

Institution: University of Liverpool

Unit of Assessment: 30 Philosophy

1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

Our Department is healthier and more successful than it has ever been. Our clear vision and ambitious agenda are underpinned by considerable investment by the University. The Department of Philosophy is situated in the School of the Arts, which is part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. During the past few years, we have almost doubled the number of our staff, increased the value of research grants awarded by 400%, and become a much more diverse and evenly balanced department in terms of gender, international background, and experience.

1.1. Philosophy in the World

A central part of our vision is to build upon the Department's long and distinguished history of combining research excellence in core areas of philosophy with innovative work at the frontiers of the discipline: from literature to spirituality, philosophy of time to animal ethics, moral integrity to radical human enhancement, Neoplatonism to feminism. Deliberately bridging the traditional divide between the "analytical" and "continental" and having a decidedly ecumenical outlook, we regard philosophy as a set of approaches and methods that can help us make sense of whatever is puzzling, perplexing or interesting in the world around us.

Accordingly, we do not conduct our work in a vacuum but very much in the social and civic space of the city of Liverpool with its rich history of industry and commerce, culture and the arts, political activism and migration. We work with partners such as the Bluecoat Gallery, Tate Liverpool, National Museums Liverpool, NHS North-West, Alder Hey Children's Hospital and others to find applications for our work and to inspire our thinking. Our REF2014 submission emphasised the wide range of activities that engaged with local institutions through our *Philosophy in the City* initiative. We have maintained and expanded this approach during the current period, relaunched and reframed as *Philosophy in the World* to capture the extended national and international scope and ambition of our impact and knowledge exchange activity. We have worked with many organisations, from the Ministry of Defence to the Irish Postal Service, from the EU's Creative Research Adaptive Roadmap project to Channel 4, from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics. In doing so we have benefited from the expertise and experience of new colleagues (Furman, Gow, Hauskeller, McKenna, Schramme, Simoniti, Wiseman) who have joined the Department during

the period. Examples of this work, much of which is planned to continue into the next REF period, are provided in the following sections.

1.2. *Philosophy and the Future*

We have also made a strategic decision to focus much of our research on various philosophical questions that arise from current technological, social and cultural developments. Clearly, the future will hold many challenges and opportunities for our students, for their children, and for society as a whole. We believe that philosophers have a crucial role to play in confronting these demands. Accordingly, our *Philosophy and the Future* research theme, pioneering in terms of the diversity of issues encompassed, targets the ethical, political, social, metaphysical and spiritual implications of environmental change, technological and scientific developments, as well as emerging forms of artistic, social and political interaction.

Our current work in this area analyses the future of the concepts *human* and *non-human*; the function of myth in constructing future narratives; the role of the philosopher in a changing society; transhumanism and radical human enhancement; the transformation of art through technology and vice versa (see also section 4.4), and the philosophy of games and gaming. Work on these issues often has impact potential, so that there is overlap with the *Philosophy in the World* approach. But *Philosophy and the Future* is distinctive both in its specific focus on philosophical issues raised by the kinds of developments just mentioned and in encompassing relatively 'pure' research.

1.3. *Strategic Objectives*

The Department's overall aim through this assessment period has been to develop and strengthen its position as an expanding, dynamic and successful centre of research in philosophy committed to maximising the production of research and impact of the highest standards, whilst maintaining its traditional commitment to philosophical diversity. This overall aim, which will continue to guide us through the next period, can be broken down into seven interconnected subsidiary aims:

1.3.1 *Continuing to grow our community of internationally excellent and world-leading researchers*

The Department has seen a significant expansion and diversification of academic staff. At the time of the last REF the Department had nine permanent Category A staff: two full professors, one senior lecturer and six lecturers, only one of them (a lecturer) female (11%). In 2016 and 2017 three new members of staff were appointed, including a new Head of Department (Hauskeller). During the following year four additional T&R staff were hired, enhancing the Department's profile in epistemology, ethics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, the philosophy of gender,

aesthetics and political philosophy, as well as furthering our emphasis on *Philosophy in the World* and our *Philosophy and the Future* theme. In addition, over the current REF assessment period three members of staff previously on temporary teaching contracts have been made permanent.

Today the unit staff includes five full professors (Dainton, Gaskin, Hailwood, Hauskeller, Schramme), one reader (Vassilopoulou), three senior lecturers (Hill, McLeod, Wiseman), and eight lecturers (Furman, Gow, McKenna, Simoniti, and Bartley, Davnall, Gkogkas, Jobling). The last four are on permanent teaching and scholarship contracts but are also contributing members of the Department's research culture. In total, the Department has now seventeen academic members of staff, including thirteen Category A staff and six women (35%).

1.3.2. Ensuring support for the production of research outputs of the highest quality

Whilst at Liverpool during the period current staff have published 7 monographs, 49 chapters, 72 journal articles and 7 edited collections. This reflects a supportive and encouraging environment that enables staff to work on a variety of different areas, styles and approaches to philosophy. One way we do this is through regular work-in-progress meetings focused on improving work on its own terms. In addition, as well as other events and the more informal discussions that occur naturally within a close-knit community of scholars, our research staff meet regularly with the Departmental Research Lead (Hailwood) and the Head of Department (HoD) to discuss their progress, future directions, possible collaborations and sources of funding. Research plans are also discussed in annual Professional Development Review (PDR) meetings. Designated funding at Department and School levels is made available to allow staff to attend conferences and carry out other research-related work (see 3.2 and 3.4). Substantial outputs planned for the next REF period include books on negation and falsity; non-human agency; and on paternalism.

