

<p>Institution: University of Bristol</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 32 Philosophy</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The Bristol Department of Philosophy has many faculty members with interdisciplinary knowledge and interests, and has strong links to the Faculties of Science, Medicine and Dentistry, and Social Sciences and Law. Much impact is achieved through such collaborations. While one case study is founded on reasoned scepticism about the place of Impact in research assessment, that is consistent with—and indeed demonstrates—the department’s commitment to using its research for social and cultural enrichment. The department has an Impact Strategy that encourages its members to identify concrete activities through which to disseminate their work to diverse segments of the general public as well as to specific beneficiaries, and to contribute to debates over public policy, health, and education.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>1. Multiple pathways to impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public events and speaking</i> The department has a long history of engagement with the community through its continuing education programme and through a number of high-profile public events in the city. For example, Carel and Ladyman organised and spoke at a public event, ‘Philosophy Matters’ (with Onora O’Neill and A.C. Grayling), held on 21/3/11 that attracted nearly 800 members of the public to a discussion of the importance of philosophy to society. They and others also speak at public events nationally; for example, Ladyman is regularly invited to speak at high-profile events such as the <i>Battle of Ideas</i> and <i>How The Light Gets In</i>. Carel is a regular speaker at <i>How the Light Gets In</i>, literary festivals such as Way with Words and Durham, and the King’s Fund. Montague speaks regularly at “my night with the philosophers” sponsored by the Institut Francais in London. Williams has spoken at the Hay Literary Festival and the Gresham College Lecture series. • <i>Schools</i> Members of staff speak regularly at local schools; for example, last year Pettigrew ran a session on the trolley problem with women from the Meriton School for teenage parents. Ladyman has spoken at various local schools and routinely judges the regional final of ‘Debating Matters’, a competition for sixth-formers. Pearson has given talks to Badminton School and Eton College. Bird has talked to philosophy clubs at Redland High School and at North London Collegiate School. • <i>Blogging and podcasting</i> The department also has a significant web presence through the outputs of its staff, in particular blogging. Bertram was the founder and is a regular contributor to the prestigious interdisciplinary blog, Crooked Timber. Williams has blogged for the <i>Huffington Post</i>. Carel has blogged on the King’s Fund blog, the School of Life blog, and the How the Light Gets In Festival blog and Pettigrew blogs on the M-Phi blog. The department’s blog hosts its podcasts, which are directed towards widening participation by being advertised specifically to state schools in Bristol. • <i>Professional development and policy makers</i> Carel has lectured to professional medical organisations such as the Severn Deanery, Registrar training days, and annual meetings of the national professional bodies such as the British Pain Society. She has spoken numerous times at King’s Fund events, as well as conferences and meetings aimed at NHS health professionals and policy makers. • <i>Publishing</i> Members of the department have published introductory and popular philosophy books that have sold widely worldwide. For example, Okasha’s <i>Very Short Introduction to Philosophy of Science</i> has been translated into 11 languages and has sold over 70,000 copies worldwide. • <i>Media</i> Several members of the department have spoken on local and national radio (Okasha, Bird, Carel, Ladyman), Carel and Ladyman have written for the national press (e.g. <i>The Telegraph</i>, <i>New Statesman</i>, <i>The Independent</i>). • <i>Research and education</i> The department’s intellectually demanding academic research in relatively esoteric and theoretical areas nonetheless impacts directly on academics outside of philosophy across the arts, humanities and sciences, and indirectly on the wider population through popularisation, and through the writing of semipopular books and textbooks. For example, Ladyman’s ‘Ontic Structural Realism’ has been discussed in both <i>Scientific American</i> and <i>New</i>

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Scientist. Many of our students have gone on to become media workers, teachers, writers and artists who bring philosophy into their work, with a long term and very wide international impact. Ladyman and Pettigrew have also worked to widen participation in higher education.

2. Interaction with key beneficiaries

A primary beneficiary is the general public and also particular groups, such as participants in outreach programmes and school pupils, who benefit from the intellectual and educational enrichment of our engagement activities. For example, Burch-Brown is currently running a series of lectures and seminars on 'Ethics and Literature' for retired women in Bristol and Wales. Communication with the public, for example concerning preferences and feedback, is often mediated by experts within organisations such as festivals (Hay-on-Wye, How the Light Gets In, Bristol Festival of Ideas), broadcasters (BBC Radio 3, Bristol Community Radio, BBC Radio Somerset), as well as the university's Centre for Public Engagement.

