

Institution: Kingston University
Unit of Assessment: 32, Philosophy
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Philosophy was established at Kingston University on 1 July 2010 with the transfer of the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP) from Middlesex University. 4 of the 5 permanent staff then in Philosophy at Middlesex transferred to Kingston: Alliez, Hallward, Osborne and Sandford (4 of the 7 staff in the submission to RAE2008), along with all research students due to complete after September 2011. The CRMEP is located across the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (FADA). Osborne is Director of the CRMEP (which he founded in 1994). Philosophy is a leading centre for postgraduate teaching and research within the University.</p> <p>Since 2010, the CRMEP (from now on referred to as the Unit) has developed its structure, strategic objectives and working practices. It has expanded its staff base, gaining 4 new professors at 3.0 FTE (Caygill, Malabou, Balibar [0.5] and Benjamin [0.5]), and extended its research activities, its collaborations and its longer-terms goals (see b and c(i), below). The Unit currently has the largest number of senior academic staff researching and providing postgraduate supervision in modern European or 'continental' philosophy in the UK (6.2 FTE) with 30 PhD students. It actively fosters (and reflects upon the structure of) inter- and transdisciplinary research in Philosophy.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Research in Philosophy at Kingston is focused in the Unit and is directed towards philosophical inquiry informed by the European tradition from Kant to the present. In the recent period, there has been a particular emphasis on contemporary French philosophy. It is also part of the mission of the Centre to engage with the broader intellectual and social contexts of philosophy. In this respect, research in the Unit is more orientated towards other disciplines in the arts and humanities than is usual in the UK. During the period of the current exercise, this orientation became an explicit research theme, in the form of a two-year AHRC 'speculative' research grant award on 'Transdisciplinarity in the Humanities' (2011–13), with Osborne as PI and Alliez and Sandford as CIs. The continuation of philosophical investigation into transdisciplinarity in the arts and humanities and the pursuit of philosophical research in relation to other disciplinary contexts are central to the Unit's future strategic goals.</p> <p>The Unit aims to integrate the activities of staff research, research degree students, and visiting speakers and researchers from elsewhere in Britain and from overseas. The Centre organizes regular conferences and workshops (including some within externally funded research projects and in collaboration with international partners – see e, below) and a Research Seminar series that consistently attracts an audience of 50–100 postgraduate students and staff from Kingston and other London universities. Four edited volumes of papers from Unit events have appeared within the assessment period – see e, below.</p> <p>Current strategy is a development of that set out in RAE2008. It builds, in particular, on the success of three elements of the plan outlined there: 1. focus on thematic areas of research within the Unit's acknowledged area of excellence in modern European or 'continental' Philosophy; 2. emphasis on collaborations and project-based research; 3. consolidation of the research degree student community through fully-funded, full time PhD Studentships (see c(ii), below). In addition, the Unit's researchers are currently concentrating on establishing research collaborations with groups in European universities, orientated towards the development of 3–5 year externally funded projects. During the assessment period, the Unit's work focused on three main areas of research:</p> <p><u>Main Research Themes</u></p> <p><u>Contemporary French Philosophy (Alliez, Balibar, Benjamin, Hallward, Malabou, Sandford)</u></p> <p>The Unit is the main centre for the study of contemporary French philosophy in the UK. Hallward was the principal investigator on the three-year AHRC-funded project, 'Concept and Form: The <i>Cahiers pour l'analyse</i> and Contemporary French Thought' (the final 20 months of which fell within</p>

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this assessment period). This assessed the significance of the French journal *Cahiers pour l'analyse*, 1966-1969, to ongoing work in philosophy and critical theory, distinguishing its analytical and rationalist perspective (inspired by Lacan, Canguilhem and developments in the philosophy of science and mathematics) from the phenomenological/ deconstructive and vitalist approaches to philosophy dominant in France since 1945. Its comprehensive website (<http://cahiers.kingston.ac.uk/>) was completed at Kingston and two volumes of writings from and on the work of the journal have now appeared (**Hallward**, outputs 1 and 2). **Hallward's** ongoing project, 'The Will of the People' (see his output 3) investigates the contemporary philosophical possibilities of a renewal of the Rousseauian tradition in French political philosophy, associated with the thought of Alain Badiou, and is the basis of his empirical political analysis of the situation in Haiti, submitted as Impact Case Study 2.

