

**Institution: University of East Anglia**

**Unit of Assessment: 32 Philosophy**

**a. Context**

The University of East Anglia (UEA) has a long tradition of recognising the ways in which its philosophical research can benefit others, in public policy, policy debate, economic understanding, health, and cultural life. We realise this potential via public engagement, political engagement, publishing, media, arts events, criticism and reviews. We plan to continue and build on these methods.

In section (b), we explain what we were already doing before impact became a REF criterion, and how our methods were fit for purpose. In section (c), we explain our plans and strategies for the next five years. In section (d), we explain our choice of case studies.

We are pleased to report that, thanks to the fecundity of our research over the last ten years, and our energetic impact management strategy, we have no shortage of results or evidence to report, even though the predominance of young and recently appointed faculty means that we cannot draw on impact from research over twenty years. None of our current staff was in post twenty years ago, and five out of eight are more recent arrivals whose UEA-based research history is short.

**b. Approach to impact**

Our current strategy (section c) builds on many years of good practice under Martin Hollis and Timothy O'Hagan, who were succeeded, as Director of Enterprise and Engagement, by Rupert Read in 2010. Our two primary objectives have always been to identify potential beneficiaries, and to establish routes of communication between our researchers (or their publications) and those beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries and audiences are (1) national and/or global, or (2) local/regional. Communication routes vary accordingly.

**b.1. National and global audiences.**

Our strategies to maximise reach with these audiences include:

- (i) National Media appearances: supplying speakers for radio arts and ideas programmes: McGinn has appeared on In Our Time (BBC Radio 4); Read has taken part four times on Night Waves (BBC Radio 3). Rowett has been interviewed for the BBC Radio 4 series 'The Ideas that Made Us'.
- (ii) National Festivals, Lectures and Summer Schools: sending speakers to events of national significance: Hay Festival (Read), Rewley House, London Forum for European Philosophy; also podcasts of these events.
- (iii) Books: supporting academics in preparing books for the non-specialist: Read's *Philosophy for Life*, Collins' *Chomsky: a guide for the perplexed*, Osborne's *Presocratic Philosophy*; Kuusela's *Key Terms in Ethics* (on sale in the Tate Gallery bookshop among other places).
- (iv) Popular press: digests, obituaries, reviews in popular publications: e.g. Read in *Think* 2010.
- (v) Social media: using letters pages, blogs, twitter, Facebook, Academia.edu.

**b.2. Local and regional beneficiaries**

Regional activities are designed to enhance the intellectual quality of life for people in Norwich, Norfolk and East Anglia. Sources of funding and assistance include the Royal Institute of Philosophy (for which UEA is a Regional Centre), UEA Faculty of Arts (Literary Festival and Public Lecture office) and CUE East (a HEFCE funded Beacon for Public Engagement based at UEA). CUE East disseminates good practice, links with the Beacon and NCCPE network, and assists with community-related events. Activities have included:

- (i) **Philosophy Public Lectures**, funded by the RIP, fortnightly in the Autumn, annually since 2004. Audiences of up to 200 each week, from Norfolk and Suffolk, of whom a clear majority are from outside academia. Topical themes are drawn from our current research: *The Environment* (2010); *Rights* (2011); *The Economic Crisis* (2012). The Autumn 2013 series marks *Fifty years of philosophy at UEA*, showcasing our research on history of analytic philosophy after Wittgenstein.
- (ii) **"Philosopher Kings"**: a summer series of public lectures, featuring a talk from a serving politician with an interest in philosophy (Porritt, Cruddas, Willetts, Glasman, among others), and a response from a UEA academic from Philosophy or Politics. These debates generate impact in two ways: by raising issues directly with serving politicians, in such a way as to influence political policy and decisions; and by engaging the audience, composed of politically aware voters (including UEA students and staff as well as outsiders), so that the issues of philosophical importance can impact

upon their decisions and preferences in voting. The effects from both kinds of impact extend beyond the Eastern region, and are arguably of national and international significance.

(iii) **Cafés Philosophiques** at the Millennium Public Library at the Forum, Norwich City Centre. In each session, a member of our team presents some aspect of our breaking research, and opens discussion in a round table format, accommodating up to 30 participants (no booking is required). Running to over 25 sessions already (since 2011), the series has now featured the research of every current and recent staff member, all post-doctoral researchers and some current PhD students - for whom it forms an apprenticeship route in public engagement, and in detecting impact potential in breaking areas of research. The programme is run by the School's Director of Engagement, with paid assistance from a graduate student intern. The seed-funding came from CUE East, and initial training from UEA's Centre for Staff Education and Development. Participant response is excellent, and the sessions have been moved to the evening to allow people to come after work.

(iv) **"Philosophers at the Cinema"**, in partnership with Cinema City. The series is now hosted, since Autumn 2012, by the arts cinema in Norwich city centre. These events are scheduled about three times a term and advertised in advance in the cinema's main brochure and programme; they draw a mixed audience from the city and beyond. For each session, a movie is chosen and introduced by one or more of the UEA philosophers, and free discussion follows, taking advantage of the way that cinema is prone to open philosophical questions, explore beyond boundaries of time and space, and avoid closure. In October 2013, Read speaks at a showing of Margueritte von Trotta's "Hannah Arendt", in the "Reels of History" series hosted at Cinema City by UEA Historians.

(v) **Talks to sixth forms**. We regularly explore our breaking research with pupils at schools and colleges, and at summer schools on campus. Regular visits include East Norfolk Sixth Form, Hills Road Cambridge, and several Norwich schools.

