

Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University

Unit of Assessment: 32

a. Context

The primary non-academic user groups, beneficiaries and audiences for research in Philosophy at MMU have been professionals and their patients in the healthcare sector and teachers and their students in education. Committed to promoting the value of philosophical literacy, and facilitating an on-going review of how we identify and conduct ourselves as professionals, EPG's public engagement activities have contributed to current public debates concerning the 'Ethics of Professional Practices' and, in particular, individual, managerial and corporate judgement and decision-making. The aim has been to raise levels of self-awareness, self-esteem and agency by introducing alternative ways of thinking into professional practice, thereby alleviating stress and alienation, and helping to improve not only individuals' professional well-being but enhancing society's quality-of-life experience more broadly. Other beneficiaries of EPG's public engagement activity have included local residents and community groups, museums and galleries, as well as schools. One major impact has been an increase in popular understanding of philosophical matters and methods (and how they relate to broader contemporary social and political issues, as well as everybody's individual lives) through public lectures, the organization of seminars and conferences, and the provision of expert evaluative analysis.

With regard to EPG's work with local schools, the aim has been to reinvigorate the curriculum by promoting philosophical engagement and critical thinking in order to optimise pupils' intellectual development, and to generate a better understanding of the complexity of key contemporary ethical issues such as gender equality, animal rights and welfare. EPG's public engagement has served to stress the positive impact of thought, analysis and self-reflection on both individual and societal well-being and prosperity. By increasing the individual's awareness of his or her environment, and their own active role within it, philosophy poses a challenge to routine procedure and by-rote knowledge, and creates room for significant, wide-ranging innovation.

b. Approach to impact

Despite the difficulty of identifying and targeting non-academic audiences for highly theoretical philosophical research, EPG owns a tradition of public engagement that has resulted in clear benefits for society, culture and education. Garfield (retired 2010), Crome and Loughlin have visited local schools (Lady Barn House School, Cheadle; Matthew Moss High School, Rochdale; Parris Wood Sixth Form, Didsbury; Nevill Road Junior School, Stockport) to champion the integration of philosophical thought and engagement in standard curricular teaching. On the basis of MMU-funded research undertaken in 2002 on 'Text-Based Teaching and Learning' (published in the HEA journal *Discourse* in 2004) Crome and Garfield devised a set of specific guidelines designed to facilitate and foster the introduction of a range of philosophically informed teaching and learning styles, emphasising in particular critical analysis and self-reflection. Meanwhile, through the [Human Sciences Seminar](#) (HSS), an international research seminar series established in the mid-1970s, EPG has provided a public forum for intellectual debate in the Humanities, enabling both researchers and laypeople to relate their work and everyday concerns to topical issues of the day in a philosophically informed manner.

Since the introduction of the impact agenda in 2010 EPG have increased their public engagement and communal outreach activities by drawing on their experience of running the HSS and of working with local schools to promote philosophical enquiry beyond the academy. In February 2010 Hodge and Somers-Hall (2009-12) gave public talks on 'Philosophy and the Poetics of Space' at Urbis, the Manchester museum of popular culture and city life, which resulted in contributions to the [Urbis Research Forum Review](#). Sinclair presented a public talk at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool as part of the 2010 '[Philosophy in the City Festival](#)', demonstrating how philosophical aesthetics informs and illuminates artistic practices, as well as popular attitudes towards art. In 2011 Khandker gave a talk on Continental philosophical approaches to the question of animal rights as part of a public cross-disciplinary workshop at the Natural History Museum in

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London, entitled 'Unruly Creatures: The Art and Politics of the Animal', which was attended by an audience of over 100 ([Unruly Creatures](#)) and followed by two 'sequel' events ('[Unruly Creatures 2](#)' and '[Unruly Creatures 3](#)') in 2012 and 2013. In 2012 Hutchinson lectured on 'Philosophy, Evidence-Based Practice and Social Work' to an audience of social workers in the School of Social Work at Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland. Both Khandker and Hodge contributed public lectures to the 'Ethical Issues in Humanities and Social Science Research' strand of the 2012-13 [Annual Research Programme](#) of the Institute of Humanities and Social Science Research (IHSSR) at MMU. In 2013 Bergqvist delivered a lecture and a workshop on 'Particularism and Compassion' to the Collaborative Research Programme Initiation and Initial Training Activities at Diakonhemmet University College (DUC) in Oslo. In the same year she organized a workshop entitled 'Compassion and Nursing' at the Think About Health network annual summer conference, '[Compassion Fatigue: Changing Culture in the NHS](#)', Birmingham. Hems has published five philosophical novellas, exploring canonical philosophical issues in popular fictional form ([Hems Philosophical Fiction](#)).

Since 2010 Loughlin's work has featured in numerous local radio broadcasts (BBC Radio Stoke; Liverpool Radio City), and in 2010 he appeared together with Hutchinson on BBC Radio Stoke to promote a 2010 conference at MMU Cheshire, '[Where's Your Argument?](#)' Loughlin, whose work is the subject of one of our impact case studies, has engaged health-care practitioners both through keynote addresses at professional conventions and publications in non-philosophical outlets. Loughlin's case also shows how public engagement and impact generation have been taken into account in MMU-internal recruitment and research management. Submitted with UoA12 (Health Studies) in RAE2008, Loughlin joined EPG in 2011, allowing professional ethics to crystallise as EPG's Public Engagement specialism. Crome and Hutchinson in particular have benefited from the synergies between their independently-articulated research interests and especially Loughlin's expertise and experience in combining high-calibre philosophical research with impactful public engagement.

