

<b>Institution: Royal Holloway, University of London</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 30 Philosophy</b>
<p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><b><u>1.1 Unit Context and Structure</u></b></p> <p>Philosophy was established at Royal Holloway to inform research across the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Now entering its first REF exercise, it has realized its vision of becoming a unique centre of research working creatively across the discipline's traditional divisions. It combines scholarship in continental philosophy, analytic philosophy (particularly applied ethics), and approaches working across the analytic-continental divide. It also boasts strengths in ancient philosophy, political philosophy, and pragmatist philosophy. Reflecting the vision behind its establishment, it has a strong pluralist and interdisciplinary ethos.</p> <p>Philosophy began at Royal Holloway in 2007 when staff from Classics, Drama, English, German, and Politics &amp; International Relations collaborated to establish a series of minor degree programmes. The first dedicated philosophy appointments were in 2008, 2012, and 2014, and the Unit expanded significantly with four further appointments between 2017 and 2020. In 2012, Philosophy was incorporated into the Department of Politics &amp; International Relations (PIR), consolidating a core philosophy team (Bowie, Gascoigne, and Sheppard, previously located in German, English and Classics), and allowing them to work directly with PIR's political theorists (Bacon, Seglow, and Widder, the last being part of this REF submission). Following the institution's 2019 reorganization into six Schools (see REF5a, Section 1), it is now part of the Department of Politics, International Relations &amp; Philosophy within the School of Law and Social Sciences.</p> <p>During the REF period, Philosophy grew from 3.5 (Bowie, Gascoigne, Somers-Hall, and Sheppard, who was 0.5 with Classics) to 7 FTE. The REF submission of 9 FTE includes Widder, who works across PIR and Philosophy and provides senior research leadership in Philosophy, and Gloyn, who is based in Classics but works closely in Philosophy research and impact activities and collaborates extensively with Philosophy's Sellars. Five of the Unit's nine members were appointed since 2014.</p> <p>Though a small unit within larger Department and School structures, Philosophy retains significant autonomy over its teaching and research. It oversees day-to-day management and future planning of its research and teaching programmes, convenes subject meetings on teaching and research strategy, has its own research and impact leads, and conducts both its own internal review of grant applications and mentoring of early career staff. It manages its own PGR supervision (and co-supervises several PhD students with PIR political theorists and Classics colleagues) but contributes to a single department committee that reviews PGR applications and to panels that monitor progress.</p> <p>Philosophy's research is managed at School level by a Director of Research &amp; Knowledge Exchange who contributes to College research strategies. Research at the institutional level is led by the Deputy Principal (Academic), who is supported by a Vice Principal for Research Impact and Interdisciplinarity; University Ethics, Research, and Research Degree Programme Committees; a Doctoral School; and a Research &amp; Innovation Department located within professional services that provides dedicated REF and impact support.</p>

## **1.2 Research Strategy**

Following the College's 2014 decision to support the Unit's aspiration to establish itself in the discipline with a separate submission to REF2020, Philosophy pursued a strategy of expansion and diversification to create a vital and sustainable research environment and generate impact. Its key objectives were: (1) developing lines of research with impact potential and realizing impact in the period; (2) growing European philosophy, which was the Unit's existing research strength best able to link to research done elsewhere in the institution; (3) diversifying research strengths and deepening established strengths, thereby supporting the expansion of PGR numbers, the generation of research income, and interdisciplinary work and collaboration; and (4) ensuring that in its expansion it did not lose sight of its pluralist approach, which is central to its ethos and vision. Because of the Unit's small starting size, these objectives were achieved primarily through new appointments.

Philosophy's research profile in 2014 included ancient philosophy (Sheppard), modern and contemporary European philosophy (Bowie, Somers-Hall and Widder), and recent approaches working across the analytic-continental divide (by way of pragmatism via Gascoigne, who works closely with PIR's Bacon, and Bowie). Roache's appointment in 2014 introduced new expertise in the philosophy of psychiatry and applied ethics (focussed on punishment, human enhancement, and the ethics of swearing) and potential for impact built on a strong profile of public engagement. In 2017, the College took the strategic decision to replace retiring professors Bowie and Sheppard with three lecturers: Bruno, Sellars, and Whistler, who together augmented the Unit's research in post-Kantian philosophy and in the origins and influence of German idealism, and preserved ancient philosophy research while adding a dimension exploring its reception in later periods. Whistler brought significant experience with impact, and Sellars's research and engagement activities relating Stoic ethics to problems of everyday life provided the Unit with an ICS. Sellars's work also complemented and augmented Gloyn's research on Seneca and the family, which underpins the Unit's other case study. Finn's January 2020 appointment added a logician and complemented Roache with further applied philosophy research (the metaphysics of pregnancy and the philosophy of love).

