Institution: University of Aberdeen

Unit of Assessment: UoA 32 Philosophy

a. Overview

The Department of Philosophy belongs to the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy (DHP) within the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS). Thanks to the commitment and investments of the University of Aberdeen, the unit has been completely renewed since late 2009. It is composed of 16.75 FTE Cat. A staff members, 19 by head count: six professors or professorial fellows; one reader; two senior lecturers; seven lecturers; one research fellow; one research and operations officer; one outreach and knowledge transfer officer.

The Department hosts two centres that aim to produce excellent research in complementary areas: the Northern Institute of Philosophy (NIP), directed by Wright and devoted to the main areas of analytical philosophy; and (together with Aberdeen's History of Science, Technology and Medicine Group), the interdisciplinary Centre for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHPSTM), dedicated to research and teaching in the philosophy, history, and ethics of science. Funded by DHP and CASS, the two centres also host a number of research projects financed by the AHRC, the Leverhulme Trust, the British Academy, the Marie Curie European network, and other funding bodies.

The Department has research strengths in:

- Core areas of analytical philosophy: epistemology, philosophy of logic, philosophy of language, metaphysics, philosophy of mathematics (Wright, C. Jenkins-Ichikawa, J. Jenkins-Ichikawa, Beall, Linnebo, Berto, Torre, Meadows, Hough, Moretti, Edwards, Sweeney, Luzzi, Baker, Brouwer).
- History and philosophy of science (Bacciagaluppi, Stegmann, Gaukroger, Laerke, Crull, Torre).
- History of modern philosophy (Gaukroger, Laerke, Lord).
- Continental philosophy (Plant, Laerke, Berto, Lord).
- Ethical theory (Jezzi, Baker, Plakias).

b. Research strategy

In 2008 the Department counted only 2.5 FTE permanent staff members. But after the RAE 2008, in order to revitalize Philosophy at Aberdeen, the University appointed with full or part-time positions two established philosophers in the areas of analytic philosophy (**Wright** from NYU/St. Andrews), the history of philosophy and the philosophy of science (**Gaukroger** from the University of Sydney); one senior lecturer working in the philosophy of science (**Baccialaguppi**); five lecturers in the areas of the history of philosophy and analytic philosophy (**Moretti**, **Stegmann**, **Laerke**, **Berto**, **Hough**); and one research and operations officer (**Sweeney**, whose role has also included a research component since 2013). A second round of appointments took place during 2012-13, resulting in the hiring of three part-time professorial fellows (C. **Jenkins-Ichikawa** from the University of British Columbia, **Beall** from the University of Connecticut, **Linnebo** from the University of Oslo) and of six junior or mid-career scholars to strengthen the core research areas: **Luzzi**, **Lord**, **Torre, Jezzi**, **Meadows**, and **Edwards** (the latter two being initially affiliated to the unit as incoming Marie Curie research fellows).

The research achievements and future plans of the unit are largely shaped by the activity and funding strategies of its two research centres: in 2009 **Wright** established the Northern Institute of Philosophy, introducing the philosophical research model that he initiated with the St Andrews' Archè, and that was later imitated by various research centres across Europe (the Swiss *Eidos*, the Italian *Cogito*, the Spanish *Logos*). The creation of the NIP was followed in 2010 by the establishment of the interdisciplinary Centre for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine, founded by the Department together with Aberdeen's History of Science, Technology and Medicine Group. Directed by Ben Marsden of the University's History Department, and hosting researchers from the unit (**Bacciagaluppi**, **Crull**, **Stegmann**, **Gaukroger, Laerke**,

Moretti) as well as from the Departments of English, History, Anthropology, Religious Studies, and Sociology, the CHPSTM provides a framework for research and teaching in the history, philosophy, and ethics of science**.**

Two core ideas inspire the philosophical work in Aberdeen and the strategies for achieving excellent research: (1) On the side of *content*, the focus is on the *ultimate* questions of philosophy – for instance, the "Basic Knowledge" AHRC-funded project deals with the nature of basic epistemic notions, such as knowledge that is not supported by further grounding reasons; the "Relativism and Rational Tolerance" Leverhulme Trust project investigates the role of relativist and contextualist approaches to ultimate moral and rational values; the "Einstein Paradox" Leverhulme project deals with the foundational questions arising from quantum mechanics. (2) On the side of *method*, the technique of *cooperative* philosophical inquiry is pursued. Both the NIP and the CHPSTM have as their methodological tenet that philosophy is as much an activity as it is a body of knowledge. The Centres develop their research projects via cooperative seminar sessions, involving both junior and senior research staff, professorial fellows, post-doctoral researchers and PhD students. Most seminars are minuted and followed a few days later by a one-hour minuting meeting, where members of the relevant research project revisit the main issues, identify research strands and discuss ways of turning the research to publishable outputs. These two core ideas are seen as the development of a classical view of philosophy: the collegial activity of argumentatively challenging, defending, and refining our theories on foundational topics. Seminar presentations and Q&A sessions help researchers in the unit to shape their philosophical work via the objections, criticisms, and comments of their peers.

