

<p>Institution: Oxford Brookes University</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: 32; Philosophy</p> <hr/> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>Philosophy at Oxford Brookes University is based in the Department of History, Philosophy and Religion, which was formed in 2011 as part of the new Faculty structure for the university. The department sits within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science. In 2008 Philosophy made its first RAE submission. Over the last five years we have built upon that submission and have taken considerable steps towards securing the reputation of Oxford Brookes as an internationally recognised centre for the philosophical study of Human Nature and Behaviour.</p> <p>In the RAE2008 submission we set down our strategy for making the UoA “home to a group of scholars making an impact in the philosophical investigation of human nature”. As a result of this commitment, we have focused our attention on producing high quality research outputs, and have increased the number of research students and staff. We have also gone beyond these aims in shaping our distinctive approach to philosophical research where excellence in research does not exclude the possibilities of public engagement, but proves to be beneficial both for partners and for ourselves. As such we have extended our work with public bodies and the wider research community, and developed research collaborations. It is this extended vision of philosophical activity that informs and shapes our research plans for the next five years.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>As a small unit in comparison to other Philosophy departments in the UK, we have sought to maximise our connections with the wider academic community. Through fostering networks and collaborative projects with philosophers at other UK and worldwide institutions we have been able to establish a strong national and international reputation for innovative approaches to the discipline. Part of this development includes working with wider research communities. As a result, we have worked with museums, professional bodies and policy units, as well as cultivating more traditional research networks (see REF 3a for details).</p> <p>In taking the subject forward, we have built upon the progress made since 2008 by:</p> <p><u>Increasing critical mass</u> (see sections c.i and c.ii);</p> <p><u>Engaging with the wider research community</u> We have achieved this by:</p> <p>(a) Building upon the Human Nature theme through establishing two Faculty wide, interdisciplinary research groups on (i) Human Nature (incorporating all of the unit members submitted here); and (ii) Behaviour Studies (a grouping which includes Sandis, Cain, Clack and Ruben). These groupings have enabled us to attain faculty money for research seminars and workshops. These events included <i>On the Edge: Approaching Religion on the Borders between Disciplines</i> (June 2008); <i>Hegel and Collingwood</i> (May 2009); <i>Faith & Reason</i> (April 2011); <i>Hume on Virtue</i> (May 2012); <i>Criminal Liability & Luck</i> (Nov 2012); <i>Why Hume Matters</i> (May 2013); and a series of bi-annual <i>Philosophy, Religion and Psychotherapy</i> interdisciplinary seminars bringing together philosophers and psychotherapeutic practitioners.</p> <p>The research groups have also supported an established <i>Research Seminar</i> whose speakers have included P. S. Anderson (Oxford), T. Bayne (Manchester), E. Borg (Reading), S. Crawford (Manchester), J. Dancy (Texas), C. Pigden (Otago), C. Rowett (UEA), G. Soldati (Freibourg), T. Stoneham (York), and T. Williamson (Oxford).</p> <p>(b) Moving from organising small events and participating in major conferences to organising and hosting major philosophical events emanating from our research themes. Foremost in these events was the 2010 Royal Institute of Philosophy conference on Human Nature. Resulting from winning a competitive call to host this landmark in the philosophical year, the event attracted speakers and delegates from Australia, USA, New Zealand, Europe, and the UK. This event led to the publication of an edited volume, <i>Human Nature</i>, edited by Sandis and Cain (CUP, 2012).</p>

Environment template (REF5)

Far from being an isolated, one-off event, this conference has cemented a more formal relationship with the *Royal Institute of Philosophy* (RIP), and Brookes is now established as a local branch of the Institute. Under these auspices, we host a series of free public events on *Why Philosophy Matters* at the Ashmolean Museum under: www.history.brookes.ac.uk/more/seminars/philosophy. This programme of monthly lectures, conversations, and annual conferences have become a highlight of the Museum's cultural calendar and is accompanied by freely available podcasts, Twitter (<https://twitter.com/WhyPhilMatters>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WhyPhilosophyMatters?ref=ts&fref=ts>) pages, as well a major series of accessible books under contract with Bloomsbury Academic, thereby securing an even wider reach. The success of the *Why Philosophy Matters* venture has led the Museum to invite us to organise additional events on Cultural Heritage Ethics and Therapeutic Horticulture (see REF 3a).

