

Institution: University of Hull

Unit of Assessment: D32: Philosophy

a. Overview

The Philosophy unit at Hull has been distinctive in pioneering three areas of philosophical research, (a) Gender Theory and Feminist Philosophy (b) Applied Philosophy (particularly Applied Ethics) and (c) Philosophy of Mind & Body (with particular focus on embodied subjectivity). A distinctive feature of much of the work has been how it has brought analytic and continental philosophical traditions into dialogue with each other, one of the first philosophy units in the UK to do so.

These research activities are supported by two dedicated research centres based in the Philosophy unit at Hull, (a) the Centre for Research in Embodied Subjectivity (CRES), which brings together research particularly in the areas of Gender Theory and Feminist Philosophy and Philosophy of Mind and Body, and (b) the Centre for Experts and Institutions (CEI), which brings together research chiefly in the areas of legal and political philosophy and the philosophy of education. Both centres promote interdisciplinary work in conjunction with colleagues elsewhere in the University: e.g. work in the CRES involves colleagues from Social Sciences, the Faculty of Health & Social Care and the Hull York Medical School, and work in the CEI, involves colleagues from Social Sciences, Education, Politics and the Law School. In addition, there is the Institute of Applied Ethics (IAE) and the Centre for Gender Studies, both of which the Philosophy unit was instrumental in founding, and research activities in these areas are coordinated through the Institute and the Centre.

From 1 August 2013, Philosophy has been incorporated into a new school within the overall structure of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: the School of Politics, Philosophy and International Studies (SPPaIS). The School, comprising what were formerly the Philosophy unit within the Department of Humanities (DoH) and the Department of Politics and International Studies (DoPaIS), has been established by the University as a result of the review of the Department of Humanities and the development of a school structure within the Faculty. The aim was to reconsider the academic alignment of subject disciplines with a view to better facilitating future collaborations in teaching and research, especially in light of the University's Strategic Plan. It is not envisaged that Philosophy will be restricted in the scope of its interests by this merger but will gain from being in a multi-disciplinary, and cognitively related, environment and will be able to build on its already demonstrable success in fostering interdisciplinary work of the highest calibre.

b. Research strategy

In RAE 2008 the research strategy was to maintain interdisciplinary links with Law, Politics, Faculty of Health and Hull York Medical School. In broad terms this has been successfully achieved, though significant staff changes during the REF period has meant that a re-focusing of interests at a more detailed level has been necessary. Building on distinctive and innovative work in philosophy of mind and body and applied ethics, medical humanities, applied phenomenology and bioethics continue as important areas for research. Interdisciplinary work in embodied subjectivity and healthcare has been bolstered by a successful seminar series, several conferences and the recruitment of PhD candidates in the area. A replacement appointment was made in medical ethics with a view to consolidating links. Similarly, work in the public use of reason and legitimate authority has continued in conjunction with colleagues in Law and Politics.

Research in Philosophy at Hull has clustered around overlapping and intersecting thematic areas; supported both by formal research centres and an institute as well as more informal networks and groupings of individuals from across the department and beyond. In addition to the areas already established—Gender Theory and Feminist Philosophy (González Arnal, Lennon), Applied Philosophy (Burwood, González Arnal, Whiting) and Philosophy of Mind & Body (Burwood, Lennon, Whiting, Zangwill)—the thematic areas also include Philosophy of Education (Burwood, González Arnal), Ethics (Whiting, Zangwill), Legal and Political Philosophy (Hatzistavrou), Aesthetics (Wilson, Zangwill), and History of Philosophy—in particular Ancient Philosophy



(Hatzistavrou), Schopenhauer and Nietzsche (Came), Wittgenstein (Burwood, Wilson). There has therefore been continuity and development with the themes identified in RAE 2008, Philosophy of Mind and Body and Applied Philosophy. Work under the broad heading Philosophy of Mind & Body continues while Applied Ethics (Whiting), Philosophy of Education (as above), Legal and Political Philosophy (as above) were always present in the Applied Philosophy theme. Gender Theory and Feminist Philosophy has also continued to be a key interest and influence within the unit. Since RAE 2008, these developments have been enriched by the addition of the History of Philosophy and Aesthetics. While retaining a coherence and focus of their own, there remains cross-cutting research across a number of our thematic areas: e.g. research on Gender intersects with work on Mind and Body, which itself connects with work in Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Education and the History of Philosophy (Wittgenstein), and work in the History of Philosophy (Ancient Philosophy) interconnects with work in Legal and Political Philosophy and in Aesthetics (Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and Wittgenstein), which itself connects back with themes in the Philosophy of Mind and Body. The intersecting of these thematic areas promotes a rich and dynamic research culture within the unit and a stimulating intellectual environment.