This staff growth, alongside the continued development of the Unit's existing research strengths, achieved the strategic objectives set out above by: (1) Giving the Unit strong footprints in key subfields. The Unit now includes pairs of researchers with expertise in Stoicism (Sellars, Gloyn), Schelling (Bruno, Whistler), Deleuze and Guattari (Somers-Hall, Widder), applied ethics (Finn, Roache), and (by including PIR's Bacon alongside Gascoigne) pragmatism, giving it national and international profiles in these areas. (2) Driving significant expansion of PGR numbers, which grew from 14 PGRs commencing during the REF2014 period to 23 PGRs commencing in this period (a 64% increase). (3) Putting the Unit in position to lead new collaborations, including several important initiatives in London. These include Bruno leading in the creation of the London Post-Kantian Society, Sellars in that of the London Centre for Ancient Philosophy, and Whistler in that of the London Historiography of Philosophy Working Group and the "Philosophical Life of Plants" Network (all detailed in Section 4 below). (4) Giving the Unit the critical mass in European philosophy to establish a Centre for Continental Philosophy, whose planned 2020 launch was delayed by Covid-19 until February 2021. The Centre, which has links with the institution's Classics, English, and Modern Languages departments, will support both historical research into the continental tradition and research demonstrating its continuing relevance to problems in philosophy and related disciplines, including politics and literature. It will hold annual distinguished speaker lectures, a regular research seminar series, work-in-progress seminars for PGRs,

reading groups, and special dissemination events such as conferences, workshops, and book launches. It will seek research funding for visiting fellowships, collaborative doctoral awards, research network grants, and larger project grants. (5) Establishing the foundations for current and long-term impact, with Sellars leading one of the Unit's current case studies and with Finn, Roache, and Whistler bringing impact and engagement experience and impact plans linked to future research.

Philosophy's continued growth and development is now a recognized institutional priority. The Unit's research aims and objectives over the next five years (2021-2026) include:

- Developing collaborative research projects involving both UK and overseas partners, building upon collaborations established through Somers-Hall's AHRC ECF, Whistler's EURIAS fellowship and related projects, and his new AHRC-supported network, Bruno's London Post-Kantian Society, and Widder's six-month Leverhulme Visiting Professorship for Jeffrey A. Bell (Southeastern Louisiana University).
- Developing the Unit's new Centre for Continental Philosophy into a vibrant research centre that will underpin the Unit as a recognised centre of excellence for contemporary European philosophy in the UK.
- Strengthening our research strategy through consistent grant capture, and contributing philosophical perspectives to the College's Research Catalysts (see REF5a, Section 2), particularly Living Sustainably and Digital Futures in the Creative and Cultural Industries. Grant capture will serve to support the development of individual researchers and collaborative research, and to enable the production of extended outputs. During the REF period the Unit's research strategy benefitted significantly from research fellowships, international placements, and network grants.
- Developing the Unit's PGR community, building on its already strong achievements as a small unit. There were 23.5 PGR completions between 2013 and 2020, and ten more PGRs are currently working on theses. Seven of these were awarded competitive AHRC studentships through the Unit's participation in the TECHNE DTC. TECHNE was established in 2014, with Royal Holloway leading the bid and subsequently managing the consortium; it was renewed in 2019 for a second five-year period. Other PGRs received significant support from College studentships and external sponsors (see section 3.1 below).
- Continuing to identify and develop research with impact potential and enabling researchers to build links with external users and partners.

### **1.3 Approaches to Enabling Impact**

During the period, the Unit sought to enable impact by:

- 1) Building knowledge and understanding of impact within the Unit so staff could exploit opportunities to develop impact from their research. The Unit benefited from training offered by Impact Managers from the College's Research & Innovation Department, and from away day sessions focused on identifying and pursuing potential lines of impact. A Unit Impact Officer role was created to support colleagues in developing impact strategies and organising engagement activities where impact could be captured. Impact planning was introduced into individual research plans that were regularly updated and reviewed.

- 2) Building capacity for impact through staff recruitment. Appointments in the period were strongly informed by the experience and potential of applicants to generate impact. Whistler, who was part of a REF2014 case study at Liverpool, had significant experience engaging with galleries; Sellars had ongoing impact activities related to his research in Stoic ethics; Roache demonstrated potential for impact relating to her applied ethics research; and Finn had significant public engagement experience for an ECR, including through her previous research role with Southampton's "Metaphysics of Pregnancy" project.
- 3) Facilitating impact by engaging with key user groups and the wider public. The Unit developed partnerships with secondary schools and A-level teachers to support the teaching of Stoic philosophy; inspired students, young people, and members of the general public to engage with Stoic ethics and to adopt Stoic-informed practices of mindfulness; and worked with stakeholders and policymakers concerned with swearing and offensive language. Unit members engaged audiences through media appearances, contributions to popular online forums (Aeon.co, Medium.com, Philosophybites.com, theconversation.com, and Oxford's 'Practical Ethics in the News' blog), public philosophy and literature festivals, and public-facing academic events. They promoted new research and made philosophical interventions on salient current issues through social media. The Unit used its proximity to London and the institution's central London locations at Bedford Square and Senate House to hold public-facing events.

Sellars's case study reflects the Unit's strategic approach to recruitment. When appointed he had a role organizing Stoic Week activities and related events, as well as new lines of research to underpin future impacts, so that, with institutional support, the impact of his research could be significantly broadened and deepened. Gloyn's case study reflects the approach to developing internal mechanisms to identify and support potential lines of impact. Her expertise on Seneca and the family, reflected primarily in her 2017 CUP monograph, led to her engagement with teachers and students to shape the curriculum and teaching of the new "Love and Relationships" unit of the Classics A-level.

Unit staff have developed new areas that will sustain its impactful research in the future. Finn is pursuing two projects with a view to developing their impact potential. The first puts traditional metaphysics and logic into conversation with queer theory's challenges to binary thought, and links well with the institution's new interdisciplinary Gender Institute, which is led by PIR colleagues. The other is a popular book on "Philosophy through Food." Gloyn has developed research on how presentations of classical monsters in television and movies can inform understandings of identity and otherness, which has already led to engagement opportunities and routes to future impact. Roache is pursuing research on swearing and offensive language, examining its broad social function and issues concerning its regulation. Whistler is leading a new interdisciplinary project, "The Philosophical Life of Plants," involving collaborations with Kew Gardens and the Goethe-Archiv Weimar.

