

Impact template (REF3a)

Institution: University of Essex

Unit of Assessment: 32 - Philosophy

a. Context

Philosophy at Essex prioritises two types of impact: consultation and training for healthcare and legal practitioners; and informing the regional and national public about philosophy and its history. Our two primary impacts are a result of our research focus in Medical Humanities, Moral and Political Philosophy, and Modern European Thought. We achieve this impact through collaboration with clinical psychiatrists, healthcare institutions, government and legislative agencies, national news and cultural media, and local venues. Our impact activities improve the practices of healthcare and legal specialists and thereby benefit both the practitioners and their clients and patients. This medical humanities impact also contributes to policy-making discussions concerning mental health legislation, and to public debate about mental capacity cases. Our public engagement contributes cultural capital to the lives of our non-academic audiences.

Our medical humanities and moral and political philosophy impact is led by the *Essex Autonomy Project (EAP)*. The EAP has developed partnerships with a range of non-academic partners concerned with the creation and implementation of mental capacity legislation in the UK. The EAP has worked with the Department of Health, the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital, West Midlands Police, Brighton and Hove Council, the Judge of the Court of Protection, and the Office of the Public Guardian.

- EAP research influences public policy discussion through closed-door meetings with policy makers organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Medical Research Council. The research is also disseminated to policy makers via the EAP website.
- The EAP also influences public debate through national news media. *The Guardian* has covered the EAP's research in relation to high-profile court cases, and members of the EAP team have contributed articles and vodcasts commenting on controversial cases concerning the Mental Capacity Act.
- The EAP has established a Summer School, which trains frontline health and social care practitioners and members of the Police force who conduct mental capacity assessments. Thanks to revenue from workshop fees, the EAP training school is now self-sustaining.

Our research in Modern European Thought achieves impact through public engagement and dissemination, informing the national and international public of the history of philosophy and enriching non-academic cultural understanding. Our local non-academic audiences are reached through Philosophy Cafés held in Colchester. On a nationally and international scale, impact from our Modern and European Thought research is achieved primarily through radio work. Over the course of the REF period we have developed contact with BBC Radio producers, and Radio broadcasts are now our primary form of public engagement. These broadcasts are used to inform the UK public about our research in Modern European Thought, and include Béatrice Han-Pile's appearances on Radio Four's *In Our Time* programme. Han-Pile's appearances have received extensive complimentary feedback from listeners worldwide.

b. Approach to impact

We take two approaches to achieving impact. The impact of our research on non-academic audiences, including increased cultural capital, is achieved through **partnerships with national media**. The impact of our medical humanities research on practitioners is achieved through **establishing connections with specialist institutions**, whose members are trained and informed by our research.

During the REF period the UoA has developed multiple contacts with radio producers working for the BBC. These contacts have been developed thanks to Béatrice Han-Pile's work with BBC Radio Four's *In Our Time*. Han-Pile's academic reputation led to an invitation from *In Our Time*'s production team to talk about Schopenhauer (2009). The success of that programme, and particularly the good feedback from listeners specific to Han-Pile's contribution, has resulted in two more invitations during the impact period and an invitation for future appearances on the show. Each of these programmes had an audience of approximately 8-9 million and Han-Pile received a

considerable amount of positive email feedback from non-specialist auditors originating both from the UK and from various countries, including Germany, Italy, the USA, New Zealand, Canada, and the Vatican. Contacts with BBC Radio producers have also been developed thanks to the reputation of the EAP. Wayne Martin provided consultancy for an *Inside the Ethics Committee* broadcast and participated in a follow-up documentary in 2011. He was also interviewed on several occasions by BBC Radio Four and the BBC World Service.

Our research in medical humanities is disseminated to the general public through coverage in national newspapers such as *The Guardian*. Our medical humanities research has been covered on three separate occasions in the REF period. This form of research dissemination is supported by the University's Communications Office, with whom we produce press releases to encourage coverage of our research.

Our other means for research dissemination is secured through partnerships with local venues for public lectures and seminars. Our Philosophy Café, for instance, was organised in partnership with Loofers in Colchester, which hosted a series of public talks on such topics as 'The Care of the Self', 'Being True' and 'Why do we need love in our lives?' Each talk was followed by direct and lively engagement with a non-specialist audience. The series was fully booked and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Our lecture series use feedback data collected via audience questionnaires to build a database of interested research users, identify impact, and improve future events. Events such as the Philosophy Café are supported by the UoA's administrative staff, by the Faculty Research and Business Partnerships Managers and by PhD students invited to aid the organisation of the events. Such events are also supported by Essex's institutional funding for impact activities. The Philosophy Café, for instance, was made possible by an internal Knowledge Transfer Innovation Fund grant (£1,500).

Our connections with specialist institutions include close collaborative work with clinical psychiatrists at the Maudsley Hospital and the Avalon Ward (London). Wayne Martin and Fabian Freyenhagen were named honorary researchers at the Maudsley in 2010 and since then have regularly participated in clinical interviews with psychiatric patients and influenced the practice of specialist external partners.