Looking forward, the research strategy of Philosophy at Hull is, in very general terms, to continue to build on areas (such as Medical Humanities and Gender), which allow us to develop a distinctive profile while maintaining a diverse and pluralistic environment. We will continuously seek to improve research performance and to strengthen substantially the research capacity of both individuals and groups of academics, as well as the unit as a whole. More specifically, our aim is to:

- To produce high quality research items (3*+) that make significant contributions to their particular areas of philosophy—monitored by the Philosophy Research Advisory Meeting. This meeting involves all academic staff in Philosophy and is where draft publications and research bids are read and commented on in detail by colleagues, publication and funding advice may be given and where the impact of research is assessed and research strategies developed.
- Following the University level Academic Investment Initiative, to prioritise high value research funding applications, which, if successful, will promote and support further research activities in philosophy.
- To explore and establish research links within the framework of the University-wide interdisciplinary themes of the University's Strategic Plan and forge collaborative relations with other academic areas and external professional groups. The interdisciplinary themes of the Strategic Plan that Philosophy is particularly well placed to contribute towards are: Health & Wellbeing, Ethics & Social Justice and Energy & Environment. Work in the Philosophy of Mind and Body and Medical Humanities provides an example under the general heading Health & Wellbeing and work in Legal Expertise and in the Philosophy of Education examples under the heading Ethics & Social Justice.
- To develop research where impact is an integral feature and to foster links with universities internationally with a view to further developing educational and policy-related impact in the area of Gender Theory. We anticipate that, other than Gender Theory, impact related activities will primarily fall under the themes Ethics and Social Justice, Health and Wellbeing or at the intersection of Aesthetics and History of Philosophy.
- To strengthen links with local universities, through continued participation in research groupings such as the Yorkshire Network for Ancient Philosophy and the White Rose Aesthetics Forum and with overseas universities, such as the institutions involved in the MISEAL project as well as partners in ERASMUS and GEMMA and to explore new links with additional partner institutions.

The following are some of the processes that we have in place to encourage and enhance research performance and promote the foregoing aims:

- Research mentoring of more junior and early career researchers by more senior colleagues in the Philosophy unit and SPPaIS and regular meetings of the Philosophy Research Advisory Meeting.
- Supporting study leave applications and arranging teaching and other administrative duties to
 ensure, so far as possible, that staff granted leave are able to focus exclusively on research
 activities both for the semester in which they are granted leave and the summer period prior to



or after their leave.

- Making funds available in SPPaIS (up to £750 annually per researcher) and supporting
 applications for matching Faculty funding, on a competitive basis, for conference attendance
 and other research activities. The Faculty also makes available, on a competitive basis,
 strategic seed corn money for new projects.
- Reports to the Philosophy Staff Meetings of activities within the research centres, on interdisciplinary, collaborative developments and on research funding opportunities.
- Running research away days focused on enhancing research skills, exploring interdisciplinary, collaborative developments and the impact dimension of research.
- Developing key international links, such as ERASMUS, GEMMA and MISEAL, and funding reciprocal research visits on a targeted basis with colleagues in departments working in related areas with whom we have connections—e.g. on Embodied Subjectivities and Medical Humanities with colleagues in Uppsala, Sweden.
- Regular oversight by SPPalS, Faculty and University through regular management structures and Key Performance Indicators.

The following are some of the processes that we have in place to support that part of our strategy aimed at improving research capacity and securing sustainability:

- Use of (a) strategic senior appointment (Ferens Chair in Philosophy) to develop capacity and to take the lead in research, (b) more junior appointments to ensure sustainability and (c) appointment of administrative staff to support research activities.
- Work closely with colleagues in SPPalS to explore synergies and areas of collaboration.