#### **1.4 Interdisciplinary Research**

Originally envisioned as a discipline that could bring together Royal Holloway's arts and humanities research, interdisciplinary research has been central to the Philosophy's research environment and its relations to other units in the institution. Its most developed institutional interdisciplinary links are with political theory, but it has retained and further developed links to English, Classics, and Modern Languages. Interdisciplinarity is also embedded into the TECHNE

consortium's research training and funding structure, whose support has underpinned the Unit's PGR growth.

The PIR-based Contemporary Political Theory Research Group, established in 2009, has supported collaborations are between philosophy and political theory, particularly in relation to Deleuzian philosophy and pragmatism. Widder and Somers-Hall have collaborated on numerous publication projects, research events, and PGR supervisions; Widder also served as mentor for Somers-Hall's AHRC Fellowship. Somers-Hall and PIR's Bacon co-supervised a PGR thesis on Deleuze and Rorty. Gascoigne and Bacon collaborated gave joint papers in Portugal and the USA, co-authored a journal article (included in the Unit's output submissions), and contributed to a Spanish language collection, *La racionalidad de la creencia religiosa* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 2019); Gascoigne's monograph on Rorty, democracy and religious certainty (submitted to this exercise) also grew out of these collaborations.

The Unit's growth has fostered new collaborations with researchers in the College's School of Humanities. Somers-Hall and Whistler both collaborated with Liberal Arts colleague Sands (based in Modern Languages), the former in convening the 2019 Society for European Philosophy-Forum for European Philosophy (SEP-FEP) conference and the latter in the "Philosophical Life of Plants" network. Widder collaborated with colleagues from French for an interdisciplinary roundtable at the 2019 UK French Studies Society annual conference. Sellars and Gloyn worked with Classics colleagues to organize the annual Royal Holloway Stoic Workshop, and are co-editing a volume on Musonius Rufus (contracted with Brill) arising from the first workshop in 2019. Roache collaborated with colleagues from the institution's Information Security Group, contributing an ethics component to grant applications looking at autonomous drones and state attempts to force IT companies to disclose encrypted messages.

The Unit has longstanding involvement with and receives support from Royal Holloway's interdisciplinary Humanities and Arts Research Institute. Finn is a member of the institution's new interdisciplinary Gender Institute, where she is leading for philosophy in the development of an interdisciplinary MA in Gender.

### **1.5 Open Access**

The institution complies with the Concordat on Open Research Data and has signed the DORA San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment. It invests in Figshare and has read and publish JISC agreements with Springer and Wiley, allowing staff to publish OA journal articles without paying individual APCs. It maintains an additional fund to pay APCs for key outputs and provides advice and advocacy training for academic staff and PGRs.

All Unit staff and PGRs have institutional research pages that provide access to preprint copies of journal publications and other research hosted by an institutional repository. They are also encouraged to keep academia.edu and/or researchgate.net pages, and several maintain personal websites that host papers, conference presentations, videos of research presentations, and more.

## 2. People

### **2.1 Staffing Strategy and Staff Development**

Staff recruitment was crucial to achieving the Unit's strategic research and impact objectives. Its strategy since 2013 was to build from the ground up and to expand more quickly by appointing talented early and mid-career researchers who could develop within and enrich the College's supportive research environment and who could create synergies within and outside the Unit. Reflecting this strategy, all appointments in the period were made at lecturer level, and in 2017 the College approved the replacement of two retiring professors with three lectureships. To achieve the objective of both developing new areas of research and deepening existing areas, recruitment strategy combined open and targeted appointments. Roache and Sellars were recruited to positions open to research specialism, Whistler to a position in modern European philosophy, Bruno to one in post-Kantian philosophy, and Finn to one in Anglo-American philosophy.

Three men and two women were appointed to permanent posts during the REF period. Four temporary appointments consisted of three men and one woman, with two being teaching replacements funded by external grant awards.

The success of the staffing strategy is indicated by the rapid promotion of new colleagues: Gloyn, appointed to a three-year lectureship in 2013 and a permanent lectureship in 2016, was promoted to SL in 2018 and Reader in 2020; Somers-Hall, appointed in 2012, was promoted to SL in 2014 and Reader in 2016; Roache, appointed in 2014, was promoted to SL in 2016; Whistler and Sellars, appointed in 2017, were promoted to Reader in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Recruitment strategy played to the College's strength in developing early and mid-career researchers. An induction programme introduces new starters to Royal Holloway's vision and operational matters. New lecturers and SLs are appointed with two- or three-year probationary periods, depending on experience, and allocated 70% of a normal teaching load and reduced admin. Probationary staff and, in accordance with the RCUK Concordat, postdocs and teaching fellows, have mentors within the Unit who provide guidance on written work, research plans, engagement and impact strategies, and grant applications, and who prepare annual probation reports reviewed by the institution's Principal's Staffing Group. The development of impact for staff at all levels is supported by the Unit's Impact Officer and the Research & Innovation Department. Annual appraisals review past performance, agree research, impact, and teaching targets and objectives, and identify training and development needs. Staff also submit and update research plans that are reviewed with the Department Research & Knowledge Exchange Lead and/or Unit REF Lead. Under the Unit's peer review system for draft grant applications, two colleagues provide feedback well in advance of submission deadlines. This improves proposals and allows early career researchers to learn good practices of planning and writing grant applications. The Unit manages workloads with the aim of maximizing research time, and a department-level workload model, whose point system includes recognition of impact work, is circulated to all staff to maintain transparency and trust.

