Impact template (REF3a)

Institution: London School of Economics and Political Science

Unit of Assessment: 32: Philosophy

a. Context. We stand for a type of philosophy that is continuous with the practice of the natural and social sciences. We aim to exert influence on how scientific knowledge is put to use in public policy, to offer ethical perspectives on policy making, and to provide public engagement with philosophical ideas of contemporary interest. The LSE Philosophy Unit comprises the Department, the Centre (*Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science*) and the Forum (*Forum for European Philosophy*).

b. Approach to impact. The Department endeavours to place itself strategically in the LSE by having members of staff involved in policy-relevant school-wide collaborations. We have a strong presence in LSE research groups that have impact outside academia. For example, Frigg is co-director of the *Centre for the Analysis of Time Series* (CATS) and a research associate in the *Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment*, providing support for his work with *Munich Re* on climate forecasting. Bovens is Deputy Director of the *Migration Studies Unit* and a steering committee member of *Grantham*. His work on EU asylum policy is supported by the *Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines* (STICERD), and through *LSE Enterprise* he is involved in a bid on asylum policy by the London-based public policy consultancy *VVA Europe* for a contract with the European Parliament, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

The Centre attracts large-scale projects of an interdisciplinary character and with impact outside academia. It is currently home to 13 such projects. A first example is the Leverhulme-supported *Voting Power and Procedures* (VPP) project. VPP has advised the Europe Directorate, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Liberal-Democrat peer Lord Wallace of Saltaire on the Lisbon Treaty's effect on *UK* voting power in the EU Council of Ministers. VPP has done consultancy work about the voting power of *other* EU countries in the Council for the European Policy Centre, Egmont (Belgian Royal Institute for International Relations), the Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, and the Czech Foreign Ministry. The approach to voting power developed by the philosopher (as well as logician and social intellectual) Moshé Machover and the political scientist Dan Felsenthal (both core VPP members) has persistently buttressed support for EU middle-sized countries to have their voting weights increased in the Council. This approach, as well as the "Jagiellonian Compromise," which is based on their approach, continues to play a role in the negotiations. A second example is the Fundazione Bonino-Pulejo supported project *Democracy, Business and Human Well-Being* which has advised Rome's Chamber of Commerce about Rome's administrative boundaries in the context of the federalism debate and the Italian Treasury about the impact of the EU regional cohesion funds for small islands.

The Centre aims to attract projects with impact outside academia and the Department encourages engagement with non-academic institutions. We foster collaborations with visitors, e.g. Yuko Nishiyama, a high-ranking official from the Japanese *Ministry of Energy* who will research energy future strategies at the Centre for a year, building on research conducted in the Department, including List's work on collective decision-making.

The Forum is dedicated to public engagement. It hosts around 35 events a year, aimed primarily at non-academic audiences. Events typically match philosophers with scientists, politicians, and public intellectuals to discuss intellectual topics of contemporary interests. Approximately one third of these events are large-scale (with around 400 attendees) while the others attract an audience of around 150 attendees. Events are taped and made available as podcasts. Typically podcasts get between 10,000 and 20,000 downloads—with a record of 65,000. The Forum also offers a lecture series, *Philosopy@LSE,* in which staff present their work to the general public; it participates in the yearly LSE *Space for Thought Literature Festival*; and has put on a conference on secession in the EU which received coverage from the UK and Catalan media.

The Department used to have its core focus in philosophy of science. Over the last decade, this core focus has expanded to philosophical aspects of policy-making. Philosophers of science aim for impact by making their expertise policy relevant and practical philosophers aim for impact by steering their research towards conceptual issues and moral reflection relevant to various policy

areas. This has come about through selective hiring, including the weight of impact as a possible criterion in promotions, and creating a culture of encouraging staff to engage in (i) policy consultations, (ii) collaborations that carry the promise of impact, (iii) avenues of public engagement, (iv) knowledge dissemination through blogging, and (v) knowledge dissemination through educational venues. We will provide a few examples here not covered in our impact cases.

(i)   Consultations. Voorhoeve is serving on the *World Health Organisation*'s panel writing the *Guidelines towards a Fair Path to Universal Coverage in Developing Countries.* He serves as Expert Reviewer for the IPCC Working Group 3. His work on fair distribution has been taken up by health economists preparing the well-known *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*, 3rd ed. His work on equal opportunity is widely cited in academic literatures on the economics of inequality and in World Bank research. Bovens participated in the Ethics and Behaviour Change seminar in the House of Lords. He contributed a memorandum (jointly with Cartwright) to the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology on Measuring the Impact of Philosophy.

(ii)   Collaborations. List is collaborating with economists, political scientists, mathematicians, biologists, and lawyers on models to improve real-world collective decision processing and he is involved in the Deliberative Opinion Polling project at Stanford University's Center for Deliberative Democracy. His seminal articles in this field have been taken up by economists, lawyers and computer scientists working on artificial intelligence and agent-based computational systems. His work on animal group decisions, published in a leading biology journal, has been featured in the *Economist* and other public media. Steele has collaborated with conservation biologists on the use and logic of (multi-criteria) decision models in environmental management and contributed to the *Handbook of Political and Civic Leadership.*

(iii)   Public engagement. In *Conversations on Ethics* (2009) Voorhoeve interviewed renowned moral philosophers and social scientists. The book has made its way to the general public through appearances at literary festivals in Britain and Russia, reviews in *The Guardian*, *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Dutch newspapers, and book-of-the-month clubs. *Esquire Russia* published two chapters in translation, and a Chinese translation is underway. Furthermore, all staff members have a web presence through a series of short interviews on the web, Philosophy Bites and radio appearances such as the BBC's *In Our Time.*

(iv)   Knowledge dissemination through blogging. Bovens made use of the LSE Policy and Politics blog to disseminate work on (i) equalising UK constituency sizes and electoral bias and (ii) on unequal burden sharing in the EU asylum regime.