Develop and forge links with senior appointments in other areas of the University to support interdisciplinary, collaborative projects and enhance distinctiveness—e.g. we anticipate a firming of work in the area of Medical Humanities with the recent appointment of Kathleen Galvin to a chair in the Faculty of Health & Social Care, with her interest in phenomenology and a 'lifeworld approach' to healthcare, and Gender Theory in the Philosophy unit will be enhanced with the forthcoming appointment to the chair in Gender Studies in the School of Social Sciences.

c. People, including:

Staffing strategy and staff development

Our staffing strategy consists of three key strands designed to enhance research capacity: (i) making academic appointments at senior and lecturer level, (ii) appointing research support staff and (iii) prioritising development of staff in line with the University level Academic Investment Initiative.

- The recent academic appointments of staff in Philosophy are concrete evidence of University support for the Philosophy unit and of our strategic aims as well as philosophy as a subject discipline within the University of Hull. Funding for posts comes both from University investment and also from money arising out of QR income generation in the unit. New senior appointment in June 2013 to provide academic leadership in key areas of research development within Philosophy: Zangwill as Ferens Professor of Philosophy. This appointment has been made with special reference to developing research capacity in Philosophy and furthering interdisciplinary and collaborative links, as well as consolidating work in aesthetics and moral philosophy. Making new and extending appointments of academics to consolidate existing activities and to build new areas: (a) Whiting, appointed Senior Lecturer in Medical Ethics, 2011, (b) Wilson, appointed Lecturer in Philosophy, 2012.
- Making new and extending appointments of administrative staff working in support of research in the unit: (a) Maria Dolores Garcia Arnaldos, (b) Agustina Varela Manograsso, (c) Maria Jose Tacoronte, all appointed (successively) from 2012 onwards, to provide administrative support for MISEAL, Widening Participation in Latin American Universities.
- Important aspects of the Academic Investment Initiative include: all academic staff to have a long term development plan, with short and medium term research objectives; more variation and flexibility in workload allocation to support research; new appointments (normally with 3*+



outputs); investment in PGR and Post-Doc development; change of contract where appropriate to support research in wider unit.

The Philosophy unit recognises that its staff are the key to its success and encourages staff to undertake development activities in order to achieve personal, professional and organisational objectives. The unit is committed to the principles of the Academic Investment Initiative as well as the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and, in line with this, the following are some of the processes that we have in place to support the development of staff as successful researchers:

- Research mentoring of junior and early-career researchers by senior colleagues in the Philosophy unit and SPPaIS.
- Early-career staff are required to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education, organised by the Centre for Continuing Professional Development.
- All new members of staff are given lighter teaching and administrative loads (half normal loads).
- Mentoring and other support offered to all staff on fixed-term contracts, with career guidance provided and their participation in induction, appraisal and review.
- Inclusion of fixed-term contract staff in decision-making meetings of the unit.
- Regular meetings of the Philosophy Research Advisory Meeting.
- Annual appraisal of all academic staff by senior colleagues in the Philosophy unit and SPPaIS, a means for identifying individual training and development needs, both in terms of personal development and development to support the organisational requirements.
- All academic staff are normally entitled to apply for Research Leave one semester in every seven so that applications fit into the Philosophy unit's long-term plan for rotating Research Leave. Decisions are made by the Dean, on the advice of Faculty Research Executive.
- Funds are available in SPPaIS (up to £750 annually) as well as support for applications for matching Faculty funding for conference attendance and other research activities. Faculty strategic funding for new projects is especially valuable for early career researchers.
- All staff are made aware of development opportunities available to them through the Staff Development Office/ Library and Learning Innovation/ Information and Communication Technology Department as well as other relevant, externally publicised courses. These development opportunities cover all aspects of a career in academic research, including academic writing and publication, the supervision and examining of research students, the development and running of research projects and making successful research funding applications. Many are specifically targeted at early career researchers. Details are advertised by use of the Faculty staff email list.
- Developmental activities are funded by the Faculty Staff Development Fund. Reports, circulated to Faculty Staff Development Committee, allow the further dissemination of information and skills learnt during the event.
- Whilst staff are encouraged to take an active responsibility for their own training and development needs, responsibility for the encouragement of staff development is clearly identified throughout the Faculty through the Heads of School/Department.