Other groups benefit as a result of research in practical ethics and applied political philosophy, philosophy and history of medicine, and philosophy of science. These beneficiaries include: migrant groups; health professionals, patient groups and health policy makers; and scientists (both within and outside academia). Some further examples:

- Bertram's work on borders, migration and global justice has led him to engage with migrant groups and city organisations (such as Bristol's *Festival of Ideas*), as well as policy makers. This interaction led to his organising a Refugee Week debate on Migration Policy with Christien Van Den Anker and Phillip Cole. In 2003 Bertram set up the blog *Crooked Timber*, one of the very first blogs, and is among the most highly respected and widely read social and political philosophy media in the world, and an influential means of communicating with policy makers and leaders in social debates. Nobel prizewinning economist Paul Krugman said "if you're not reading *Crooked Timber*, you're missing out" (http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/08/19/keynes-kalecki-konczal-etc/?_r=0), and a recent network analysis of the world's most influential thinkers took *Crooked Timber* as a key input (<http://www.technologyreview.com/view/518026/network-analysis-reveals-worlds-most-influential-thinkers/>).
- The department's international reputation in philosophy of science has led to several impact pathways. One is work with scientists outside academia. For example, Okasha has advised members of the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Sweden, which is affiliated with the World Health Organisation, on causality and causal inference in science and statistics, and the history of the concept of causation. This impact emerged from Okasha's work on causation in biology. Okasha has also published a discussion article in *Nature* on a major controversy in evolutionary biology in 2011, with important social overtones. Okasha also advised *Nature's* columnist on an opinion piece of theirs on the same topic, and advised BBC journalists about issues in evolutionary biology, to do with altruism, in 2013.
- Carel works with health professionals and patients and has disseminated her work widely through popular, semi-popular and professional publications and engagements. Her work has been extensively covered in the press and she is a regular speaker and blogger at the School of Life, the King's Fund, and Arts and Health organisations. She regularly speaks at public events such as Radio 3's Free Thinking Festival, and *How The Light Gets In* and as well as literary festivals (Durham, Dartington, Way with Words), and to local and national societies, such as the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute and the Leeds and Bristol Philosophy Café.
- Burch-Brown is currently developing plans for a Bristol Centre for Practical Ethics and Sustainability, which will focus on topics like environmental ethics, poverty and inequality, and ethics of peace and conflict. Burch-Brown's research and teaching in environmental ethics feeds directly into her ongoing public outreach - for instance, into her work as a trustee and director for Forest Farm Peace Garden, an East London organic community garden which she founded over 10 years ago and which has won a number of awards. The garden works with a wide range of groups including refugees, mental health service users, probation teams, and conservation groups. In 2013, in her role as trustee Burch-Brown brought in a Big Lottery grant of £85,000 for the garden.

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3. Support for staff to achieve impact

The university provides support for activities translating research into impact through a number of routes, involving both funding and training: the Centre for Public Engagement; the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (hosted by Bristol and UWE); Research and Enterprise Development, Alliance Development and Project Management teams; the Impact Development fund, and Widening Participation Fund. The Department of Philosophy has taken full advantage of all these, for example: organising and maximising engagement and interaction through the Philosophy Matters event; media training (Pettigrew); BBC networking event (Ladyman, Bird); building impact into projects and grants; funding for a philosophy reading group run by Pettigrew at IDEAL (a substance abuse charity in Bristol); funding for podcasts (Bird).

The Centre for Science and Philosophy was set up with the intention of disseminating the work the department facilitates in the philosophy of science in the broadest sense, which includes biomedical and environmental ethics, science policy, and the public understanding of scientific ideas and the nature of science. The launch of the Centre was attended by hundreds of people, and was professionally filmed (using funding provided to set up the Centre by the University Research Committee and the Vice-Chancellor in accordance with their vision for the impact of the academic research of the University).

c. Strategy and plans

The department has an impact and knowledge exchange strategy as follows:

- to continue to develop the impact of our research excellence across all areas of philosophy through public lectures, website and podcasts and other engagement activity.
- to develop our relationship with clinical and social medicine to facilitate the public understanding of philosophical issues in medicine. This will continue to be done through the medical humanities programme and also through the outreach work of Bird, Carel and Williams.
- to continue to contribute to the professional development of medical practitioners (Carel, Bird, Williams).
- to develop the Centre for Science and Philosophy and to continue to engage with both scientists and the wider public in advancement of the public understanding of science.
- to develop engagement, impact and outreach programs for the research programmes the Centre hosts.
- the department will create a unit in philosophy in schools and we will develop our relationship with the charity SAPERE that brings philosophy to colleges and communities; we have applied for an AHRC CDA studentship to support this project.
- to develop a Centre for Practical Ethics with research and teaching across the areas of environmental ethics and sustainability; moral psychology and responding to wrongdoing; poverty and inequality; and ethics of conflict (Project lead: Burch-Brown).

d. Relationship to case studies

Possible case studies were considered at a very early stage in discussions involving the Faculty Research Director, the Deputy Head of Research of the School, the Head of Department and the department as a whole. One case study is based on Ladyman's nationally and internationally known contribution to the debate about research funding and the impact agenda in the sciences as well as the arts and humanities. The University's policy to support interdisciplinarity and collaboration between faculties led to Ladyman's capacity to engage broadly across the sector. Key to his impact was the raising of the intellectual standard of the debate building on knowledge of the history and philosophy of science. His position as honorary secretary of the charity The British Society for the Philosophy of Science led to his invitation to contribute to consultation with the AHRC and subsequent attendance at meetings with officials from RCUK and HEFCE. Gareth Williams' work on the history and science of smallpox, vaccination and polio, and its impact on public understanding of medicine and public health, is the other case study. Williams has written two books, both praised in the scientific and lay press for bringing issues such as medical ethics, the conduct of science and the pros and cons of vaccination to a general readership, and has lectured and contributed to the media widely. The impact here has been achieved in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust and the Edward Jenner Society.