In just three years the unit's strategy, thanks especially to the hiring policy and the cooperative method, has led to a marked increase in the amount of outputs, including articles in leading journals. In the RAE 2008, the Department was described as a "small but highly productive group". The quantitative five-year research output submitted to the 2008 round consisted of 12 publications (one monograph, two book chapters, and nine journal articles). The post-2008 output is now getting close to 120, i.e., about eight publications per permanent staff member, to which one should add about 40 publications by the post-doctoral fellows working within the research projects hosted by the Department. The outputs by the permanent staff and by the (NIP and CHPSTM) post-doctoral researchers include single-authored and co-authored monographs with such publishers as Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Springer's Synthèse Library, Wiley-Blackwell, and Clarendon Press; essays and articles with periodicals ranging from *Noûs* to *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *Philosophical Studies,* the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, the *Review of Symbolic Logic,* the *Journal of Philosophical Logic, Biology and Philosophy*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, *Synthèse*, the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Metaphilosophy*, and the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The staffing strategy for the post-2008 development of philosophy in Aberdeen has been based on hiring, on the one hand, young researchers in junior positions, and on the other, senior academics to play the role of research leaders. Such scholars as C. **Jenkins-Ichikawa**, J. Jenkins-Ichikawa, **Beall**, **Linnebo** and **Gaukroger** have been appointed as part-time, research-oriented chairs, researchers, or professorial fellows, thereby securing their full involvement in the departmental workshops, seminars, and conferences for several months of each academic year. The primary role of the professorial fellows consists in leading the preparation of large grant applications to British and European funding bodies in order to secure external funding.

The staffing strategy has also included the creation of dedicated research- and impact-related positions. **Sweeney** has been appointed as the NIP research and operations officer. Sweeney is in charge of the NIP external funding strategy detailed in *Section d* below. Specifically in order to maximize the impact of the unit, **Luzzi** has been appointed as outreach and knowledge transfer officer. As detailed in the Impact Template included in this submission, Luzzi has coordinated the promotion of the non-academic and social influence of the departmental research.

Such NIP researchers as **Torre** and **Meadows** have been appointed with special contracts aimed at maximizing their research involvement by reducing their administrative and undergraduate teaching commitments below the norms for probationary staff.

The University has policies and structures to ensure that staff have sufficient time for research. Early career staff development has been regulated by the CASS Early Career Workload System. Probationers have 50% teaching relief from the full FTE workload in year one, 44% in year two, and 33% in year three; additionally, they are not required to do any administrative work in year one. One semester of paid leave in eight is normally granted to staff members upon application with a research plan to the School Research Leave Committee. Some researchers (**Laerke**, **Moretti**, **Berto**, **Bacciagaluppi**) earned individual fellowships and external grants bringing periods of research leave or reduced teaching (see *Section e* below). The organisation of the 2009-2013 course offer by the undergraduate and postgraduate programme coordinators (**Plant**, **Stegmann**, **Hough**, **Bacciagaluppi**) resulted in a sustainable yearly teaching load of no more than three-four courses per year per full-time lecturer, senior lecturer, or reader. The unit has already been successful with career advancements: in 2011-12, **Laerke**, **Bacciagaluppi** and **Berto** were promoted to professor, reader and senior lecturer respectively.

As part of its research ethics and governance policy, the University firmly supports staff development in a variety of other ways at College and School level. A programme of professional development opportunities, including induction courses, equality and diversity training, and leadership development courses, is organised by a dedicated Researcher Development Unit (RDU). The University's Research and Innovation Office encourages and supports the preparation of applications for external research funding. Before being submitted, research applications are internally reviewed by faculty members for their scientific content, and by management officers for their organisational and financial part. A College Business Development Officer assists with the preparation of the administrative and financial aspects of external funding applications, while the School Director of Research, and **Berto** as the Discipline Research Leader for Philosophy, organise the peer-reviewing.

