Institution: University of Warwick



Unit of Assessment: 32 Philosophy

a. Context

Research in the Philosophy department coalesces in four research groups: *Philosophy, literature and the arts; Ethics, law and public affairs; Consciousness and self-consciousness;* and *Post-Kantian European Philosophy.* Research impact has been generated across the range of research activities including, for example, Costello's work on the aesthetics of photography; Ansell-Pearson's work on Nietzsche's published and unpublished writings; and Hobbs' work on the ethics of Plato.

The *Main Beneficiaries* of our research are the creative industries, especially independent visual artists, national and regional museums, and art galleries; UK and international media broadcasters (radio, television and news providers in print and online); policymakers; HE lecturers and their students around the world, and the general public.

Kinds of Impact include contributing to economic prosperity through the creative industries; supporting new forms of artistic expression; introducing new evidence and arguments to inform public discourse and enhance public understanding of contemporary issues; informing the content of Higher Education throughout the English-speaking world by means of the widespread use of textbooks and online encyclopaedias.

b. Approach to impact

Key principles: Our approach to impact is that all research – from applied to theoretical – can and should have impact. Our three key principles are to work with groups who will benefit the most from our research; to communicate our research in a manner that is accessible for the non-specialist and general public; and to reach audiences locally, nationally and internationally.

Supporting Impact: Support for impact is provided by the department, faculty and the university's central administration. Internal funding for impact and public engagement activities is provided by the Warwick Impact Fund, the Humanities Research Fund and the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS). Researchers in Philosophy have been successful in securing funds to undertake activities which bring philosophy to the public: 2 IAS Incubation Awards (*Colour*, 2009-10; *French philosophy and sociology*, 2012-3) have enabled department members to develop research with immediate impact on public discourse by supporting free public events. The quality and effectiveness of impact activities have benefitted from the support and guidance of the Arts Faculty Impact Officer. Training related to impact is provided by the Arts Impact Officer, the IAS (for early career fellows), and Student Skills (for postgraduate researchers). Media training is provided by the university's communications office. Impact is integrated into new staff inductions and introduced at Autumn departmental meetings. E-infrastructure and technological support for storing and communicating research is provided by and available to all staff.

From 2013, impact has become integrated within department research planning and is a standing item at the Research Away Day (1 p.a.) and at the termly meetings of the research committee. The research committee identifies projects at an early stage with the greatest impact potential enabling departments to arrange suitable teaching relief or additional resources. For example, Costello's undergraduate teaching load was reduced by 50% for two years to facilitate engagement with photographical artists. Impact is integral to the career progression of research related staff and is discussed at departmental annual reviews. For example, impact was a consideration in the promotion of Hobbs to Senior Fellow for the Public Understanding of Philosophy (2009), which acknowledged her long-standing public engagement work. In addition, the department gave Hobbs relief from undergraduate teaching and administrative responsibilities, as well as providing administrative and research support (£1500 was allocated from University funds to employ a researcher for four hours a week).

Engaging Impact: We have employed diverse engagement methods to reach our key beneficiaries locally, nationally and internationally. These include: school visits (Longworth, James Allen's Girls' School Philosophy Conference, 2012; Hobbs, various including Rugby, Malmesbury, Bournemouth), art exhibitions (Costello, Mead Gallery, 2011), public events including lectures (Costello, Gulbenkian Foundation, 2010; Leeds Art Gallery, 2011), panel discussions and debates (Eilan, New York Review of Books, Oxford, 2013), web and online media (podcasts, blogs and other social media), radio and television programmes (Hobbs; Ansell-Pearson), and the development of educational materials (various). Department members participate in high profile



public events (i.e. literary festivals) which bring the research to broader audiences. As Chair of the Trustees of the Institute of Art and Ideas, Hobbs was instrumental in organising *How the Light Gets In* – an annual philosophy and music festival that brings together philosophers, politicians, public intellectuals and members of the public. At this festival, department members have contributed talks on 'Time', 'Metaphor', 'Banks, Bonuses, and Inequality' and 'The Limits of Freedom'. Similar public events include the British Science Festival (Butterfill, 'Other Minds'); the Forum for European Philosophy (John, 'Literature and the Emotions'); and *My Night with Philosophers*, an all-night event at the *Institute Française* (Beistegui, Poellner).

Communicating Impact: The department believes that proactively communicating its research in a manner accessible to the non-specialist and general public is vital for effective impact. The department website provides a single access point that allows the public and external users to access our research and engagement activities through podcasts, blogs (*Philosophy & Snacks*; Longworth), social media (Twitter: @GuyLongworth 2,300 followers; @PhilosWarwick 947 followers; @Hoerl 117 followers). Warwick IT Services, the Library, and Communications Office have brought department research to wider audiences through videos and podcasts (available on the university's YouTube and iTunesU channels; i.e. 'Heidegger and the Political'; etc); the Knowledge Centre, a web portal to the university's research; and the Library's Research Archive Portal (WRAP) and the Warwick Public Service (full text) which provide free public access to our research.

<u>Media</u>: Hobbs was a regular contributor to radio programmes on news, current affairs and discussion (esp. BBC Radio 3 and 4). Of note, she has appeared on *In Our Time* (Radio 4) more than any other guest. Ansell-Pearson appeared on the BBC 4 documentary *Human, All Too Human* (2011). Proactive communication of department research led to local and national newspapers in the UK and Europe publishing articles about Roessler's research on competitive behaviour in children (2013).

<u>Web Resources</u>: Department members have contributed to open access resources, such as the Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (Longworth, 'Austin'; Soteriou, 'Disjunctivism'; Houlgate, 'Hegel's Aesthetics'; Peter, 'Political Legitimacy') which presents philosophical material in an accessible manner for the public.

