

# Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University

## Unit of Assessment: D32 Philosophy

#### a. Overview:

Since 2004 research in Philosophy at MMU has been carried out under the auspices of the European Philosophy Group (EPG). EPG includes researchers from two departments: the Department of History, Politics and Philosophy (HPP) at All Saints (Bergqvist, Crome, Haase, Hems, Hodge, Khandker, Sinclair and Strickland) and Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) at MMU Cheshire (Hutchinson and Loughlin). Researchers in EPG share interests across 4 core areas: History of Modern Philosophy (Haase, Hems, Sinclair, Strickland); Ethics and Applied Philosophy (Bergqvist, Crome, Hutchinson, Khandker, Loughlin); Aesthetics (Bergqvist, Haase, Hodge, Sinclair); and Phenomenology and Post-Phenomenological Philosophy (Crome, Haase, Hodge, Hutchinson, Khandker, Sinclair). All staff in Philosophy are research-active. Research is managed by a Research Coordinator (Crome) and supported by a Research Committee composed of senior research staff and the two Heads of Department. Philosophy is part of MMU's Institute of Humanities and Social Science Research (IHSSR), created in 2009 to bring together researchers from 9 disciplines and build on the achievements and strengths displayed in RAE 2008. The IHSSR is run by a Research Institute Director supported by the HLSS Research and Enterprise Office, which houses five administrative staff including a Project Manager. At university level research is managed through the Research & Knowledge Exchange (RKE) office whose Director of Research and team of 3 professorial Section Heads (for Research, Knowledge Exchange and Postgraduate Studies) report to the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Strategic Planning.

## b. Research strategy

In RAE 2008 EPG achieved a GPA of 2.4 with an entry of 5.5 FTE, two of whom were ECRs (Hutchinson, Sinclair). 5% of the research was identified as world leading, 35% as internationally excellent, and 55% as internationally recognised, which amounted to a substantial improvement on the 3A rating achieved in RAE 2001 with 4 FTE. The chief aim of EPG's Research Strategy in the period leading up to REF 2014 has been informed by the aims identified in the 2008 submission. EPG met these strategic aims by:

- Increasing the number of research-active staff. EPG now comprises 10 researchers, 8 of whom are being returned (an increase of over 40% from 2008, and 100% from 2001). EPG achieved this increase despite the retirement of 2 senior staff (Bell 2009, Banham 2011).
- Supporting staff in producing outputs of international quality. In 2008-13, EPG achieved a total output of 3 monographs, 17 edited volumes, 54 articles, 14 chapters in books).
- Promotions and new appointments: Haase was promoted to a Principal Lectureship in 2010 and 5 new staff have been appointed, 3 to Senior Lectureships and 2 to Lectureships.
- Expanding collaboration both within and outside MMU and augmenting EPG's visibility and prestige by, in particular, reinforcing the Group's international profile and outlook.

EPG has consolidated its position within the changing research structures of the University by pursuing various internal collaborations (see Section E for external collaboration). Links between IDS and HPP have been strengthened. The collaboration of Crome, Hutchinson and Loughlin led to a three-day workshop in 2012 on 'Evidence, Value and Practice', co-funded by the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, and to a series of Public Engagement initiatives which will be realised fully in the next REF cycle (see Section C of REF3a). EPG philosophers have also played an active role in the IHSSR, with Khandker and Hodge contributing to the Institute's 2012/13 Annual Research Programme's (ARP) strand on <u>'Ethical Issues in Humanities and Social Science Research'</u>. EPG philosophers have also worked closely with colleagues from other departments. Crome has collaborated on two HEA-funded projects on teaching and learning

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practices with Ruth Farrar from the Department of English, resulting in two publications: 'Independent Learning for Philosophy Students' (2008) and 'A Hand-e-Book of Practices for Philosophy Tutors' (2011). Philosophers also organised a series of day schools on, amongst others, Maimon (August 2010), Klossowski (January 2011) and Nancy (January 2012).