Royal Holloway runs a professional development scheme, The Advance Programme (see REF5a, Section 3ii), tailored to early and mid-career academics and open to staff on any kind of contract, including postdocs. In addition to Unit mentoring, an institutional scheme allows staff to be mentored by a senior colleague from another department. Detailed promotions

criteria are organized under the headings of Research, Teaching, External Engagement, and Impact. A Department Promotions Committee consisting of the department's professoriate reviews and offers feedback on draft promotions documents. The College assesses promotions applications anonymously against the institutional criteria and without use of research metrics. Probationary staff may apply - and have successfully applied during this REF period - for promotion. Professorial banding provides biennial review of professorial staff.

The Unit's annual individual research allowances ranged from £750 to £1000 during the REF period, and additional funding was made available to support overseas conference attendance. Ad hoc departmental funding pots supported initiatives such as workshops and one-day conferences. The institution's Research Strategy Fund offers seed money up to £5,000 for projects that could lead to significant funding applications or promote impact. The Unit's department provides targeted support for impact through a scheme, introduced in 2018, to provide teaching relief of one module for one term to enable staff to pursue impact activities.

Sabbatical entitlement increased in 2016/17 from one teaching term after three years (nine terms) of service to two teaching terms (Autumn and Spring) after four years (12 terms). This change supported staff to produce higher value and more substantial outputs (Gascoigne and Somers-Hall completed book manuscripts during their sabbaticals) and prepare substantial grant applications (submission of a grant application being an expected part of sabbatical plans). Sabbatical leave is granted with the submission of a research plan approved by the School Research Committee and confirmation from the Head of Department that essential teaching will be covered. The Unit supports combining sabbaticals with externally-funded leave to create long periods for research (Somers-Hall, for example, used his sabbatical to extend his AHRC fellowship), and the early use of entitled leave to achieve strategic goals (Gascoigne was given early leave to complete his book manuscript).

## **2.2 Research students**

PGR students are central to the Unit's research environment and fully integrated into its research culture. Growth in PGR numbers was aided by the consolidation of philosophy staff within a single department, which gave the Unit a settled home from which to develop its profile; by Somers-Hall's appointment, which together with Widder made the Unit an attractive destination for PGRs interested in Deleuze and Guattari; and by Philosophy's inclusion in the TECHNE consortium. Recent appointments increased PGR numbers and diversified research areas pursued by PGRs, with Sellars and Whistler recruiting four new PGRs between them within their first year of appointment. PGRs contribute organizational support for research events and provide teaching support (relieving staff to pursue research) for the Unit's rapidly growing undergraduate programmes. They participate in Unit research seminars, workshops, conferences, and reading groups.

The Unit has a track record of recruiting and rigorously training high quality PGRs. In TECHNE's first six years its applicants won nine studentship awards (seven were taken up). Twelve PGRs also won competitive institutional studentships that provided fee waivers and bursaries, some equivalent to a UKRC award. Seven REF period graduates secured academic positions at Aberdeen, Dublin City University, Hertfordshire, KCL, Necmettin Erbakan (Turkey), Rhine-Waal (Germany), and Royal Holloway. Many left the programme with established profiles that include peer-reviewed publications and research presented at

major UK and overseas conferences. Three REF period graduates (Gilliam, Lewis, Plunkett) published monograph versions of their theses with academic presses (EUP, Routledge, and Bloomsbury).

The institution provides training for new and experienced supervisors. PGRs are either co-supervised or assigned a supervisor and an advisor; they also have supervisory boards that include additional staff members and oversee annual reviews. All Unit staff supervise PGRs or participate on supervisory boards. A department panel oversees upgrades from MPhil to PhD, usually at the end of the first year and based on rigorous benchmarks. Supervisory practices include mock vivas convened before either final submission or viva voce.

First and second year PGRs attend a compulsory departmental research and professional development seminar that provides training and advice in writing book reviews, getting published, achieving impact, entering the academic job market, and more. They also present their research projects there to Philosophy and PIR staff and to other research students.

PGRs are supported financially by: 1) departmental funding, individually allocated at £250 per year per PGR for conference attendance and other activities, and supplemented by a £5000 annual department fund supporting international conference attendance, fieldwork, or event organization; 2) for *technē* students, Research Training Support Grants (maximum £1750 over the entire period of study); 3) institutional support for language training (2 x £350 per student, available during the first two years of fulltime study or part-time equivalent) available for use with courses at Royal Holloway or another educational institution (UCL being a common provider for London-based PGRs).

The institution's Doctoral School provides face-to-face and online courses for developing generic and transferable skills such as time management, academic writing, presentation skills, media awareness, and IT. An HEA-accredited InSTIL teacher training course, available to all PGRs and required for anyone teaching for the Unit without a prior qualification, carries 15 M-level credits and qualifies those who complete the programme for HEA Associate Fellow status. The Unit supports the development of academic teaching skills by offering paid undergraduate philosophy and political theory teaching opportunities to its PGRs, normally from the second year of study. Some experienced PGRs have had opportunities to convene undergraduate modules.

