**Paula Sweeney |Head of School**

**University of Aberdeen**

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Profile Summary

I am the Head of a multi-discipline School, with full budgetary responsibility. Reporting directly to the Senior Vice Principal, I have experience of leadership at the institutional level. I am an innovative and entrepreneurial thinker with demonstrable experience of inspiring cultural change leading to an enhanced financial position alongside a growth in both research and teaching performance.

I am an active researcher in the area of the ethics of artificial intelligence, publishing in top-tier peer-reviewed journals, and a member of the AHRC Peer Review Council. I was co PI on the Leverhulme Trust funded project, ‘Relativism and Rational Tolerance’ (c. £250k). I am the co-lead for the Aberdeen 2040 Interdisciplinary Challenge theme: Fair, Accountable, Responsible & Ethical AI.

I act as an external examiner to the University of Lancaster and the University of St Andrews.

Career summary

**August 2017 – Present University of Aberdeen**

**Head of the School of Divinity, History, Philosophy and Art History**

*Outline*

I am the Head of a multi-discipline School of around 75 colleagues for which I have full budgetary responsibility (c. £8m).

*Key achievements*

* Introduction of a culture of transparency around the School’s financial position and in relation to other key markers to aid collective strategic planning and ownership of common goals.
* Substantial reform and reshaping of the School through consultation and consensus-building with the shared aim of improving long-term financial sustainability.
* Growth and stabilisation of School income by 6.5% in three years. Stabilisation involved growing the share of PGT, PGR and CPD markets, reducing an over-reliance on Home/EU UG income.
* Growth of online provision in PGT, CPD and online stand-alone or incorporated ‘short courses’.
* Growth and support of a model of distance PGR studies. The School now has over 120 fte international PGR students, many of whom are distance students, equating to over £1,500,000 of annual fee income.
* Growth of a grant-capture culture resulting in substantially increased external funding applications and success rate. In 2017-18 the School applied for c. £1m external funding, with a success rate of 17%: in 2020-21 the School applied for c. £4m external funding, with a success rate of 25%.
* Significant improvement in the School’s league table performance: Divinity are ranked 38th in the QS World Rankings; in NSS, Art History 1st in UK (2022), Divinity 1st in UK (2022) Philosophy 8th in UK (2022), History 14th in UK (2022).
* The submission of all eligible staff to REF2021, across three panels, with considerable success: Divinity 1st  in UK.

In addition, I contribute to the leadership of the institution through numerous University level committees.

* Member of the University’s Strategy Steering Group for Aberdeen 2040.
* Programme Director (2019-20) of building regeneration project, The King’s Quarter redevelopment (£17m.) Early stage only, included substantial consultation with academic community and engagement with external consultants.
* Chair of University’s Reward Strategy Working Group.
* Member of University’s School Administrative Review Steering Group.
* Member of University’s Senate Effectiveness Review Group*.*
* Member of University’s Digital Strategy Working Group.
* Member of University’s Race Awareness Committee*.*

**August 2015–August 2017 University of Aberdeen**

**Deputy Head of School, Head of Philosophy and Senior Lecturer (2016)**

*Outline*

As Head of the Philosophy department and Deputy to the Head of School I was responsible for providing leadership within my subject area with respect to all academic activities, including teaching, research and administration.

*Key achievements*

* Philosophy was facing possible closure due to a large deficit position. I led the substantial successful redevelopment of curriculum to increase student recruitment. As a direct result, our staff:student ratio shifted from 1:14 to 1:28, leading to investment.
* The financial profile of the department shifted from a deficit position of £400K to a surplus position of £180K in one year.
* This involved substantial league table improvements, moving from 27th to 12th in one year in the Guardian league table.

**August 2014 –August 2015 University of Aberdeen**

**Lecturer**

*Outline*

I contributed to the teaching and research aims of the discipline. I acted as course coordinator and introduced a new programme in PPE, acting also as programme coordinator.

**August 2009 – August 2014 Northern Institute of Philosophy, University of Aberdeen**

**Director of Research Operations**

*Outline*

As co-director of the Institute (with Professor Crispin Wright) I was responsible for leading a team to achieve the strategic aims of the institute and for representing the institute at School and University level. I was co-investigator on the Leverhulme Trust funded project, *Relativism and Rational Tolerance* (£249,148).

Education and qualifications

* **PhD Philosophy** (no corrections)**,** University of St Andrews, 2010
* **MLitt Philosophy** (with distinction)**,** University of St Andrews, 2006
* **MA Philosophy** (1st Class) **–** University of St Andrews – 2005
* **Access to Study programme -** University of Dundee – 2001

Research

Publications

Monograph

***Social Robots: A Fictional Dualism Model*.** (2023) Rowman and Littlefield. Washington, D.C.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