An equally significant relationship, resulting from the emphasis on Behaviour Studies, has been ongoing with the Institute of Philosophy. This developed from winning an annual competition for a two-day conference held at Senate House, London, on 'Philosophical Accounts of Action 1500-2000' in May 2013. This conference has been accompanied by an ongoing series of fortnightly seminars on the Philosophy of Action inaugurated in 2011 in collaboration with The Queen's College and Torch (www.torch.ox.ac.uk). Speakers have included J. Hyman (Oxford), L. O'Brien (Cork), T. O' Connor (Indiana), and T. Pink (King's College).

Collaboration with the wider philosophical world is thus a vital part of our strategy, and remains essential given the relatively small size of the UoA. A rolling programme of Visiting Fellowships, instituted in 2009, has been vital for ensuring and developing collaborations with international scholars. Oxford Brookes has funded Fellows C. Rowett from UEA (2009, £ 2000 from the Institute of Cultural and Historical Research), A. Laitinen from Jyväskylä (2010, £1500 from Central Faculty Fund), and B. Brenner from Old Dominion, Virginia (2011, £2000 from Oxford Brookes' Wesley Centre). Home institutions have also funded scholars to visit us: B. Perez, University of Valencia (2010), and E. Millgram, Utah (2013).

Publishing High Quality Outputs

The cultivation of this lively academic environment has contributed to the continued development of excellence in research. In addition to the work included as part of individual submissions, staff completed three monographs (one of which has been translated into Korean and Spanish) and twelve edited volumes. Another seven monographs are under contract with publishers including Polity, SUNY, and Bloomsbury.

Over the next five years we intend to build upon the progress we have made since 2008. As then, we shall continue to prioritise the production of high-quality research. To this end, we will be using a combination of QR, Faculty and Central University Funding, and as we grow in size are also planning a number of bids to external research bodies. Indeed, bids are already in preparation to the ESRC, AHRC, and Leverhulme. Sandis is Co-Investigator of a bid on Human Behaviour to the *Wellcome Trust* with K. Deligiorgi (PI, Sussex) and E. Mayr (Oxford), result pending. O'Brien and Sandis are in the process of finalising a large collaborative bid (to the EU) with Gi. D'Oro (Keele) on *Understanding Others*. Boulter is co-investigator on a bid to Templeton with D. Oderberg (PI, Reading) on Scholastic Aristotelianism and the Sciences, and Clack is seeking a Leverhulme Senior Research Award for her project on Failure and Loss.

As well as using such monies to support the publication of excellent and innovative research, we are also committed to growing our research community. We seek to do this in two main ways: first, we are building our research student base and exploring ways in which we might fund these (e.g. Sandis has put in a collaborative bid with R. Harper to the Microsoft Research PhD Scholarship Programme: <http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/collaboration/global/apply-europe.aspx>.) We also intend to build upon the success of our visiting fellowship programme, and envisage introducing longer-term fellowships to deepen the kind of collaborative projects to which we have a proven commitment. The role of collaboration with fellow philosophers, but also with those from other disciplines, professions, and communities, is an important element of the philosophy at Brookes is developing (as detailed in REF 3a). Our plan for the future is to ensure that we use such

connections to further promote the distinctive flavour of philosophical research at Oxford Brookes.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The policy of the University is to employ research active staff with evident research potential so as to maximise long-term sustainability of research. The UoA has benefited from increased staffing coupled with buoyant undergraduate recruitment and a steady increase in doctoral completions. Support and development of new researchers is given special priority with significant input provided to enhance research potential and capacity.

