

<b>Institution: Kingston University</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 32, Philosophy</b>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>The Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP) pursues research and publication in the field of post-Kantian European philosophy, characterised by a strong emphasis on broad cultural and intellectual contexts and a distinctive sense of social and political engagement.</p> <p><b>The non-academic beneficiaries</b> of the research activities of the CRMEP are mainly art institutions (and the audiences, constituencies and individuals served by them); political activists; non-academic members of the audiences at CRMEP public events and readers of <i>Radical Philosophy</i> (the majority of its readership are not professional philosophers).</p> <p><b>The main types of impact</b> that it has achieved are in civil society (political and educational activism), cultural life (curation) education (art schools and adult programming in art institutions), public discourse (about art, education and politics – in the traditions of the New Left and the feminist movement) and the provision of expert advice (to research councils and NGOs).</p> <p>[Note: The CRMEP was established at Middlesex University, before transferring to Kingston University in 2010. HEFCE has recognised the transfer of the CRMEP from Middlesex to Kingston as making research within the CRMEP undertaken while at Middlesex eligible as an underpinning for impact in the Kingston Philosophy submission for REF 2014.]</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>The CRMEP (hereafter referred to as the Unit) has always been outward-facing with regard to the dissemination of its research to non-academic audiences, and pursues active engagement with public, cultural and political institutions, through collaboration and consultancy.</p> <p>This approach is in the spirit of a classical conception of the cultural function of philosophy in the modern European tradition, which has always aspired to construct a broad intellectual address and to perform a public pedagogical role.</p> <p>The Unit's approach to achieving impact has two main aspects: public engagement and institutional engagement.</p> <p><b>Public engagement</b></p> <p>The Unit targets its public engagement activities at a non-academic community that is politically and intellectually engaged, and eager to use insights drawn from philosophy in cultural, political and intellectual discourse.</p> <p>The aim is to foster the dissemination of individual philosophical research beyond the academy – including research carried out in other universities – through a broad-based publishing strategy.</p> <p>A key element of this strategy is the independent, collectively edited and produced UK journal <i>Radical Philosophy</i>, one of the most widely read English-language philosophy journals, selling over 1,000 copies of each bimonthly issue. <i>Radical Philosophy</i> provides the main context outside of the university for research in the Unit. This includes the research of PhD students, who often publish their first book review in the journal, and extends to research on higher education itself.</p> <p>Three members of staff (Hallward, Osborne, Sandford) are active members of the editorial committee of the journal, and Unit members regularly contribute content to it. Osborne, the longest serving member of its Editorial Collective, has also been responsible for its design and production since the late 1980s. Osborne and Sandford are directors of the publishing company Radical Philosophy Ltd (members of the editorial collective hold the shares but receive no income).</p> <p>The journal's website, <a href="http://radicalphilosophy.com">radicalphilosophy.com</a>, contains a full 40-year archive, with free access for subscribers and a large amount of material on open access. It receives over 330,000 unique page views per annum, and over 10,000 individual items were downloaded as pdfs in the year Oct.2012–13. For example, Osborne's essay on Zizek's book on Hegel has received more than</p>

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4,000 unique views (3 Jan – 3 Sept 2013). Its Facebook page and Twitter account have over 6,200 “likes” and “followers” respectively.

In order to open its research events with visiting international speakers to a wider audience, the Unit frequently holds public events in central London venues, such as the Swedenborg Hall. Since April 2010, nearly all research events in the Unit have been professionally recorded and are available for download as audio files, via the Unit webpages, or directly at [backdoorbroadcasting.net](http://backdoorbroadcasting.net). The first five of the ten public lectures on Philosophy, Politics and the Arts organized by the Unit at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London, in spring 2013 received on average 2,315 downloads each within the first 3 months. One lecture by Etienne Balibar in April 2012 (on Marx) had the exceptional annual figure (April 2013) of 66,120 audio downloads, while Caygill’s Inaugural Lecture at Kingston received 12,000 downloads in November 2013, occasioned by the publication of his related book. (These figures are lower bounds to the reach of the material, as they do not account for syndicated access through third party websites.)

As the scale of these sales and downloads indicates, these dissemination mechanisms reach beyond the academic community, achieving a broader engagement with a substantial community of political and intellectual activists. Unit staff are also frequently invited to speak in non-academic (and especially art-institutional) contexts, further attesting to the uptake of ideas disseminated through this public engagement strategy.

The Unit also engages with this community and the wider public via mainstream media. Balibar, Hallward and Sandford made videos for *The Guardian’s* online Comment series, on Greece and the European Union, Alain Badiou’s ethics, and Wilhelm Reich’s sexual politics, respectively. Sandford also regularly speaks on topics related to the philosophy and politics of feminism in public arenas such as the Big Ideas seminar and the Carroll/Fletcher Gallery series.

**Institutional engagement**

The Unit pursues engagement through collaborative research-related events with non-academic cultural institutions, along with individual consultation, directed towards changing the practices of these institutions themselves.

