history and institutions
- British and American television drama
- Documentary television
- Transatlantic relationships in television

The collection will provide most, but not necessarily all, materials students need at final year undergraduate level for independent projects. Masters students will find a significant proportion of material to support taught elements of their course, but may need to travel further afield or use inter-library loan services to undertake research components.

Alternative access

Other information resources in the University

The Department holds a substantial video, DVD and Blu-Ray collection containing more than 6,000 titles (available only to members of the Department). English literature and Modern Languages and European Studies also have video/DVD collections for use by members of those departments.

Use of other libraries

Other specialist collections used for research being undertaken within the department include:

- Archives of the National Theatre

- BBC Archives

- British Film Institute Library (the University Library is a member of the BFI Library)

- British Universities Film and Video Council

- Victoria and Albert Museum's Theatre and Performance Archive (V&A). This collection can be accessed on request and includes the useful records of the Arts Council.

Statistical evidence suggests that the department manages to source most material to support its research either from within the University or the specialist collections mentioned above. Only a small number of requests processed by the Library's Inter-Library Loan service come from Film, theatre & television.

Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

Selection and acquisition

Films are not normally purchased by the Library for film, theatre, and television courses, but if requested by staff, they are purchased in DVD format.

Second-hand material may be purchased to replace damaged items or to fill gaps in stock retrospectively when new courses are introduced.

The Liaison Librarian will suggest additions to stock to the Library representatives, order required reading not in stock, and ensure items in demand are transferred to the Course Collection.

Relegation and withdrawal

The General Collection Development statement gives the criteria for decision making on relegation and withdrawal. During the period covered by this policy, it is anticipated that further de-duplication of material will take place as part of the Library's Collections Project. Some low use material of relevance to research will also be relegated to storage.