Alliez, **Balibar** and **Malabou** are all themselves major figures within contemporary French philosophy. **Sandford** has written on Balibar's 'French' reading of John Locke (output 2).

European Philosophy of Art (Alliez, Benjamin, Osborne)

Alliez and **Osborne** have continued their critical dialogue at the interface of European philosophy of art and Anglo-American art theory, with books and chapters in this area (Alliez, outputs 1 & 2; Osborne, outputs 1 & 4). **Benjamin** continues to engage philosophically with the history of art (output 4). The main event of the second year of the AHRC project, 'Transdisciplinarity in the Humanities', was a two-day international conference on 'Romantic Transdisciplinarity: Art and the New' (May 2013). **Alliez** and **Osborne** pursue much of their research in this area in art-institutional contexts, exemplified here in Impact Case Study 1.

Philosophy and Critical Theory, broadly construed (Caygill, Malabou, Osborne, Sandford)

Caygill has developed his own critical brand of the history of philosophy (output 1). **Osborne** continues to explore themes in the philosophy of time, history and culture associated with Frankfurt Critical Theory (outputs 2 & 3). **Sandford's** ongoing work in the philosophy and sex and gender is represented by her outputs 3 and 4.

A new development within this research grouping – and the Unit as a whole – has come about as a result of the appointments of **Caygill** and **Malabou**, who share an interest in Critical Science Studies, at the intersection of the histories of philosophy and science, with particular regard to psychiatry. **Malabou** pioneered the problematization of the philosophical presuppositions of psychoanalysis by brain research within French philosophy in her short book *What Should We Do with Our Brain?* (2004; trans. 2008), and she has continued to investigate this field (Output 2). Caygill is developing a large-scale project on European Philosophy and Psychiatry in the 20th century.

The direction of **Hallward's** current research (political will), the appointment of **Balibar**, and recent books by **Caygill** (output 1) and **Benjamin** (output 3) point towards a new cluster of interests in the Unit in 'continental' political philosophy. This will form an explicit research theme within the Unit from 2014 onwards.

One of the functions of formally designating research themes in this way is to allocate PhD students to them (where appropriate) in order to create groups of PhD students with a higher level of interaction with staff research.

2. Project-based research and plans, 2014–19

Following the successful completion of **Hallward's** three-year AHRC-funded project, 'Concept and Form: The *Cahiers pour l'analyse* and Contemporary French Thought' (30 Aug. 2009, while still at Middlesex), the Centre was awarded a new, two-year AHRC-funded 'speculative' research project on 'Transdisciplinarity in the Humanities: Problems, Methods, Histories, Concepts' (Sept. 2011–Aug. 2013), with **Osborne** as PI and **Alliez** and **Sandford** as CIs:

<http://fass.kingston.ac.uk/research/crmp/projects/transdisciplinarity/>. Similarly to the Cahiers project, the events associated with this project are integrated into the Unit's annual programming, and PhD students were invited to participate along with Unit staff and those registering from other

universities.

The Unit's plan for 2014–19 is centred on two major research project applications:

1. Having obtained a one-year Wellcome Institute pilot award (c. £35,000) in 2010, while still at Goldsmiths, on 'Philosophy and Psychiatric Reform in Brazil', as background to the development of a major project on European Philosophy and Psychiatry in the 20th century, **Caygill** will submit applications for the major project during 2014, which will involve academics in France, Germany and Italy, as well as the UK.