The University has a strongly international profile, and has developed an Equality and Diversity Scheme to promote the inclusive cultural diversity of its staff and students, which belong to over 120 nationalities. All University staff sitting in hiring committees at all levels have to take a specific Equality and Diversity Training Course. In this regard, the unit is particularly attentive to the issue of equal opportunities, and especially to the pressing problem of the small percentage of women in professional philosophy. Since 2008 the Department has hired women researchers working in the area of analytic philosophy (C. **Jenkins-Ichikawa**, **Sweeney**, **Plakias**) as well as in the historical and continental tradition (**Lord**).

The CASS is committed to further investment in the Department after 2013. New positions devoted both to teaching and to research will consolidate the research status of the unit, while at the same time increasing its didactic offer. This will also facilitate an even distribution of the administrative burdens connected with the ordinary departmental activity. In particular, the unit aims to maintain its staff hiring strategy based on a combination of (a) cost-effective junior positions, and (b) part-time senior appointments of experienced, world-leading scholars. This twofold strategy should increase the capacity of the NIP and the CHPSTM to secure external funds for their research projects, while at the same time keeping the unit's size and costs at a sustainable level.

ii. Research students

Until 2009 the unit had no significant body of postgraduate students, due to the small size and teaching-oriented nature. Since 2010, in the context of the departmental regeneration, the unit has developed a research culture for its PhD and post-doctoral philosophy students and researchers. At the current time, there are 18 postgraduate students being supervised within the Unit.

Significant support is provided at College level. The College Graduate School organises training courses for all its graduate students. All PhD students are required to attend an induction course covering the use of bibliographical resources, research methodology, and academic writing skills. All research postgraduates are provided with individual or shared offices and with their own fully networked PC.

At departmental level, both the NIP and the CHPSTM base their research activities on

intensive weekly or bi-weekly seminars. The purpose of the seminars is twofold: (a) those organised within *already* funded research (e.g., the NIP "Basic Knowledge", "Relativism and Rational Tolerance", "Metaphysical Basis of Logic" seminars, the CHPSTM "History and Philosophy of Physics" seminar) are primarily devoted to the presentation of project-related work in order to gain feedback, criticism and advice; (b) *pilot* research seminars (e.g., the "Self and Self-Knowledge" and "Truth and Paradox" NIP seminars) are dedicated to surveys of the background literature and to brainstorming in order to help prepare external funding applications. As a general policy all the PhDs and post-docs are expected to attend all seminars and to participate in the Q&A sessions, irrespective of whether they are presenting their own research, or directly involved in the given research project. Through such intense activity, early career scholars and researchers are led to broaden their horizons beyond their own PhD topic or post-doctoral research, and are actively involved in a cooperative research environment.

The aims of developing a research culture and of providing a dedicated training environment for early career researchers are fulfilled in other ways too. Since 2010 the NIP has been organizing a yearly "NIP Early Career/Graduate Conference", devoted to showcasing work by early career philosophers, and which has so far hosted more than forty young researchers giving contributed refereed talks. While there are a number of opportunities for graduate students and more senior philosophers to present and discuss their research in the UK and abroad, there are relatively few for researchers who have recently finished their PhDs and are building a career. The Early Career/Graduate Conference series has been established as a step towards addressing this imbalance. The workshop formula is based on hosting established researchers as invited speakers capable of providing feedback on their younger colleagues' presented work. Among the invitees of the conferences have been such philosophers as Stephen Yablo, Stewart Shapiro, Emma Borg, and Timothy Williamson.

NIP is especially committed to helping PhD students and post-docs towards achieving further research and/or tenured positions through their work at the Institute. A. Cotnoir, a post-doc on core departmental funds between 2010 and 2012 and convenor of the NIP "Truth & Paradox" pilot project, accepted a permanent position (lectureship) at the University of St Andrews in 2012, after publishing papers in such journals as *Analysis* and the *Review of Symbolic Logic* as a spin-off from his research work at the NIP. Having published papers in such journals as *Noûs* and *Philosophical Studies*, A. McGlynn, also a post-doc on core departmental funds between 2010 and 2012 and convenor of the NIP "Self-Knowledge" pilot project, took up a tenure-track position at the University of Edinburgh in 2012. E. Zardini, a post-doc at the NIP between 2009 and 2012 within the AHRC-funded "Basic Knowledge" project, moved to Spain with a Marie Curie Intra-European fellowship after providing the project with publications for such journals as the *Review of Symbolic Logic* and the *Journal of Philosophical Logic*. D. Dodd, also a Basic Knowledge post-doc, accepted a position at the Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon US, after publishing essays in such journals as *Erkenntnis,* the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Studies*, and *Synthèse* between 2009 and 2012.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The unit has won nearly £2 million of external funding since 2009, as well as benefitting from substantial investment in the University's research infrastructure.

