

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Sheffield</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 32 - Philosophy</p>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>The Philosophy Department at Sheffield has engaged widely with a range of audiences, and the main beneficiaries of our research have been: policy makers; public audiences of lectures, television and radio programmes, podcasts, introductory texts, and popular publications; students and teachers at schools; and publishers through the economic benefits of our publications and journal editorships. These beneficiaries have been local, national and international: our valuable links to the local community have enabled us to engage with people in Sheffield and its regions, thereby having an influence on the educational, cultural and intellectual life of the city; our role in shaping public policy on a variety of issues has extended to national and international arenas.</p> <p>A wide range of staff within the Department have contributed to impact, which has engaged colleagues across the board. Staff have been able to make this contribution when their work relates to public policy (e.g. Saul on implicit bias and on sexual harassment; Fricker on feminism; Lawford-Smith on environmentalism; Bennett and Viehoff on prisoners' voting rights), to matters of public interest (e.g. Faulkner on the philosophy of running), to commercial activity (e.g. journal editorships with a major publisher by Stern and Hookway, and also Bennett), and to public engagement and educational enhancement (e.g. most staff have contributed to our school outreach programme 'Philosophy in the City' and/or our series of public talks at the local cultural centre called 'Philosophy at the Showroom'). The University also recently appointed Angie Hobbs as the first ever Professor for the Public Understanding of Philosophy, which will greatly enhance our profile as a department that uses philosophical ideas within the public arena. Taken as a whole, therefore, the department is highly active and committed to this side of academic life.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>Even prior to the planning for REF2014, we had been successful in attaining impact for our research through media appearances (e.g. Keefe appeared on 'In Our Time' in 2010), policy initiatives (e.g. Wenar was widely consulted for his views on global justice) and external engagement (e.g. the Philosophy in the City schools programme began in 2006). More recently, we have been able to be more systematic and strategic in our approach, with greater support offered for staff, where this is also linked to initiatives at Faculty and University levels. This has enabled us to broaden and deepen the influence of our research and build on earlier developments.</p> <p>Broadly speaking, our approach has been to identify those research areas that best lend themselves to impact; to concentrate our resources of time and money on realizing and maximizing that impact; and to encourage the development of future potential for impact through longer-term planning. This process involves the recognition that not all work in philosophy is suitable for impact, due (for example) to its technical, abstract or specialized nature, while remaining valuable in other ways crucial to the discipline. At the same time, we recognize that there is considerable public interest in philosophy and that philosophical thinking can often relate to matters of policy, while we also take seriously our 'civic' roles as educators beyond the university itself. As a result, we have sought to ensure that our research realizes its potential in these directions.</p> <p>Within the Department, Stern acts as Director of Impact, whose role is to provide advice and assistance while planning strategy in this area. As a member of the departmental research committee, Stern is able to ensure that impact issues are considered at all levels of research planning. Impact is also regularly discussed at departmental meetings and during the annual staff development reviews. Stern connects the Department to the Faculty, serving as a member of the External Engagement Committee for Arts and Humanities. All members of staff are encouraged to consider questions of impact and to develop this aspect of their work where feasible. Support for this is given in a number of ways: impact is taken into consideration fully in relation to staff development and promotion, where time spent on related activities is acknowledged when faculty workload is assessed; training for staff is provided where relevant, e.g. in media relations; both the</p>

**Impact template (REF3a)**

Department and the Faculty offer financial support, e.g. Bennett/Viehoff and Faulkner have received grants totalling £9,907 from the HEIF funds administered by the External Engagement Committee to enable them to run networking events and hold public sessions in which to discuss their research, and the Department has also offered smaller amounts of funding where necessary. Jennifer Saul's travel for her work on women in philosophy has been supported by the University's Civic Engagement fund, which has also supported our Philosophy at the Showroom programme. The Department benefits from the civic agenda of the University as a whole, with the Philosophy in the City project receiving recognition and support from the University since its inception. As part of this agenda, the department was able to argue strongly for the appointment of Angie Hobbs to a University role, and our proven commitment to public engagement was an important factor in her acceptance of this important position. While Hobbs' own work is in philosophy, she also contributes to the University's Civic Engagement strategy.

We have taken care to ensure that our relationship with external partners is positive by participating in networking events organized through the University's external engagement committee, liaising closely with partners in our activities and ensuring we get feedback. We have particularly close relations with a variety of local schools through the Philosophy in the City programme, as well as cultural organizations in Sheffield such as the Showroom cinema and arts centre, where we have given a series of talks relating to our research. We have contributed to other local cultural events, such as the literary festival 'Off the Shelf', and the 'Festival of the Mind' organized by the University in 2012. Bennett has developed close connections to various think tanks and policy advisors through his work on prisoners' voting rights, such as the Howard League for Penal Reform and the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, while Faulkner has links with the running community and those interested in the philosophy of sport, such as Parkrun. We also use the internet and the media to achieve impact for our ideas and research; for example, Saul is founder of the blogs 'Feminist Philosophers' and 'What is it Like to be a Woman in Philosophy?' (each of which has up to 20,000 hits per day) and has frequently been interviewed concerning her research; Bennett, Faulkner, Fricker, Hookway, Olson and Stern have also been interviewed about their work.