At University level the Research, Enterprise and Development (RED) office has undergone transformation into the Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE), and this reflects a significant shift in the understanding of the nature of research. Research and knowledge exchange (encompassing public engagement, impact generation and commercial enterprise) are see not as separate activities, but as part of a continuum facilitating a two-way flow of knowledge and expertise between the University and wider society. Our current strategic planning draws on MMU's corporate objectives for 2020 to 'deliver research that has a real impact on current and future global challenges' and 'ensure that educational and scholarly activities of the University are enriched through its interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary activity'. The key elements of the strategy are as follows:

- To continue to increase the proportion of 3\* and 4\* research produced.
- To increase the number of research students by 30%.
- To double the amount of research income raised.
- To make 'Knowledge Exchange' central to all research activity.
- To increase the amount of research with demonstrable impact.
- To promote a shift to collaborative, cross-disciplinary work across Faculties.

The Research and Knowledge Exchange objectives of the University are incorporated into the activities of EPG by means of IHSSR. The Institute fosters cross-disciplinarity by bringing together staff and research students from four different Faculties (Humanities, Languages & Social Science, Science & Engineering, Business & Law and MMU Cheshire). Its members work across nine disciplines: English, History, Human Geography, Information & Communications, Law, Languages & Linguistics, Philosophy, Politics and Sociology. The IHSSR's brief of supporting crossdisciplinary research has been realised through the development of cross-departmental channels of communication, including a multidisciplinary Annual Research Programme (since 2010/11), the IHSSR Website, various Institute-wide information and training initiatives and, most significantly, the formation of six cross-disciplinary University-wide research clusters (including The Gothic, Space/Place/Culture, Youth, and Feminist Agendas). Committed to a 100% increase in external income generation by 2017, the IHSSR is now running a yearly 'Bidding for Success' workshop series, which concludes with a two-day Bid-Writing Retreat. This was attended by Crome in 2012/13 and will be rolled out to all philosophers in the next two years. The IHSSR alerts individual researchers and research groups to funding schemes of particular pertinence to them, and it supports staff in the writing of research bids through a system of internal peer review.

EPG has begun to develop external partnerships, both nationally and internationally, to facilitate effective knowledge exchange and strengthen the impact of our work through public engagement. Loughlin and Hutchinson are developing their national and international links with a range of healthcare organisations; following his 'Bidding for Success' training, Crome is preparing a collaborative bid to the HEA related to his work on the philosophy of education; and Bergqvist has links with the Universities of Durham, Glasgow and Tilburg for a long-term project on *Philosophy in Museums*. Hems is developing a *Philosophy in Prisons* project, and has funds pledged from the Prison Reading Group, and this will also open up an opportunity for collaboration with MMU's <u>Policy Evaluation Research Unit</u>, based in Criminology. In order to align successfully the work of individual research staff with the University's new strategy EPG will: a) encourage take-up of training in Knowledge Exchange offered by the IHSSR (e.g. media training workshops delivered by BBC journalist Trevor Barnes); b) engage with the IHSSR's new Humanities in Public programme, with EPG coordinating a series of events in 2014 on <u>Women in Philosophy</u>, emerging from the new research cluster Feminism in the 21st Century; c) work with the IHSSR to encourage and support staff participation in a new cross-disciplinary research cluster on 'World Society'.

There are currently 2 edited volumes (Bergqvist, Loughlin), 3 book-length translations/critical editions (Haase/Sinclair, Sinclair, Strickland), 2 edited journals (Loughlin, Sinclair), 1 monograph (Khandker), 6 articles (Bergqvist, Hodge, Sinclair, Strickland, Strickland) and 4 chapters (Hodge,



Loughlin, Haase/Sinclair, Sinclair) contracted for publication by EPG staff in 2014. Six staff are currently preparing funding applications (see Section D) as both internal and external bid writing has become a requirement for all active research staff.