2. After the completion of the outputs from the AHRC project on 'Transdisciplinarity in the Humanities', **Osborne** plans a bid to the European Research Council Horizon 2020 scheme in 2015 for an extended project with both academic and art-institutional partners in four other European countries.

The Unit's main strategic focus, at present, is on extending the scope of its research projects to include partners in European universities and art institutions, on topics derived from individual staff research interests and strengths.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

There have been significant changes in staffing within the Unit since RAE 2008. Of the 7 staff submitted then at Middlesex, 2 (Brassier and Cole) left for posts elsewhere in 2008 and 1 (Kerlake) remained at Middlesex when the Unit moved to Kingston. In 2011, **Caygill** and **Malabou** (previously at Goldsmiths and the University of Paris X, Nanterre, respectively) were appointed to new Professorships in the Unit.

At the same time, **Alliez** moved to the University of Paris 8, Saint-Denis, under an agreement whereby he retains a 0.2 FTE position in Philosophy at Kingston, for which he is 'detached' from University of Paris 8 to maintain his research collaboration and teach an MA course at Kingston. In return, as part of this agreement – established via a 'Memorandum of Understanding' between the two universities – four other members of staff in the Unit at Kingston rotate through a Visiting International Chair in Philosophy at Paris 8, each teaching one semester out of four in Paris. This has considerable benefits in broadening the experience of staff, while maintaining postgraduate teaching and research supervision options for students.

The Unit has also established a new, bilingual joint MA with Paris 8 in Contemporary European Philosophy. In 2012, **Balibar** and **Benjamin** joined Kingston on 0.5 as Distinguished Anniversary Chairs in the Faculty (they continue to spend half the year at Columbia University, New York, and Monash University, Melbourne, respectively). The Unit thus currently stands at 6.2 FTE. Of the 8 members of staff, 7 are Professors and one (**Sandford**) is a Reader.

Unit staff have research leave one teaching semester out of every six. Opportunities for junior staff appointments arise with regard to project grants. A 0.5 Temporary Lecturer in Modern European Philosophy was hired during the first year of the Transdisciplinarity project, 2011–12, and future project grant applications will include bids for Early Career Researchers. Staff meet regularly to discuss organizational and administrative aspects of projects and their individual research. The Unit welcomes the BPA/SWIP 2011 Report on Women in Philosophy in the UK, various recommendations from which were discussed at a departmental meeting in October 2011.

ii. Research students

Maintaining a culture supportive of research degree students is a major objective of the Unit and supervision of research degree students is taken to be an important part of the staff research environment. The main mechanisms for the integration of research degree students into the research culture are: (i) their participation in the Unit programme of research events (seminars, workshops and conferences); (ii) the two-day Philosophy Annual Progress Seminar, at which they must present the state of their research to staff and their peers; (iii) an annual Postgraduate Conference (established 2011), run by the PhD students, with financial support from the Unit and advice from staff; (iv) thematically defined PhD student groups, which often also function as reading groups.

1. Recruitment

The Unit has continued to increase the size and diversity of the research degree student community while increasing the proportion of full-time students to about two-thirds, making it a major UK provider of PhD research in Philosophy. In October 2013, there were 26 PhD students in Philosophy at 21 FTE from 12 different countries.

2. Studentships

3 full time students received QR-funded Studentships while the Unit was at Middlesex, which were transferred to Kingston. In the final year of the AHRC Open Competition (2010-11), Philosophy received an 'A award', for a Research Preparation Masters. In Oct. 2011, 5 new internally funded full time PhD studentships began, with another in 2012, along with partial support through fees-only bursaries from two others. Under the AHRC Capacity funding scheme, the Unit received one B award, starting Oct. 2013. The Unit will thus have hosted 9 fully funded full time PHD Studentships within the assessment period. Some overseas students receive funding from foundations and other academic bodies in their home countries (currently: Costa Rica, Greece, Mexico, Portugal, Russia, and Sweden).