From 2009 to 2012 the NIP hosted a research project on "Basic Knowledge" with **Wright** as the P.I. Awarded £650,000 by the AHRC (of which about £559,000 was spent in the census period in Aberdeen), it investigated the epistemic notion of fundamental knowledge unsupported by articulable reasons. Involving post-doctoral fellows (Dylan Dodd, Elia Zardini and Aidan McGlynn) and PhD students (Brodowski, Luzzi), the project led to a large number of outputs in the form of papers, essays in miscellaneous volumes, and monographs.

In 2011 the NIP "Relativism and Rational Tolerance" project was awarded £250,000 by the Leverhulme Trust. Directed by **Wright**, this project is devoted to the examination of the role played by such concepts as relativism and objectivity in value disagreements and disputes of inclination. Two post-doctoral fellows, **Plakias** from the University of Michigan and **Baker** from the University of Leeds, were hired for the project.

During 2011-13 the NIP also hosted a European research project, "The Many Kinds of Many:

Pluralism about Properties". Funded by the European Commission with £160,000, it was coordinated by **Wright**, and featured **Edwards** as a Marie Curie Intra-European research fellow.

In 2011 **Bacciagaluppi**'s three-year research project "The Einstein Paradox: the Debate on Nonlocality and Incompleteness in 1935" was awarded more than £140,000 by the Leverhulme Trust. Developed in the interface between the history and the philosophy of quantum mechanics, this project continued Bacciagaluppi's work on the foundations of physics, testified by his Cambridge University Press book *Quantum Theory at the Crossroads*. The funding allowed the Department to recruit **Crull** from the University of Notre Dame (Indiana, USA) as a postdoctoral fellow within the project.

Laerke's project "Leibniz's Enlightenment. Debates on Faith and Reason in Early Modern Europe, 1668-1710" was awarded a prestigious 2011-13 Marie Curie Research Fellowship of over 245,000 Euros at the Ecole Normale Supérieure of Lyon, France.

In late 2012 **Lord** obtained a three-year AHRC grant of £275,000 for "Equalities of Wellbeing in Philosophy and Architecture", a project drawing together history of philosophy, political philosophy, and architectural theory to research Spinoza's concept of equality and its relevance to wellbeing. With this project Lord continues to develop the interdisciplinary work that she initiated with the Spinoza Research Network, an AHRC-funded project in 2008-10. Lord also obtained a small grant to develop interdisciplinary projects on philosophy of natural history with the Centre for Arts and Humanities Research at the Natural History Museum, London.

In late 2012 the AHRC funded a £240,000 research project by **Berto**, "The Metaphysical Basis of Logic", hosted by the NIP. The grant allowed the hiring of **Brouwer**, from the University of Leeds, as a two-year AHRC post-doctoral fellow. Berto also obtained individual awards: a one-year (2010-11) research fellowship of $58,000 at the Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame; a two-year (2010-12) research grant of 28,000 Euros at the University of Venice, Italy, for the project "The Gödel Paradox and Wittgenstein's Reasons".

Wright was also awarded £10,000 for a collaborative project on the First Person with Institut Jean Nicod in Paris, involving two major workshops, forthcoming in late 2013.

Stegmann obtained over £9,000 for his projects "The Informational Consensus in Ethology" (British Academy, 2010) and "Historical Case Studies in 20th Century Biomedicine" (Wellcome Trust, 2012) to develop research in the interface between philosophy and biology.

Between 2011 and 2012 **Moretti** obtained fellowships for a total of £11,000 from the Carnegie Trust, the Tilburg Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science, and the Munich Centre for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP) for research visits to these Centres.

The NIP participates in a project funded by the European Commission, the "PErspectival Thoughts And Facts" (PETAF) European Philosophy Network, co-hosted by the Philosophy departments of the Universities of Barcelona, St. Andrews, Geneva, London, Stockholm, the Central European University, and the French École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. The PETAF funds awarded to the NIP amount to about £32,000.

