

Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre

**Evaluation of Research in Philosophy (6.2) and
Theology (6.6) in Estonia**

Institutes evaluated

University of Tartu

**Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy
Faculty of Theology**

Estonian Institute of Humanities
Department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory

Evaluation dates

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Part I

General Overview

Introduction

At the request of the Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre, Tallinn (EHEAC), an evaluation team (hereafter named the “Evaluators”) visited institutes in Estonia carrying out research activities in philosophy (6.2) and theology (6.6). The evaluating team consisted of Prof. Jos de Mul (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Prof. Timo Airaksinen (University of Helsinki), Prof. Jaap van Brakel (University of Leuven), Prof. John Strange (University of Copenhagen) and Prof. Knut Walf (University of Nijmegen).

The institutions to be evaluated were:

1. University of Tartu Department of Philosophy
Chair of History of Philosophy

Chair of Philosophy of Science

Chair of Practical Philosophy

2. University of Tartu Faculty of Theology
Chair of Old Testament Science and Hebrew

Chair of the New Testament

Chair of Church History

Chair of Systematic Theology

Chair of Practical Theology

Chair of Comparative Theology

Chair of Lutheran Theology

Department of Ancient Near East Studies

3. Estonian Institute of Humanities
Department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory

The evaluators were provided in advance with self-assessment reports from each of these three institutions, prepared by the members of these groups.

After a brief orientation meeting at EHEAC, the evaluators visited the different departments and institutes in Tartu and Tallinn during three days (two days in Tartu and one in Tallinn). At these meetings staff members of the various departments presented their work. During these presentations as well as during the subsequent discussions additional information about the research activities was provided. This included additional documents such as copies of published papers.

Approach to the evaluation

The evaluators were asked by EHEAC to:

1. Judge the activities of research and development in the units evaluated and the research topics implemented by them to ensure the governmental funding for internationally recognised research and development. The Team was asked to concentrate on research units (university departments, laboratories) with specific comments to sub-units, groups if necessary.
2. Identify deficiencies in the activities of research and development units.
3. Give recommendations on the development concerning research and development and research areas to the state of Estonia.

The Team received the following materials: A working schedule, principles and criteria for evaluation of the research units, evaluation guidelines for the ranking of research units, and self-evaluation reports created by the research units themselves.

On a first evaluation point, the *quality of the research activities* was considered. This assessment is largely based on the records of scientific publications.

<i>Excellent</i>	<i>The majority of the submitted works are at a high international level and virtually all others at a good international level.</i>
<i>Excellent to good</i>	<i>At least one third of the submitted works are at a high international level and many others at a good international level, these together comprise a clear majority.</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>The majority of the submitted works are at least at a good international level and virtually all others at a fair international level</i>
<i>Good to satisfactory</i>	<i>At least one third of the submitted works are at a good international level and many others at a fair international level, these together comprise a clear majority</i>
<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>The majority of the submitted works are at least at a fair international level</i>
<i>Satisfactory to unsatisfactory</i>	<i>A minority of the submitted works are at a fair international level</i>
<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>None, or virtually none, of the submitted works are at a fair international level</i>

Regarding the grading of the research activities, the evaluation team was instructed by the EHEAC to reserve the term **excellent** for groups, which were found to be among the best 10% of the European groups in the corresponding field. Similarly, the term **excellent to good** should be used if the evaluated group was found to be among the best 25 % of corresponding European groups. The full scale comprised 7 levels, in addition to the highest ones the grades are **good, good to satisfactory, satisfactory, satisfactory to unsatisfactory, and unsatisfactory.**

The *over-all capability* of a research unit was evaluated based on a the combined assessment of the following criteria (each graded in three levels):

- The originality/novelty of past and ongoing research activities

- The strategy and perspective of the research
- Multidisciplinarity and relevance for other research areas
- The competence of the research groups and their capacity for development
- National and international co-operation
- Success in applying for grants

As the result of this assessment one of the four grades **excellent, good, satisfactory** or **unsatisfactory** was given for the group.

Finally, on a third evaluation point the critical comments and recommendations were asked to give by the expert team.

Part II

General Comments

Introduction

In evaluating the departments discussed in Part III we have focussed on their research taken in an international perspective. Both in the case of philosophy and even more so in the case of theology an equally important task is to publish in Estonian or to translate foreign texts into Estonian. However, on the other hand, this national task should not come in the way of making contributions on the international scene.

Although we are unable to judge publications in and translations into Estonian, in all cases we have a good impression of this part of the research activities of the respective groups. In evaluating the research in an international context this means that we base our judgements primarily on the quality of the research output, not on the quantity (see also General Recommendations).

