

## *Impact Case Study*

### **UOA 29: English Language and Literature**

#### **Driving Participation in Ulster Poetry: the Ulster Poetry Project (Dr Frank Ferguson and DR Kathryn White)**

This case study articulates how impacts generated by the Ulster Poetry Project has increased awareness of, and participation in, the literary, linguistic and cultural traditions of Northern Ireland. Ferguson and White have interpreted this literature for audiences external to academia, facilitating contact with this body of work in order to allow people to appreciate connecting with voices from the past. Their research has recalibrated literary knowledge with significant impact on education, policy makers, creative media and the general public.

The key impacts from the Ulster Poetry Project include:

**Preserving, Conserving, And Presenting Cultural Heritage** - the development of an online library of approximately 30 books has established one of the most substantial, free to access texts for Ulster Poetry in the world.

(<http://www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/ulsterpoetry/> and <http://www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/ulsterscotspoetry/index.html>).

**Informing And Influencing Policy** - the Ulster Poetry Project has helped develop public understanding of Ulster literature, and contributed to on-going debates on Irish and Scottish cultural, linguistic and literary identity. This work is particularly relevant to contemporary concerns about national identity and the place of vernacular language within the public sphere.

**Influencing Design and Delivery of Curricula in Education beyond HE** - Ferguson's work has assisted in the development of teaching and learning materials on Ulster-Scots literature in schools and adult education in Northern Ireland. It makes a significant contribution to the updating of subject knowledge for teachers, as well as the direct release of new material, fresh insights, and interpretations into the non-HE educational sector.

**Enrichment of Cultural Life in Northern Ireland** - The Ulster Poetry Project curated two major exhibitions on the life, work and influence of John Hewitt which have toured throughout the province (2012-4).

**Influencing Professional Creative Practice** - Ferguson is a regular contributor to the BBC Northern Ireland and consultant to television production companies, assisting them in the development of a range of programmes.