The membership of the UoA has increased from 4.8 to 6.3 since 2008. A key element of our strategy is to appoint Early Career Research Fellows who in their progression to lecturer status can show a proven track record in research: hence O'Brien was initially appointed as an Early Career Research Fellow before progressing to a permanent lectureship and subsequently to a senior lectureship. We have recently appointed Sophia Vasalou as a Research Fellow. Her research in the area of moral psychology and Continental philosophy complements the research interests of the unit, especially those of Sandis and Clack. The additional appointment of Professor David-Hillel Ruben, whose research on action and its explanation (including prior publications in volumes edited by Sandis) is closely connected to the themes of our two research groups, provides expertise that is invaluable to junior colleagues and research students.

All these appointments show our commitment to developing philosophical research both through the fostering of those in the early stages of their careers and in the employment of established scholars to support and extend the unit's future plans for research bidding and collaborative networking. This strategy reflects university and faculty commitments to research. New academic staff are supported by a programme called "Your First Three Years". As part of this programme, the Research and Business Development Office (RBDO) run sessions relating to research support activities, bidding for external funding and running research projects. Staff at the outset of their research careers undertake Research Management Training course on completion of which they are eligible for up to £3000 to support their research development.

Oxford Brookes is one of the first universities to be awarded Investors in People Gold standard, and this achievement is reflected in the commitment the university makes to career progression for its staff (<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/ocslid/iip/iip.html>). Established Philosophy staff have been promoted in recognition of their research achievements: so Clack was promoted to Professor in 2009, and Sandis was promoted first to Reader in 2010 and then to Professor in 2013. As part of the Research Planning Process all staff within two years of promotion to Reader or Professor are identified and given guidance by Mentors and the Research Lead. Staff are also supported through a system of study leave recently been introduced at Faculty level. Staff can apply for funding to support a reduced teaching load, or for a full semester free from teaching. Five members of staff have benefited from this competitive scheme so far.

The department funds one national conference per member of staff per year and staff are entitled to bid for up to £400 from the Faculty to fund an international conference or other research trip. Additional funds (e.g. to help with book completion, conference and seminar organisation) are available competitively from both Faculty and Department: each member of the UoA has benefited from this scheme.

ii. Research students

The vitality of any research community depends not just upon staff but also on research students, and currently there are 4 research students in the UofA though another 5 students are undertaking research in cognate subjects with Philosophy staff acting as second supervisors (History 3, Education, and Health and Social Care).

Two full research scholarships (Vilistere & Zardai) were funded from the QR income of RAE2008, receiving an additional research expense stipend (£150 per year for full-time students and £75 per

year for part-time students) as well as opportunities to bid for travel money for conferences.

All research students are members of the Graduate College, led by the PVC for Research and Knowledge Exchange. The College is student-focused and oversees all matters related to programmes and student experience. Research students are represented on the Graduate College Steering Committee, University and Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Committees and University and Faculty Research Degrees Committees. In addition to their supervisory teams, research students are supported by Faculty and Departmental postgraduate research tutors who oversee their progression. The University's Graduate Office provides central administrative support for all research students during the course of their programme from enquiry, admissions and enrolment to conferment of the degree.

Postgraduate student training supports the 'researcher development framework', which is delivered both centrally, through the Graduate College (supported by the Graduate Office), and at Faculty level. Graduate College induction afternoons followed by networking events are run twice a year. Students are introduced to the training diary / planner, advised on training needs analysis and given information about training opportunities.

A programme of Graduate College training events provides opportunities to develop and practice generic, transferable and career skills. The University careers service runs research student-focussed careers events. All research students who wish to be involved in any teaching activities undertake a compulsory 'first steps in teaching' run by the Oxford Centre for Staff Learning and Development (OCSLD) supported by Faculty-specific preparation for teaching and have the opportunity to undertake an associate teachers course which upon successful completion leads to Associate Membership of the Higher Education Academy.