Some junior departmental members secured conference grants from various organisations: for example, post-docs Zardini and Dodd obtained some £4,500 for conference organisation activities from the Analysis Trust and the Mind Association during 2010-12.

Since 2012 the Department has hosted a peer-reviewed journal devoted to research in analytic philosophy, *Thought*, published by Wiley-Blackwell. The NIP members C. **Jenkins-Ichikawa** and **Wright** are its chief editors, together with John Divers from Leeds. Wiley-Blackwell is paying the NIP $25,000 per year for its scientific and editorial work for the journal. *Thought* aims at complementing the role traditionally played by *Analysis* in the area of short (4,000-5,000 words) papers in the core fields of analytic philosophy. The journal issues have been made freely available on line for two years, in order to promote dissemination. *Thought* has a double blind "fast refereeing" procedure: six subeditors chosen among experts in the respective areas, JC Beall (Logic), Richard Heck (Philosophy of Mathematics), Ross Cameron (Metaphysics), Susanna Siegel (Philosophy of Mind), Jonathan Schaffer (Philosophy of Language), Brian Weatherson (Epistemology), ensure that each published paper is reviewed by experts in the relevant subcategory of research, and that no paper is rejected by a "non-expert".

The University of Aberdeen has provided important infrastructure and facilities to support the departmental research. The new £57 million Sir Duncan Rice Library, operational since 2011, hosts over a million books and manuscripts and includes state-of-the-art research and IT facilities, a Special Collections area with seminar rooms, and dedicated research areas in each of its seven

floors. The Department has exploited these research spaces in the organization and hosting of various international workshops and conferences, listed in *Section e* below.

Aberdeen has also invested heavily in on-line subscriptions to philosophy journals and on-line databases, such as JSTOR and Oxford Scholarship Online. The latter resource is proving extremely useful to the unit's research staff and postgraduate students: the majority of scholarly publications in the areas of departmental research (philosophy of science, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language) come from Oxford University Press. Access to O.S.O. has brought the unit's research resources in line with major philosophy departments in the UK, such as Oxford, Cambridge, KCL, UCL, Edinburgh, and St Andrews.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The two research institutes have created numerous active connections with research centres and established philosophers in the UK and overseas. Among the associate fellows and associate professorial fellows of the NIP are Kit Fine (NYU), Frank Jackson (ANU), Bob Hale (Sheffield), Mark Sainsbury (Texas, Austin), John Divers (Leeds), Michael Lynch (Connecticut), Daniel Nolan (ANU), Martin Smith (Glasgow) and Augustin Rayo (MIT). The NIP has lively partnerships with research institutions in Europe and the US: it is an institutional participant in New York University's Global Network University through its partnership with the New York Institute of Philosophy; workshops and graduate and postdoctoral visits are co-organized with centres of analytical philosophy in Europe such as the CSMN in Oslo, the *Cogito* in Bologna, the Institut Jean Nicod of Paris, Geneva's *Eidos* and the *Logos* group in Barcelona; a workshop collaboration is in place with the Institute of Philosophy at the School of Advanced Study, University of London; graduate student exchanges are in place with the "Epistemic Warrant" project at the Research School of Social Sciences, ANU, and with the Philosophy Department at the University of Connecticut.

The Department organises research events ranging from staff seminars and reading groups to workshops and conferences, exploiting internal funding as well as external resources from such funding bodies as the Scots Philosophical Association, the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, and the Mind Association.

The "Philosophy Colloquium", funded via internal sources and hosting about six speakers a year, has featured philosophers from the UK and visiting from abroad. Among the invited speakers have been Mark Kalderon (KCL) Katherine Hawley (St Andrews), Andy Clark (Edinburgh), Stacie Friend (Heythrop), Jenann Ismael (Tucson), Huw Price (Cambridge).

The Scottish Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy (SSEMP), a yearly two-day international conference established in 2009 and coordinated by **Laerke**, has now gone through four editions. Since its establishment the event has brought a total of about fifty international scholars to Aberdeen. In 2011 the event was coordinated with the British Society for the History of Philosophy meeting, organized by **Lord** in Dundee immediately after the SSEMP. The latest 2012 Seminar, organized in association with the Spinoza Research Network which **Lord** directs, hosted such speakers as Yitzhak Melamed (Johns Hopkins), Ruth Boeker (St. Andrews), Dietmar Heidemann (Luxembourg), Matteo Favaretti (Venice), Larry Jorgensen (Skidmore College), Markku Roinila (Edinburgh/Helsinki), Jon Miller (Queen's), Michael Olson (Villanova), Gabriel Alban-Zapata (ENS de Lyon), Martine Pecharman (CNRS), Dario Perinetti (UQAM), Andrea Sangiacomo (ENS de Lyon) and Eric Schliesser (Ghent).