Decisions regarding which outputs to select for REF2 were made in accordance with the University Code of Practice by the Departmental REF Governance Committee comprising all senior staff, an ECR representative (Simoniti) and an independent observer from English (see Institutional Statement, 3.7).

1.3.3. Ensuring that work with excellent impact potential is identified, supported and produced.

The Department takes an open and collegiate approach to impact. Impact is on the agenda of research meetings and staff are encouraged to consider and develop the impact potential of their research projects in discussion with colleagues. Forms of support specifically for impact include

an Impact Team which the Department has established to ensure potentially impactful work is identified, discussed and supported. Its composition is REF Lead, HoD plus staff with a particular interest in impact and current impact-relevant projects. Supplementing this Team is a Faculty Impact Officer who advises on the development of case studies and regular Faculty-run fora for the discussion of developing case studies. Post-doctoral Research Assistants have been appointed by the Faculty to assist in the development of impact case studies, including with regard to evidence gathering. The decision regarding which impact case studies to submit to this REF was made by the Departmental Impact Team supported by the Faculty Impact Officer, the APVC for research and Faculty-arranged external consultation and confirmed by our REF Governance Committee. The implications of taking impact projects forward are considered by the HoD and factored into workload modelling.

Various projects have been supported and developed within the period that have strong impact potential over the longer term. These are in addition to our submitted impact case studies, reflecting our commitment to the *Philosophy in the World* approach and so to ensuring that a substantial proportion of our research work is pursued with impact in mind. They include, for instance, collaboration with the NHS, work on marriage and the state, meaningful living, the epistemic causes of climate change denial and the role and influence of women in philosophy (see 2.2, 3.1, 3.3-4, 4.1-5).

1.3.4. Maintaining, strengthening, and expanding our international collaborations and contributions to the health and vitality of the discipline internationally

For us, the cosmopolitan character of philosophy is as important as remaining in touch with local realities. We have had notable success in maintaining and strengthening our international collaborations and contributions to the health and vitality of the discipline internationally. Currently all Category A staff engage in international collaboration, whether through funded projects, co-authored outputs, impact work with non-UK institutions, or running journals. We aim to maintain this over future REF periods. For more details see 4.1-7.

1.3.5. Extending and deepening connections with other disciplines

Working with other disciplines has always been important to us, both to enrich and inform our own work and help realise philosophy's potential to deepen the work of other disciplines. This has been an increasing feature of our work over the period and is illustrated by our 'Information Provision in Donor Conception' impact case study, based upon the work of Dr Lucy Frith, a bioethicist with longstanding connections to the Department (her PhD was co-supervised by Philosophy). Based in the Institute of Population Health at Liverpool she is a member of the Royal College of

Physicians Ethics Committee, the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology and the NHS Clinical Priorities Advisory Board. She is also a member of our Departmental Impact Team, and her work both falls under the *Philosophy and the Future* research theme and exemplifies our *Philosophy in the World* approach.

Interdisciplinary connections are fostered through research projects and centre-based activities. Examples of interdisciplinary work pursued by members of the Department during the current REF assessment period, and extending into the next, include work with colleagues in:

- Communication and Media, Law, Politics and Sociology on a project on public standards, ethics and entrapment led by McLeod (and supported by the Society for Applied Philosophy)
- English, History, Computer Science, and Special Collections and Archives through the *Olaf Stapledon Centre for Speculative Futures* located in the School of Arts. This is co-directed by Dainton and capitalises on the University's Science Fiction Foundation Library, the largest catalogued collection of science fiction in Europe.
- History and Theology through the *Jonathan Edwards Centre*. This has two UK bases one of which is directed by Hill at Liverpool.
- Art History, Communication and Media and Politics on a project led by Simoniti on the aesthetics and politics of online visual culture.

Details of these and other interdisciplinary initiatives are given in 3.4, 4.1-5.

1.3.6. Further embedding and supporting postgraduate researchers within our research environment

Our PGR community has grown significantly. In the previous REF period 9 (FTE) PhDs were awarded; in this period there have been 15.87, with 11 students currently working towards completion. As evidenced in 2.4, 3.5 and 4.6, our research students play a vital role in our research environment. The diversity of their projects reflects the diversity of our interests and includes, for example, metaethical quasi-realism, Fregean philosophy of language, panpsychism, ecophenomenology, the concept of love, theological determinism, and ethical hospital design. We aim to recruit more students especially under the *Philosophy and the Future* theme over the next REF period, and to increase our overall completion rate in equal proportion.