The Graduate College runs an annual virtual research conference, which culminates in a 'live' poster presentation event supported by a guest lecture with a 'careers' focus and networking reception. Research students have access to a wide range of other training courses such as those offered by OCSLD, including, for example, course in leadership and management, personal development and modern languages. IT skills can be developed through courses run by Computer Services and the University Library offers training in bibliography and electronic notation systems. There is a programme of networking events enabling students from across the University to meet and share ideas and information about their research.

In Philosophy, we take seriously the university's commitment to supporting students as researchers, and take a proactive approach to their professional development. They are supported by a Philosophy graduate student 'work-in-progress' seminar and a postgraduate reading group that meets weekly during the semester. In addition, the Department of History, Philosophy and Religion holds a twice-yearly symposium in which research students present their work for critical comments. There is also an informal departmental writers' workshop to improve writing style and structure.

We encourage students to send material for publication, and this strategy led to Beckley publishing a monograph, *Who Holds the Moral High Ground?* (Imprint Academic 2009); Zardai publishing 'Two Ways to Describe Actions' (*Elpis* 2012/2, 96: 97-106); and two further students publishing in peer-refereed journals. Collaborating with supervisors on research bids is also important, and Vilistere (with support from Sandis) obtained a grant from the MIND Association for £800 for conference organisation. Fisher-Hoyrem was appointed to a permanent academic post in Norway (2013), while Zardai was appointed a RIP Visiting Lecturer in Schools in January 2013 and is assistant editor for *Philosophy of Action* at *PhilPapers* (since spring 2013).

We are aware of how it is increasingly difficult for postgraduate students to attain funding, so part of our future strategy to maintain the development of our postgraduate student base is to secure appropriate streams of funding for bursaries. Sandis has therefore completed a bid to Microsoft Research for a full PhD scholarship on the topic of collective communicative action (awaiting result in Feb 2014), and we intend to develop similar bids in the future.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

An excellent infrastructure to support grant bidding has been developed in the new Faculty. The Research and Business Development Office (RBDO) and the Faculty Research Grants panel, supported by a Faculty administrative Research Team, provide administrative support and critical reviews of applications. RBDO also works closely with the Directorate of Learning Resources on support for research data management and research information – the latter being supported by the recent purchase of a Current Research Information System (CRIS). Learning Resources also maintains the University's repository 'RADAR' which is the multi-purpose online "resource bank" for Oxford Brookes, enabling the University to showcase its research outputs to the wider world. RBDO promotes the university's research capabilities to prospective partners in industry, commerce and the public sector.

The Faculty Grants Officer and administrative team provide focused support for grant-bidding in the humanities and social sciences, and the Faculty Grants Panel (of which Cain and Clack are members) provides expert commentary on bids. A number of seminars and informal group sessions have been organised to develop grant-bidding expertise, including a blue-skies thinking session devoted to imaginative thinking in framing ideas for grants.

Philosophy has benefited from the university's approach to QR expenditure across the census period. The University top-slices QR in order to underpin its research support, but also to operate a variety of funding schemes and research leave schemes on an annual basis. Within the Faculty, devolved funding is used to support the Events Fund, and Research Leave Scheme. Across the census period, our research groupings have received Faculty support, receiving £1500 per year per grouping to support their activities. In addition, the Faculty Research Fund awarded a grant of £983 to Sandis towards a research assistant for *Philosophy of Action: An Anthology* (Wiley-Blackwell), and the University's *Institute for Historical and Cultural Research* provided pump-prime funding of £1000 to establish Boulter & Sandis' *Philosophers in Depth* series in 2009.

In addition to benefiting from this institutional support, we have been involved in several successful collaborative awards which supported our research activity and promoted community engagement with philosophy. Support from a number of important philosophical organisations enabled us to showcase our work as well as to develop new collaborations for research and public engagement projects. The team successfully gained the support of the Royal Institute of Philosophy in 2009 for conference organisation. A local branch of the RIP, we are supported by them for an annual programme of events. The MIND Association supported a conference on 'Strawson on Individuals' (2011), while the Institute of Philosophy also supported the development of conference activity ('Philosophical Accounts of Action 1500-2000', London, 2012). Support was received from the *British Society for the Philosophy of Religion* for a lecture by Professor Tim Chappell at Oxford Brookes in November 2012.