(v)   Knowledge dissemination through education. Makinson's handbook *Sets, Logic and Maths for Computing* (in 2nd edition and with Chinese translation) is used world-wide in computer science curricula. Several of us have authored pedagogical articles (e.g.in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*) that are used in university curricula.

c. Strategy and plans. In the future, we hope to increase our impact through (i) further staff and curricular development, (ii) seed grants, (iii) new project management, (iv) hosting non-academic visitors, and (v) new venues of public engagement.

(i)   Staff and Curricular Development. In hiring, mentoring, and curriculum design we will stress the importance of impact. Staff teach successful policy oriented courses such as *Philosophy and Public Policy* and *Politics and Philosophy of Environmental Change.* We intend to extend our curriculum to build on this success: *Brains, Genes and Society* will explore philosophical issues on the intersection of the biomedical sciences and policy making and *Emotion and Cognition: Foundations of Behavioural Policy* will explore philosophical issues at the intersection of the cognitive sciences and policy making. We are committed to teaching a core course on conceptual problems in policy making in the Executive MSc *Behavioural Public Policy* and a Summer School on *Philosophy and Public Policy* through *LSE in China*. These choices will influence our staffing and will inspire our current staff to pursue impact-relevant directions while maintaining our commitment to world-class academic research in philosophy.

(ii)   Seed grants. The Department and the Centre have started collaborating in making seed grants available to provide our staff with time to prepare bids for impact-oriented research.

For example, we are supporting an exploratory workshop on the pressing issue of *Personalised Medicine* with philosophers (Worrall, Roberts), biomedical scientists (Guettinger, CPNSS), health practitioners, and health economists (Schokkaert, Visiting Professor).

(iii) New Project Management. The Centre has attracted two new large projects starting in the Fall of 2013: (1) the AHRC supported *Managing Severe Uncertainty*, which is carried out in collaboration with the Grantham Research Institute and the CATS, with PI Bradley, providing sabbatical leave to Frigg, Steele, Werndl, and Voorhoeve and (2) A Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship on Reason-Based Choice (List). We are currently working on a proposal in which we link research on the nature of chance (Bradley, Frigg, Redei) with research on the valuation of chance in policy making (Bovens, Otsuka and Voorhoeve) with an eye to health and environmental policy (in collaboration with LSE Health and the Grantham Institute).

(iv) Non-Academic visitors. The Centre is currently overhauling its visitors' programme so that more non-academics are attracted to come to the Centre to strengthen collaboration following our successful collaboration with Yuko Nishiyama (see section b).

(v) Public engagement. We will continue to improve our programme of public engagement. Further knowledge dissemination plans include:
- a web-based platform that would provide literature-based course content for Ethics in High School education in the EU (Bovens);
- an introduction to the philosophy of physics for the general public named *Einstein for Everyone* (Roberts);
- a manual on the nature of proofs in math for high school teachers (Werndl as Visiting Professor);
- a training programme that connects our philosophy of science teaching with Science policy institutes through course work and internships in Science Policy institutions (Steele);
- presenting course content and tasters through MOOCs (*Massive Open Online Courses*) for philosophy of social science courses (Alexander);
- a handbook aimed at policy makers interested in conceptual and philosophical issues (Bovens, Voorhoeve, Wollner).
- A series of lectures presented on a video-sharing website about climate change aimed at the general public (Frigg).

d. Relationship to case studies.

The Bovens and Frigg case study is a product of the Department in that it exemplifies the impact potential of moral and conceptual reflection on behavioural policies and of a critical philosophy of science perspective on climate science. It shows how we make use of our involvement in interdisciplinary institutes in the LSE, viz. Bovens and Frigg's respective positions in *Grantham*, Frigg's position in CATS and Bovens' position on the steering board of the LSE *Interdisciplinary Policy Group*. It is an example of how we collaborate with and channel our impact through non-academic Centre visitors, viz. through Arthur Petersen, Chief Scientist of the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.

The Cartwright case study shows how research in the philosophy of science on the nature and the epistemology of causation has had practical relevance in a range of policy domains, viz. in child care provision, international aid, and mental health. Cartwright has made effective use of the resources and facilities of CPNSS to showcase the relevance of her work and develop research collaborations inside the LSE (e.g. with Munro who has been working on a review commissioned by the Secretary of State of Education) and outside the LSE (with practitioners in various professional, national and international organisations).

The Fleurbaey case study shows how the Lachmann Fellow programme leads to high-impact research in the philosophy of economics. Fleurbaey's cross-disciplinary research at the LSE on the nature and measurement of quality of life and on fair distribution had a remarkable impact on the public debate and on public agencies' data collection. Through the LSE Choice Group, several members of staff were drawn into on-going collaborative work on these topics with Fleurbaey.