The Faculty Staff Development Report is made available to all staff. The Philosophy unit at Hull has a strong, demonstrable record on equal opportunities. In recent years we have been an internationally diverse unit with a good reputation for the recruitment and retention of female philosophers. Over the course of census period, staff in the unit have come from: Britain, Ireland, Spain, Denmark, Greece, Australia and New Zealand and the two senior academics (Professor and Reader) were both women. (Currently, just over 30% of our academic staff are women.) In recognition of our record, Hull was one of the first Philosophy units to be awarded Women-friendly status by the Society for Women in Philosophy UK. In the citation, SWIP UK mentions progress toward redressing gender balance in the profession, support for feminist philosophy and a collegial, friendly, egalitarian atmosphere and all three continue to be characteristic of the Philosophy unit at Hull. In 2008 SWIP UK also commended the establishment of the Mary Wollstonecraft Annual Lecture as a Women-friendly Initiative.



ii. Research students

The Philosophy unit regards all students as members of its academic community. This is especially true of its research students, who are companion philosophers and, sometimes, collaborative researchers. Relative to the size of the unit, Philosophy at Hull has built up a healthy graduate school. There is a lively philosophical community, in which postgraduate students play a crucial role. There are currently 14 PhD students supervised in the unit, 3 of whom have a University Scholarship, awarded competitively. Within the census period, 2 PhD students completed their PhDs, 1 of whom received a full AHRC Scholarship.

Within the Philosophy unit, research students are offered desk space and computers, may apply for funding for conference attendance and access a full programme of research training. The latter includes a weekly 2 hour Postgraduate Workshop convened by the Director of Postgraduate Studies where students are able to develop their research questions, discuss methodological and ethical issues, present initial findings and early draft chapters and debate theoretical and policy issues. Progress and supervision are monitored through a formal six-monthly review meeting convened by an independent assessor and an annual staff meeting convened to discuss research student progression, highlight achievements and disseminate best practice. Funds are available for research students from the Graduate School (up to £500 per student) for conference attendance and other research activities, with matched funding from the Faculty or SPPaIS.

From their second year, all research students are given the opportunity to teach philosophy at the undergraduate level. This is paid at the regular University rates and is principally Year 1 tutorial teaching, though more experienced research students may be given occasional lecture slots or seminar classes across all levels of undergraduate teaching (where appropriate). Teaching is not limited to a student's area of expertise as we consider it to be important that they gain a broad-based experience. Occasional opportunities to develop administrative experience in the form of event organisation, website design and research support are also made available. Progress in these areas is monitored by module leaders and supervisors.

The Philosophy unit also regularly hosts and provides material support for PhD students in participating in and organising their own workshops and conferences. The Philosophy unit at Hull was host and sponsor of the first White Rose Philosophy Postgraduate Workshop. We have also established an Annual Postgraduate Conference, organised by Hull Philosophy research students and sponsored by the unit: (a) *Subjectivity and the Social World* (June 2012) and (b) *World Philosophies* (June 2013). These attracted participants from across the UK and Estonia, Finland, Germany, India and Italy. The two principal organisers have since secured a contract to publish an edited collection of selected conference and invited papers in collaboration with Burwood.

In addition, Philosophy PhD students continue to benefit from a well-established Postgraduate Training Scheme coordinated through the University's Graduate School. Students, who are all normally expected to have MA level equivalent training prior to entry, must obtain an additional 60 credits of advanced research training to graduate. Students select from a wide portfolio, which includes specialist research training (Philosophy itself provides two modules) and generic professional and personal skills development modules. The Graduate School is housed in a dedicated building, providing a one-stop shop for research students, workspaces and IT facilities, and workshop and seminar programmes that promote interdisciplinary exchanges among postgraduates. The Graduate School also provides academic staff with a programme of training and skills refreshers in PhD supervision, a requirement for all academic staff.