<u>Public writing</u>: Costello has published works with non-academic publishers such as the Tate (*The Life and Death of Images*, 2008) and several exhibition catalogues (Chuck Close; Hannah Starkey). Department members have also contributed podcasts to *Philosophy Bites*, now published in book form 2012 (Hobbs, Longworth). A number of our scholarly publications are accessible to and popular with wide reading publics around the world, i.e. Ansell-Pearson's *Nietzsche Reader* has sold more than 12,000 copies worldwide; Houlgate's *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit: a Reader's Guide* was reviewed in the political magazine *Irish Left Review* (22.03.2013).

Partnering Impact: Key to successful impact has been involvement of external collaborators and beneficiaries throughout the research lifecycle. These partnerships have come about in a variety of ways: being developed during the research development stage; in response to requests for research expertise; and by deepening relationships with existing partners. Partnerships have been formed with stakeholders in our target sectors: museums, art galleries and cultural organisations (Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Mead Gallery, Maureen Paley Gallery); independent creative practitioners (Hannah Starkey; Jeff Wall; James Welling). In response to a request for research expertise from Catalpa, a private education company in Boston, Mass. Luntley's work on philosophy of education is cited in their literature and on their website.

Evaluating Impact: Evidence of the extent and importance of relationships formed with end-users is found in testimonials, visitor figures, website hits, online resource usage figures, and end-user feedback (solicited via interviews, participant questionnaires, interviews with external partners). Other evidence testifying to the vitality of the relationships with beneficiaries includes public and third-party documentation and media references. All staff members are expected to evaluate and record the outcomes of impact activities.

c. Strategy and plans

Building on our success to date engaging with non-academic beneficiaries, we will further develop current administrative and support structures to increase the breadth and depth with which our research has social, cultural and economic impact. The department will address three strategic goals over the next five years: (1) embed impact within the research culture by encouraging all staff to develop the impact potential of individual and collaborative research; (2) identify new

Impact template (REF3a)



avenues for impact (e.g. types of impact and potential beneficiaries) across the department's research clusters; (3) give the appropriate support to researchers (at all career levels) throughout the research lifecycle so that impact may be maximised at all stages. We will do this by:

Identifying Impact: The department Research Committee is the main forum for identifying research with the greatest potential for impact. The research committee oversees impact planning in the short and long term by supporting the development of applications to internal and external impact funding schemes. The research committee considers the main target beneficiaries for our research and the ways in which can be engaged; and identifies potential collaborators in our target sectors to help reach our stakeholders. It also ensures that the department's research clusters provide the space for incubating and fostering new projects so that impact and impact activities are actively developed, for example by supporting research workshops and meetings that feed into grant preparation. Projects identified with the potential to positively benefit our stakeholders include recently awarded and on-going major research projects: Nudds, 'Rethinking the Senses: Uniting the Philosophy and Neuroscience of Perception' (AHRC Large Grant, Science in Culture, 2013-16); Costello, 'Art after Aesthetics? A Critique of the Theories of Art after Modernism' (Humboldt Experienced Researcher Fellowship, 2012-15); Houlgate, 'Essence and Concept in Hegel's Science of Logic' (Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship, 2011-14). Research projects in development that incorporate impact activities include Eilan's 'The Second Person', Peters' 'Authority and normative disagreement' and Soteriou's 'States of Consciousness'. Other collaborations and partnerships leading to impact include Costello and the Elizabeth Dee Gallery to produce work on the conceptual artist Adrian Piper; de Beistegui and Nudds working with musicians from the Philharmonia to investigate the role of multi-sensory perception in musical performance and appreciation.

Supporting Impact: The department has implemented a number of administrative procedures that it will retain (e.g. teaching relief, training and annual reviews). The department will also continue seeking the support and guidance of the Arts Impact Officer, and to exploit the training opportunities offered by the Impact Officer, IAS, Student Skills and the Communications Office. It is especially important to the department that PGRs and ECFs are exposed to impact and understand the wider socio-cultural implications of their research, and we will embed impact training in their development. We will continue to prioritise and support applications to the university's internal impact funding schemes. While impact is already discussed at annual review meetings between department heads and individual researchers, the department intends to take impact awareness and potential into consideration during the hiring process. We will improve processes for monitoring, measuring and evaluating research impact with the university's administrative team for impact and information management.

Communicating and Engaging to achieve impact: The department will boost its already diverse communication and engagement strategy to ensure that our research connects with the broadest possible beneficiaries. We will liaise closely with the university's communications office to proactively promote the benefits of research in philosophy through print and broadcast media, and online channels. Successful engagement activities, such as public events, exhibitions and talks will form the basis of our engagement strategy going forward and we will work with our stakeholders and beneficiaries to develop innovative means of engagement appropriate to each audience.

d. Relationship to case studies

The case studies exemplify the department's approach towards maximising impact over the assessment period. Support for impact is demonstrated by the appointment of Hobbs to Senior Fellow for the Public Understanding of Philosophy, allowing her teaching and administrative relief, and administrative support, which enabled her to engage broad publics with philosophy through media, public appearances, and support for charities. Our diverse communication and engagement strategy is illustrated by all three case studies which employed distinct communication methods to reach most effectively our target audiences: media (Hobbs), school visits (Hobbs), public events (Hobbs and Costello), popular writing (Costello; Ansell-Pearson). Costello developed close working relationships with national and local museums and art galleries and independent artists, raising the profile of their work and resulting in economic benefits for the creative industries. Evaluation ascertained the quality and extent of the impact through interviews with partners and beneficiaries (Costello), end user feedback (Ansell-Pearson; Hobbs), and collecting data such as web hits, sales figures, visitor and audience numbers (all case studies).