**c. Strategy and plans**

In taking full advantage of our potential for impact, we have developed a clear strategy for sustaining momentum beyond the REF period. Alongside our existing policy, educational, and cultural initiatives, we have identified the following new opportunities:

New staff. At the University level, Sheffield has appointed Angie Hobbs as the first Professor for the Public Understanding of Philosophy. This exciting development underlines its commitment to finding ways to make philosophy more broadly understood and accepted. Hobbs' work in Greek philosophy is widely known, and she has extensive connections in the media as well as working with schools, festivals, and as an advisor on philosophy to government and the civil service. Her involvement with Whitehall and the House of Commons is largely through her role as an Honorary Patron of the Philosophy Foundation, which works to promote the teaching of philosophy and critical thinking in primary and secondary schools. Hobbs will therefore add greatly to the activities of Philosophy in the City and to our civic engagement, while her experience in communicating philosophical ideas to the wider public through the media will contribute significantly to the impact that the Department can achieve, not only on her own account but also through other members of staff. Other recent additions to the department will add greatly to the ways in which we are able to achieve impact. Miranda Fricker and Holly Lawford-Smith both work in areas of wide public interest, which relate to policy areas. Fricker's continuing research on epistemic injustice is of growing public interest, as evidenced by its being taken up in publications produced by think tanks such as IPPR (on museums access) and The Corner House (on energy, as part of research funded by the EU). Recent media work specifically concerning research that Fricker has done since arriving in Sheffield includes a 30-minute Radio 4 programme, *The Philosopher's Arms* (20/08/13). This was on moral blame, especially blame for wrongdoing in the distant past. Lawford-Smith's research focuses on ideal and non-ideal theory, relating this to issues in global justice, co-operation between states, and dealing with climate change. Her recently awarded Marie Curie

**Impact template (REF3a)**

grant on these issues (€75K) included a plan for impact, including publication of her views in the media.

Developing projects. While we expect these recent appointments to generate impact in new areas, existing staff also have plans for developing impact post-REF2014. For example, Stern is working with colleagues in Germanic Studies and in History to organize a major event focusing on the relation between the work of G W F Hegel and the British Idealists on the one hand, and current thinking about 'the Big Society' on the other. This event will involve an exhibition tracing out the connections, as well as two conferences involving both academics and politicians. Other staff expect to further develop their existing projects. Bennett and Viehoff are planning to further engage with policy makers on prisoners' voting rights, where they have recently submitted evidence to the Joint Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the Government's Draft Bill on reforming voting rights for prisoners (Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill), and have been called to give an oral submission before the Committee in October 2013. Faulkner has been approached over new public events relating to his work in the philosophy of running. One new area of potential for us is in cultural heritage, where staff may act as advisors to the re-interpretation of Bolsover Castle that is being planned by English Heritage, providing guidance on the philosophical background to the design and decoration of this building.

New forms of support. The appointment of Angie Hobbs will enable her to work closely with other staff, giving them the benefits of her expertise and helping them create greater interest in their research, particularly through the media. She will also be working with the media team at the University on a regular basis, thereby helping them better appreciate the work that goes on in the Philosophy Department. More generally, the University is fully committed to a 'civic agenda' that will embed it more closely within the city, so enabling the Department to take further advantage of its already close relations with local partners.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

As outlined above, our case studies have largely evolved from the two central ways in which we have sought impact for our research: through civic engagement, and through influence on public policy.

At the level of civic engagement, we have built on our existing 'Philosophy in the City' programme to use our connection with educational institutions within Sheffield and its regions as a way in which to broaden access to our research. Philosophy in the City has run projects in about a dozen local schools, and has been widely recognized for its successful approach: for example, in 2007 it was one of six finalists for a THES award in the category 'Contribution to the Local Community', while in 2011 it was explicitly mentioned as a crucial factor in Sheffield winning University of the Year at the THES education awards. As well as involving our students, the Philosophy in the City programme sees staff offering research-led teaching within schools and contributing to curriculum development.

At the level of public policy, two research areas by current staff have had a clear impact. Work on sexual harassment by Jennifer Saul, drawing in part on Chris Bennett's research, has been widely reported and very influential. It has been featured, for example, on the front page of the New York Times and drawn upon by professional organisations in formulating best practice guidelines. Our approach here has been to support Saul via media training and occasional travel funds to meet those struggling with these issues.

The Department has also provided substantial support for work on implicit bias, hosting a series of three workshops and a conference, funded by the Leverhulme foundation. These brought together philosophers, psychologists and policy professionals. These events provided a crucial underpinning for Jennifer Saul's work (drawing in part on Chris Hookway's research) on implicit biases and women in academia. This, along with travel funding to meet with key decision-makers, has helped Saul's work to shape marking, journal editing and conference organising policies internationally, both within and beyond philosophy.