### **2.3 Equality and Diversity**

The Unit is committed to sustaining and improving equality and diversity (E&D) in its research and teaching environments. Royal Holloway actively endorses the seven principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers; it has bronze institutional status for Athena SWAN and the Race Equality Charter Mark. The Unit follows all institutional policies and practices to facilitate full implementation of E&D principles, including mandatory training for line managers and all members of selection panels, and established practices for ensuring diversity in the construction of selection panels, equitable treatment for part-time and fixed-term staff, and clear and equitable promotions processes (see REF5a, Section 3i). Philosophy workshops and conferences strictly adhere to the BPA/SWIP guidelines on accessibility and encouraging representation of women.

Under the previous Faculty system, the Unit's department had an E&D Committee (whose membership included Whistler) and an E&D Champion. Their work included preparation for a departmental Athena SWAN application, examining causes of the minority student attainment



gap, and studying ways to create an inclusive curriculum. Following the institutional restructuring, this work has been continued by the School's Equality Champion, who leads the development and implementation of a School Equality Action Plan, working with a departmental Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead and Working Group (whose membership includes Finn and Sellars). A School-level Athena SWAN application is now in preparation. In 2020 the Unit's department established a mentoring group for mid-career women academics, and Finn organized online talks on unconscious bias by former SWIP-UK Director Professor Jennifer Saul and on implicit bias by Robin Scaife, to introduce colleagues in the Unit's department to these issues.

Promotions, grant applications, and funding successes are reviewed against all protected characteristics to identify any disparities that might indicate issues to be addressed. Biennial pay audits are conducted to monitor and provide action plans to close pay gaps. An Aurora leadership skills programme, Mandala career and personal development programme, and Enabling Women in Promotions programme support women and black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) staff, and equality networks in the areas of diversity, disability, women, and LGBTQ provide supportive environments for staff (see REF5a, Section 3i). A maternity sabbaticals scheme, established originally for bench scientists and extended to all disciplines in 2018, entitles staff returning from maternity leave to a sabbatical to maintain and strengthen their research (see REF5a, Section 3iii). The institution offers flexible working arrangements to support staff with caring responsibilities and other special circumstances.

Royal Holloway's REF Code of Practice established stringent mechanisms for giving due regard to E&D in constructing its REF submission, including mandatory unconscious bias training for all staff with decision-making responsibilities, and rules to prioritise any imbalances in outputs against protected characteristics in the event of a draw between equally graded outputs. The institution conducted Equalities Impact Analyses (EIAs) in relation to the identification of staff research independence, output selections, and consideration of staff submissions of individual circumstances to identify risks of inequality and how these should be managed. EIA monitoring reports were carried out at the conclusion of each process to determine if identified risks materialized so that remedial action could be taken, with investigations triggered by any discrepancy exceeding 10% between staff with and without a protected characteristic. As a small Unit, Philosophy was not subject to detailed EIA monitoring reports, but it has taken care to implement the practices set out by the EIAs.

### **3. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

#### **3.1 Research Income**

The Unit has actively built a culture of seeking external funding, both individually and collaboratively, to ensure the long-term sustainability of its research. This is underpinned by the belief that encouraging colleagues to apply for funding and to think in bigger terms when seeking funding will translate into better grant capture, since even unsuccessful applications contribute to the learning process. All Unit staff applied for funding during the REF period, with the number and value of applications growing substantially, from 2013/14, when four applications were submitted totalling £134,482 in value, to eight, nine, and ten applications submitted in 2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20, totalling £878,455, £709,607, and £1,250,185 in value respectively.

Applying for an external grant is a probation requirement, and grant applications are part of individual research plans and self-appraisals. All grants are submitted to the Unit's internal review process. The Unit's growth has encouraged staff with shared research interests to collaborate in

applications. Bruno and Whistler, Gascoigne and PIR's Bacon, and Somers-Hall and Widder (the last successfully in Somers-Hall's AHRC Fellowship) collaborated in seeking external funding in the period. The Department's Research & Knowledge Exchange Lead and the institution's Research & Innovation Department provide targeted information on funding calls to keep staff informed of funding opportunities.

In 2019 the College established departmental targets for total funding sought, based on the recent annual averages of the total value of applications and adding modest year-on-year increases, to encourage larger grant applications. Research & Innovation provides costings and other pre-application support through a dedicated Research and Business Development Manager and additional staff who work directly with the Unit; it also manages institutional approval for all applications.

External funding during the period played a key role in developing the Unit's footprint in the key areas of research strength. Particular focus was given to research fellowships and project grants with teaching buyout to support individual researchers to produce substantial outputs, and on grants that supported collaborations and interdisciplinary activities (visiting fellowships, postdocs, network grants, etc.). These forms of funding also fostered leadership development, particularly among ECRs.

Major funding successes awarded in the period are Bowie's Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (£101,702, 2015-17), Bruno's AHRC Network Grant (£20,467, 2020-22), Somers-Hall's AHRC ECF (£114,939, 2014-16), Whistler's EURIAS fellowship (£22,305, 2017-18) and AHRC Network Grant (£34,260, with £12,214 to the institution, 2020-22), and Widder's Leverhulme Visiting Professorship for Jeffrey A. Bell (£33,456, 2019). Somers-Hall's and Whistler's fellowships led directly to REF-period outputs, including Somers-Hall's articles on Merleau-Ponty/Kant and Bergson/Sartre (both part of the REF submission), two articles by Whistler on Victor Cousin and Schelling (one submitted to the exercise), and Whistler's co-edited book on Cousin's eclecticism (published in French by Editions des Archives Contemporaines, 2019). The Leverhulme professorship allowed Bell to revise the first and complete the second of a two-volume work on *Truth and Relevance* for EUP. He also participated in two international conferences, organized by Widder and Somers-Hall, and ran an advanced research seminar for the Unit's staff and PGRs.