The CHPSTM organizes a Reading Group coordinated by **Bacciagaluppi**, as well as a Research Seminar and a series of workshops which, between 2010 and 2013, have brought to Aberdeen researchers in the areas of the Centre's remit. Some examples of initiatives hosted by the CHPSTM are: in 2010 the conference "Foundations of Physics" (dir. **Bacciagaluppi**); two international one-day workshops, "Representation in Early Modern Philosophy" (dir. **Gaukroger**) and "Scientific Utopias", (dir. Wilson); in 2012 a one-day workshop on "Natural Information" (dir. **Stegmann**) which featured among its speakers Ruth Millikan (Connecticut), Aaron Meskin (Leeds), Nicholas Shea (Oxford), Karen Neander (Duke), Andrea Scarantino (Georgia State), Hilmi Demir (Bilkent); and the 2012 workshop "Grete Hermann: Between Physics and Philosophy" (dir. **Bacciagaluppi**), which hosted such speakers as Thomas Filk (Freiburg), Mélanie Frappier (King's College, Halifax), Martin Jähnert (Max Planck Institute), Dieter Krohn (Philosophisch-Politische Akademie), Fernando Leal Carretero (Guadalajara), Giulia Paparo (Utrecht), Gregor Schiemann

(Wuppertal), Michiel Seevinck (Nijmegen), Patricia Shipley (Birkbeck), and Léna Soler (Nancy).

The CHPSTM also organized poster presentations at the British Science Festival 2012, where research at the University of Aberdeen was showcased, thanks to a funding award obtained by the Centre in a university-wide competition. Through **Bacciagaluppi** (as co-director of Team D, "Philosophy of the Physical Sciences"), the unit has participated in the ESF Research Networking Programme "The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective".

The NIP organizes the weekly research seminars described above throughout the academic year. Some are connected to research that has already been funded, such as the aforementioned "Basic Knowledge" and "Contextualism and Relativism" projects. Others are pilot seminars leading to the preparation of new research applications, on such topics as "Self and Self-Knowledge" (convenors **Hough** and McGlynn), "Truth and Paradox" (convenors Cotnoir, **Berto**), and "Pluralism" (convenor **Edwards**).

The NIP also organizes and hosts various workshops and conferences, among which we mention the following initiatives. The "Basic Knowledge" project led to the organization of ten Basic Knowledge workshops, and of collateral initiatives bringing to Aberdeen such epistemologists and philosophers as Alexander Bird, Timothy Williamson, Paul Boghossian, David Chalmers, Ernest Sosa, Jim Pryor, and Alvin Goldman.

In 2010 the NIP hosted the first of a series of Logic and Language Conferences, co-organised by the NIP and by the Institute of Philosophy at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. Staged every two years and alternating between Aberdeen and London, this workshop series aims at resurrecting the traditional UK Logic and Language conference series and at becoming a stable feature of the British philosophical calendar. The first 2010 Aberdeen event hosted a number of refereed talks, plus such invited speakers as JC Beall (then at Connecticut), Graham Priest (Melbourne and CUNY), Greg Restall (Melbourne) and Mark Sainsbury (Texas, Austin). Pilot research projects at the NIP also continue to lead to the organisation of workshops, favouring cooperation towards the preparation of funding proposals. As an example, within the "Truth and Paradox" pilot seminar the NIP organised in July 2011 the "Truth, Paradox and Abstraction Workshop" featuring as speakers Stewart Shapiro, Graham Priest, Oystein Lynnebo, Markus Rossberg and Roy Cook.

International recognition for the work of the Units scholars include, **Laerke** who won the Journal of the History of Philosophy 2011 Article Prize for his essay "Spinoza's Cosmological Argument in the *Ethics*", and the Bronze Medal for research excellence from the French CNRS for his monograph *Leibniz lecteur de Spinoza*; **Berto** obtained the 10,000 Euros Ca' Foscari Research Prize (2011) at the University of Venice; and **Wright**, who was elected a Fellow of the American Academic of Arts and Sciences in 2012 in recognition of his long-standing contribution to philosophy.