1.3.7. *Increasing our already considerable success in securing external funding in pursuit of these aims*

Our external grant income has more than doubled from £78,939 in the last REF assessment period to £179,256 in this one. The latter includes EU funding for Vassilopoulou's involvement in the Cre-aM (Creativity Research Adaptive Roadmap) initiative. This was reported in our REF2014 submission, but the expenditure fell within this period. Further indications of our growing success are:

- a 170% increase in annual income over the period from £36,940 (2013/14) to £101,118 (2019/20)
- a 400% increase in the total value (in the sense of total cost) of grants secured for the unit in this period compared with the previous period (from £141,880 to £713,411). This includes two grants to support major projects extending into the next REF period (see 3.1 for details of these, and 2.3, 3.2 and 3.4 for details of the mechanisms that supported this success).

2. People

We value each member of staff and all our research students and strive to support them equally, making sure they are encouraged to develop their skills and expertise and be their best, both for their own benefit and that of the Department and the wider community, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, nationality, age, or level of experience.

2.1. *Support for Women*

As mentioned, we have substantially grown our staff base during this REF period. In addition to the strategic goals stated in the previous section, our approach to recruitment has been guided also by a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. There has been significant improvement in terms of the gender balance. In REF2014, we had nine Category A staff of whom one was female. Of our current thirteen Category A staff, four are women (one reader, one senior lecturer, and two lecturers). We are determined to make further improvements over the next few years. To this end, and as a result of discussions welcoming all voices in the Department, we have adopted recommendations of the Good Practice Scheme developed by the *Society for Women in Philosophy* and the *British Philosophical Association*. We now always have at least two women on our hiring panels, and the aim is that half of the panel will be women. All staff are individually supported in their career development and to apply for promotion in conversation with the HoD and in their PDRs. During the assessment period we had eight promotions in the Department. In

2019/20 we had two, both of them women. The Department also actively supports leadership training for women, financing for instance Vassilopoulou's participation in Aurora, the Advance HE's leadership initiative for women (see Institutional Statement, 3.4).

2.2. Other Ways of Promoting Equality, Inclusion, and Diversity

We also seek to promote equality, inclusion and diversity in our research environment in various other ways:

- We subscribe to the ten key principles of the Athena SWAN Charter, and two members of staff are on the Self-Assessment Team organised by the School of the Arts as it works to achieve an institutional Bronze Award.
- All members of staff have been provided with information on unconscious bias, which is now part of staff's obligatory video training, and members of hiring panels are routinely reminded to familiarize themselves with this information.
- Staff are encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of University networks aimed at overcoming exclusion (see Institutional Statement, 3.2-3).
- Also important to the inclusivity and diversity of our research environment is its international character. Whereas in 2014, 22% of our Category A staff were international (non-UK background), the current figure is 38%.
- We aim for 50% women on our Stapledon Colloquium programme. (This is the Department's series of research presentations by external speakers and takes place on average every two weeks during term time).
- We prioritise questions from students in conferences, workshops and work-in-progress sessions.
- We will factor in financial assistance for childcare in grant bids involving conference attendance wherever possible.
- Through Department meetings and email reminders, we make sure that all members of staff are aware of the definition of and information regarding sexual harassment.
- In line with Athena SWAN, Stapledon colloquia and work-in-progress sessions are scheduled in the afternoon, in order to make it easier for staff with families and caring responsibilities to attend.
- Teaching and scholarship staff are all included in our research events, to which they make an important contribution including by presenting work in work-in-progress sessions.
- Teaching is scheduled flexibly for staff with family and caring responsibilities, or with chronic health conditions.

Four of the PhDs awarded during the period focus mostly or entirely on non-Western philosophy, reflecting our longstanding research and teaching interests in Indian and other non-Western philosophy. We support the University's intention to sign the Race Equality Charter and the School's endorsement of this (see Institutional Statement, 3.2). To reaffirm the openness of our research environment and reinforce its attractiveness to scholars from diverse backgrounds we are exploring measures such as reading groups and modules in the philosophy of race and African philosophy. This is under the leadership of Furman, a recently appointed colleague with interests in these areas and whose work on the ethics and science of health care in African countries also has strong impact potential.

Indeed, we strongly encourage and support research directly relevant to equality, diversity and inclusion. One particularly prominent example is Wiseman's *Women in Parenthesis* project that involves a large number of national and international collaborators and whose overall aim is to establish the important place in 20th century philosophy of the work of Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Mary Midgley and Iris Murdoch, viewed as constituting a philosophical school in their own right.

2.3. Staff Development

Staff development as researchers is enabled and supported in a variety of ways: during teaching semesters staff are entitled to at least one day per week as a research day with no timetabled teaching. New staff are mentored by more senior staff and given lighter teaching loads (in terms of contact hours and marking load, 70% in their first year, 80% in their second year and 90% in their third year) to help them maintain research momentum whilst establishing themselves in post. Also crucial to the development of research is periodic research/impact leave. Consequently, all research staff may apply for School-funded research leave after every 5 semesters to develop a defined project, whether output, impact or funding bid-oriented. Usually this is one semester's leave from teaching and administration. Applications for leave are considered by the School's Research and Impact Committee, of which the Philosophy Research Lead is a member. Over the current period such leave has enabled staff to complete substantial research monographs (for example, Gaskin's *Tragedy and Redress in Western Literature*; Hailwood's *Alienation and Nature in Environmental Philosophy*), develop new lines of research (for example, Schramme's work on interpersonal understanding and empathy), and pursue knowledge exchange and impact partnerships (for example, Vassilopoulou's work with local cultural institutions). Research/impact leave is discussed in PDR and research meetings, in both of which staff are advised on planning and delivering their research aims and how these relate to their own career goals, as well as to the strategic goals of the Department and University. Staff research aims increasingly include impact, engagement with which is also an important consideration in both recruitment and promotion.

