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Institution: University of Cambridge
Unit of Assessment: 33
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The primary extra-academic beneficiaries at whom our research is aimed are government policy-makers, groups involved in cultural heritage and its mediation through museums, theatre and the tourism industry, leaders and members of faith-communities, and the general public. The types of impact generated by our research are those described in Main Panel D's guidance as: Cultural Life: creating and interpreting cultural capital to expand the imaginations and sensibilities of individuals and groups, specifically interpreting, and suggesting revisions of, the liturgical and ritual life of faith-communities, and enabling a better understanding of our cultural heritage. Education: informing and influencing the form and content of education, specifically of those who benefit from museums, theatres and the tourism industry. Public Discourse: extending the range and improving the quality of evidence, argument and expression to enhance public understanding of the major challenges faced by individuals and society, including creating opportunities for interfaith encounters among groups who feel marginalised as a result of their religious affiliations. Civil Society: informing and influencing policy debate through interventions, specifically in debates relating to the understanding of the centrality of faith-commitment among numerous groups in society, and its outworking in practices and values. These patterns of impact reflect the breadth of our research activity, extending from the study of the sacred texts and traditions of different faith communities, and analysis of their thought and internal ordering in various historical periods, including the present, through to the application of sociological and psychological analysis of the religious life of individuals and groups.</p> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The Faculty recognises various ways in which research in TRS generates impact. There is no single academic method common to all our projects; while most scholars work on texts, contexts and interpretations (e.g. Duffy's Material Culture and Traditional Religion in Reformation England [MCTRRE], Ford's Scriptural Reasoning [SR] and Pickstock's Liturgy, Revision and Reform [LRR]), others deploy sociological and psychological methods and research-based theory to underpin observation of and intervention into particular groups to promote social cohesion (e.g. Savage's De-radicalising educational resources for young Muslims in the UK and EU [BMBB]). In encouraging pathways to impact within this diversity, we have identified 2 broad types of impact: that which emerges as a byproduct of pure basic research (MCTRRE, LRR), and that which was integral to the design of the project (SR, BMBB and Winter's British Muslims and Social Cohesion [BMSC]). Other projects which have focused from the outset on developing impact include those emerging from the Psychology of Religion Research Group (PRRG): e.g. the development of materials to enhance the 'integrative complexity' of church leaders (2007) and contributing to the museum exhibition of the Panacea Society. Unplanned impacts emerging from basic research include, apart from MCTRRE and LRR, Soskice's <i>Sisters of Sinai</i> (2009), which has benefitted the development campaign of Westminster College and tourism in the Sinai region; and Winter's BMSC, whose educational program has been determined by research locating Muslim theology within a broader, post-colonial intellectual tradition. The UoA will continue to support both kinds of impact, as equally well-suited to research in TRS, and is alert to unexpected impacts; e.g. Pickstock's <i>Repetition and Identity</i> (2013) has become a sourcebook for 'the Cambridge School' of poets and meetings have been convened to follow this through in terms of impact.</p> <p>It is Faculty policy to enable UoA members to seek opportunities to disseminate their research to the general public and selected users. We offer mentoring, financial support, office-space and meeting-venues for research projects which seek interactions with users. A major instrument for supporting impact within the UoA has been the Centre for Advanced Research into Theological Studies (CARTS), which had a particular brief for research pertaining to society. CARTS has played a sustained role through to REF 2014, providing advice and support for the generation of large outward-looking research groups, e.g., the Cambridge Interfaith Programme (CIP) and PRRG. Larger research groups such as these have enabled PIs to draw out synergies from related projects, and designated administrative support has enabled them to monitor outcomes and impact. Besides channeling financial support through CARTS, the Faculty provides direct support to researchers, including assistance in tracing relationships with beneficiaries, as utilised by MCTRRE and BMBB. We will continue to offer designated support and resources for research which directly or indirectly generates impact, through the Research Committee, which includes an</p>

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Impact Officer. The identification of impact is an embedded aspect of the support offered to Faculty research through the Centre for Research in Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, and by 2 Arts and Humanities research facilitators. Internal and external research grants applicants are supported in assessing and garnering potential impact.

