**Dr Paula Sweeney |Head of School**

**University of Aberdeen**

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Profile

I am the Head of a multi-discipline School, with full budgetary responsibility and reporting directly to the Senior Vice Principal. I am a member of the AHRC Peer Review Council, an elected board member of the British Philosophical Association and an External Examiner at the University of Lancaster (BA Philosophy).

I am a philosopher who is researching the ethics of artificial intelligence, particularly regarding the use of social robots. I also have expertise in Philosophy of Language and Philosophy of Time.

Career summary

**August 2017 – Present University of Aberdeen**

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

*Outline*

I am the head of a multi-discipline unit, leading around 60 academic and 10 professional services colleagues. I have full budgetary responsibility for my school and contribute to the leadership of the institution through my membership of numerous University level committees.

*Key responsibilities*

* Provide leadership and direction to the School through developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating strategic and operational plans.
* Ensure the effective management of staffing and operating budgets and the School’s ongoing financial sustainability.
* Work with the other Heads of School, the Senior Vice Principal and other members of the Senior Management Team to ensure that, together, we support the delivery of the University’s strategic objectives.
* Provide effective leadership and management to all academic and professional services staff within the School, particularly in relation to their selection, retention and ongoing career and personal development.
* Ensure the effective delivery of high-quality teaching and learning programmes and ensuring their regular review, evaluation and development.
* Create a supportive research environment within the School for the development and maintenance of a research culture and the promotion of opportunities for the realisation of research initiatives, knowledge exchange and public engagement activities.

**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. I also deputised for the Head of School, representing the School at University level when required.

*Key responsibilities*

* Promote a culture of high-quality research and scholarship within the discipline.
* Contribute to the development of strategy to advance the academic and financial performance of the discipline and the School.
* Ensure effective arrangements exist for consulting and communicating with staff and students.
* Monitor developments across the subject area to ensure all aspects of the provision remain relevant.

**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, Full AHRC Scholarship (no corrections) –** University of St Andrews – 2010
* **MLitt Philosophy, Full AHRC Scholarship (with distinction) –** University of St Andrews – 2006
* **MA Philosophy, 1st Class –** University of St Andrews – 2005
* **Access to Study programme -** University of Dundee – 2004

Publications and research

1. **Social Robots and their Impact on Ethical Society** (under review)
2. **Trusting Artificial Agents.** (under review)
3. **A Fictional Dualism Model of Social Robots** (2021) *Ethics and Information Technology.*
4. **Mourning the Death of Michael Besso: Eternalism as Therapy.** (2021) *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, 102: 3, 504-514.*
5. **Nostalgia Reconsidered.** (2020) *Ratio, 33:3, 184-190.*

[Note: significant administrative roles in this period (Deputy Head of School then Head of School)]

1. **The No Proposition View of Vagueness**. (2016) Grazer Philosophische Studien, vol. 93, no. 2, pp. 179-195.
2. **The Role of the Sentence-Tokened**. (2016) Grazer Philosophische Studien, vol. 93, no. 3, pp. 419-428
3. **Contextualism and the principle of tolerance**, (2015) Grazer Philosophische Studien, vol. 90, no. 1, pp. 289-306.
4. **Future contingents, indeterminacy and context.** (2015) Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, vol. 96, no. 3, pp. 408-422.
5. **The Utility of Content-Relativism**. (2014) Dialectica, vol. 68, no. 4, pp. 563-579.
6. **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.
7. **Indexicals and utterance production**. (with Dylan Dodd) (2010) Philosophical Studies, vol. 150, no. 3, pp. 331-348.

Teaching

* **Ethical and Legal Aspects of Artificial Intelligence**: Masters Level
* **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

Leadership responsibilities

* Head of the **School of Divinity, History, Philosophy and Art History**. (2017-2022)
* Head of School representative on ***Strategy Development Steering Group*** for **Aberdeen 2040**, the institution’s strategic vision.
* Chair of the institution’s ***Reward Strategy Working Group*** (Framework Agreement).
* 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***.
* Member of ***University Senate*.**

Leadership training (funded by University of Aberdeen)

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

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

External appointments

* Member of AHRC Peer Review Council (2016-present)
* External Examiner: BA Philosophy: University of Lancaster (2020-2023)
* Elected member of British Philosophical Association (2020-2023)
* Trustee, *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*. Trust. (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