(vi) **Additional public events**: e.g. gallery talks, (Rowett, Greaves), Philosophy of Religion lecture (2012, sponsored by BSPR, Canterbury Press, Norwich Cathedral), collaboration with Norwich Centre for Christian Learning (e.g. Harvey Cox debate and seminar on market forces, 2013).

**Types of impact achieved locally and regionally**: Philosophy initiates change more by provoking questions than by giving answers. The changes we have in mind include raising aspirations, generating reflection on political and economic problems, encouraging the young to think outside the box, raising educational attainment, and encouraging enterprise. The Philosopher Kings lectures also feed directly into public policy and political life.

**b.3. Approach to planned impact from current projects and grant applications.**

UEA has introduced a system of annual research plans, which now requires colleagues to review the impact from their current and future work. Pathways to impact for grant applications are developed in consultation with the candidate's Grant Application Mentor and the School Research Director. UEA's system of centralised research support provides professional assistance. Colleagues are also encouraged to liaise with the School's Impact Group (composed of experienced colleagues with expertise in various impact routes) and the Communications experts in Central administration, to draw up specific plans for reaching their target audiences. These normally include both global and regional activities, as described above.

**b.4. "Natural impact" from existing research already in the public domain.**

Exciting research can spontaneously spawn impact beyond the academy, once it enters the public domain. The School's task is to assist the researcher to identify emerging impact, record the data and trace the causal chain, and also to make space to undertake further engagements. These tasks are now overseen by the School's Impact Group. In cases where the publicity and media engagement has put heavy pressure on the researcher's time, the School has made appropriate adjustments to the researcher's teaching or administration portfolio. For example, the School provided teaching fellows in 2011-12 to support Read, enabling him to access routes into public policy processes (e.g. the submission to Parliament, see Case Study). Read and Rowett have had teaching load adjustments and unusual periods of leave. Expectations regarding research productivity have been adjusted, and research assistants provided, either to support continued research, or to research and collate data about the impact achieved.

**c. Strategy and plans**

Our forward strategy aims to maximise the **planned impact** from future projects (see item b.3 above); and to harvest and record the **natural impact** from existing research (see item b.4 above).

**c.1 Public and media activities**: the activities described in section b1 and b2 will continue

(public lectures, cafes, Philosopher Kings, schools work and so on).

**c.2 The Prisoner Philosophy Initiative (PPI):** a new initiative to take philosophy into prisons has just started in Autumn 2013. Led by UEA postdoc, Ben Walker, this collaboration will start by providing a philosophy programme at HMP Bure. Based on the idea that philosophy is the discipline that best contributes to a person's understanding of the world and their reasons and choices, the PPI aims to act as a force for good, measurable both by rates of recidivism and the psychosocial health of its students. As we write, there is already evidence of an enthusiastic uptake. We plan to monitor long-term effects on prisoners' behaviour, including after release. If successful this pilot project will be extended (e.g. to young offenders at HMP Waveney), and could be a model for similar schemes elsewhere.

**c.3 Rapid Response Group:** formed in 2012, the "RRG" comprises a small group of colleagues who follow domestic and international politics, human rights, environmental issues and news relating to arts and culture. It is charged with identifying opportunities for national coverage where our research relates to an emerging or topical news story.

**c.4 Concerning planned impact from new research projects,** we continue to take a forward-looking approach (see item b.3). Arrangements are now overseen by the School's **Impact Group** (convened by the Research Director, with the Director of Enterprise and Engagement and Web officer). At the application stage, the principal investigator works with his/her Grant Application Mentor, and with the Impact Group, to plan pathways and budget for resources to maximise the reach. The Impact Group considers the resources and opportunities needed at School level, such as leave, workload adjustments, travel funds, research assistance, teaching assistance, adjustments to research expectations. During the life of a project, the Impact Group will assist with monitoring progress, managing resources, capitalising on opportunities, recording, reporting, liaising with UEA central services. UEA's central support mechanisms assist with organisation and communications.

The Impact Group is currently focusing on these areas in which future grant applications are in gestation:

- (a) the **environment and political issues**, including human rights, and the protection of human and non-human animals (Read, Rowett, Greaves, colleagues in medicine, political philosophy, external collaborators). On Read's current collaboration with Nassim Taleb (on the Precautionary Principle), see the links to pre-publication work on our impact resources web page;
- (b) **social choice theory**, in particular the behaviour of aggregation procedures and the interpretation of negative results concerning collective decision methods. Some potential grant applications by Rizza in this field are being nurtured.

**c.5 In harvesting natural impact from pure philosophical research** we continue to take a more retrospective approach. The Impact Group assists the principal investigator with detecting impact, gathering evidence, following up, devising further activities and collaborations. Practical support is provided (research assistants, workload allowances etc). Besides the case study on Presocratic Philosophy, we are tracking extensive impact from Rowe's work on virtuosity, including performances, CDs, publications, events, awards and prizes, honours and other forms of cultural impact. There are also some media events related to our work on Wittgenstein.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The case studies illustrate two characteristic types of work for which this School is renowned: (i) pure historical research; and (ii) ambitious engagement with issues of urgent global significance, where philosophy impacts on real political agendas.

"Putting Presocratic Philosophy to Work" includes planned impact, natural impact, local and global approaches. The benefits are cultural, intellectual and financial.

"Guardians for Future Generations" includes planned impact, occurring concurrently with the research, and sometimes reaching the media before it reaches academic readers. Approaches are global and local. The impact is on national and international policy, the terms of debate, public discourse.

The case studies were chosen because we can already document their reach and significance, although more is possible. They are underpinned by a decade of research at UEA, some of it still in press. They showcase the work of colleagues with a substantial history of research at UEA (Read from 1997; Rowett from 2003), for the reasons explained in section a.