### Impact template (REF3a)



Institution: University of Manchester Unit of Assessment: 32 (Philosophy)

#### a. Context

The impact generated by the Philosophy unit's research falls into three main areas: (1) policy making, public services and public discourse, (2) cultural life and (3) civil society. This impact encompasses:

- Shaping environmental policy at local and national levels with both governmental and nongovernmental bodies
- Providing methods by which climate justice is assessed and the ethical and social consequences of climate change are evaluated by government, local authorities and affected communities
- Guiding institutional practice on the treatment of women in philosophy
- Raising the public awareness and appreciation of the importance and relevance of a range of philosophical topics, including the problem of free will and the history of philosophy

We engage with a wide spectrum of potential users, including charities (the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)), commercial partners (the Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI), resourced by Tesco PLC), governmental bodies (the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)), key players on environmental issues (local authorities, National Flood Forum, the Association of British Insurers), and the public through seminars and broadcasts.

# b. Approach to impact

Impact has been generated in an organic way from the research activities, funded projects and public engagement of members of the unit.

### Impact on policy making, public services and discourse

Impact in this area, which forms the basis of the two case studies, is grounded in collaborative research between members of the unit (in particular **O'Neill**, **Scott**, **Uebel**, Goldie) and funded research projects that involved three postdoctoral researchers: Paul Knights (2012-15), also a AHRC-funded PhD student 2008-12, where he completed a thesis on consumption supervised by **O'Neill** and **Scott**; Richard Christian (2010-11); Michiru Nagatsu (2009-10). The collaborative research involves different areas of specialisation, including political philosophy, philosophy of psychology, the emotions, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century analytic philosophy.

- The unit's research on the limits of and alternatives to economic evaluation for environmental policy has modified flood insurance practice and thinking on local and national levels and has informed political debate on the issue. This is the product of individual work by O'Neill and collaborative research with Scott and Uebel.
- Research on welfare and its measurement, in particular by O'Neill (both during his tenure as Hallsworth Research Fellow in 2001-2 and since his return to Manchester as a Hallsworth Professor in 2005), as well as **Uebel** and Knights, has had impact on climate change policy and adaption planning at regional and national levels, particularly with respect to disadvantaged communities.
- Research on the motivations of agents in acting on their evaluative judgements on how to treat the environment, 'The Motivations of Indifference', with Goldie as PI and **Scott** as Co-I, was funded by the SCI in 2009-10 (£95,460). This research led to three meetings with Keep Britain Tidy over 2010-11, two with DEFRA and a widely attended conference 'Green Nudges'. Ideas from this project fed into both of the two above research areas.

### Impact on cultural life and discourse

This has been achieved by public engagements, RIP funded conferences attended by the public (such as the recent 'Philosophy in the North West'), with secondary impact on public discourse:

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- **Uebel** contributed as a panelist on broadcast "Logical Positivism" in the series "In Our Time" (hosted by Melvyn Bragg), BBC Radio 4, July 2009. **Beebee** was also a panellist on the programme in March 2011 (on free will) and October 2011 (on Hume). The programme attracts a weekly audience of over two million listeners.
- **Dodd** gave a talk on Philosophy and Music at a TEDx event at the Manchester Museum in March 2013. This is an event aimed at non-specialists, under the 'TED' banner. TED is an international organisation aiming to stimulate dialogue on significant intellectual topics.
- Smith contributed to a Radio 2 documentary on the work of Jacques Brel in 2010.
- O'Neill was a post-performance panellist for the play, Interior Voices, Lowry Theatre, 2010.

### Impact on civil society

- Beebee with Jenny Saul (Sheffield, Director of the Society for Women in Philosophy (UK)) co-authored a report on Women in Philosophy on behalf of the joint SWIP/BPA committee on women in philosophy in 2011. This report has had impact on institutional practices (e.g. inclusion of more women philosophers in reading lists, conferences and research seminar programmes; setting up of women-in-philosophy committees and groups in various philosophy departments). The academic research underpinning Beebee's contribution to this report has been published in 'Women and deviance in philosophy' (*Women in Philosophy: What Needs to Change?* Eds. K. Hutchison and F. Jenkins, OUP 2013).
- O'Neill is the ethics advisor for the EU project Environmental Justice Organizations, Liabilities and Trade (EJOLT), a partnership of academic researchers and civil society actors concerned with environmental justice in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America.