The wider Faculty and University, which are committed to implementing the principles of the Concordat to Support the Development of Researchers, provide a range of support for research staff development (see Institutional Statement, 3.3, 4.1). This includes doctoral supervision training (mandatory for all supervisors), a Faculty ECR Network to provide a supportive community and advice for early career researchers and PGRs. Colleagues and PGRs also benefit from events linked to engage@liverpool – a cross-Faculty research and methods initiative aimed at sharing methodological insights across disciplines - and a Faculty Research and Impact Support Team to advise on the development of projects and funding applications. Staff and PGRs have benefited from a range of other mechanisms and internal sources of funding as described in 3.2-5.

2.4. PGR Development

As noted in 1.3.6, our community of postgraduate researchers has grown over the period. Our PGRs are provided with a wide range of support and training opportunities (see also Institutional Statement, 3.5).

Each student has two supervisors with appropriate expertise and responsibility for supervising the thesis and for advising on such matters as publication, conference attendance and organisation, and the importance of impact.

Early in their first year, PGRs complete a Development Needs Analysis for discussion with their supervisors. This enables identification of development priorities and training needs in relation to the student's research goals and career plans. A personal development plan is decided and updated annually. The plan includes which of the range of training opportunities available would be appropriate for the student. We supplement these with several kinds of discipline-specific research skills development opportunities in the Department:

- We hold 'INSIGHTS' seminars for PGRs and PGTs to accompany the Stapledon Colloquium. Students join the Stapledon speaker before the Colloquium for an informal discussion of the paper and to find out about the speaker's research background and career. This provides them with insights into the research context for the specific talk, and more generally into writing and delivering a talk, building a research project and profile, and into academic life and different career paths. Each INSIGHT seminar discussion is led by a student with support from the Departmental PGT Lead.
- PGR students are encouraged to present their own work at the regular philosophy Work-in-Progress sessions, which provide a major platform for the dissemination of research within the Department, and for the integration of PGRs into our research culture. Many of

these Work-in-Progress sessions have been organised and chaired by PGR students, supported by their supervisors and other staff. This is true also of our Graduate Conference.

- We hold our Annual Graduate Conference each spring. PGRs give presentations to an audience of their peers and supervisors. From this they gain experience of presenting philosophical research in a conference setting and receive feedback on their presentations. Those organising and chairing the conference also gain valuable experience in this aspect of academic life.
- PGRs are encouraged to attend a philosophy Research Skills module (encompassing logic training and 'Philosophy through Words', an etymological and philological exploration of philosophically significant terms in Western and non-Western traditions).

PGRs also participate in an annual Faculty PGR Showcase, an exercise that encourages them to make their research accessible to judges comprising both academics across the disciplines and representatives of external institutions and industries. Another important opportunity is provided by the Liverpool Doctoral College placements programme. This was initiated by the School of Arts with considerable input from Philosophy, drawing upon the many connections we have with local cultural institutions. The LDC organises 15-day placements in a variety of non-academic (public, private and charity) organisations to give interested PGRs the opportunity to develop experience, skills and contacts to enhance their employability, as well as reflect on possible relations between their research and the work of the organisation. For example, one of our PGRs had placements in both the Open Eye Gallery and FACT that helped further her research into the concept of aestheticization and its relevance in the digital age, and also provided important experience to strengthen a subsequent successful application to work for the *Kunstsammlungen* art museum in Chemnitz. Five of our students have benefited from this programme so far.

PGR progress is monitored annually via a meeting of each student with two members of staff not involved in the student's supervisory team. At this meeting, training opportunities and other activities (for example, conference attendance) are also discussed. A report from this meeting then informs an online annual progress monitoring process that includes input from the student, supervisors and the Departmental PGR Lead.

These support mechanisms and processes have enabled and encouraged our PGRs to make an invaluable contribution to our research environment. They regularly publish work, including outputs co-authored with staff, and present work at external conferences. Further notable achievements and contributions are listed here, with additional examples in 3.5 and 4.6:

- One of our PGRs received the 2016 Young Scholar Award from the International Association of Aesthetics.
- PGRs organised and chaired a successful virtual conference in 2020. They have also provided assistance with staff-run events and projects (such as *Women in Parenthesis*).
- In addition to her role as Philosophy PGR student rep sitting on the Departmental Staff-Student Liaison Committee, one of our PGRs acted as a School 'Super-Rep', a student representative of the School PGR community raising and discussing at the School PGR Committee issues affecting postgraduate researchers across the School as a whole.