# c. People

<u>Staff</u>: There are currently 7 permanent full-time members of staff in HPP, 5 of whom are Lecturers (Bergqvist) or Senior Lecturers (Crome, Khandker, Sinclair, Strickland), 1 is Principal Lecturer (Haase) and 1 Professor (Hodge). In addition, there is 1 permanent 0.5 Lecturer (Hems). There are 2 more full-time Philosophy staff in IDS: 1 Reader (Loughlin) and 1 Senior Lecturer (Hutchinson). Since RAE 2008 Philosophy in HPP has lost three senior staff: a Professor (Bell), a Reader (Banham) and a Principal Lecturer (Garfield). The Section has, however, recruited 4.5 new staff: Khandker (2010), Hems (2010), Strickland (2011), Bergqvist (2013) and Somers-Hall (2009-12). These new appointments have strengthened our core areas, especially History of Modern Philosophy and Ethics and Applied Philosophy. The increase of staff by 1 FTE since RAE 2008 demonstrates the University's recognition of the vitality of the Philosophy Section and a commitment to supporting both its teaching and research.

MMU is committed to supporting the professional development of researchers at all levels of their careers. The University was one of only 5 in the UK to be awarded the Investors in People Gold Award in 2012. All support processes and structures for research comply with the principles of the 'Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers'. The University's commitment to equal opportunities is set out in MMU's Equality and Diversity Policy, Vision for Equality and Diversity and Single Equality Scheme (SES). The implementation of these policies is supported by an Action Plan including extensive staff development activities, and has informed other strategies such as the Human Resources Strategy. These policies, along with the Equality Act 2010, guide and inform our approach to supporting the research environment within MMU and have been applied in our preparations for the REF. MMU has been awarded the EU HR Excellence in Research Award in recognition of the quality of these processes.

The University has implemented the HERA framework to support progression from Research Associate through to Research Professor. There is an annual call from the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor encouraging applications for promotion. Moreover, all researchers engage in an annual Professional Development Review (PDR) scheme in order to map out career and research objectives. This scheme helps to coordinate research activity in the Group and Faculty, and to ensure the provision of teaching relief. Research is embedded in the workloading model, and active researchers benefit from substantially reduced teaching workloads. Research activity and success are measured annually against the individual aims set out in a five-year plan. All new staff undertake an induction programme, which provides guidance on RKE policies and procedures concerning bidding. PhD supervision, and equality and diversity issues. New staff are supported by a reduction in their teaching load (the workload model allocates a 200-hour allowance for new staff) and are immediately eligible for IHSSR funding. ECRs (and final-year PhD students) are supported at IHSSR-level by the 'Writing for Success' workshops (since 2012) designed to train junior researchers in writing for publication through a programme of mentoring and peer review. Central support for ECR research is made available via the RKE's Research Accelerator Grant scheme which offers 'pump-priming' support for the development of new projects (£5000) as well as project-specific mentorship.

All research-active staff have an annual research allowance for conference attendance and other activities The allowance is £1.5k, and this amount reflects the expectation that researchers attend at least one international and one national conference per year. Within EPG a rolling system of termly research leave was introduced in 2010. 8 researchers (including 2 ECRs and 1 0.5FTE ECR) have been granted leave under this system (Crome and Haase in 2010-11; Sinclair, Somers-Hall and Hodge in 2011-12; Hems, Khandker and Loughlin in 2012-13; Hutchinson and Strickland in 2013-14). Although neither Hems nor Khandker can be returned in this cycle, both are research-active and receive the full support of EPG. Hems, an editor of the *Continuum Companion to Kant* (2012), will develop his expertise in Kantian philosophy and a new *Philosophy in Prisons* project with REF 2020 in mind. Khandker just missed the REF 2014 submission deadline with a book that



is now to appear in 2014 (Philosophy, Animality and the Life Sciences, Edinburgh UP).

<u>Students</u>: EPG's PGR population has grown from 3 PhD students in 2008 to 10 in 2013. Within this census period 2 PhDs have been conferred (Hunt 2010; Farrell 2011), and there are three imminent submissions: Aldridge, Grayson, Kelly, all of whom have already submitted full drafts. Within the census period 5 students have been in receipt of full IHSSR studentships, and 1 has gained an IHSSR fees-only bursary. In addition to their own 10 students, EPG contributes to the supervisory teams of PGR students elsewhere within MMU.