The UoA values **shared group web-pages** as an effective means to disseminate key findings and build links with the public, as demonstrated by CIP and PRRG (e.g. BMBB's multi-media course for users), as well as by other projects currently receiving wide public interest (e.g. Lange's 2 databases on Byzantine Judaism). The UoA has provided funding to ensure the longevity of Lange's databases beyond the grant-funded period. The new Faculty Newsletter is intended to stimulate interest in our research and invite audiences to become involved in its dissemination. All these offer opportunities for users and beneficiaries to respond or register interest.

Members of the UoA make use, and help to shape the agendas of University-level **inter-disciplinary interfaces** to generate future impact, and to feed ideas back into primary research through exposure to new methods, needs and questions. These include (1) the University's Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP) which facilitates engagement between University researchers at all levels and policy professionals, experts in the sciences and engineering and business leaders. Through CSaP, UoA members have met the Head of Engagement of the NHS, the managing director of the charity Both Sides NOW; members of the Civil Service and Cabinet Office, including the Wellbeing and Big Society Policy Analysis and Insights Team; a major event on Platonic philosophy is scheduled for 2016; (2) members of PRRG were involved in the Cambridge Darwin Festival (2009); (3) Winter and CIP (variously) have facilitated events in the Cambridge Festival of Ideas (2010-13). Further contributions are planned for the Festival of Ideas in 2014.

UoA members have **well-established links with religious leaders and their communities** which form a vital part of our approach to impact. Many links are fostered in the context of academic events or through research-led input for conferences designed for wider audiences, or through church discussions about policy and practice; e.g., following a church discussion of Pickstock's *Povijest materijalnog viška* (Zagreb, 2011), the coordinator of the Theological Commission in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Croatia approached Pickstock for advice on their liturgical reform. The Faculty's relationship with the Cambridge Theological Federation provides an avenue for interaction with faith communities, through training clergy and representation on Church commissions, steering, ecumenical and lay groups. Other links have been developed as one-off initiatives supported by the Faculty, e.g. the Common Word Conference (2008). Some interactions are planned as part of the design of particular projects, e.g. visits by Ford and his team to schools, prisons and medical institutions in Palestine. In other cases, the interest shown by public bodies in the application of research often results from long-term fostering of relationships, as exemplified by BMBB whose researchers collaborate with the British High Commission and Foreign Office to extend de-radicalisation courses and teaching materials in Sabaoon; they are making presentations to government officials in Counter-Terrorism at the US State Department and Pentagon (2013); with the help of Cambridge University Technology Services, they have adapted the project to address sectarianism in Scotland, funded by the Scottish Government, embedding their course materials through further education, business, the YMCA (nationwide), Orange Order and Republican Flue bands, and in sports, via the Scottish Football Association. Following public concern about the status of Religious Education in schools, UoA members have met with assessment bodies to discuss how current research might inform curriculum planning (2012). **Direct relationships with key users and beneficiaries** are forged through targeted seminars and summer schools, e.g. CIP's Young Religious Leaders International Summer Schools, and, for established religious leaders, the Cambridge Coexist Leadership Programme; through these, the UoA has maintained regular contact with, and been informed by, beneficiaries of our current and future research. Public lectures, publications, online resources and web-based platforms, including YouTube, have been effective means of interacting with new audiences; Duffy has deployed innovative forums in MCTRRE, e.g. through video and DVD-Rom. Many UoA members are involved in media-related dissemination (e.g. Soskice's *Sisters of Sinai* (2009), serialised on Radio 4 Book of the Week). The University's Communications Department maintains a list of research specialists, through which UoA members have been consulted by the media and other bodies.