Members of the UoA have also collaborated on research bids with other scholars from other disciplines and institutions. Clack was Co-Investigator with Kathryn Ecclestone for the AHRC/ESRC seminar series 'Changing Notions of the Human Subject: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Emotional Well-being and Social Justice in Education Policy and Practice' (2008) for which £15000 was awarded (details of this award are lodged with UoA 25 Education). Sandis was involved in a number of European research collaborations which have been supported by the Spanish Ministry, the NOMOS Network for Applied Philosophy and the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

As the mentoring provided to our students suggests, the team takes seriously its responsibilities to the profession.

i) External Examining

A number of the team have been involved in examining research degrees reflecting their research expertise. **Clack** has examined eight PhD theses for Edinburgh (2011), Stirling (2011, 2012), Winchester (2009, two in 2010), St Mary's University College (2011) and Middlesex University

(2012) in the areas of philosophy of religion, psychoanalysis and feminist theology. **O' Brien** has examined an MPhil for Keele University in the area of pan-psychism (2012), while **Sandis** has examined two MPhils in the Philosophy of Action for King's College, London (2010 & 2012) and viewed a Doctoral Thesis (on free will) for the University of Girona.

ii) Fellowships, Advisory Panels, Editorial Positions etc.

Visiting Fellowships:

O'Brien has an on-going research relationship with Birmingham University where he has been Honorary Research Fellow since 2009. **Sandis** holds a number of fellowships with other institutions and is Research Associate, *Waterloo Institute for Hellenic Studies* (USA) (2009-present), Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts (2008-present) and Visiting Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies (2009).

Advisory Panels, Refereeing, and Honours:

Several members of the team hold advisory positions that shape the disciplines they represent:

Clack holds a number of advisory positions reflecting her expertise in Philosophy of Religion. She is an *Advisory Panel Member* for the AHRC-funded network, 'Philosophy and Religious Practices'. She is also a member of an AHRC funded network, 'Living with Dying'. Since July 2008 she has been an Executive Board Member for the journal *Feminist Theology*, and is an editorial board member for the journal *Ars Disputandi*.

O'Brien is an Assessor for the Associate Award and Fellowship award of the Philosophy Pathways programme (www.philosophypathways.com). He is also an Advisor on the AHRC's strategic research themes and was guest editor of *Philosophica* for journal's special issue on 'Epistemology of Testimony' (2008).

Sandis is Associate Editor for *Philosophy in Review* (since 2012) and *Europe's Journal of Psychology* (since Jan 2013). He is the Philosophy of Action Editor for *PhilPapers* (since 2009) and a Section Editor for the free open-access journal *Ergo*. He is Permanent Council Member (since 2005) and Honorary Secretary (since 2012) of the *British Postgraduate Philosophy Association*. He is also on the editorial board of the *Bulletin of the Hegel Society of Great Britain* (since 2009) and *Philosophical Writings* (since 2005). He has also acted as philosophical advisor for several episodes of Radio 4's *In Our Time*, *The Moral Maze*, and *Night Waves*, as well as a BBC programme on *The History of the Brain*.

Members of the UoA are actively involved in reviewing articles for academic journals, publishers, as well as grant applications for Research Councils:

Boulter referees regularly for *Biology and Philosophy* and *Philosophical Quarterly*.

Cain referees for AHRC grant applications and numerous journals including *Mind*, *Mind and Language*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Dialectica*, and *Philosophical Papers*.

Clack is a regular reviewer for Ashgate, Polity, Routledge, Palgrave Macmillan and Bloomsbury. She has also acted as an external reviewer for Readership (May 2012) and Professorial (June 2013) appointments for St Mary's University College, Twickenham.

O'Brien referees for *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophica*, *Critica*, *The European Legacy* (Sage), *Erkenntnis*, *Sophia*, *Logical Analysis and History of Philosophy*, and *Philosophia*. He also reviews manuscripts for Oneworld, Mellen Press, Polity, and Routledge.