The Unit had a strong success in securing significant funding from sources not reported through HESA returns. Bruno was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Alumnus Fellowship (Uni-Tuebingen, value: €9,315) and a FAGI Experienced Researcher Fellowship (Uni-Leipzig, value: €3,105) to support completion of an edited volume on *Schelling's Philosophy: Freedom, Nature, and Systematicity* (OUP, 2020). Sellars, Whistler, and Widder received £4,822 of BSHP conference grants for workshops and conferences that, in Whistler's case, led to a publication, *Kielmeyer and the Organic World* (Bloomsbury, 2020), co-edited with one of his PGRs. Somers-Hall received £300 from the Mind Association for a workshop that contributed to his co-edited volume of philosophical engagements with Deleuze & Guattari's *A Thousand Plateaus* (EUP, 2018). Whistler received €800 from the University of Lyon to support a workshop during his EURIAS fellowship that led to a co-edited volume, *Interrogating Modernity: Debates with Hans Blumenberg* (Palgrave, 2020). In late 2017, the Unit secured Royal Institute for Philosophy branch status, giving it £1500 annual funding to support public events of any kind. In 2018/19 these funds supported Bruno in convening a "Philosophy of Life" public lecture series that comprised talks by Sacha Golob, Sebastian Gardner, Alison Assiter and Angela Breitenbach in central London. The Unit was awarded £329,187 in TECHNE PGR funding and £517,920 in College studentship

funding. Five PGRs were financed by external sponsors whose total support included £102,378 for tuition fees.

Gloyn, Roache, Sellars, Somers-Hall, Whistler and Widder received institutional support totalling £19,887 from the College's Research Strategy Fund, schemes offered by its Humanities and Arts Research Institute, and ad hoc departmental funds for workshops, conferences, impact activities, and networking activities. Research Strategy Funds of £14,025 were awarded to support Gloyn's and Sellars's impact activities. In 2020, Sellars won £22,540 from a new institutional fund for strategic knowledge exchange collaborations to support three events and an online course, all related to his work introducing Stoic principles and practices of mindfulness to general audiences.

### **3.2 Infrastructure, Facilities, and Expertise**

The Unit benefits from Royal Holloway's central London facilities, consisting of its own Bedford Square building (which had a £3.5m complete refurbishment early in the REF period) and several rooms in Senate House. The Unit regularly uses these facilities for lectures, workshops, one-day conferences, reading groups, and public events, including impact activities. Roache held a stakeholder event and workshop, "Swearing by the Rules," at Bedford Square in September 2019. Sellars used Senate House to host Stoic Week events (organized with Gloyn) in 2017, 2018, and 2019, and regular meetings of the London Stoic Group. Widder used Senate House and Bedford Square to host talks by academic visitors, including many of Bell's Leverhulme activities, and to convene a long-running Deleuze & Guattari reading group, whose regular participants include several independent scholars and members of the general public. Somers-Hall used Senate House for workshops on "Judgment in 20<sup>th</sup> Century French Philosophy" linked to his AHRC Fellowship. Whistler used Bedford Square for meetings of the London Historiography of Philosophy Working Group.

The Unit has benefited from significant recent investments in Royal Holloway's main Egham campus. With the 2019 School restructuring, Philosophy moved into a suite of offices in the newly refurbished McCrea Building (£5m overall was spent on its renovations) that boasts additional common room spaces, kitchen facilities, and dedicated PGR computer rooms. Fulltime academic staff have individual offices and IT equipment (one computer, either desktop or laptop and either PC or Mac, per person), with shared networked printers located in the corridors. The institution also invested £59m in a new 10,000 square meter library building (see REF5a, Section 4). The old library's reading rooms, located in the historic Founder's Building, were refurbished to provide study space for research students and academic staff, and are regularly used by Philosophy researchers.

As members of the University of London, staff have access to the resources of all the Federation's libraries, including Senate House, the Warburg Institute, and the Institute for Classical Studies. With many staff living in or near London, The British Library is also widely used. Ancient philosophy is a longstanding research area of the institution's Classics Department, which was home of noted scholars J. H. Sleeman and Hugh Tredennick, and consequently the College library has well-established and valuable holdings in this area.

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

##### 4.1 Collaborations

The Unit is significantly involved in London-based networks and working groups. During the period it collaborated on public engagement activities with the Royal Institute for Philosophy, the Institute for Classical Studies, and the Institute for Philosophy, the latter two supporting all of Sellars's central London Stoic Week activities. Participants in Widder's central London Deleuze & Guattari reading group, which include not only academics and PGRs from several institutions but also many non-academics (particularly practising psychoanalysts), further collaborated to establish the annual London Conference for Critical Thought (supported over the years by Widder, Somers-Hall, and their PGRs) and the London A2Z Group. Somers-Hall collaborated with the Institut Français (Kensington) to stage one of several workshops exploring the philosophical contributions of Deleuze and Guattari's *A Thousand Plateaus* that led to the publication of a co-edited volume.