The Unit is part of the Kingston element of the successful AHRC Block Grant Partnership bid (Type A) led by Royal Holloway, University of London, which has been allocated over 170 Studentships, 2014–2019.

3. Support, Skills and Monitoring

Identification of individual training needs is the responsibility of the supervisory team. PhD Research Skills Seminars are provided at both Faculty and University level. Monitoring takes place through the 'Supervision Meeting Record' forms that the student and supervisor complete after each meeting, the Annual Monitoring Report, and (after the first year) a Progress Transfer Report. Students are encouraged to present papers to postgraduate conferences and (when advanced) on panels at national and international philosophical events such as the annual conference of the Society for European Philosophy (at which the Unit's students give papers regularly). Tomlinson won the Graduate Student Essay Prize awarded by the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy in 2013. Financial support is provided for individual students for these events. The Unit encourages its best students to go on to apply for postdoctoral fellowships.

4. PhD awards

9 PhDs were awarded while at Middlesex and 6 at Kingston by 31 July 2013, giving the Unit a total of 15 PhD awards within the assessment period.

5. Publications

7 PhDs awarded within this cycle (Charles, Eyers, Lloyd Thomas, McWherter, Phillips, Skempton, Skrebowski) have provided the basis for publications so far, including Skempton, *Alienation After Derrida*, Continuum, 2010; Eyers, *Lacan and the Concept of the 'Real'* and McWherter, *The Problem of Critical Ontology: Bhaskar Contra Kant*, both Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

The Unit has received the following external research funding awards:

1. At Middlesex (income is therefore not recorded in REF4b here): **Hallward** as PI, with Brassier (and then subsequently **Alliez**) as CI: 1 Jan. 2008–30 Aug. 2009: final 20 months of the AHRC research grant (standard) 'Concept and Form: The *Cahiers pour l'analyse* and Contemporary French Thought': c. £140,000.

2. **Osborne** as PI, with **Alliez** and **Sandford** as CIs: Sept. 2011–30 Aug. 2013: AHRC research grant (speculative): 'Transdisciplinarity in the Humanities: Problems, Methods, Histories, Concepts': £160,162.

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3. Sandford: 1 Feb.–30 June 2012: AHRC Fellowship, ‘John Locke and the Invention of Consciousness: A French Interpretation’: £29,614.

Total to date awarded within this cycle: c. £330,000, with c. £190,000 awarded at Kingston (income in section 4b is less since the AHRC Transdisciplinarity grant project extended beyond the HESA deadline of 31 July 2013).

Infrastructure

The Management Group of the Unit is made up of the Director, the Deans of the two Faculties, and the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research (chair).

Facilities

When the Unit moved to Kingston, resources were made available for a new collection of specialized library materials in modern European philosophy, which receives annual investment. There is a dedicated space for postgraduate students in the University’s Learning and Resources centre.

In order to open its research events to a wider audience, the Unit frequently holds them in central London venues. Since April 2010, nearly all research events in Philosophy have been professionally recorded and are available open access to listen to or download as audio files at the backdoorbroadcasting.net and Unit websites.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

These occur at four levels: institutional collaborations, activities organised by the Unit, individual staff contributions, and postgraduate careers.

A. Institutional collaborations

On 1 October 2010, Kingston University and the University of Paris 8 signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the establishment of cooperation in research (and postgraduate teaching) between the Unit and the Philosophy Department at Paris 8 (see c(i), above). The first joint research event took place in Dec. 2011, and collaborative project applications are being planned (see b(2), above).

In September 2013, the Unit became part of an ‘Affiliate’ agreement between the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) London and Kingston University. This involves contributing to the ICA public programme and workshops sessions in the ICA Studio, as well as collaboration with graduate curriculum development. All students on the Unit programme become free members of the ICA, and PhD students will be encouraged to run workshop sessions there, with public participation, as part of the impact plans for their PhD research.