In evaluating the research groups discussed in Part III we have focused on the output of the researchers who were employed under the period under review (so excluding retired or visiting professors – without denying that their work adds to the general capability of the research group).

We have evaluated all groups as presented without introducing consideration as to what should and should not belong to a department of philosophy or a faculty of theology.

There are two general constraints effect the research output at all the institutes evaluated:

1. The relatively young history of the disciplines of philosophy and theology in Estonia. This has the consequence that as yet that there are only a small number of researchers with a doctor's degree and still too many lecturers had to be appointed who still have to obtain their doctor's degree. Combined with the heavy teaching load, this sets serious constraints on the total amount of time available for research at a truly international level.

2. The material conditions for carrying out research in a small country such as Estonia will always be limited. For philosophy and theology this applies in particular to books, journal subscriptions, acquiring previously published volumes of journals and certain source materials (such as recently published collected works or copies of manuscripts) that are not freely available on the internet (see also General Recommendations).

Part III

Evaluation of institutes and research groups

1. Department of Philosophy, University of Tartu

Researchers, members of the Department of Philosophy:

Eero Loone, ScD (philosophy), Professor of Practical Philosophy, since Sept. 2000
Professor emeritus

Leonid Stolovich, ScD (philosophy), Professor emeritus

Margit Sutrop, DrPhil, Professor of Practical Philosophy since Sept. 2000

Rein Vihalemm, PhD (philosophy), Professor of Philosophy of Science

Valdar Parve, PhD (philosophy), Docent of Practical Philosophy

Endla Lõhkivi, PhD (philosophy), Lecturer of Philosophy of Science

Jüri Tammaru, MA (philosophy), Lecturer of Philosophy of Science

Andrus Tool, MA (philosophy), Lecturer of History of Philosophy

Eduard Parhomenko, MA (philosophy), Lecturer (0,5) of History of Philosophy

Tõnu Luik, MA (philosophy), Assistant of History of Philosophy

Tiiu Hallap, MA (philosophy), Assistant (0,25) of Practical Philosophy

Marek Järvik, MA (philosophy), Assistant (0,5) of Practical Philosophy (since Sept. 2001)

Kadri Simm, MA, Assistant (0,25) of Practical Philosophy (since Sept. 2001)

Target-financed project: during the last five years (1998-2002) research activities at the Department of Philosophy were concentrated around the state target-financed project *The historicity and rationality in philosophy and in history of science*.

Project leader: Ülo Matjus, PhD (philosophy), Professor of History of Philosophy.

Chair of History of Philosophy (Head: Prof. Ülo Matjus, PhD)

Research at the Chair of History of Philosophy is carried through in several directions. Currently the main research topics at the Chair of History of Philosophy are:

- Greek thought prior to Plato and Aristotle (especially, Parmenides and Heraclitus);
- Immanuel Kant's philosophy: in particular, Kant's moral philosophy, but also neokantianism;
- Classical German idealism (Hegel's speculative metaphysics);
- Accounts of scientificity in the German philosophy of humanities during the second half of the 19th century (especially, in philosophy of history and hermeneutical philosophy);
- Phenomenological philosophy (in the broadest sense) and being-historical thinking in Germany (E. Husserl, M. Heidegger, also E. Jünger);
- Commented translation and interpretation of German-language classical texts in history of philosophy and the introduction and development of respective Estonian terminology;
- The historical specificities of social-intellectual phenomena (metaphysics, science and technology, art, morality, religion, values, etc.);
- Estonian philosophy and its historical development within the context of European and world philosophy

General Comments

The research group is relatively small, consisting of one professor, one lecturer and one assistant. For that reason it is understandable that the research group focuses on a relatively small part of the long and broad history of philosophy. The research group has published an impressive number of translations of important philosophical texts (Parmenides, Hegel, Heidegger and Gadamer) into Estonian. Most of the remaining research consists of commentaries on the writings of these philosophers.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Based on the publication record the research activities are judged *satisfactory*.

From an international perspective – emphatically taking into account the number of international publications – the research is satisfactory. Although there are many international (German and English) journals and book series devoted to the phenomenological-hermeneutic (including the being-historical) tradition, the group has published relatively few articles and books in foreign languages. However, these publications generally are of good quality.

In case a different (national) perspective had been taken, the evaluation might have been more positive.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capability of the research group is *satisfactory*.

In addition to the translations most of the publications consist of commentaries on classical texts in the phenomenological-hermeneutic tradition. Although the chosen strategy, consisting of an interpretation of the history of philosophy from a 'being-historical' perspective, is clear, the results appear to be mainly exegetic. Though the research does not have a multidisciplinary character, it certainly has relevance for other research areas. The group has competence, but has relatively few young postgraduate and postdoctoral students. There is some (inter)national co-operation, though the successes in applying for (inter)national funds and grants is not impressive so far.