Institutional arrangements for research students have been overhauled and improved since 2008 to provide a comprehensive structure of support. Students are provided with a desk in dedicated, fully-equipped office accommodation in addition to a newly-created social learning space and postgraduate suite designed to promote cohesion and collaboration. Students have at least two academic supervisors, and detailed records are kept of the supervision process, which is overseen by the Faculty Research Degrees Committee. Each student has a formal annual progress review carried out by an independent reviewer. This allows the student and the Director of Studies to provide feedback on how the student is progressing, and the Faculty Research Degrees Committee to monitor the progression of students and to provide additional support to those who are not progressing satisfactorily.

Support mechanisms for postgraduate students are embedded at all levels. The University Graduate School runs an annual student development programme that ensures postgraduate researchers have the skills needed to manage their research career successfully. This Research Student Development Programme is updated on an annual basis and incorporates workshops suggested by the research students themselves. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education undertook an Institutional Audit in 2009 and was satisfied that the University's arrangements were aligned with its Code of Practice. It also noted the Student Development Programme as an area of good practice. In addition to the generic University-led provision of training, each PhD student within EPG is assigned a supervisory team, headed by a Director of Studies, who has direct responsibility for management of the student's progress and for ensuring that annually agreed research and training targets are met. The annual audit system run by the Faculty Research Office is underpinned by an EPG-specific progression seminar running in the Summer Term, at which students are required to present work-in-progress for discussion. In 2012 this was complemented by the organisation of PGR panels for the joint Annual Conference of the Society for European Philosophy and Forum for European Philosophy hosted by EPG. As part of their training PGR students also attend regular meetings of the Human Sciences Seminar and are encouraged to present their research at national and international conferences with financial support from IHSSR. Recent examples include papers presented at the Dutch Association of Aesthetics Annual Conference, Ghent (2011), and l'Institut Mémoires de l'édition contemporaine, Caen (2012).

Our students partake in a wide range of other events and activities supported by IHSSR. These include the University's annual Research Student Conference, the IHSSR Research Student Symposium and the MMU Philosophy Cooperative. Students have also organized day schools and reading groups. In January 2012 Aldridge (PhD student) co-organised an IHSSRfunded day-school on Jean-Luc Nancy as part of the Rethinking Transcendental Philosophy series of workshops. Lallement (PhD student) organizes a Foucault Reading Group, also attended by external students. As a result of the Reading Group two students (Lallement and Wisely) along with Crome presented a panel on The Courage of Truth at the SEP/FEP conference at MMU in 2012. EPG staff also mentor students in relation to publication. Crome published an article with Hems and Hunt in 2008, whilst both were PhD students: 'Evaluating the Impact of Teaching Methods Designed to Enhance Academic Achievement among Philosophy Students with Diverse Learning Needs' (Discourse, 2008, 7:2). In the same year Crome co-authored dictionary entries on Kierkegaard and Lyotard with Hunt for the Continuum Companion to Continental Philosophy (Continuum). Lallement contributed an article, and Barnard a book review, to the 2012 Foucault special edition of the Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology, which was edited by Crome (Vol. 43, No. 1, Jan 2012). EPG will build on this track record of co-authorship through the new IHSSR 'Writing for Success' initiative (attended by Aldridge in 2013). This is an innovative new writing group, convened by the HLSS Head of Postgraduate Studies, which engages final-year



PhD students and ECRs in a step-by-step process to publication.

EPG is the only post-1992 member of the Northwest Consortium in Philosophy (composed of departments from 5 institutions in the Northwest: Keele, Lancaster, Liverpool, MMU and Manchester) which has been awarded a block grant under the AHRC Block Grant Partnerships 2 scheme. In July 2013 the Consortium organised a one-day conference, 'Philosophy in the Northwest', at which Bergqvist and two EPG students (Barnard and Lallement) gave papers.

# d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

During 2008-13 eight members of staff made fourteen applications for grants and awards. The Group has a successful record of securing small-scale funding for individual projects, day-schools, colloquia, workshops and conferences. In addition to the income recorded in REF 4, EPG received an additional £6.3k in grants and awards from external bodies over the census period: Crome received a grant of £3k from the HEA for his work on the Philosophy of Teaching; Hutchinson has received conference funding from the Aristotelian Society, the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, and the Mind Association (total £1.3k); Sinclair was awarded a Major Conference Grant from the Mind Association in 2012 for the British Society for the History of Philosophy conference 'The Actual and the Possible' (£2k). Two senior members of staff, Haase and Hodge, led collaborative bids for grants from the British Academy (BA e-Gap UK-Latin American and Caribbean Link Programme) and the Leverhulme Trust (Research Programme Grant 2010 'Beauty'). Although both bids were unsuccessful, the former brought together researchers from 8 universities in the UK and Latin America.