B. Activities organised by the Unit

In addition to its regular research seminar, the Unit organised 16 international conferences and research workshops, leading to these publications:

Aesthetics and Contemporary Art (March 2008, Middlesex University) with the Collaborative Research Centre ‘Aesthetic Experience and the Dissolution of Artistic Limits’ (CRC 626), Free University Berlin. British Academy conference grant: £3,500. Papers published in A. Avanesian and L. Skrebowski, eds, *Aesthetics and Contemporary Art*, Sternberg Press, Berlin and New York, 2011, 249 pp.

The Guattari Effect: The Life and Work of Felix Guattari 1930-1992 (April 2008, Middlesex University), supported by the Cultural Service of the French Embassy. Papers published in Eric Alliez and Andrew Goffey, eds, *The Guattari Effect*, Continuum, London and New York, 2011, vii + 306 pp.

Undoing the Aesthetic Image (January 2009, Clore Auditorium, Tate Britain, London) Supported by the Cultural Service of the French Embassy. Papers published as Part 1 of Eric Alliez and Peter Osborne, eds, *Spheres of Action: Art and Politics*, Tate Publishing London, 2013, pp. 1–76.

Concept and Form: The Cahiers pour l'Analyse and Contemporary French Thought (May 2009, Middlesex University.) Papers in P. Hallward and K. Peden, eds, *Concept and Form, Volume 2: The Cahiers pour l'Analyse and Contemporary French Thought*, Verso, London and New York, September 2012, 290 pp.

From Structure to Rhizome: Transdisciplinarity in French Thought, 1945 to the Present: Histories, Concepts, Constructions (April 2010, The French Institute, London.) Supported by the Cultural Service of the French Embassy. Papers published in two Dossiers, in *Radical Philosophy* 165 (Jan/Feb 2011), pp. 15–40 and 167 (May/June 2011), pp. 15–42.

The Government of Self and Others: On Foucault's Lectures at the Collège de France, 1982/3 (December 2010, Bolivar Hall, London). Potte-Bonneville paper published in *Radical Philosophy* 166 (March/April 2011), pp. 29–38.

Media, New Media, Post-Media: What is German Philosophy of Media? (May 2011, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London). Dossier: 'What is German Media Philosophy?', *Radical Philosophy* 169 (Sept/Oct 2011), pp. 1–17.

Conferences and workshops organized by the Unit involved 120 speakers from 18 countries. The Unit also hosted 58 external speakers at its research seminars, giving a total of **178 visiting speakers** at research events in **6 years**, the majority from abroad, including many of the major figures in European philosophy and critical theory (Giorgio Agamben, Roberto Esposito, Rudolfe Gasché, Donna Haraway, Bruno Latour, Jacques Rancière, Isabelle Stengers, Antonio Negri) as well as younger scholars from France and Germany (Didier Debaise, Elie During, Markus Gabriel, Quentin Meillassoux, Juliane Rebentisch, Frank Ruda, Jan Voelker).

Sandford organised the annual conference of the Society for Women in Philosophy, **Feminist Epistemology and Philosophical Traditions** at Kingston (November 2011); and in Sept. 2013, the Unit hosted the annual conference of the **Society for European Philosophy**, with over 70 papers over two days.

C. Individual staff contributions

Visiting Positions

Alliez: Senior Fellow, Internationales Kolleg für Kulturtechnik-forschung und Medienphilosophie (IKKM), Bauhaus University, Weimar (2010).

Malabou: Visiting Professor in the Departments of: Rhetoric, University of California, Berkeley (2008); Philosophy, New School for Social Research, New York (2010); Comparative Literature, University of Wisconsin, Madison (2011); and Comparative Literature at the State University of New York, Buffalo (2009–11).

Osborne: Distinguished Visitor to the Program 'Globalization and Temporality', Committee on Globalization and Social Change, CUNY Graduate Center, New York (Nov. 2012 & April 2013).

