

<p>Institution: UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: D32 Philosophy</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The Department of Philosophy has been particularly successful in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shaping and influencing policy making nationally and internationally. Key beneficiaries are policymakers and those whom the policies affect. 2. Engagement in cultural events, having impact broadly on controversial debates of public concern, and of particular interest to health-care professionals. 3. Leading public discourse to shape the understanding of individuals. 4. Informing and influencing civil society through collaboration with activists and NGOs, benefiting civil society practitioners and influencing public debate. 5. Improving the delivery of public services, particularly health and security services. <p>In areas 1, 4 and 5 our work in ethics and philosophy of health and psychology have been crucial, but all areas of the Department, from theoretical to practical, contribute to impact.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Impact is fully integrated into the work of the Department, shown by key departmental activities, such as the Royal Institute of Philosophy (RIP) lectures, and by our longstanding commitment to stakeholders' involvement in our activity. Our key stakeholders are: policymakers, at national and international levels; public services, e.g. the NHS; security services and companies; schools, think tanks, pressure groups; and the public broadly understood. In addition, philosophy, with its focus on human nature and meanings, is particularly well placed to contribute to, to frame and to lead, public debate. We have supported impact at all levels: at School level through mentoring and workload (see (c) and (d)), and by focusing on impact in 'Professional Development' days attended by all staff; at College level, particularly by the Research and Knowledge Transfer (R&KT) office, which has provided one-to-one advice on creating, developing and recording impact. Between 2009 and 2011 the office drew on HEIF funding to fund two part-time advisors on the commercial exploitation of academic research. This emphasis was broadened in 2011 by the appointment of a permanent Research Impact Officer, assisted by senior administrative staff, to support the mainstreaming of impact as part of the research culture. In addition, the University of Birmingham has launched strategic initiatives to facilitate the impact agenda. These include the establishment of units such as Alta Innovations (advice on the business potential of research) and Ideas Lab (a professional pitching service to broadcasting and companies), the appointment of a Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Public Engagement as well as two University Impact Officers, and a Public Engagement working group, chaired by the Professor of Public Engagement in Science. This approach is being developed into a strategy to support impact in the next REF cycle (see (c) and (d)). Examples of our impact are detailed below; the examples are indicative rather than comprehensive and largely exclude the work detailed in the case studies.</p> <p>1. Shaping and influencing policy making nationally and internationally as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active members of policy making bodies <p>Law serves on Birmingham Children's Hospital's Ethics Advisory Group (since 2011) – making swift decisions on difficult cases in real time. Hunter is an external member of the Liverpool Hope University Research Ethics Committee. Widdows is a member of the UKB EGC (see case study). The benefit of such impact is at high end policy levels and individually, in life and death decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing direct advice to key policymakers <p>Bortolotti with collaborator Broome (Psychiatry, Oxford) has fed into the revising of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for disease classification for schizophrenic delusions, details in the invited commentary in <i>Psychological Medicine</i>. Widdows has presented to the Nuffield Council in Bioethics on areas of future policy import (2009), was an expert reviewer of <i>Human Bodies</i> (Nuffield, 2011) and has contributed to policy recommendations to the EC through project work. Widdows worked with Chatham House staff (R. Hollis and C. Spencer) on the ESRC-funded series 'Ethics and the war on terror' (2006-2009) and Chatham House hosted one seminar.</p> <p>2. By leading public discourse we have contributed to the quality of argument and expression to enhance public understanding of major issues and challenges faced by individuals and society. We have done this in three key ways: by engaging in public debates with non-academics, by giving public lectures and by engaging stakeholders in workshops.</p>

Impact template (REF3a)

- Examples of **engaging stakeholders** in workshops include:

We have hosted 12 RIP workshops between 2008 and 2013, aimed at stakeholders and the public and widely advertised (on-line and at schools, libraries, and art galleries). These are popular and some have attracted audiences of over 200. As well as the interested public we have had attendance by healthcare professionals, teachers, legal professionals and members of the judiciary. Our other workshops have also had significant stakeholder involvement. For instance, **Bortolotti** routinely involves psychologists and health professionals (and she has been supported by Shakespeare's Hospice and the Wellcome Trust); **Nagasawa** has held public lectures by the Jesse Bering (2010) and by Anita Bhalla, High Sheriff West Midlands (2011); and the project work of **Sorell** and **Widdows** systematically includes policymakers, practitioners and activists.

- Examples of **public debates** include:

Nagasawa spoke at Wilton Park (an agency of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and for CERN, European Organisation for Nuclear Research (2012). **Sorell** contributed to a 'Night with the Philosophers', Institut Français, (2012). **Widdows** contributed to public debates about perfection, with ex-Olympian Matthew Syed at the *HowtheLightGetsIn: The Philosophy and Music Festival at Hay* (2012); with Evan Harris on the ethics of Kidney Sale at the Wellcome Trust (2010); and at the British Science Festival (2010). **Bortolotti** and **Widdows** have spoken to Café Scientific groups, and **Law** has run school outreach events and master classes (over 10 in this REF period).

- Examples of **public lectures** include:

Beebee Sainsbury Lecture, KCL (2011); **Bortolotti**: Royal Australian and NZ College of Psychiatry lecture (Sydney, 2008), annual lecture at the Festival della Salute, Lido di Camaiore (2010), and Royal College of Psychiatrists Annual Meeting (2009 and 2010); **Sorell**: Public lecture on Business and Human Rights (India, 2012); **Widdows**: Public lectures to open the Mason institute, Law School (Edinburgh, 2012) and Global Studies Centre (Ghent, 2013).