In the academic year 2013-14 six members of staff are preparing a variety of bids: Bergqvist (AHRC Research Network, £30,000); Bergqvist, Hutchinson and Loughlin (*Wellcome Trust Medical Humanities Small Grant Scheme* [£5000] for Conference Funding); Crome (HEA Collaborative Teaching Development Grant); Strickland (*British Society for the History of Philosophy* Major Conference Award); Strickland and Sinclair (Leverhulme Research Fellowships); Bergqvist and Sinclair (British Society of Aesthetics Connections Conference).

The key infrastructural development for the UoA has been the creation of the IHSSR, which has provided EPG with an increased budget (£20,000 p/a) over the period 2010-13 and put in place a more effective infrastructure to support research, including programmes like 'Writing for Success' and 'Bidding for Success' (see above). The IHSSR has hosted visits from the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, PNO Consultancy and UK Research Office to inform on funding opportunities. It has set up a database of successful bids and introduced an internal peer-review process for external bidding. EPG staff now benefit from expert bid-writing support, and the recent introduction of an annual research review will serve to identify individual training and support requirements. The IHSSR also runs an annual research programme (in 2012-13 Hodge and Khandker contributed to the 'Ethical Issues in Humanities and Social Science Research' strand, and EPG staff are contributing to the 'Humanities in Public' Programme in 2013-14). Funding for research leave and teaching relief has been a major factor in increasing the number of REF-eligible staff.

The MMU Library is open 24/7 for much of the year. The Library has been fulfilling Customer Service Excellence standards since 2008. It offers an extensive information skills training programme and a Research Support Librarian. In addition to its collection of books and journals, the library has a large number of electronic resources and databases for researchers in the UoA, including: JSTOR; the *British Humanities Index; The Philosopher's Index*; the *Complete Cambridge Companions* collection and the *Routledge Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.

## e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Since 2008 EPG has organised and hosted four conferences, and eight one-day workshops and colloquia. The four conferences were: 1) 'Transcendental Philosophy: Its History and Nature' (Conference of the British Society for the History of Philosophy, April 2009); 2) 'Where's Your <u>Argument?</u> Informal Logic, Critical Thinking and Argument' (April 2010); 3) 'Being Frank: Frank Ebersole, Ludwig Wittgenstein', (April 2010); 4) and the Joint Annual Conference of the



<u>Society/Forum for European Philosophy in 2012</u>. All four conferences were supported by funds from a combination of learned societies and IHSSR, and have attracted speakers and audiences of academics, researchers and students from within and outside the EU.

Each year the EPG organises day schools and colloguia exploring themes of common interest. In 2012 we ran three day schools on philosophy and Evidenced Based Practice, Evidenced Based Medicine and Values Based Practice at the MMU Cheshire campus (Workshops MMU Cheshire). The workshops attracted a broad range of cross-disciplinary participants, including international speakers from the fields of Osteopathy, Psychiatry, and Teaching. In the same year we coorganised a two-day Workshop on Gilles Deleuze with the Department of English, MMU. In addition, there were day conferences on The Philosophy of Technology (2008), on Habit (2008), on Solomon Maimon (2010), on Klossowski (2011), on Jean-Luc Nancy (2012) (for details of all five see: EPG Workshops), and in association with The Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies, a one day Philosophy Teaching Techniques and Technologies workshop. Bergqvist is coorganiser of the 2013 Royal Institute of Philosophy conference on Philosophy and Museums and of the Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience 2013 conference on Evaluative Perception. Crome, Haase and Hodge have been involved in the organization of the annual conferences of the British Society for Phenomenology; Khandker (with the Society for European Philosophy/ Forum for European Philosophy, 2012), and Sinclair (with the British Society for the History of Philosophy, 2013) have co-organised major conferences in the assessment period. Crome has collaborated with Patrick O'Connor at Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and the Learning and Teaching Support Unit at NTU on the provision of teaching resources for Philosophy lecturers (Crome Learning) with a view to preparing a related HEA bid in 2014; Loughlin has worked with several healthcare bodies (e.g. Science Advisory Council of the College of Medicine, Faculty of General Dental Practice in the Royal College of Surgeons); Bergqvist is an affiliated member of the University of Glasgow Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience and has initiated a collaborative project with Diakonhjemmet University College Oslo, Department of Nursing and Health.

