

Institution: University College London
Unit of Assessment: 32 - Philosophy
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Research within Philosophy often yields results of greater intellectual and academic, rather than extra-academic. Nevertheless, research in Philosophy at UCL has had considerable non-academic impact, not least because all UCL researchers are encouraged to share their research insights with the widest possible non-academic audiences. Pathways to and impacts arising from research conducted within this UoA include: [1] The use of our work in political philosophy, ethics and applied ethics by policy bodies operating in social and health policy, and research governance. The end-users of this work are primarily UK policy makers, but it has also been used internationally, and has influenced and improved political, social and research governance practice. [2] The quality of our published research has led to the adoption in higher education both nationally and internationally of some of our books, especially in political philosophy and ethics, as central teaching resources. This has resulted in a widespread and major impact on educational practice and curricula in universities and secondary education internationally, as well as providing information resources for use by the general public. Our staff have also edited book series used by those studying philosophy both as part of an educational course and informally by the general reading public. In this way we have also supported the development of publishing, with benefits accruing both to publishers themselves and to their customers. Our reflection on the history and core literature of our culture, and engagement with science and its history, has contributed to a broad range of public engagement activities. These have delivered impacts on cultural and artistic life within the UK. Our great strength in the philosophy of perception and representation, for example, has led to impactful links with visual arts practitioners, allowing us to enhance public engagement with culture by sharing our insights with non-academic audiences. The diversity of these impacts reflects the fact that members of our unit are drawn not only from the Philosophy Department, but also from Science and Technology Studies, and from philosophers within the Medical School.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The cornerstone of the Unit's approach to impact is the commitment, shared across UCL, to engaging in meaningful and sustained knowledge transfer and public engagement activity. In order to realise the non-academic benefits of our work, we have focused since 2008 on the production of practically relevant, high-quality research, and on finding innovative and effective ways of sharing that research with the broadest possible audiences beyond academia.</p> <p>Our establishment of interdisciplinary collaboration has been a further means both of extending the utility of our research by exploring it along the dimensions of different disciplines, and of cascading research findings through established non-academic networks linked to different research groups. A significant strand of this approach - particularly as a means of facilitating engagement with policymakers - has been the establishment in 2008 of the Centre for Philosophy, Justice and Health (CPJH), now directed by Wilson, which brings together members of this Unit with staff from other UCL departments including Public Policy, Laws, Medicine and Epidemiology to provide a focus for transformational scholarship in distributive justice and health. The Centre has organised 12 international conferences and workshops, each involving philosophers, attended in total by more than 800 people. Examples include "The Human Right to Health", organised in 2009 in association with <i>The Lancet</i> to bring philosophers together with health activists from Amnesty, Médecins du Monde and the BMA. Wolff's <i>The Human Right to Health</i> (2012) published in association with Amnesty International, and launched at Amnesty with associated interview available on Youtube, further enhanced the dialogue initiated by this conference between philosophy and human rights approaches to health. NGOs such as the Mental Disabilities Advocacy Center and Autistica, and businesses such as Pfizer UK have also been engaged through conferences and workshops run by the Centre. Pfizer went on to commission a small group of economists and philosophers from UCL, including Wolff, to provide a philosophical exploration of the idea of 'value-based pricing' of pharmaceuticals (2011) to inform their response to government proposals to change the way in which the NHS pays for pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>Collaborative and co-research with external partners also constitutes an important strand of our approach to impact. Wilson's work on information ethics, for instance, has informed changes in</p>

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health policy, particularly, through his AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award with the Health Protection Agency (2010-2013) on antimicrobial resistance – a topic that the Chief Medical Officer recently declared her top priority. Wilson also co-authored a chapter of the 2012 Chief Medical Officer's Report, contributing its analysis of the ethics of health inequalities.

To increase the range and diversity of audiences making use of our research we encourage **staff to work with external organisations**, including through **secondment**: Wilson's work on information ethics, for example, led to a ten-month secondment to the Royal Society, as a Senior Policy Advisor on their Science as an Open Enterprise project (2011-12). The project report, which focused on the ethics and practicality of opening up scientific data to broader use, was welcomed by the Minister for State for Universities and Science in June 2012: the resulting Cabinet Office *Open Data* White Paper recommended the establishment of a Research Transparency Sector Board, "to consider how to act on the recommendations of the Royal Society report". Our transfer of specialist knowledge and expertise to policy-makers also incorporates the provision of expert advice through **membership of strategic and advisory boards**. In 2011, Edwards sat on a World Health Organisation working group to develop guidelines on the ethics of patient safety research. She has also contributed to a World Medical Association working party set up to revise the internationally recognised and authoritative 'Helsinki Declaration' on research ethics and has also worked extensively with the National Research Ethics Service (NRES), training members of research ethics committees nationally (see UCL32-EDW). Evidence of the impact of her work includes its citation as an influence on the governance of US research in a USA Government report published in 2011. Wolff has been a member of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics throughout the period of assessment, advising on more than 10 of its reports. From 2011-2013 he has sat on an expert advisory panel to the BMA's Board of Science for the 2013 report *Drugs of Dependence: the Role of Medical Professionals*. Craigie's research on autonomy and mental capacity was quoted in the July 2013 Discussion Paper on Criminal Liability.