Recommendations

Although the evaluation team acknowledges the importance of translating classical philosophical texts into Estonian (and – in doing so – contributing to the creation of a national philosophical vocabulary), and of contributing to the national social and cultural debate in the national language, we advise the research group to aim at increasing the number of publications in international journals and book series. Especially for a small language community as the Estonian, it is of importance to become part of the international community of scholars in the chosen field of specialisation. Given the Heideggerian perspective of the group it should consider to put more emphasis on contributing to the further development of the phenomenological-hermeneutic tradition in the context of topical (inter)national social, cultural and technological developments.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The translations of classical philosophical texts into Estonian, as well as the contributions to the cultural debate, form an important contribution to Estonian culture.

Chair of Philosophy of Science (Head: Prof. Rein Vihalem, PhD)

Currently the main research topics at the Chair of Philosophy of Science are:

- General philosophy of science and epistemology (constructive realism, criticism of empiricism, scepticism and the problem of induction, conceptions of rationality, the problem of the ideal of science);
- Philosophical issues in sociology of scientific knowledge;
- Philosophy of chemistry;
- Philosophy of physics (especially foundations of quantum mechanics and the philosophical problems of time);
- Philosophical aspects of non-classical science (I. Prigogine a.o.);
- Philosophical and methodological issues in historiography of science;
- Philosophy of mind (mental content, self-knowledge, mental causation, semantic antirealism).

General Comments

Although the discussion with the representatives of this research group was somewhat chaotic and unfocused, the written material submitted made a good impression. There has been significant international output in the philosophy of chemistry; and the investment over the past years in the history of science, although somewhat anomalous for a philosophy department, has been successful (leading to a separate target funding for the history of science for the future). In general the group has been quite active both in terms of international publications and in terms of contributions to international conferences. However, given the size of the group, the number of main research topics is really too long to enable carrying out research in all these areas at an international level. Nevertheless, given the relatively short history of the department of philosophy, the Chair has been quite successful in stimulating research in the philosophy, history, and more recently sociology of science. As yet the results of the goal to widen philosophy of science to general metaphysical and epistemological issues has been more limited.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Based on the publication record the research activities are judged *good*

This judgement is based on the following:

1. The publication of a volume in the well-known series *Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science* with 24 contributions by Estonian researchers (in particular researchers from the departments of philosophy and theology of Tartu university).
2. The successful investment in the history of science (though in the future this will not come under the Chair of philosophy of science), resulting in approximately 40 international publications by historians of science at Tartu University.
3. The productive research of Prof. Vihalemm in the domain of the philosophy of chemistry (five international publications).
4. Initiatives to establish connections between the philosophy of science and the history and sociology of science and the first research output on the borderline between the philosophy and sociology of science – though it is now time to aim for more generally distributed international journals for this research.
5. The completion of four good Ph.D. dissertations in the past few years (and one forthcoming in 2003).
6. Active participation in international conferences (ten conference contributions outside the Baltic countries) and the organisation of an international conference in Tartu in 2003 (of the International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry).

Because of the fact that limited resources have been distributed over quite a range of subjects, publications have not been in the most well-known international journals (perhaps with the exception of one publication in *Foundations of Chemistry*).

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capability of the research group is *satisfactory*.

There have been several initiatives to contribute to new developments both internationally and in Estonia. There is a strategy of research, though covering perhaps a too wide areas. As yet there is no strategy (either at the Chair or at the department of the perspectives after the retirement of Prof. Vihalemm). The encouragement of research on

the borderline of the philosophy, history, and sociology of science is multidisciplinary and has relevance for other areas, but as yet the integration of these multidisciplinary capabilities has been limited. There is no doubt that the research group is competent and there is substantial international interaction and some formal international co-operation (primarily with institutes in Finland and England). In recent years the Chair has been quite successful in applying for grants from the Estonian Science Foundations and a number of small grants from abroad.

Recommendations

Special attention should be given to the following consideration: The published research of the Chair has now been evaluated as 'good' on the basis of recent achievements. Only if the upcoming vacancy can be filled with a good candidate will it be possible to achieve the same result at the next evaluation.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The research on the history of science in Estonia has contributed to making the work of Estonian scientists better known internationally. Also translations into Estonian (primarily on subjects in the philosophy of mind) are of general cultural importance for Estonian Society.