We support our PGRs in gaining experience of teaching and assessment. PGRs also devise and deliver Continuing Education courses for the general public. Their teaching activities are regularly peer-reviewed by experienced staff and they are required to take University-supplied training in teaching and assessment.

Graduate destinations for our PGRs this period include academic posts at Southeast University (Nanjing), Trinity College Dublin, and a Research Fellowship at North-West University (South Africa).

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Thanks to a comprehensive grant support system, our staff's hard work and enthusiasm, and the collaborative nature of the grant-writing process in our Department, we have recently been very successful in securing high-value grants for ambitious projects with considerable impact potential, and we are confident that we will be able to continue to do so in future.

3.1. Grant Income

Compared with REF2014, our annual income per FTE has grown by 12% (from £1,745 to £1,970), whilst our staff base has grown by 44% (from 9FTE to 13FTE). Our total grant income over this REF period is £179,256 and the total value of awards coming to the Department £713,411. This was from a range of national and international sources, including:

- AHRC, British Society of Aesthetics and the Wellcome Trust (e.g. to support Vassilopoulou's Philosopher-in-Residence and Philosophy in the Gallery work)
- British Academy (to support a network project on Schelling's philosophy of nature led by Whistler, a former colleague)

- the EU (as mentioned in 1.3.7, the Department received income through the EU-supported Cre-aM project. This ran from 2013-2016 with the aim of bringing together creators using ICT tools and technology providers and innovators).

Further funded projects are mentioned below.

Whistler's successful bids for a Humboldt Fellowship and a EURIAS Fellowship were also supported prior to his departure to Royal Holloway in 2017. Another successful bid for a EURIAS Fellowship for a former colleague, Tanyi, was also supported prior to his departure to Tromsø in 2017. We continue to collaborate with both these colleagues.

Two recent awards will take major projects into the next REF period:

- *Perception, Action and the Genesis of Everyday Ethics* (PAGE) (2019–2021; PI: Wiseman), funded by AHRC Research Grant with £352k. This is the first detailed study of the collective corpus of Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Mary Midgley and Iris Murdoch. It aims to (1) chart its distinctive philosophy, (2) demonstrate its potential to disrupt the dominant historical narrative of analytic philosophy, (3) contribute to current, discipline-wide efforts to stem the attrition of female talent from philosophy.
- *How Does It Feel? Interpersonal Understanding and Affective Empathy* (2020-2022; PI: Schramme), funded by the AHRC with £350k and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft with €572k going to project partners in Essen. This aims to contribute to a theory of interpersonal understanding by considering rarely discussed dimensions of the phenomenon: (1) grasping what it is like for another to be in a certain situation, (2) accepting another's feelings, motivation or action, (3) achieving these through emotional or affective empathy.

We are now pursuing our goal of increased external funding in the light of the recent and ongoing changes in strategic research orientation and investment, especially in *Philosophy and the Future* and *Philosophy in the World*. Examples include projects on the aesthetics and politics of online visual culture (Simoniti), meaning in life (Hauskeller), simulation and evil (Dainton).

3.2. Support Mechanisms

In pursuing this goal through the next period we will continue to be supported by a range of mechanisms. In their PDRs and research meetings staff are encouraged to apply for appropriate funding. They receive several levels of support in developing their applications. Bids are peer-reviewed by the HoD, Research Lead and other colleagues with relevant experience and

expertise, and often go through several rounds of review. Bids for more than £20,000 are also scrutinised by a School Peer Review Panel, comprising colleagues across the School with experience of successful bids and of funding council peer-review and panel membership. Advice on costings is provided by the School Finance and Research Team. The School also has a list of 'funder champions' who act as first contact for staff considering applications to the AHRC, British Academy, ESRC, and Leverhulme. Faculty also provides a range of resources to help researchers locate appropriate funding sources and guide them through the application process and helps coordinate review processes for annual fellowship competitions (e.g. for the Leverhulme, British Academy Early Career Fellowships). See also Institutional Statement, 4.1.1.

Bids for the awards mentioned in 3.1 were all supported in ways just described and their success is testimony to the effectiveness of these mechanisms. Particular attention is given to supporting funding bids by junior staff. For example, four senior colleagues in the Department commented on several drafts of Wiseman's AHRC PAGE application, and then advised on responses to reviewers' comments. Special attention was given to this also because PAGE is an important part of *In Parenthesis* (mentioned above), itself an important contribution to raising the profile of women in philosophy.

3.3. Conference and Public Lecture Funding

We have recently introduced a series of high-profile public lectures by renowned international philosophers. These take place in a local cultural institution, are funded with £1,500 per annum by the Royal Institute of Philosophy (RiP), and function as a mechanism for delivering philosophy effectively to the wider public and fostering a truly international research environment. The first lecture in the series, on Chinese philosophy, took place in October 2018 and was delivered by Michael Puett (Harvard) at Liverpool's World Museum to support its 'China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Army' exhibition. Further lectures scheduled for 2020 were postponed due to COVID and will take place in the next period: Lydia Goehr (Columbia) and Cheshire Calhoun (Arizona State) both at Tate Liverpool, and Sally Haslanger (MIT). This series complements the regular meetings of the Stapledon Colloquium.

