

Politics and Philosophy of Education Implementation Group

Summary and Action Points

Monday 16th June 2014, 14:00-16:00

In attendance: Michael Luntley (Chair, Philosophy), Matthew Calyton (PAIS), Jo Trowsdale (CES), Juliet Raynsford (CES), Richard Sutcliffe (CES), Jacqueline Dynes (CES), Mick Hammond (CES), Michael Wyness (CES), Judith Everington (CES)

Apologies: Will Curtis (CLL), Adam Swift (PAIS), Andy Mason (PAIS), Sarah Dahl (CES), Shirin Rai (PAIS)

Discussion Points:

- No firm core of philosophical research in CES into the Principals of Pedagogy, but underpins many research interests and teaching practice in the department
- WRERU has done some work in the past on Philosophy of Religious Education (Bob Jackson) but now more applied research ongoing building from that base (pluralisation, diversity, belief, racism, terrorism)
- Intersections with education from a philosophical or political standpoint can be separated broadly as i) Epistemic or Psychological Issues; and ii) Political, cultural social issues
- On i) Michael Luntley has explored already shared interests with Joe Winston and Jo Trowsdale, and Leslie Francis' work is informed by the psychology of individual differences. Traditionally the link in education to psychology was through Geoff Lindsay.
- In terms of teaching, Philosophy have a level 3 philosophy of education module that can be shared and also Stephen Butterfill runs the 'Origins of Mind' module – looking at early concept acquisition and cognitive development
- A lot of work in philosophy that could be drawn on – in terms of foundational issues but not necessarily at postgraduate level, although 'Origins of Mind' is offered as available for PGT students.
- Considering the discipline of philosophy of education, one take is that the discipline is in decline. Staff within the IoE's Philosophy of Education dept are likely to be feeling under threat from merger of IoE with UCL. So could be an opportunity for a potential appointment, although the group doesn't necessary advocate that.
- There is a clear split in the discipline to be mindful of, and where Warwick is positioned in relation to that split is important.
- Group agreed that Philosophy of Education should form one of the foundations of the new undergraduate programme
- An issue of attracting mainstream philosophers is the perceived need to be housed within a Philosophy department (A joint appointment could mitigate against this)

- WRERU interested in aspects of citizenship: teachers views on community cohesion, quantitative studies of childrens' attitudes to diversity
 - Group of Scholars in PAIS (Clayton, Mason, Swift) recently submitted a grant application to John Templeton Foundation on Faith Schooling. More generally interested in citizenship tests and cohesion. Will share proposal with WRERU.
 - Group is grounded in political philosophy traditions.
 - Michael Wyness interested in ontological states in childhood, childrens' participation, and introducing how citizenship has been introduced into curricula – can see synergies with scholars in PAIS
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- Group agreed that a general seminar series was a mechanism to explore potential joint interests in a more productive way – inviting speakers to contribute in certain areas and themes.
 - This could facilitate this group where theorists are seeking empirical evidence / expertise
 - This series would be general so not to be exclusionary of wider interests
 - Warwick Branch of the Philosophy of Education Society has funding available for seminars and research grants. Also awards are available to students.
 - Mick Hammond's interests lie in technology generally but increasingly interested in the politics associated with the promotion of technology. Interested generally in the work of John Dewey (on Democratic Education) and in ideas of speech communities. Can see the value of collaboration with PAIS.
 - Co-supervision of PhD students is another area of collaboration, suggestion that if a prospective student has a philosophical interest then the Director of Graduate Studies should be contacted in Philosophy and will be circulated.
 - What would aid these interactions is to have a list of research interests from CES and across the University

Action Points:

1. CES to explore a general seminar series to showcase research in detail and aid collaboration
2. Document interests related to education from CES and wider departments – R Sutcliffe
3. No further meeting of this group necessary