As a university MMU has a history of championing public engagement. A founding partner of the 2008 Manchester Beacon for Public Engagement project (funded by RCUK, HEFCE and the Wellcome Trust), our corporate approach complies with RCUK's Concordat for Engaging the Public in Research, and we are also a signatory to the [NCCPE's Manifesto for Public Engagement](#). However, it is more recent investments in new project management and public engagement posts at both university and IHSSR level that have significantly increased the public visibility and potential impact of our work. Since February 2013 EPG have been assisted by the newly appointed IHSSR Project Manager in advertising events taking place at MMU through a variety of social media (e.g. Facebook and Twitter), increasing public awareness and attendance, and EPG staff are also making a major contribution to the IHSSR's newly inaugurated 'Humanities in Public' programme. Notably also, all of EPG's forays into Public Engagement have had financial IHSSR support. In 2012-13 Bergqvist, Hutchinson and Loughlin were awarded £10,000 to develop their work with healthcare professionals. Hems was awarded teaching relief in 2012 to begin a project of teaching philosophy in prisons, and in 2011 Hutchinson and Loughlin received £6,000 to support a series of three consecutive workshops on '[Evidence, Value and Practice](#)'.

c. Strategy and plans

MMU's new research strategy identifies public engagement and impact generation as core elements of research and makes the involvement of non-academic stakeholders and research 'end users' a formal requirement. Impact capture and evaluation must be built into every new project design and are subject to scrutiny in the internal peer review process. Impact is to be promoted long before the dissemination of research outcomes, e.g. through the establishment of an advisory panel that includes potential end users, as well as a website facilitating a regular communication flow via newsletters, blogs and social media. At Faculty level, IHSSR has responded to the new strategy by requiring all bids for internal funding to address the question of impact potential and by attributing increased weight to potential impact in evaluating funding bids and researcher categories. (Impactful public engagement is now treated as equivalent to producing 3* or 4* research, and funding and teaching relief are offered accordingly.) In addition, IHSSR has begun to offer specific public engagement training for all staff, including professional media training and

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workshops on impact capture and evaluation, scholarly entrepreneurialism, knowledge exchange and public-academic partnership building. Additional resources under development include a new institutional research management system and database that will gather and record evidence of public engagement and impact generation.

Among EPG staff the main objective is to develop our professional ethics specialism while also extending effective public engagement to other areas of the UoA where potentially impactful activities exist but have not yet been developed on a systematic and fully sustainable basis, e.g. prison pedagogy, Philosophy and the Poetics of Space, Animal Rights, and our series of French Theory workshops at Manchester's International Anthony Burgess Centre ([French Theory Workshop 1: Klossowski](#) and [French Theory Workshop 2: Nancy](#)). For another emerging specialism – 'Women in Philosophy' – we will make use of the platform provided by the IHSSR's new [Humanities in Public \(HiP\) programme](#). Most central to our objective of developing our expertise in professional ethics expertise has of course been the recruitment of relevant new staff (Hems, Khandker and Bergqvist). Bergqvist's expertise in moral and practical philosophy in particular clearly chimes with Loughlin's and Hutchinson's. In 2013 Bergqvist initiated a collaborative project *Particularism in Bioethics and Professional Ethics* aimed at healthcare professionals and, in particular, nursing educators with DUC, Oslo as external partner. In November 2013 Bergqvist and Hutchinson will present a nominated MMU Consortium for Applied Research and Professional Education (CARPE) conference panel session on Medical Humanities. (CARPE is an association of European applied science universities, of which MMU is the UK representative.) Crome and Hutchinson are likewise extending their work in this field: Crome will develop his work on event-based pedagogic practices, whereas Hutchinson has started collaborating with STI Healthcare professionals on HIV and shame, with an inaugural workshop scheduled for January 2014.

Having clearly identified our target audiences and stakeholders, and our future research partners, we are working to establish enduring relationships by involving our contacts more actively in our research. Specifically, this will involve building awareness of the work we do, and its utility, as well as promoting active research participation and involvement.

d. Relationship to case studies

Both case studies illustrate our growing public engagement experience and expertise in the field of professional ethics while demonstrating that research in philosophy can be of clear benefit to professional users and their patients/clients/students and indeed have considerable impact on the future trajectory of professional practice and understanding in medicine and education. There is clear evidence of how Loughlin's work has impacted on the attitude of practitioners towards their own practices in the area of medicine. There has been widespread recognition of the impact of this work by professional bodies. Crome and Hutchinson's work shows how what began as a purely theoretical exploration – in particular Hutchinson's work on the emotions – has been taken up and is now in the process of generating impact across various communities and beneficiaries. Both case studies are examples of purposeful philosophical public engagement and provide models of good practice to be emulated and developed by other EPG staff.