Also postponed into the next assessment period is an RiP conference (£5,000) on *Meaning in Life and the Knowledge of Death*, featuring speakers from Sweden, Finland, the US, and South Africa.

The smaller workshops frequently organised by the Department, are normally internally funded and regularly bring together academic staff, PGRs, philosophers from other universities, and interested members of the public. Examples include workshops on *The Ethics of Police and Media Stings*, *Anti-Natalism*, and *Epistemic Vices*.

3.4. Internal Funding

The Department has an allocated research budget of £9,000p/a. This funds the expenses of guest Stapledon speakers, staff activity such as participation in UK conferences, workshops, and other research-related activities. Staff activity has also been supported through a variety of other internal funding schemes:

- A Research Development Initiative Fund (RDIF) is operated by the School to support staff research activities. Applications are considered by the School of Arts Research and Impact Committee. Approved applications need to have clear plans articulated in relation to the strategic goals of the Department, School and Faculty (for example, regarding outputs, impact, funding bids, interdisciplinarity or internationalisation). The Research Lead sits on this committee and feeds back to colleagues on their applications. Over the period, staff have received £20,000 from this source. Supported activities included: workshop organisation (for example, on Linguistic Idealism to assist in the development of Gaskin's REF2 monograph on this topic); conference organisation (for example, co-organisation of a conference in Dublin on *Women in Philosophy* to help prepare the successful PAGE bid (see 3.1-2) and the philosophy by postcard project (see 4.3)); conference participation in the USA, Brazil and several European countries, as well as the UK (for example in support of Hill's work with the Tyndale Fellowship (see 4.7)).
- A Knowledge Exchange, Impact and Public Engagement Voucher Scheme, operated by the University's Research, Partnerships and Innovation Team (see Institutional Statement, 4.1.2), awarded Vassilopoulou £13,400 to extend her Philosopher-in-Residence work to the Herakleidon Museum in Athens.
- An Interdisciplinary Networking Fund, from which McLeod received £3,000 to support a workshop on *Public Standards, Ethics and Entrapment*.
- Impact acceleration funding with a rapid turnaround designed to enable staff to take advantage of short-term impact opportunities. Several projects have benefited from this, including Frith's impact work (£1,500).

3.5. PGRs

Funding has come mainly from the AHRC via the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP) with 7 awards made during the current period, and 1 AHRC award under the previous Block Grant Partnership.

This funding success is due not only to the quality of our students, but also to our policy of ensuring that potential supervisors work closely with applicants on their proposals, a process overseen by the PGR Lead. Our involvement with the NWCDTP has also enhanced the PGR research

experience in several ways: all PGRs (not only those with awards) are given support that enables them to attend and present work at NWCDTP Philosophy Pathway events; students have access to training, advice and informal supervisory support from colleagues at other NWCDTP institutions. Staff at Liverpool also provide supervisory support for students at other NWCDTP institutions, a process that allows for sharing of good supervisory practice, as well as a wider pool of expertise to the benefit of students.

PGRs are also supported by an internal Postgraduate Research Support Fund (PRSF) to which they can apply for up to £300 per annum for the reimbursement of conference and travel expenses and up to £1,000 for organising workshops and small conferences. During the period, philosophy PGRs received £9,500 from this source. Notable funded activities in the period include:

- A team of Liverpool PGRs gained the support of the British Postgraduate Philosophy Association to run the BPPA 2015 Masterclass in Liverpool on 'Set Theory Ontology and the Philosophy of the Event'. They secured additional funding for this from the PRSF, as well as from *Mind* and the *Journal of Badiou Studies* (of which one of our PGRs subsequently became an editor). Participants included Alain Badiou and other important international scholars, as well as PGRs from across the UK.
- Another team organised and secured School PRSF support for a workshop called 'Analytic-Bridge-Continental + (ABC+) Process Philosophy', in 2016. Participants included Christopher Norris and Joanna Seibt alongside PGRs from Liverpool and elsewhere in the UK.
- Two PGRs won Franklin College-University of Liverpool Doctoral Student Short-Term International Research Fellowships to enable them to visit Franklin College (University of Georgia, Athens), network and present their research there. Both received invaluable advice on their developing PhD theses and on work subsequently published as journal articles.

4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

Our strategic aims include identifying and supporting work that will impact a range of partners and beneficiaries, strengthening and expanding our international collaborations and contributions to the health and vitality of philosophy as an academic discipline, and deepening and extending our interdisciplinary collaborations. We have had considerable success in realising these aims over the REF period and have robust plans for building upon this success in the coming period.

4.1. Residencies & the MA in Art, Philosophy and Cultural Institutions

Our *Philosophy in the World* initiative involves many outward-facing collaborative projects that impact a wide range of beneficiaries, research users and audiences from the local to international levels. One of these is the extensive programme of work that has resulted from residencies members of staff (Vassilopoulou, Hauskeller, Wiseman) have had with institutions such as the Bluecoat (Liverpool's Centre for the Contemporary Arts) and the NHS. The large number of public events at cultural institutions, the consultations with those institutions' management teams, and the staff training involved resulted from our longstanding engagement with the creative and cultural sector.