3. Informing and influencing civil society, particularly through the work of the Global Ethics Centre, shown by our body of PhD students who aim to work in policy and civil society in areas of health, security and development, as well as do academic work. All Centre staff are involved in the Academics Stand Against Poverty initiative, and **Widdows** routinely collaborates with Public Interest Lawyers and NGOs, for instance, she spoke at Amnesty London on torture (2012).

4. Improving the delivery of public services, especially in security and health. In **security practice** we have **provided direct advice to key stakeholders**. For instance, **Sorell** and his team presented at the OSC European Border Guards Day (2012) and have led discussions on privacy at Mozilla, a software company who make the Firefox browser (2011) and streamed live (for details of further security impact see case study). In **health practice** we have had impact as trainers of ethics committees and in the governance of ethics. **Hunter** is a member of the University Research Ethics Sub-Committee of the Association of Research Ethics Committees and he has trained over 30 research ethics committees. **Law** is also a trainer of ethics committee members.

5. Engagement in cultural events has **enriched and expanded the imaginings of individuals and groups**, primarily through media and social media.

- **Media activity**

Examples include: **Beebee**, *In Our Time* (twice in 2011), *Women's Hour* (2010), ABC National Radio, Australia (2008), *The Australian* (2008), 'online careers chat' run by *The Guardian*; **Bortolotti** was interviewed for a front page story, *Daily Telegraph*, 2010, and for *Sunday Age Melbourne*, 2009, and has written for *BBC Focus Magazine* (2009) and *The New Statesman* (2008); **Nagasawa** collaborated with PBS producing a TV series *Closer To Truth*; **Sorell** was interviewed for BBC West Midlands (2010). The philosophy department contributes to the University's media profile and recent examples are **Widdows** and **Williams** on sex-selection, re-run on the LSE policy blog, and by **Widdows** and **McGuninness** (Law School) on abortion rights.

- **Contribution to social media**

The Health and Happiness research cluster, run by **Bortolotti**, has an active twitter feed (followers include the Hastings Centre, Wellcome Trust and Royal College of Psychiatrists). **Bortolotti** has guest-blogged for 'The Splintered Mind' and 'Neuroethics and Law'. **Widdows** co-runs Birmingham's IAS 'Saving Humans' Theme with an active blog with stakeholder involvement.

c. Strategy and plans

Impact template (REF3a)

The departmental **impact strategy** for the next five years is threefold. We **aim** to:

- 1) To expand and enrich our relationships with key stakeholders to ensure reach and significance of future impact
- 2) To embed impact expectations in the research agendas of staff as befits research in their areas of expertise
- 3) To build robust mechanisms to support this.

To achieve these aims we build on current established links, especially those of our research centres and hubs. For instance, expanding the links of Global Ethics Centre with civil society (ASAP, Public Interest Lawyers and Amnesty); expanding the links of the Health and Happiness research cluster with policymakers and health professionals; using the John Hick Centre as a hub to build relations with teachers and faith communities. In addition, we will exploit the expertise and links of our new appointments. For instance, Boghossian and Jaggar have significant and impactful networks with regard to development, ethics, justice and rights agendas. These departmental initiatives are supported at College level (so, 'Health, Wellbeing and Value' is a College research theme) and by the newly established Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS). To-date the IAS has funded three philosophy workshops and one of its inaugural themes, Saving Humans, has a strong emphasis on engagement with stakeholders (particularly NGOs and policymakers) and dovetails with Global Ethics. Nurturing and expanding such connections will allow the department to effectively strategise impact and to prioritise areas where impact is likely to be most significant.

To support this strategy and enable impact we will develop robust **mechanisms**, including:

- Giving guidance on ways to achieve impact in one-to-one sessions with the Director of Research (as well as at College level by research officers and the Director)
- Including impact as a topic in the 'Continuing Profession Education programme'
- Providing funding for impact related activity
- Building expectations of impact into research mentoring, reviews and promotion
- Assessing the potential, possible and likely impact of each member of staff at annual PDRs
- Recognising impact in the Workload Allocation Model (WAM)
- Financial and administrative support for research with clear impact (at College and University level, for instance a Business Engagement Manager is in place)
- Ensuring monitoring, documenting and evidence procedures at all levels (working with the R&KT office and the Research Impact Officer and in line with the joint impact strategy of the College of Arts and Law and the College of Social Sciences)
- Monitoring best practice, evidence-gathering and revisiting strategy throughout the period
- Considering impact in new appointments, study leave awards and promotion.

d. Relationship to case studies

The Department has a tradition of supporting work which has impact, shown, for instance, in its embracing of the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics as a core part of its profile in 2006. Moreover, connections with stakeholders have been consistently valued as has work of impact, outreach and engagement. Widdows' Case Study is an exemplar of the first type of impact; shaping and influencing policy making nationally and internationally, while Sorell's Case Study is an exemplar of type 5, shaping and improving the delivery of security services. As discussed in detail in the environment template, the Department, School, College and University are serious about supporting excellent research, research which produces excellent outputs and impact. Accordingly, the expectation that all staff have impact appropriate to their area is systematically built into practice, using the mechanisms detailed above - which are being further developed in light of the experiences of this REF-cycle. For instance, all PDRs will consider impact, and the WAM will take previous and planned impact activity into account. This is to formalise and develop a strategy already in place to support impact. For instance, during his time at Birmingham Sorell (2006-2012) had no administrative duties and the lightest of teaching loads. This shows a significant investment in impact for a unit the size of this department (it effectively amounted to a twelfth of the department's resources directed to impact). The intention is that the support given to the development of these case studies will be formalised and rolled out across the Department, resulting in research excellence that derives impact from excellent and valuable outputs.