Our knowledge transfer activity is often also undertaken in **partnership with cultural and artistic organisations and professionals**: Kalderon, for example, has used his expertise in the philosophy of perception as the basis for writing 'artists statements' for artists including Darren Coffield, Keith Coventry, Liam Ryan, and Ricca Kawai. These partnerships led to his contribution in 2008 of a philosophical introduction to *Pleasure's Island*, a collection of photographs by Jocelyn Hogg, and he is currently assisting in the organisation of a planned exhibition on the nature of light and dark with Darren Coffield. Ambrosio's **public engagement activities** draw on her research on C.S. Peirce to explore the nature of representation in science and art by engaging with members of the public in life drawing. She has also shared research insights in the form of a short stand-up comedy performance for UCL's Bright Club, and through engagement with schools in Camden. Other activities used to share our findings with non-academic audiences include our engagement with Philosophy Bites, the country's leading site for philosophy-related podcasts (sponsored by the Institute of Philosophy). Since 2008, four members of the department have contributed 7 podcasts which have attracted, in total, more than half a million downloads (Wolff's podcasts on Rawls: 93,000, on Marxian Alienation: 98,000, on Political Bioethics, 41,000, and on Disadvantage: 96,000; Gardner on Sartre: 103,000; Crane on the Mind/Body Problem: 106,000, and Snowdon on Animals and Persons: 85,000). In 2013 Tobin recorded 'Thinking about Science', a series of podcasts in which she interviews leading scientists in a range of fields about their theories and discoveries. These were downloaded over two hundred times in two months. Also in 2013, Wilson successfully piloted an online course on the Philosophy, Politics and Economics of Health for 15 non-traditional learners. It will be repeated in 2014. Wolff appeared in 2013 on Radio 4's Moral Maze programme, discussing equality of opportunity. He also wrote and presented for BBC radio 'Doctoring Philosophy', a series of four 15-minute programmes on the philosophical underpinnings of the NHS, first broadcast in 2008 and repeated in 2009.

Our public engagement activity also includes the **production of publications accessible to non-academic readers**. From 2005-11, Kalderon edited the Proceedings of the UK's leading philosophy society, the Aristotelian Society, one of whose roles is to promote public awareness of philosophy. Kalderon and O'Brien, the society's Honorary Director since 2007, have revolutionised the manner in which the society's outputs are made accessible to the public. Under their guidance, the website is far easier to use, papers are available on line before meetings, and posted in podcasts afterwards. Public involvement has markedly increased as a result.

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The educational impacts of our research and its benefits to publishers have been achieved via two principal routes. We set out to edit series of books that we believed are educationally beneficial, and are committed to producing very high quality books for students and general readers about central and influential parts of philosophy. Crane and Wolff devised and co-edited the pioneering Routledge Philosophy Guidebook Series, which has so far brought out 36 titles (five of these since 2008) providing introductory philosophy texts guiding readers around the complexities of canonical philosophical works. This series has had significant sales within and influence on the teaching of Philosophy at universities in the English speaking world, as well as making a major contribution to the public assimilation of philosophy. The Unit has also continued its practice of writing books accessible to a wide audience, from students to researchers. Since 2008 these have included two books by Wolff on Ethics and Public Policy and The Human Right to Health, and one by Stern on Philosophy and Theatre. Although only recently published, these are already beginning to influence teaching and curriculum design throughout the UK, USA, Germany and Switzerland.

c. Strategy and plans

Our future plans assign even greater centrality to embed, enhance and monitoring the non-academic impacts of our research. To that end we will:

- Strengthen the department's emphasis on the production of high-quality research into practical philosophical issues and ensure that UCL remains a leading centre for applied ethics
- Ensure all researchers are involved in knowledge transfer and public engagement activities.
- Pursue new and innovative ways to generate impact from our more theoretical research. For example, part of our metaphysical research has been concerned with understanding persons as animals, and we see the potential to relate this metaphysical project to practical debates about the treatment of fetuses or the elderly, or to the treatment of animals.

We will promote these goals by:

- Making the generation of impact a desirable condition for new appointments.
- Appointing an Impact Lead to monitor and explore impact opportunities
- Setting up an Impact Committee to ensure that opportunities for impact are embedded within our research plans, even when it does not primarily concern practical issues.
- Use our website to publicise the range of our research in a form designed to attract potential impact partners. We will capitalise on our Central London location to enhance our marketability.
- Maintain our commitment to high quality research in practical philosophy and maximise the potential policy impacts of work conducted by recently appointed staff with expertise in applied ethics and the philosophy of race. We also plan to create a permanent post for another expert in applied ethics who works on questions of responsibility and freedom raised by mental illness and its treatment. We plan to use these three appointments to make UCL a world-class centre for research into applied ethics, generating considerable impact on relevant policy areas.
- Making impact achievement a ground for promotion and salary increases, and weighting time required for it within calculations of overall workloads.
- Maximising our use of digital and online media to support public engagement with our research: in September 2013, for example, Tobin will release a new podcast dealing with the issue of the existence of life beyond earth, which should have wide appeal.

d. Relationship to case studies

UCL32-WOL describes impacts arising from our **transfer of research insights to a policy body**, with impacts on a charity specialising in disability policy and on policy formulation by the English and Scottish governments. Via use to help redress disadvantage in relation to disability, the research has ultimately delivered benefits to hundreds of thousands of service users. Work outlined in UCL32-EDW has likewise **influenced and improved research governance practice** via its communication to key policy-making bodies and use as the basis for practitioner training. It also shows the **international reach** of our research through its influence in North America, where our work on consent and contract has informed modifications to the right of subjects to withdraw from medical trials, and protections for vulnerable subjects in cluster trials. UCL32-CUR shows the influence of research on **educational practice and curricula**; it has provided **information resources** for public use and generated significant economic benefits for publishers.