Also important has been the network of relationships established through running our MA Art, Philosophy & Cultural Institutions programme, which includes a student placement module and teaching delivered by curators and other gallery and museum staff. These relationships and this mode of collaboration have been of great benefit to the wider University, as well as to the Department and partner institutions. As well as helping establish the PGR placement programme, the academic-in-residence model developed by our Department has been adapted by the Department of English as a poet-in-residency (Open Eye Gallery) and by the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology as a sociologist-in-residency (Bluecoat).

4.2. Impact on Healthcare

This work was then extended further to encompass collaboration with the NHS's Research and Development North West. This includes a series of events and a formal residency in the NHS with the aim of bringing philosophical reasoning to some of the key agendas in health and social care by creating opportunities for questioning and exploring the principles underpinning the NHS culture at an individual and at a corporate level. One result of this was Vassilopoulou's being featured in #NHSWonderWomen, a series of NHS Research and Development North West short films showcasing the talent of North West women in health and social care research.

Our case studies also have a strong healthcare orientation, demonstrating our ambition and efforts to extend and deepen interdisciplinary connections, both to enrich our own work and to realise the potential of philosophy to enrich work in other disciplines, as well as deliver value to non-academic beneficiaries and audiences. This is reflected, for example, in our collaboration with researchers from the Medical School and their contribution to our work and vice versa (as evidenced in our impact case study on Information Provision in Donor Conception). Further connections with health care disciplines and issues include our involvement in the University's Centre for Health, Arts and Sciences, by collaborating with the Victoria Museum and Gallery to bring together an exhibition for the 2016 Biennial celebrating and promoting medical humanities research across the

University. That Centre subsequently developed into the Centre for the Humanities and Social Sciences of Health, Medicine and Technology. The Arts, Therapy and Mental Health theme of this is co-led by Schramme whose longstanding interests in the philosophy of medicine, especially with regard to psychopathology, paternalism and coercion, and in healthcare justice are evidenced in our impact case study on Reducing Coercion in Psychiatric Care.

4.3. Other Collaborations

In addition to the PAGE element described above, the *In Parenthesis* project, pursued in collaboration with Durham, also encompasses various sub-projects that fall within the remit of *Philosophy in the World*. These include, in collaboration with the Irish postal service, a Philosophy by Postcard project to celebrate the centenary of Iris Murdoch's birth. Following the issuing of a commemorative stamp in July 2019, members of the public were invited to send a question by postcard to an address in Dublin. One hundred philosophers from around the world (including several from Liverpool) replied to the questions on specially commissioned artist-designed postcards with commemorative Murdoch stamps. A second centenary celebration for Mary Midgley (*Notes on a Biscuit Tin*), paired 12 poets with 12 philosophers in the UK, USA, Canada, Japan, Germany, France and Ireland. The poets wrote new commissions based on themes from Midgley's work and performed them as part of 'in conversation' events with the philosophers. The project has featured in British Academy's 'Shelfies' series, in the *Resurgence & Ecologist* magazine, the *Irish Times*, the Berlin Review of Books, and Durham Book Festival. Work done through *In Parenthesis* was also the subject of an invited British Academy Showcase in 2019.

4.4. Interdisciplinary Collaborations

Much of our current and planned work of the more outward-facing and interdisciplinary variety falls under the *Philosophy and the Future* initiative, which has greatly increased our opportunities for interdisciplinary projects in and beyond the School of the Arts as well as external collaborations and impactful research. We will continue to pursue this whilst retaining current interdisciplinary links (e.g. with Health and Life Sciences). Work currently being undertaken in this area includes outputs and bids on the ethics of autonomous systems (Davnall, Hill,), de-idealised epistemology and the epistemology of climate change denial (McKenna; see 4.5), and work on deception in digital culture. The latter is led by Simoniti with guidance from Vassilopoulou and considers the transformation of visual cultural impacts on politics brought by online forms of communication. It draws upon philosophical work in aesthetics and political epistemology, as well as history of art, artistic practice, and media studies, in order to analyse the forms of deception enabled by visual online culture, the centrality of online imagery to new political identities, and the ways in which traditional forms of political art intersect with online visual culture. In taking this forward and seeking funding for it, we are collaborating with the Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, the

largest festival of visual art in the UK, and contributing a podcast series, public workshops and a further philosopher-in-residence role.

We have also aimed to maintain our longstanding interest in philosophy and science fiction and, as mentioned in 1.3.5, we are doing so through the interdisciplinary *Olaf Stapledon Centre for Speculative Futures*. Through this collaboration we have organized talks (e.g. on posthuman technologies) and have been involved in consultancies, e.g. for the Ministry of Defence on human performance enhancement. This consultancy's objective was to help develop innovative ways of thinking about the topic, to provide creative prompts, and to stimulate outside-the-box thinking, which was greatly facilitated by the cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Further interdisciplinary connections include Wiseman's participation in the Integrity Project and the Donation Research Network. The former brought together philosophers, psychologists political theorist and others from the UK and elsewhere to consider the nature and scope of integrity. The latter is a collaboration with Law at Liverpool and Social Policy at Kent aimed at exploring the policy, legal and philosophical dimensions of charity. McLeod's work (with Hill and Tanyi) on the ethics of entrapment has included participants from the legal profession, media (TV production) and the police, as well as cross-disciplinary colleagues at Liverpool and other UK universities. Earlier in the REF assessment period Whistler ran an AHRC-funded Connected Communities network project - Philosophy and Religious Practices - in collaboration with theologians at Liverpool Hope, University of Chester and religious practitioners, as well as the network on Schelling mentioned above, which involved collaboration with colleagues at the University of the West of England.