Our support for our research students does not cease upon their completion: while they are seeking employment, our former research students are made Honorary Research Associates and continue to enjoy career advice and mentoring, access to library and other university facilities, as well as, where possible, hourly-paid teaching and other employment opportunities. This has helped them in securing post-doctoral positions elsewhere; e.g. Minae Inahara (University of Tokyo) and Michael Peckitt (University of Osaka).



d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Philosophy unit has implemented a deliberate strategy to diversify our income by substantially increasing research grant income and increase the amount of research spend from research council grants awarded. This policy has already begun to be successful with the unit attracting a large award in the MISEAL project (January 2012-September 2014). Funded by the EU (ALFA grants), the total budget is €3,103,830, with the budget for Hull being €69,692. Related to this project, González Arnal was awarded the 2013 Martherita Von Brentano prize (€15,000 euros). Philosophy also provided coordination in Hull for the GEMMA project (2008-2011), again funded by the EU (ERASMUS MUNDUS). This included a grant of €4,000 for a funded research visit in September 2010 to the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Whiting was part of the successful ESRC bid *Patient and Surgeon Decision-making in Risk-reducing Mastectomy: an Ethical and Empirical Analysis*, (January 2013-June 2014), with Whiting receiving £9606 of the total budget of £170,000.

Each full-time member of staff in the unit has his or her own office. In terms of facilities within the wider University, the Brynmor Jones Library has extensive library holdings in philosophy: book items and electronic resources—e.g. electronic journals and archives, Oxford Handbooks Online, Philosopher's Index, Project Muse, Routledge Encyclopedia. Currently the BJL is undergoing extensive redevelopment, scheduled for completion in 2014. It is also home to the Alan R. White archive, which is attracting increased interest, especially from the USA. One of the key developments since RAE 2008 has been supporting ICT Development in support of research and researchers, including:

- Significantly investment in the University ICT infrastructure through a major refresh programme that will increase performance, resilience, reliability and the capacity of the network over the period 2011-15.
- Support for the Converis research information system, which, in turn, supports submissions for the REF.
- Support for technology enhanced learning and PG study spaces across the campus.
- Support for Hydra, the institutional repository, which enables the management, dissemination and preservation of research outputs, both publications and data.
- The provision of a dedicated storage service for hosting and analysing large volumes of research data.
- Improvements in federated access to facilitate collaborative research with other institutions and organisations.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

The Philosophy unit, either directly or through its research centres, convenes and hosts regular research seminar series and special conferences, workshops and events in philosophy and interdisciplinary themes. These host visiting philosophers from across the UK and abroad and are key to the vibrant intellectual life of academics and postgraduates. In addition, there are the regular seminars held under the auspices of the Institute of Applied Ethics and the Centre for Gender Studies in which colleagues in Philosophy participate and to which they contribute. Philosophy at Hull is an active branch of The Royal Institute of Philosophy, which sponsors an annual series of lectures and seminars organised by the Philosophy unit, and recently the unit has established, and is host to, two prestigious annual University lecture series.

Annual Lecture Series (a) The Annual Mary Wollstonecraft Lecture (from May 2008), (b) The Annual Jacob Bronowski Lecture (from October 2012), (c) The Royal Institute of Philosophy Lecture (from 2007). Conferences d) Embodiment and Identity (May 2008), (e) Phenomenology and the Vulnerable Body (May 2010). Workshops (f) Ancient Philosophy of Mind and Body (March 2008), (g) Ancient and Modern Legal Philosophy (May 2008), (h) Law, Experts and Authority (July 2009), (i) On Theories of Punishment (March 2011), (j) Issues in the Philosophy of Education (June 2012), (k) Authority and Practical Reason (March 2013), (l) Fictions and the Emotions (April 2013), (m) Philosophy of History and Historiography (May 2013), (n) White Rose Aesthetics Forum (June 2013). Seminar Series (o) New Directions in Biology (2009/10), (p) Philosophy Research Seminars (on-going), (q) Institute of Applied Ethics Seminars (on-going), (r) Centre for Gender Studies



Seminars (on-going), (s) Reading the Vulnerable Body (on-going as Medical Humanities Research Seminars). Special conferences and workshops have attracted external sponsorship—e.g. (e) was partly sponsored by the AHRC as part of The Concepts of Health Illness and Disease Research Network (£500) and (g) by competitive grant from the Society for Applied Philosophy (£2000).

