

Impact Case Study

UOA 29: English Language and Literature

Illuminating The Lives of Modern Writers – Prof Richard Bradford

This case study articulates how impacts generated from Bradford's exploration of the lives of modern British writers cross over into audiences beyond specialist academic markets, providing the ordinary reader with ground breaking insights into the writers' lives, offering reinterpretations, new understandings, and critical debate, stimulating collaborations with creative industries and providing meaningful commercial sustenance for the independent publishing sector.

Bradford's biographies provide a vital supplement to the reader's experience of literature by offering vivid portraits of their authors, as well as raising fundamental questions on the nature of modern literary writing.

The key impacts of Bradford's research may be summarised as:

Influencing public discourse on cultural issues - Bradford's biographies supplement the general reader's knowledge of key modern literary figures, and offer a reinterpretation of such figure's lives.

Contributing to cultural enrichment for a non-academic audience - Bradford's work engages with a varied and diverse non-academic audience. The reach of his work in a variety of different media also impacts upon non-traditional readers, users and practitioners of literary research.

Contributing to growth of small businesses in the publishing industry - Bradford contributes to income generation for a range of small to medium-sized publishing houses in Ireland and the UK: for example, Peter Owen, The Robson Press, O'Brien Press, and Constable and Robinson.

Citations in reviews outside academic literature - Bradford has received extensive praise from literary reviewers, with over 30 significant reviews in the mainstream literary and broadsheet press since 2001, including in the *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Spectator*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Observer*, and *The New Statesman*. He was awarded the Elizabeth Longford Award for Historical Biography in 2012 by the Society of Authors.