## Engagement with users and follow-through

In some cases, members of the unit have contacted external groups to advise them of relevant research. Goldie and **Scott**, for example, informed Keep Britain Tidy and DEFRA about their work on motivation and the environment and were subsequently invited to several meetings to discuss the policy implications of their research. In contrast, **O'Neill** was directly approached by The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) at a point at which the charity became concerned with climate change issues, on the basis of his published work, presentations and widely recognised expertise in the field. Similarly, the influence exerted on cultural life is the product of invitations resulting from the established research excellence of members of the unit. In other cases, the influence has been indirect but no less important. The **Beebee**-Saul report is a leading guide available to academic institutions on good standards of practice with respect to women in philosophy.

An example of the follow-through of research to impact is **O'Neill**'s 'Justice, Vulnerability and Climate Change' project funded by JRF. This grant was prompted by O'Neill's earlier research on climate justice at Manchester. The report emerging from the grant was disseminated to both national and local policy committees, widely cited in policy reports and garnered national media attention. It led to further projects commissioned by SEPA, JRF and the Environment Agency; with the latter, decision-support tools and resource materials are being developed for local authorities and civil society agents concerned with climate change and justice.

Institutional facilities and expertise have also supported impact. (a) **O'Neill'**'s research on climate justice was partly supported by a Hallsworth Research Fellowship (2001-2), a competitive grant funded by the School of Social Sciences. (b) One of the key quantitative indicators of impact has been the funding received from public, commercial and chartable bodies (such as the JRF, SCI and EC funding). Both applications for this funding, budgeting and on-going support in managing the funds are provided by the School of Social Sciences Research Office. (c) Impact is in many cases achieved in part through the presentation of research outside the University; an allowance of £1,000 per member of staff per annum that can be used for travel required for presentations.

# c. Strategy and plans

Impact beyond academia is one of the three central pillars of research strategy at the University, Faculty and School level. The unit aims to make a key contribution to one of the institutional priorities: social responsibility. The unit plans to support impact and build on existing strengths by:

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- a. <u>A research strategy built around areas of specialisation responsive to impact potential</u>. Since 2009, in response to a flourishing collaborative interest in issues to do with moral motivation, sustainability and justice (involving **O'Neill**, **Scott**, **Uebel** and Goldie before his death in 2011) with potential policy impact, the unit introduced 'motivation, justice and sustainability' as an additional area of specialisation. This area has to date provided some of the most striking examples of impact and we expect it to be a continuing driver of impact in coming years.
- b. <u>Developing the relationship and interaction with partner organisations</u>. A particularly exciting recent development is the current project *Climate Just*, funded by JRF and the Environment Agency, creating web-based support tools for local authorities, communities and civil society actors for making just policy responses to climate change. This has already been highlighted in the UK National Adaption Plan and has the potential to have a substantial impact on climate change decision making in the UK.
- c. <u>Building new links with external bodies</u>. We will use the established expertise of the members of the unit in making contact with and engaging with partner organisations as a knowledge base for future collaborations and publicising our research activities to relevant bodies. Investment by the Faculty of Humanities in a dedicated Business Engagement Manager will assist this process.
- d. Recognising impact in career development. The annual Research Profiling Exercise asks members of academic staff to identify the social and economic impact of their research outside academia as part of their research portfolio and encourages consideration of future impact. The University's promotion criteria recognise knowledge and technology transfer activity as one of four criteria (along with research, teaching and service/leadership) up to Professorial level and impact has contributed to successful promotion cases at all levels.

### d. Relationship to case studies

The impact evidence set out in the two case studies emerges from collaborative and individual research by members of the unit and the related successes in securing research income from a variety of funding bodies. Impact has followed naturally from research by contacting or applying to external organisations, or external organisations contacting researchers to draw on their expertise.

Market-governance: biodiversity, climate change and insurance. A key area of research that has developed in the unit over the last five years criticises and finds alternatives to the market modes of governance that are increasingly dominant in environmental policy making. The research has had impact on flood insurance policy, Labour Party policy and on wider pubic thinking through exposure in the national media. This work is further supported by the large EC grant (BIOMOT 2011-5, involving eight European Universities) on which O'Neill and Scott are Pls and Knights a postdoc; total funding for the project is over 4m euros of which €490,000 is the Manchester component.

**Human well-being and Environmental Policy**. Research on the preference-satisfaction theory of welfare, its limits and alternative characterisations of welfare and methods of measurement, has been a long standing topic of interest in the Philosophy unit. This work has had a major impact on climate adaptation planning at local and national levels and has contributed to policy debates on economic growth and well-being, and to an inquiry on upland communities in the UK. **O'Neill's** research was supported by the Hallsworth Research Fellowship and subsequently Professorship at Manchester, and has been funded by JRF, notably the project 'Justice, Vulnerability and Climate' (2011-12, £56, 723) and JRF joint with the Environment Agency have funded the project 'Climate Just' (2013-14, £89, 845).