The Philosophy unit at Hull has been known as a pioneer in the fields of Applied Philosophy and Gender Studies. It was host to the *Journal of Applied Philosophy* from 1986 until 2013, under the consecutive editorship of two members of staff. During this time, other members of staff have also acted as members of the editorial team, with Burwood finishing his spell as Reviews Editor in 2008. Lennon was a founder of the *Journal of Gender Studies* and González Arnal has been a member of the Editorial Board since 2008. Members of the Philosophy unit also regularly review for other journals and publishers: *American Philosophical Quarterly, Bioethics, British Journal of Aesthetics, Clinical Ethics, European Journal of Philosophy, European Journal of Analytic Philosophy, Feminism and Psychology, Feminist Economics, Feminist Theory, Hypatia, International Journal of Philosophical Studies, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, The Journal of Applied Philosophy, Journal of Medical Ethics, Journal of Nietzsche Studies, Journal of Philosophical Research, Journal of Value Enquiry, Jurisprudence, Philosophical Quarterly, Polis, Acumen, Cambridge University Press, Continuum, Grazer, Palgrave Macmillan, Peter Lang, Philosophische Studien, Routledge. During the census period Zangwill has been a member of the AHRC peer review college.*

During the REF period individual staff have been active members of cross-institutional fora, e.g. (a) Normativity of Law Research Group (Hatzistavrou), (b) Anglo-German Picture Theory Research Group (Wilson), (c) International Research Group for the Study of the Embodied Mind (Burwood, Lennon), (d) White Rose Aesthetics Forum (Wilson), (e) Yorkshire Ancient Philosophy Network (Hatzistavrou), as well as scholarly societies—e.g. (f) Aristotelian Society (Wilson), (g) British Society for Aesthetics (Wilson, Zangwill), (h) British Wittgenstein Society (Burwood, Wilson), (i) International Network for Philosophy of Education (Burwood), (j) International Schopenhauer Gesellschaft (Came), (k) Music and Philosophy Study Group (Zangwill), (l) Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain (Burwood), (m) Society for Applied Philosophy (Burwood), (n) Society for Women in Philosophy UK (González Arnal, Lennon, Wilson), (o) UK Analytic Legal and Political Philosophy Conference (Hatzistavrou). Staff in the unit were founding members and are, or have, served on the steering committees of several of these (e.g. Hatzistavrou (a) (e); Burwood, Lennon (c); Zangwill (k), Lennon (n)). There is both institutional and individual membership of the British Philosophical Association.

External research theses examined during the REF period: Burwood (Durham, Sheffield), Came (UCL, Ghent), Hatzistavrou (Crete, Swansea), Lennon (UCL, Warwick), Zangwill (Nancy, Tehran, York). In addition to 200+ papers presented in the UK and overseas, invited international lectures since January 2008 include: Burwood (Murcia, Rijeka); Came (Ghent, Bochun); González Arnal (Berlin, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Rijeka); Hatzistavrou (Assos, Bordeaux); Lennon (Rijeka, Uppsala, Vienna); Wilson (Bergen, Dublin, Freiburg, Groningen, Hirschberg, Jena, Padua, Stockholm, Sydney, Vienna); Zangwill had invited lecture tours of Iran (2010), Israel (2010) and Japan (2011). Wilson was Visiting Scholar at The University of Sydney (2008) and Visiting Lecturer at the Universities of Bergen and Jena (2008) and Zangwill was Visiting Professor at Ohio State University (2009) and Ritsumeikan University (2010) and Lady Davis Fellow at Hebrew University, Jerusalem (2010). Visiting External Scholars and Professors Grant Gillett (University of Otago) (June 2005-May2008), Zhang Qing Wei (Guangxi Normal University) (January–June 2009), Yongshen Tan (Guangxi Normal University) (June 2009–April 2010), Konstantinos Sargentis (University of Crete) (January–June 2010), Grigorios Molivas (University of Athens) (February-July 2012), Minae Inahara (University of Tokyo) (May 2010-March 2013).