Caygill, Osborne, Hallward and **Sandford** have held the Visiting Chair, 'Problématisations du réel historique de la pensée sociale', in the Department of Philosophy, University of Paris 8, successively by semester, from 2011 onward.

Research Foundations and Councils

Hallward is a member of the selection panel for Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ACLS Recent Doctoral Recipients Fellowships (2009 onward).

Osborne is a member of the European Research Council (ERC), 'Cultures and Cultural Production', Ideas Specific Programme, Start-Up Grants Panel (2010 onward) and the AHRC Peer Review College (2006 onward). He served on AHRC 'History and Thought' panels (2011–2013) and acted as an external referee for the Vienna Science and Technology Fund, Project Grants (2013), Foundation for Polish Science, Postdoctoral Grants in Philosophy (2012), Irish Research Council, Postdoctoral Awards (2009).

Editorial positions

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Balibar is on the Editorial Committee of revue *Transeuropéennes*, Paris, and the Advisory Boards of *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, Canberra (Blackwell), *Rethinking Marxism: A Journal of Economics, Culture and Society*, Amherst, and *Das Argument, Zeitschrift für Philosophie und Sozialwissenschaften*, Berlin.

Malabou is Editor of the philosophy series 'Non et Non', Editions Léo Scheer, Paris. She is a member of the Editorial Boards of the journals: *Revue philosophique de la France et de l'étranger*, PUF, Paris, *Retour d'y voir*, Museum of Contemporary Art Journal, Geneva, *Derrida Today*, Edinburgh University Press and *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, Memphis.

Hallward is a contributing editor of *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*.

Hallward, Osborne and Sandford are members of the Editorial Collective of the journal *Radical Philosophy*.

Osborne is on the International Advisory Boards of the *Nordic Journal of Aesthetics* and *Time and Society*.

Scholarly societies

Balibar is Président de l'Association Jan Hus pour la coopération universitaire entre la France, la Tchéquie et la Slovaquie and a Founding Member of Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (FFIPP).

Balibar and **Hallward** are members of the Centre International d'Étude de la Philosophie Française Contemporaine, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris. **Benjamin** is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. **Sandford** is a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP). **Osborne** and **Sandford** are members of the Executive Committee Society for European Philosophy (SEP).

Invited public and keynote lectures

All staff regularly give public and keynote lectures, internationally, in academic and broader cultural and art-institutional contexts, including: **Balibar**: Universities of Frankfurt, Princeton and UC, Berkeley (2010); The Transatlantic Academy, Washington DC (2013). **Hallward**: Oklahoma State University (2010); University of Lisbon (2012); York University, Toronto (2013). **Malabou**: Center for Humanities, NYU (2010); Neuro-Humanities Center, Duke; School of Criticism & Theory, Cornell (2013). **Osborne**: Institute of Advanced Studies, Freiburg; Nordic Society of Aesthetics, Copenhagen (2011); Moderna Museet/Royal Institute of the Arts, Stockholm (2012); Haus der Kulturen Welt, Berlin (2013); **Sandford**: Duke University and Universities of Helsinki and Södertörn (2011–12).

Translations

These include **Malabou** into: German, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish; **Osborne** into Chinese, French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.

External examinations

Balibar, Caygill, Hallward and **Sandford** have externally examined PhDs in the UK and abroad. **Caygill** and **Sandford** are examiners for MAs at Cardiff, Dundee and Hull universities.

D. Postgraduate careers

McWherter (PhD 2010) is a Lecturer in Philosophy, American University of Beirut; Evers (PhD 2011) had a two-year Andrew Mellon Post-doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities at Washington University in St Louis, and is now Assistant Professor in Philosophy, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

Other recent PhDs work philosophically within other disciplines: Skrebowski (PhD 2009) is a 0.5 Lecturer in the Dept of the History of Art, University of Cambridge; Lloyd Thomas (PhD 2010) is a Lecturer in Architecture at Newcastle University; Charles (PhD 2010) is a Postdoctoral Fellow in English, University of Westminster.