<p style="text-align:center">**Research Assessment Exercise 2020**
<u>**Impact Overview Statement**</u></p>

University: The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Unit of Assessment (UoA): 58'Philosophy
Total number of eligible staff of the university in the UoA: 13

(1) Context – context for the individual case study(ies)

While the Philosophy Department has identified Chinese philosophy, Analytical philosophy, and Continental philosophy to be its three main areas of concentration, whether these areas might interact or collaborate in some way has always been a matter of concern. Furthermore, the Department never sees itself as a self-enclosed discipline but encourages endeavors of colleagues to hook up with other disciplines of learning to look for opportunities of cross-disciplinary research and to reach out beyond academia and leave a mark in the outside world. With this in mind, the department supports colleagues developing research projects that might involve input from other departments, especially researches and projects that, besides being academically promising, might have positive bearings on our society. Among others, the following projects has created most significant impact on the society:

1. In Chinese philosophy, Tze-wan Kwan's implementation of the "Multi-function Chinese Character Database", which was theoretically inspired and informed by his academic research on phenomenology and Chinese linguistics, has demonstrated wide-ranging impact on the understanding of Chinese language and its learning not only in the education sector, but also in the general public across different geographical regions in the world.

2. In Analytic philosophy, Hon-lam Li's research on bioethics and his directorship of the CUHK Centre of Bioethics have broad impact on the understanding and discussion of bioethical issues among medical students and professions in Hong Kong.

3. In Continental philosophy, Saulius Geniusas's research in the phenomenology of pain, which received a number of competitive grants, has engaged considerable numbers of patients, doctors, nurses, and hospitals in last six years, enhancing a more humane form of physician-patient interaction.

Other researches of the Department also had impact on the society in various ways, especially by shaping public discourse in various social and political issues important to the Hong Kong society through publications, public talks, and media appearances of the colleagues.

(2) Approach to impact – the unit's approach to impact during the assessment period for impact

The Department takes a far-sighted approach to impact, adopting a pro-active approach to encourage colleagues to seek ways to work with external parties and relate their academic work to the outside world. For example, in his project on the phenomenology of pain, Geniusas worked with health-care practitioners, published articles in magazines or journals, and organized public talks for raising awareness of the importance of elderly care with an emphasis on the subjective perceptions of the patients' experience. Moreover, through the active engagement with CUHK Centre of Bioethics, the Department has additionally employed an expert in bioethics, Alexandre Erler. Regular talks on various issues of bioethics have been conducted for medical students and professionals in Hong Kong.

Apart from different projects, the Department has a few general strategies to enhance social impact. The Department's decision 15 years ago to launch the "MA in Philosophy programme" was indeed an attempt to increase its reach and thus create a platform of enhancing the social impact of philosophy. Past students of the MA programme include senior government officials, district council members, senior counsels, barristers, lawyers, professors, teachers, reports, social workers, doctors, nurses, and entrepreneurs. Having recently celebrated the 15 anniversary of the launching of the MA in Philosophy programme, this underlying agenda of the Department has proven to have borne fruits.

The Department encourages colleagues to take part in lecture series targeted at the general public. In fact, for decades the Dept has been sponsoring public lecture series in collaboration with such public organizations as Hong Kong Public Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services Dept, HK Philosophy

Society, etc.[1] This tradition of the Department will be continued in the future. In 2017, alumni and PhD students of the Dept joined hands in hosting a TV interviewing program in 23 installments known under the rubric of "Philosophy Night (哲學有偈傾)". This program eventually became so popular in Hong Kong that as of January 2018 it was elected winner of the Best TV-Interviewing Show in 2017 (https://m.bk.wjbk.site/zh-hk/香港電視大獎). The program is entering the third series this year.

The department encourages colleagues, given sound justification, to accept invitation by external parties to undertake intellectual tasks such as compilation of text books, development of publicly accessible educational resources, etc. To enable colleagues with successful grant monies to concentrate on their research, the Department, following grant guidelines, makes provisions for coursework exemption. For individual colleagues whose research projects involve other external parties, the department will also explore ways of collaboration, including organizational/manpower support or even financial subsidy.

(3)   Strategy and plans – strategy and plans for supporting impact

The Department plans to increase both the range and depth of its impact in the future in various ways. A number of key research areas with high impact potentials have been identified. Among others, the project on "Multi-function Chinese Character Database", which has been selected as the impact case of the Department for this exercise, still has great potentials of being further developed and popularized in the public, especially in view of its use in secondary school education. To further increase its impact, closer partnerships with various institutions will be developed. Another key area is bioethics. With the presence of Erler and the cooperation of CUHK Centre of Bioethics, more research will be conducted on issues that address the particular needs of medical professions in the Hong Kong environment. A particular domain in the medical context, i.e., elderly healthcare, will also be addressed by Geniusas's project on the phenomenology of pain. In general, the Department will further its ties with various stakeholders in the society, make better use of its alumni network to deliver its research results to the public, explore new cooperation possibilities with government bodies and NGOs, and encourage its members to work on pressing social issues.

(4)   Relationship to case studies – the unit's approach to impact and the submitted case studies

In the case of Kwan's database project, the Department played an important role in supporting his grant applications, project execution, and cooperation with external parties. The project received serial funding from the HK Quality Education Fund (QEF) which required him to take an active role in advertising the database to the public. This project has incorporated colleagues from not only the Philosophy Department, but also from the Chinese Department and from Computer Science Engineering Department. Equally gratifying is the fact that Kwan's database is well received by many of our colleagues whose emphasis is on Chinese philosophy, as they find the etymological accounts of the database of great value for their own work. Extremely positive feedback from the general public is now demonstrable by hard figures such as access counts upsurge, questionnaires replies, etc.

Although the database's implementation is underpinned by a philosophical quest (predominantly phenomenology) which aspires for intellectual depth, popularization of the database was from the outset within the purview of Kwan's research. The Department supports Kwan's attempt to promote the "Multi-function Chinese Character Database" either by delivering academic lectures upon invitation of academic institutions to discuss theoretical issues behind the construction of the database, or by reaching out to the public sector to explain how the various functions of the database might prove helpful in self-learning, classroom teaching, course planning, and in different professional circumstances (translation, proof-reading and editing, lyrics composition, poetry writing, general correspondences, etc.).

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[1] As recorded in the website of the Hong Kong Public Libraries, the annual themes of such lecture series (each hosting 6 to 8 lectures in a year) over the years were as follows: "Doctrines of Happiness" (2012), "Who am I" (2013), "Great Philosophers: Thoughts and Words" (2014), "Knowing and Acting" (2015), "Truth & Falsity" (2016); "Man & Beast" (2017), "Applying Philosophy to Everyday Problems" (2018), and "Philosophy in Everyday Life" (2019). See URL: https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/tc/extension-activities/event-category/23434/philosophy-talk