EPG runs the inter-disciplinary <u>Human Sciences Seminar</u>, a series of 12-16 seminars that is now in its thirty-third year. The seminar attracts participants interested in the intersection between philosophy and the human sciences from other departments within MMU, from outside the University, as well as members of the public (average audience per session is 25). Each year an EPG member takes responsibility for co-ordinating the seminar. Most papers are given by visiting scholars, and in 2012-13 speakers visited from the Universities of Sussex, Manchester, York, Liverpool, ENS Lyon and Monash University.

EPG staff were invited to deliver plenary addresses at the following international conferences: The Return of Aesthetics to Archaeology, Institute of Philosophy (2013, Bergqvist); The Enigma of Pain, Indian Institute of Technology (2013, Hutchinson); South African Centre for Phenomenology Founding Conference (2013, Hodge); Philosophy as Liberation, University of Oxford (2012, Hutchinson); Historicising Social Experience, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (2012, Hutchinson); 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Feminist Theory Workshop, Duke University (2011, Hodge); Transcendental Philosophy: BSHP Annual Conference (2009, Hodge); Atrocities, Emotion and the Self, University of Copenhagen (2009, Hutchinson); The Becoming of Life, the Universidad Diego Portalis, Santiago de Chile (2009, Haase). Staff were invited to research seminars and to address conferences at the University of Rome, the Collège International de Philosophie, the Universidad Diego Portalis (Santiago de Chile), Philosophy in Assos (Turkey), The Jadavpur University and the IIT-Bombay, Paris-Sorbonne, the University of Toronto, the University of Notre Dame, UC Irvine, and the University of Oslo. In the UK EPG staff have been invited to the Universities of Oxford, London, Manchester, Essex, Sussex, Glasgow, Kingston, East Anglia, Lancaster, Liverpool, Staffordshire, Warwick and Goldsmiths. Papers were also presented at the annual conferences of, among others, the Society/Forum for European Philosophy and the British Society for Phenomenology.

Crome and Haase are members of the Executive Committee of the *British Society for Phenomenology*. Hodge was President of the Society (2008-11). Haase is editor of the *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology* (since 2005), and Crome is Assistant Editor. Hodge is on the editorial team of *Derrida Today*, and member of the advisory editorial boards for *Angelaki: Journal for the Theoretical Humanities* and *Aesthetic Pathways*. Sinclair is Assistant Editor

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(Reviews) for the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, part of the Management Committee of the British Society for the History of Philosophy, and a member of the editorial team producing the *Bulletin heideggérien*. Loughlin is a member of the editorial board for *Health Care Analysis*, *Philosophy of Management, Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, International *Journal of Person-Centred Medicine*, and the *Journal of Clinical Research and Bioethics*. Hutchinson is series editor for the Ashgate book series *Philosophy and Method in the Social Sciences*.

Bergqvist is an external examiner for the PhD programme at Edge Hill University. Several members of EPG have acted as external examiners for the award of PGR degrees including Crome (University of Wales, 2013); Sinclair (University of Wales, 2011); Hodge (Goldsmiths, 2010 and 2011; University of Arts, Chelsea; University of Wales; University of Sussex, University of Manchester, Trinity St. David's, Wales).

Loughlin has been a Visiting Reader in Philosophy as Applied Healthcare at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary College, University of London and a Visiting Professor of Applied Philosophy at the School of Medicine, University of Buckingham. Bergqvist was Visiting Scholar at the Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri and St Louis in May 2011 (for which she received a Swedish Research Council Travel Grant).