Sandis has refereed many publishers including Yale, CUP, Wiley-Blackwell, Routledge, Bloomsbury, and Polity, and over thirty journals including *MIND*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Philosophical Explorations*, and *Philosophical Psychology*. He has assessed research applications to the *Leverhulme Trust* (2011) and the *Mind Association*

(2012), is an advisor/evaluator for the Keele research project 'Collingwood and the Human Sciences' (2011), and has fulfilled a similar role on a professorial promotion at Duquesne University (2011).

iii) Collaborations with scholars from other institutions:

An important way in which the UoA remains sustainable is through fostering collaborations with other scholars in other institutions:

Clack has a long research collaboration with B. R. Clack (University of San Diego) with whom she co-authored *The Philosophy of Religion: A Critical Introduction* (1998/2008) and 'The Philosophy of Religion in an Age of Terror: *What Is To Be Done?*' (Religion Compass, March 2008).

She collaborated with K. Ecclestone (University of Birmingham) on the area of wellbeing including organising the 2008 ESRC seminar series, 'Changing Notions of the Human Subject: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Emotional Well-being and Social Justice in Education Policy and Practice'.

Clack was an invited participant at a week long, HEA-funded, interdisciplinary Convivium held on Papa Westray in July 2013 to consider 'Education, Professionalism and the Academy', and is working with fellow participants H. Harris (Edinburgh) and J. Macnaughton (Durham) on 'Vocation and Professionalism in Philosophy, Theology and Medical Humanities'.

A recent collaboration has been formed with L. Livesey (Ruskin College Oxford) and K. Clayton-Hathway (Fawcett Society) on 'Feminist Cultures: Academia and Activism'. An interdisciplinary one-day symposium (September 2012) was funded by Faculty, and brought together feminist scholars and activists. It was the first of a series of events to develop a network, with further events planned for 2013/14.

A more recent collaboration is developing with C. McKinney, a social psychotherapist and church minister from Melbourne, Australia. Clack and McKinney's work on disappointment and loss was presented at the European Society for Women in Theology and Religion conference (Dresden 2013). Out of this research they are developing a larger project on conversational methods for philosophical theology.

O' Brien is co-author with A. Bailey (University of Wolverhampton) of the *Continuum Companion to Hume*, 2012, and *Sick men's Dreams: Hume's Critique of Religious Belief* (Springer, 2013).

He is also co-author with L. Russell (RMN) (Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust) of 'Benjamin Rush' (4000 words) in *Dictionary of Early American Philosophers*, ed. J. Shook, Thoemmes-Continuum, 2012.

Sandis collaborated with T. O'Connor on the edited collection *A Companion to the Philosophy of Action* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010). He edited *Hegel on Action* with Arto Laitinen (Palgrave, 2010) and *Reasons and Causes* with G. D'Oro (Palgrave, 2013) and is now collaborating with J. Dancy on an *Anthology to the Philosophy of Action* (Wiley-Blackwell). He has co-authored two published papers with L. Bortolotti & A. Blassime and has participated in the EU funded STILNET working group on Action and Agency chaired by M. Sergot: <http://www.sintelnet.eu/content/action-and-agency>. In 2013 received a Santandar award of £5000 to collaborate with academics from the University of Valencia on the relevance of German Idealism to contemporary philosophies of action and art.

iv) Invited keynotes and lectures

Collectively, the team have given over 70 keynote and invited lectures in both the UK, the EU, the US, and Australasia, at prestigious events such as Royal Institute of Philosophy conferences and public lectures (Boulter, Cain, Clack, O'Brien), Oxford Think Week (Clack, Sandis), the Battle of Ideas (Clack, Sandis), the American Philosophical Association (Sandis), the World Zoroastrian Association (Sandis), LSE and Oxford Forums for European Philosophy (Clack, Sandis), the French Institute (Boulter, Sandis), and the Oxford Moral Philosophy Seminar (Sandis).