4.5. International Collaborations

Collaboration with national and international colleagues remains vital to us and we have continued to strengthen this side of our work. Further notable activities include Hill's central role in setting up the Jonathan Edwards Centre UK, a multi-site partnership with bases at Liverpool, Queen's University Belfast and Yale to promote research into the American philosophical theologian Jonathan Edwards. It hosts regular workshops, public lectures and summer schools. In addition to his large collaboration with colleagues in Essen (see 3.1), Schramme holds a Mercator Fellowship (€16k) to fund part of his collaboration with colleagues in Hamburg on a DFG project on needs-based justice. This included a workshop in Liverpool on sufficientarianism.

Funded by a British Academy/Leverhulme small research grant McKenna is running, with colleagues from Copenhagen, The Psychology and Epistemology of Political Cognition network, which brings together several disciplines including cognitive and social psychology, political science and philosophy, to consider how people form views about contentious political issues such

as immigration and about scientific issues with policy relevance such as climate change. It involves workshops in Liverpool and Copenhagen, an anticipated edited volume and, to facilitate further collaboration, a network website and bibliography of relevant work.

We have also used the departure of some colleagues to other institutions to foster new collaborations, for instance with Whistler at Royal Holloway on topics developed from work underpinning our 'Religious Symbols and Discrimination' REF2014 impact case study. We also continue to work with Tanyi at Tromsø, with which we established an Erasmus exchange agreement. This connection has enabled us to work with their Environmental Philosophy Research Group, to collaborate further on the needs-based justice project, and to strengthen our *Philosophy and the Future* work and involvement with the Olaf Stapledon Centre for Speculative Futures by co-editing and contributing to a collection on the philosophical implications of artificial intelligence.

4.6. Open Research

We are committed to making our research as accessible as possible and pursue this aim in a variety of ways.

Staff are required to place all articles and book contributions on the University's Elements system from which they are fed into the University's publicly accessible Repository (after any necessary embargo period). They are also encouraged to place copyright-compliant pre-prints of outputs online, whether on personal websites or platforms such as Academia.edu, and to publish accessible versions of their work in the free online journal *The Conversation*.

In keeping with our *Philosophy in the World* approach we encourage the development of project websites with blogs, podcasts, interviews, articles and other resources aimed at teachers, students and the wider public. Examples include Notes on a Biscuit Tin (see 4.3) and our Featured Research webpage, which has accounts of current staff and PGR projects and accessible resources relating to them. Staff also share their philosophical research and expertise with non-academic institutions and the wider public through philosopher-in-residence arrangements (see 4.1, 4.2).

We have diverted RiP resources from events held at the University, where they are attended mostly by academics, to events in the city with a higher public profile (see 3.3).

We were glad to welcome back as a PGR one of our former MA students, Jack Symes. Symes' 'Panpsycast' series provides free weekly philosophy podcasts to 70,000 subscribers worldwide and encapsulates our attitude to open research.

4.7. Contributions to the Health of Philosophy as a Discipline

The Department is an active and committed institutional member of the *British Philosophical Association*, and our staff have made increasingly significant contributions to the health of philosophy as an international academic discipline. Staff are regularly invited to international conferences and to give keynote talks at such events. This is normally funded by the inviting institutions, but where this is not possible, internally from our own budget or through RDIF. Of particular note are the 8 keynotes in 6 countries given by Schramme and Hauskeller since their arrival in 2016 and 2018 respectively, on the topics of enhancement and health care ethics.

Four members of staff have senior editorial roles in international journals: Schramme is Co-Editor in Chief of *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Editor in Chief of *Ethik in der Medizin* (the journal of the German Academy of Ethics in Medicine) and a member of the editorial boards of *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, *Philosophical Practice*, and *Zeitschrift für Praktische Philosophie*; Hailwood is Managing Editor of *Environmental Values*; Hauskeller is Co-Editor in Chief of *Scheidewege* (an interdisciplinary journal for 'sceptical thinking'); Wiseman is an Associate Editor of the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*.

Staff also play important roles in various national and international panels and committees. For example, Hailwood is an elected member of the Nominating Committee of the *International Society of Environmental Ethics*, and an invited member of the European Science Foundation's College of Expert Reviewers. Hill is Chair of the *Tyndale Fellowship Study Group in Philosophy of Religion*. Such roles are factored into workload allocation to mark their importance, the time spent on them and to encourage staff to take them up.

We are also proud to host Philos-L, the 'Liverpool List', which is the largest philosophy email list in the world, with 13,000 members in over 60 countries, 11,000 Facebook subscribers and more than 5,600 Twitter followers. It remains an essential tool for philosophers all over the world to share information and ideas.