We also inform policy discussion through *closed door meetings with influential public policy representatives*, including the Lord Justice Munby, the Public Guardian Martin John, the Research Director of the *Mental Health Foundation* and several judges and members of the Department of Health and of the Social Care Institute of Excellence. One output of these round tables, developed by our Essex Autonomy Project, was a framework outline for the revision of the Code of Practice of the Deprivations of Liberty Safeguards.

This framework outline for revision of the Code of Practice, as well as other technical documents informed by our research, are disseminated to specialist research users via the *EAP virtual environment presence*. The main EAP website is an open resource including reports, green papers, and training tools concerning autonomy and public practice. The website has had 30,000 unique visitors within the REF period. Our virtual environment presence also includes a YouTube channel that currently hosts 6 recordings of lectures and talks (viewed over 900 times within the REF period), and an e-learning EAP Summer School website which provides teaching resources, discussion forums and self-assessment tools. The EAP online presence is supported by staff employed by the Project, including a Senior Research Officer, an Administrative Assistant, and a Virtual Learning Environment Technician.

Our final means for collaborating with specialist practitioners is training frontline professionals engaged in capacity assessment. From 2010 onwards Martin and Freyenhagen took the lead in a series of training events, including a presentation at the Royal College of Medicine, the training of Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCAs) and of social workers associated with several councils across the UK, and the teaching of a Maudsley Masterclass on mental capacity. All EAP events use standardised feedback forms to collect impact-related data. This data is collated by EAP administrative staff and fed to the Faculty Impact Officer who helps the Unit to store feedback data and identify impact. Such data is then used to strategically inform both research and future training events so as to reinforce overall impact.

Staff in the UoA receive institutional support in the form of research time buy-outs and dedicated

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office space and facilities for impact projects (for instance, the EAP office). The help from the University's Research and Enterprise Office, in particular from the Faculty Research and Business Partnerships Managers and the Faculty Impact Officer, is invaluable in assisting with the drafting and reviewing of grant proposals, such as those of the EAP, and the recording of impact-related feedback. Advice from the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) and the University's Research Committee also helps us to focus on research with significant impact potential.

c. Strategy and plans

Our goal for future impact is to build on our current successes by developing new impact from our specialist collaborations and from our media contacts. In this respect we are developing two pathways for impact in Medical Humanities:

- Our strength in the field is already demonstrated by the success of the EAP project. Building on previous collaboration with researchers from the Maudsley Institute, we are developing a research bid in the field of bio-ethics on '*Self-Representation and Recognition in Anorexic refusal*' (Martin/Freyenhagen). This will involve the close examination of first person reports by anorexics and fresh collaboration with practitioners from the Avalon Ward, which specialises in the treatment of anorexia.
- We are also preparing a project on '*The Ethics of Powerlessness: The Theological Virtues Today*' (Han-Pile/Watts). In the wake of the controversy surrounding the Liverpool Care Pathway, this project is intended to clarify key issues and concepts in palliative care in order to help policy makers provide new guidance on end-of-life care and plans. This research will reach new user groups, in particular policy makers, nurses and professionals in palliative care units.

Building on the success of the Essex Autonomy Project, we will also extend the project beyond the life of the original research grants through an expansion of the Autonomy Summer School. The success of the School's pilot workshops has established the EAP summer school as a self-financing sustainable institution within the UoA, funding itself through fee revenue for workshops delivered to frontline practitioners in health and social care. The Summer School will continue to grow by adding to its website's resources and online training tools, organising a greater number of consultancies and training sessions for existing and new users. This also will involve applying for further research funding in the area. The AHRC has invited the EAP to bid for a further round of public-policy research funding for 2014; the team is also expanding its collaboration with the Eating Disorders Section of the Royal College of Psychiatry to bid for funding in support of the project on Anorexic refusal.

Finally, we will use the media contacts we have established in this REF period to increase the number of our media appearances in future. Our goal is to increase the rate of our dissemination of research in *Modern European Thought*, building on the successes of previous media dissemination and particularly our Radio success. *Inter alia* we have another *In Our Time* participation in the pipeline and are exploring further avenues for dissemination.

d. Relationship to case studies

Both of our primary approaches to impact – media partnerships and collaboration with specialist institutions – have been used to achieve the impact detailed in the case studies.

Our impact on the mental capacity assessments conducted by practitioners in psychiatry, social work, and health care was achieved through two particular ways of collaborating with external partners: workshops on mental capacity, attended by social and health care workers, psychiatrists, lawyers and police officers; and the Essex Autonomy Project's Virtual Learning Environment, also used to inform the work of frontline specialists with EAP research.

Our impact on legal debate about best-interests decision-making has been achieved both through building external partnerships with specialist institutions and through media dissemination of our research. This case study explains how EAP has established connections with influential public policy groups, including policy makers and senior UK judicial figures responsible for guiding the implementation of the Mental Health Act. EAP closed-door roundtable discussions, and the online provision and dissemination of technical guidance documents and green papers, have influenced debate on mental health policy involving representatives of the UK judiciary. EAP has also contributed to public debate of these issues through media dissemination, including contribution to *The Guardian* and to BBC Radio Four programmes.