* **Trusting Social Robots.** (2022) *AI and Ethics.*
* **Why Indirect Harms Do Not Support Social Robot Rights.** (2022) *Minds and Machines.*
* **A Fictional Dualism Model of Social Robots** (2021) *Ethics and Information Technology.*
* **Commentary to the Commission’s proposal for the “AI Act”: Response to selected issues.** (2021) Cserne, P., Ducato, R., Zivkovic, P., Brown, A., Couzigou, I., Leontidis, G., Oren, N., Sutherland, C., Sweeney, P., Yuksel Ripley, B. [Artificial intelligence – ethical and legal requirements (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12527-Artificial-intelligence-ethical-and-legal-requirements_en)
* **Mourning the Death of Michael Besso: Eternalism as Therapy.** (2021) *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, 102: 3, 504-514.*
* **Nostalgia Reconsidered.** (2020) *Ratio, 33:3, 184-190.*
* **The No Proposition View of Vagueness**. (2016) *Grazer Philosophische Studien*, vol. 93, no. 2, pp. 179-195.
* **The Role of the Sentence-Tokened**. (2016) *Grazer Philosophische Studien*, vol. 93, no. 3, pp. 419-428
* **Contextualism and the principle of tolerance**, (2015) *Grazer Philosophische Studien*, vol. 90, no. 1, pp. 289-306.
* **Future contingents, indeterminacy and context.** (2015) *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 96, no. 3, pp. 408-422.
* **The Utility of Content-Relativism**. (2014) *Dialectica*, vol. 68, no. 4, pp. 563-579.
* **Indexicals and utterance production**. (with Dylan Dodd) (2010) *Philosophical Studies*, vol. 150, no. 3, pp. 331-348.

Book Chapter

* **Vagueness and Practical Interest**. (with Elia Zardini) (2011) in P Égré & N Klinedinst (eds), *Vagueness and Language Use.* Palgrave Studies in Pragmatics, Language and Cognition, Palgrave Macmillan , Hampshire, UK, pp. 249-282.

Presentations

* July 2022, ‘Wittgensteinian considerations of the moral status of robots’, British Wittgenstein Society Conference: Wittgenstein and AI, New College of the Humanities, London. **Keynote Speaker.**
* February 2022, ‘Trusting Social Robots’, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.
* June 2019, ‘Trust and Betrayal’, 10th Annual Conference on Ethics and Political Science, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal.
* November 2018, ‘Time and Emotion: Nostalgia’, University of Lancaster, England.
* October 2017, ‘Mourning the Death of Michael Besso’, University of Stirling, Scotland.
* June 2017, ‘Mourning the Death of Michael Besso’, Conference of the International Association for Philosophy of Time, Lake Garda, Italy.
* April 2017, ‘Death in the B-series’, Yonsei University, Seoul, S. Korea.
* January 2017 ‘Death in the B-series’, *Centre for Philosophy of Time*, University of Milan, Italy.
* July 2015 ‘Sentence-Truth, Proposition-Truth’, *Context Relativity in Semantics Conference*, University of Salzburg, Austria.
* March 2015 ‘The No-Proposition View of Vagueness’, University of Belfast, Ireland.
* November 2014 ‘The No-Proposition View of Vagueness’ University of Leeds, England.
* March 2014 ‘Future Contingents, Indeterminacy and Context’ PETAF Conference, University of Barcelona, Spain.
* November 2011 ‘Vagueness, Judgement Dependence and Open Sentences’ IV Workshop on Vagueness and Metaphysics, University of Barcelona, Spain.

Research Grants, Fellowships and Contracts

* Leverhulme Trust, ‘Relativism and Rational Tolerance’, £249,148. (Co-investigator)
* Publishing contract from Wiley Blackwell ($25K per annum) for journal initiative, *Thought* (Founding Managing Editor)
* Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
* Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts
* AHRC PhD Scholarship
* AHRC Masters Scholarship

Leadership responsibilities

* Head of the School of Divinity, History, Philosophy and Art History. (2017-current)
* Co-lead for the Aberdeen 2040 Interdisciplinary Challenge theme: Fair, Accountable, Responsible and Ethical AI.
* Programme Director, King’s Quarter Redevelopment (2019-2020).
* Head of School representative on Strategy Development Steering Group for Aberdeen 2040.
* Chair of the institution’s Reward Strategy Working Group.
* Head of School representative on School Administrative Review Steering Group.
* Head of School representative on Senate Effectiveness Review Group.
* Head of School representative on Digital Strategy Working Group.
* Head of School representative on Race Awareness Committee.
* Member of University Management Group.
* Ex officio Member of University Senate (2017-present)
* Elected Member of University Senate (2016-2017)
* Deputy Head of School and Head of Philosophy (2015-2017)

Leadership training

* Harvard Kennedy School of Business, *Leadership for the 21st Century* (2020)
* Elementa: *International Leadership Development Programme* (2017)

Teaching

* Introduction to Health Data Science: Master Level interdisciplinary course.
* Ethical and Legal Aspects of Artificial Intelligence: Masters Level interdisciplinary course. (Course coordinator)
* Philosophy and Society: Masters level
* Introduction to Health Data Science: Challenges in Health Data Science: Masters Level
* Contemporary Topics in Philosophy: Hons Level
* Controversial Questions: Sub-hons Level
* Philosophy of Time: Hons Level
* Wittgenstein: Hons Level
* Experience, Knowledge and Reality: Sub-hons Level
* Access to Philosophy: Pre-entry Level

External appointments

* Member of AHRC Peer Review Council (2016-present)
* External Examiner: MLitt Philosophy: University of St Andrews (2021-2025)
* External Examiner: BA Philosophy: University of Lancaster (2020-2023)
* External Adviser: Open University Revalidation Panel for BA (Hons) Philosophy, American College in Greece. (2022)
* Elected member of British Philosophical Association (2020-2023)
* Trustee, *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*. (2020-2023)
* AHRC Assessment Panel member: AI Pump Priming (Sept 21 call)
* AHRC Assessment Panel member: AI Ethics Codes (Sept 21 call)

References: available on request