The **identification of impact** can be a key component of bringing research to completion (e.g. BMBB, and CIP's involvement in research into attitudes towards faith groups held by the

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Metropolitan Police), followed through by feedback, monitoring workshops and questionnaires. For other projects (e.g. SR, MCTRRE and LRR), the UoA invites testimony from key beneficiaries. CIP displays testimonies on its website and in its newsletter. Individual researchers learn from personal contacts of resulting impacts, and the University offers specialist help in tracing these.

c. Strategy and plans

The principles underpinning our UoA's approach will continue to guide our strategies to foster impact for REF 2020, but we are taking steps to enhance the effectiveness of these. To provide greater continuity between impact and our research environment, the activities of CARTS are now co-ordinated by the Research Committee and Impact Officer. (1) **Our goal is a steady cycle of research projects with identifiable impact potential.** All research will be monitored by the Research Committee, including its potential to generate impact, as well as its nature and extent. A designated fund of £2k p.a. from the UoA's own budget, as well as resources available from Trust Funds, will support researchers in fostering and identifying impact, such as by convening events for cross-sectoral users and disseminating key findings. We welcome the new head for Pathways to Impact in AHRC grant proposals, and encourage applications making use of this head; the Impact Officer includes grants advice in his brief. (2) **The Faculty will encourage and support interactions with users,** and help researchers utilise University facilities which foster interaction with users. Our Research Director has launched a regular research newsletter detailing new avenues of impact, opportunities to develop local, national and international links with cross-sector groups, and research summaries, to maximise occasioning of possible synergies and future impact. Having learnt from LRR and MCTRRE that impact, and our awareness of it, can arise through serendipity, an Impact Away Day in 2014 will raise impact awareness, explore the public obligations and responsibilities of research and garner data on existing involvements and experience in areas of policy relevance and impact, however incipient. (3) **The Faculty will assess, archive and display impacts and testimonies,** through internet and personal feedback, questionnaires and website facilities. We hope that this will encourage researchers to maximise impact and share best practice. We will provide resources and IT support in following up the emergence of impacts, and maintaining archives (overseen by our Impact Officer). (4) **The Faculty will continue to place research excellence at the heart of its strategies** in the belief that the most enduring and effective impact is predicated on the highest quality of underpinning research.

These strategies have shaped our planning. We will support current activities as they develop in new directions. CIP is likely to generate further case studies, while the PIs of 2 current projects with the potential for future impact, Aitken's Semantics of Ancient Hebrew Database (SAHD) and BMSC, have liaised with our Research Director and Impact Officer to optimise impact and gather testimonials. SAHD grows from pure research and its key users are likely to be bible translators. The impact of BMSC is exerted by way of the Cambridge Muslim College, founded by Winter, and its curriculum which he has developed; its effects on training leaders of the Muslim community in Britain are already being acknowledged. These projects have identified key users and beneficiaries, and structures are in place for continued interaction with user groups. The Faculty supports the consultation of past students of the College by questionnaire to assess the impact BMSC has exercised, and IT assistance to monitor the SAHD database and consult its key users. Further plans will develop as new impact-apt research is identified.

d. Relationship to case studies

Our three case studies provide examples of the main ways in which research in TRS creates impact: SR demonstrates ways in which impact can be built into a research programme from its inception and how it might be informed or shaped by users. MCTRRE and LRR illustrate ways in which pure research, in these cases text-based, can result in unanticipated impact. They exemplify the four types of impact outlined in (a) above, and the broad range of users reached. Duffy's MCTRRE and Pickstock's LRR are of marked benefit to cultural life and education, while Ford's SR exerts impact upon public discourse and civil society. The narrative above has demonstrated from the case studies the various ways in which impact has been identified, whether directly on a regular basis (SR), or through subsequent retrospective analysis, in the cases of MCTRRE and LRR, with funding from the Faculty and support from the University. The range of case-studies reflects the balance in the Faculty between impact which has been facilitated by large research groups such as CIP (Ford) and that which arises from the work of individual researchers (Duffy and Pickstock). This range provides models upon which the Faculty can look to future impact; e.g. the future models for web-based platforms for dissemination suggested by SR and MCTRRE.