The Unit led in the creation of several new groups. Bruno collaborated to co-establish the London Post-Kantian Society in 2020. Its first two years of activity will include rotating workshops at University of London philosophy departments, annual public talks at Senate House (the first two to be given by Judith Butler and Markus Gabriel), and a PGR work-in-progress workshop, all supported by AHRC funding awarded in the assessment period. Whistler collaborated with colleagues in KCL, UWE, the Royal Botanical Society, and the Goethe-Archiv to set up the new AHRC-funded research network on The Philosophical Life of Plants, which will focus on the Goethe's *Die Metamorphose der Pflanzen* (1790) as an anchor around which to examine and engage discourses in the history of philosophy, environmental humanities, and German literary studies. The network will hold four workshops and a public exhibition ("Goethe, Philosoph-Botanist"), with accompanying public talks, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In 2019 Whistler and his PGRs also collaborated with a colleague (Mercier) and PGRs at Kingston to establish the BSHP-supported London Historiography of Philosophy Working Group. It holds regular open reading groups and presentations that consider historiographical practices in philosophy from a variety of methodological, epistemological and political angles. Sellars and Gloyn (with Sellars on the management committee) are part of the new London Centre for Ancient Philosophy, established with the support of funding provided by the Unit's department and in collaboration with Philosophy and Classics colleagues at KCL, UCL, and Birkbeck. It will provide a framework for teaching and research collaboration within the intercollegiate University of London.

Unit staff were involved in wider UK and overseas collaborative research. Bruno collaborated with the North American Kant Society to co-organize a panel for the January 2021 Eastern APA meeting in New York. Somers-Hall, through his AHRC Fellowship, organized a research network on German idealism and modern French philosophy that convened workshops in London, Dundee, and Staffordshire. Whistler is part of a collaborative research project on Hegel and Schelling in early 19<sup>th</sup> Century France, working with colleagues from Humboldt (Berlin), Lille, and Bordeaux to produce a two-volume work of translations and commentaries (contracted with Springer). He also leads on a large translation project, working with colleagues from Groningen, La Sapienza (Rome), the Arts Institute (Amsterdam), and UNC-Chapel Hill to produce a three-volume *Edinburgh Edition of the Philosophical Works of Hemsterhuis* (the first volume to be published in 2021), and on a special issue of the journal *Symphilosophie* on Hemsterhuis in Germany (scheduled for early 2022). Gloyn, Roache, and Whistler co-authored outputs with colleagues at Oxford, Cardiff, Liverpool, Leeds, KCL, Colgate, and Haverford. Bruno, Somers-Hall, and Whistler co-edited volumes with colleagues from Nottingham, Bonn, Lyon, Deakin

(Australia), and Southeastern Louisiana University. Sellars co-organized a BSHP-supported 2019 conference on “Philosophy as a Way of Life in the History of Philosophy” with colleagues at KCL.

The Unit engaged in collaborative research activities with numerous visiting researchers. Widder hosted short (1-3 month) visits from academics from Spain (Emma Ingala of UCM and Gavin Rae of Carlos III de Madrid) and Australia (Sean Bowden of Deakin University). Bruno hosted a two-month (January to February 2020) visit by Paul Franks (Yale), supported by a new School visiting fellowship scheme that provided funding for an associated workshop event. Franks’s workshop paper was later published in Bruno’s edited OUP collection.

Through their EURIAS, Humboldt and FAGI fellowships, Whistler and Bruno were hosted at Lyon, Tuebingen, and Leipzig. Sam Matthews, a TECHNE-funded student, enjoyed a three-month visit to the University of Chicago’s Philosophy Department arranged by Robert Pippin and the Committee on Social Thought.

#### **4.2 Contributions to Research Base**

Unit members made wide-ranging contributions to support the discipline’s vitality and sustainability. They contributed to translations and other outputs that were not submitted to the REF exercise but still advanced the discipline in important ways. Sellars retains significant involvement in the Ancient Commentators on Aristotle project based at KCL, and is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at KCL and an Associate Editor managing the project and its freelance editors. Whistler contributed to translation projects and led translation teams to provide the first English translations of key 19<sup>th</sup> Century texts by Cousin, Eschenmayer, Hemsterhuis, and Schelling (with the Schelling-Eschenmayer book being an output submission). Bruno translated a selection of Schelling’s *Philosophical Letters on Dogmatism and Criticism* for a SUNY edited collection (2020). Sellars was editor of the 200,000-word *Routledge Handbook to the Stoic Tradition* (2016), the first volume in English that maps the Stoicism’s reception from antiquity to the present day.

Staff developed impact from their research by engaging diverse communities through media appearances, public events, contributions to documentaries, and social media. Sellars is a founding member of Modern Stoicism (2012-present), which runs annual Stoic Week events that bring Stoic mindfulness practices to a global audience, and he continues to oversee revision and development of materials for these events. More recently (2020), he became a founding member of The Aurelius Foundation, a non-profit company aiming to introduce Stoic ethical principles to young people and foster youth development through training events. Sellars also gave a series of school talks in the Greater London area on how Stoicism might help students manage their emotions, and he spoke at the 2019 Ilkley Literature Festival. Gloyn introduced audiences to her research on classical monsters through her participation in two panel discussions at the 2017 New Worlds Convention in London and a 2019 interview on BBC Radio 4’s Women’s Hour. She was also a talking head for a documentary featurette on the DVD release *Godzilla: King of Monsters* (Warner Bros.) and for five episodes of the Netflix series, *Myths and Monsters*. Roache’s research on punishment, human enhancement, and swearing led to numerous media appearances, including BBC’s Moral Maze, the Fix, the Philosopher’s Arms, and the Verb, and to interviews on BBC Radio, New Zealand Radio, and the BBC News Magazine. She also participated in the 2016 and 2018 “How the Light Gets In” Festivals and in a 2019 Forum for European Philosophy public event at LSE. Roache’s 2019 workshop on swearing included representatives from Thames Valley Police, Ofcom, and the British Board of Film Classification, and established a “consensus statement” setting out policy recommendations on how to manage

swearing in areas such as broadcasting, sport, healthcare, and law. Roache used Twitter to develop a strong profile as a public intellectual, gathering one of the largest Twitter followings among philosophers worldwide (30<sup>th</sup> overall and 9<sup>th</sup> for women philosophers in December 2020 according to <https://truesciphi.org/>).