A collaboration with Tate Britain, coordinated by Alliez and Osborne, introduced to that institution a new focus on the philosophical aspects of contemporary art (as conceived within the modern European, rather than the analytical, philosophical tradition), including the conceptual character of contemporary art and an enrichment of the understanding of the importance of broader intellectual contexts (philosophical, cultural-theoretical and political) to the understanding of contemporary art. This came about through three main mechanisms: public lectures, consultancy and art publishing. Public lectures organized by the Unit at Tate Britain in 2008 & 2009 were made available to a broader public by Tate Publishing, as Parts 1 & 3 of Alliez and Osborne (eds), *Spheres of Action: Art and Politics*, 2013. Alliez and Osborne also give frequent public lectures at art institutions in Europe and further afield. (Osborne’s book, *Anywhere or Not at All* was launched with a lecture at Artists’ Space in New York in April 2013.) Caygill, Malabou and Sandford regularly speak in art and cultural institutions, in the UK and abroad.

Osborne was a consultant to Tate Britain, Adult Programmes for the international conference, ‘Global Modernities’, connected to the Tate Triennial, 2009, and for the subsequent talks series, ‘Anthropologies of the Present’ (2009–10). The resulting book, *Conceptual Art* (ed. Osborne), has sold over 15,000 copies. He co-edited the journal *Verksted* for the Office of Contemporary Art Norway (2008–9), as part of his consultancy there.

The Unit has also developed significant engagement with NGOs. Hallward has worked with a wide variety of NGOs that are engaged with issues of healthcare and human rights in Haiti, including the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, Partners in Health, the Center for Economic Policy Research, the Canada Haiti Action Network and the Haiti Support Group. These long-standing relationships have enabled Hallward’s work to achieve political and social impact both through direct influence on the practices of the NGOs, and by dissemination of his work via these organisations to a broader audience of people who engage with contemporary Haitian issues.

As a result of these engagements, the Venezuelan Embassy has allowed the Unit to use the Bolivar Hall in central London for public events since 2009.

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**c. Strategy and plans**

The impact strategy of the Unit is to maintain and further develop its current practices of extended dissemination and public and institutional engagement as pathways to impact within its main research areas, at both national and European levels, focusing on the areas of public education and public discourse.

Given the small size of the Unit, plans depend heavily on the research plans of individual members of staff, and their success in obtaining major project funding. The Unit has recently appointed professors Caygill and Malabou, with a view to their collaboration on a 3–5 year research project on 'European Philosophy and the History of Psychiatry in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century', adding a 'critical science studies' strand within the Unit's 'critical theory' research theme. This area is one the Unit will be prioritizing in 2014–19. (Caygill was PI on a Wellcome-funded pilot project on the topic while at Goldsmiths in 2010 and Malabou has worked on the relationship of continental philosophy to neurology for a decade.)

There are good opportunities for impact associated with this project, both with regard to the activities of the various psychological, psychiatric and psychoanalytical organizational collaborators (in the UK, France, Germany and Italy) and with regard to the publication of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the American Psychiatric Association *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) in 2013. This psychiatrically authoritative manual has always been intellectually and politically controversial, regarding whether it describes or constructs mental disorders. Caygill and Sandford (who have PhD students working in this area who are themselves mental health workers) are planning a symposium and publication on the new edition, from the standpoint of the main European philosophical perspectives. Events will be directed towards practitioners in the mental health sector; a summary publication is planned for a vocational journal.

The second main focus for the Unit's impact plans concerns developments related to the 2011–13, AHRC-funded 'Speculative Route' project 'Transdisciplinarity and the Humanities' for which Osborne was PI, with Alliez and Sandford as CIs. This will involve impact-related activities associated with its outputs in 2014 and 2015: a special issue of the journal *Theory, Culture and Society on Transdisciplinary Problematics* (with video material for the website of Sage publishers) and a collection of essays on *Romantic Transdisciplinarity* will appear from an art publisher and be accompanied by an event in a major art institution.

There will also be an impact plan developed for a further, larger and collaborative European project application (focused on the transdisciplinarity of certain philosophical discourses) to the European Research Council, Horizon 2020 programme. One focus will be on the presence of European philosophical discourses within public cultural discourses themselves. This project will be connected to the collective editing by Alliez, Balibar, Osborne and Sandford of a two-volume Sage *Handbook on Contemporary European Philosophy*, publication plans for which include online video interviews with authors, and a multi-lingual blog.

As part of its on-going engagements with art institutions, the Unit is part of a new 'Affiliate' Agreement between the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) London and Kingston University, signed in September 2013. This involves contributing to the ICA public programme and workshop sessions in the ICA Studio, and collaboration with graduate curriculum development. (Students on Unit programme become free members of the ICA; PhD students will be encouraged to run workshop sessions there as part of the impact plans for their PhD research.)

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The two case studies are in the two main areas of the Unit's public and institutional engagement strategies, 2008–2013: institutions of contemporary art (Case Study 1: Impact of philosophy of contemporary art on cultural institutions) and progressive political organizations, NGOs and campaign groups (Case Study 2: Impact on NGOs, activists and journalists engaged with Haitian politics). They exemplify its strategy of seeking impact via public and institutional engagement. This includes: public lectures in non-academic institutions, internationally; publishing widely selling books with trade publishers (Hallward, *Damming the Flood: Haiti and the Politics of Containment* has sold ~5,000 copies); institutional consultancy and curation; and political advocacy.