Unit staff organised scholarly events ranging from guest lectures and small workshops to major conferences, many already mentioned. In addition, members of the Unit convened two large international events. In July 2019, Widder convened the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Deleuze & Guattari Studies academic camp and conference, two major international interdisciplinary events that had not been in the UK since the first events in Cardiff in 2008. The camp's 45 participants and the conference's over 200 delegates included many non-academics, and particularly artists, reflecting the broader interest in and influence of Deleuze and Guattari's works. In August 2019, Somers-Hall convened the Society for European Philosophy-Forum for European Philosophy (SEP-FEP) annual conference, the largest annual event in the continental philosophy field in Europe. Keynote speakers for the two conferences included Jeffrey A. Bell, William E. Connolly, Adrian Johnston, Leonard Lawlor, Beth Lord, Janae Sholtz, Alison Stone, and Daniela Voss.

Unit staff provided manuscript review for journals and book publishers, and published book reviews evaluating recent work in their fields. They contributed to the management of journals, book series, and academic societies. Roache was Associate Editor for the *Journal of Medical Ethics* and Whistler for *Literature and Theology*. Bruno was Book Review Editor (German idealism) for *Symposium: Canadian Journal of Continental Philosophy*. Whistler served on the advisory boards of the *Journal of the North American Schelling Society* and *Symphilosophie: Revue internationale de philosophie romantique*, and Widder on the advisory board of *Foucault Studies*. Sellars served on the editorial board for the "Philosophy as a Way of Life" book series with Bloomsbury, and Widder on the editorial board for the "Deleuze and Educational Research" series with EUP. Whistler served on the Steering Committee of the Forum for European Philosophy (now the Forum for Philosophy), which since 1996 has organized free and public-facing academic philosophy events across the UK. Somers-Hall and Widder served on the Executive Committee of the Society for European Philosophy, the UK's largest academic society for continental philosophy, with Somers-Hall also serving as Secretary. Gloyn was a member of the Institute for Classical Studies Advisory Council and the Classical Association Council, and a founding member and Administrator of the Women's Classical Committee UK. Finn served on the Executive Committee of the Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP) UK.

Unit staff served on grant committees and peer-review bodies for UK and overseas research councils; they also provided external review for promotion applications and research reviews for other institutions. Gloyn was an independent external reviewer for a 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities (USA) grant programme. Somers-Hall (2015-18), Whistler (2020-23), and Widder (2017-20) served on the AHRC Peer Review College. Widder was a peer reviewer for the Australian Research Council. Gascoigne, Gloyn, Whistler, and Widder were external reviewers for tenure, promotion, and chair applications at Brighton, Goldsmiths, Gonzaga (USA), Kent, UMass (USA), Thorneloe (Canada), and Wollongong (Australia). Gascoigne and Widder provided external reviews of nominated REF outputs for other institutions.

Unit staff contributed to collaborative arrangements for PGR training and to supervision of PGRs at other institutions. Whistler co-organised a branch of TECHNE's interdisciplinary Conflux training programme, "How Like a Leaf," which focused on interdisciplinary approaches to the relationships between art, nature, and the world. Widder provided training on genealogical method in Nietzsche, Foucault, and Deleuze for the scheme's Critical Theory branch. Whistler's

Historiography of Philosophy Working Group supported PGR training through its reading groups on historiographical method. Bruno co-supervised a PhD at McGill University (Canada) and Widder was an external advisor for a PhD at Kent.

Unit staff supported the discipline through external and University of London examining of PhDs. Gascoigne, Sellars, Somers-Hall, Whistler, and Widder examined theses at numerous institutions, including Aberdeen, Anglia Ruskin, Aarhus, Birkbeck, Central Lancaster, UCD, Dundee, Goldsmiths, Guelph, UCL, KCL, Université Paris 1 Panthéon, Sorbonne, Purdue, UNSW/Paris X, Warwick, and Western Ontario.

Unit staff were recognised by the research base through invitations to give high profile talks, and through special events organised around their research. Bruno, Gascoigne, Gloyn, Sellars, Somers-Hall, Whistler, and Widder gave 14 invited plenary or keynote talks, including at the BSHP annual conference, the Summer Institute in American Philosophy, the German Society for Ancient Philosophy, and the annual Internationale Schelling-Tagung. Widder gave the 2016 Henry Tudor Memorial Address at Durham and a lecture series at the Indian Institute of Technology - Kharagpur funded by the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN). Somers-Hall's *Hegel, Deleuze and the Critique of Representation* was the subject of a special book session held at SPEP in 2014. Gascoigne's *Tacit Knowledge* (co-authored with Tim Thornton) was the subject of a symposium held at ENS Lyon in 2015.