Chair of Practical Philosophy (Head: Prof. Margit Sutrop, Dr Phil)

Currently the main research topics at the Chair of Practical Philosophy are:

- Early modern moral and political theories (Adam Smith, David Hume, Third Earl Shaftesbury, John Locke, Bernard Mandeville);
- Ethical, legal and social aspects of human genetic databases;
- Ethics of genetic and medical information (privacy, ownership, social justice);
- Citizenship, immigration and democracy in the post-sovereignty world;
- Paternalism in medicine;
- Needs in medicine;
- Values in bioethics;
- The origins and nature of normativity (moral, political, legal and religious norms);
- Theories of art and fiction;
- Theories of intentionality (Edmund Husserl, John R. Searle).

General Comments

The Chair of Practical Philosophy and the Ethics Center at the University of Tartu form one overlapping research and teaching environment (Unit). The Center was founded as recently as 2001 by the present head of the Chair. The Chair took its present form in and after 1991. Both have their own research areas, but they also share many interests. The Center has started a major research project on the ethics of genetic databases (2002-2004). The Unit lists a substantial number (10) of different research areas, ranging from theories of intentionality to needs in medicine. However, this has been reduced to three main areas in the development strategy in which the focus lies in ethics (broadly conceived) and its applications. In this form the list of research topics is more manageable.

The Unit has attracted an impressive number of graduate students, and thus has a major educational role. The Unit also forms the basis of international co-operation both in teaching and research. The current number of researchers is large enough to form a 'critical mass', if the activities are managed well. There is one Professor, one Assistant Professor, and two Assistants. In this context the role of the younger researchers will be important, in addition to the more advanced doctoral students.

Because of the Center's activities and programs, the demands of interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary are also satisfied. The practical relevance of the Unit's work is undeniable.

The Chair and the Center form together an impressively dynamic and fast developing unit, which benefits from the energy and initiative of its present head. Her and her predecessor's high quality publications form the core of the current list of the publications of the Unit, focusing on the philosophy of literature and a combination of Marxism and analytical philosophy. There are clear signs that this limitation can be expected to improve in the near future. Overall the unit shows a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and energy and its forward momentum in research, teaching, and international co-operation is truly promising. Rapid growth in all these areas is to be expected. The Unit has also been successful in getting both Estonian and major international grants. The material resources are lavish, especially offices and computers. The students have a working environment, which is at the same time inspiring and pleasant.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Based on the publication record the research activities are judged *good*.

The Unit has a relatively recently appointed professor and head, and the Center's activities have started only in 2001. But there are already many graduate students and also researchers, so that good publication results should emerge in the near future. At this moment the list of publication is still somehow restricted.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capability of the research group is *excellent*.

The motivation, competence, and creativity of both the junior and senior members are most impressive. The Unit should have a successful future. The international contacts support the Unit's activities well. All the work is internationally informed and often multidisciplinary.

Recommendations

It is possible to say that the Unit's research focus is still somewhat unclear. Part of the reason for this may be that it has two overlapping components whose borders are not always clear. It might be necessary to decide what will be studied and researched in each component of the Unit. Theories of art and fiction are far from the problems of genetic databases. Also, the Chair of Practical Philosophy might pay more systematic attention to the foundational questions of ethics, so called metaethics. The work which goes to the preparation of grant applications and reports should not be allowed to reduce the time and energy which are dedicated to the Unit's key activities, research and teaching. It will be necessary to develop the library facilities as soon as possible. Also foreign language revision services should be made systematically available to researchers.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

Ethics and social philosophy have applications, which are important in any society. Of all the proposed projects (10) of the Unit most have more or less direct applications to the Estonian society, perhaps only 'Early modern moral and political theories' and 'Theories of intentionality' may lack them. But both are crucially important philosophical themes, which are also educationally important.

Evaluation of Research Activity of the whole Philosophical Department of UT

In this report the three Chairs have been evaluated separately. Combining the separate results the overall quality of the whole Philosophy Department is judged *Good to Satisfactory*.

Evaluation of Overall Capability of the whole Philosophical Department of UT

See above. The overall capability is judged *Good*.

2. Faculty of Theology, University of Tartu (Head: Prof. Tõnu Lehtsaar)

Staff

The employees of the Faculty of Theology are divided between its chairs. The staff of the Faculty of Theology consists of 19 persons. Fifteen of them belong to the teaching staff, three are scientific workers and two make up the dean's office personnel.

The Faculty has seven chairs and one extraordinary professorship:

Chair of Old Testament (OT) Science and Hebrew (head Professor *dr. theol.* Kalle Kasemaa). The main fields of research are the history of OT science in Estonia and the literature of ancient Semitic peoples (Andres Gross); issues concerning the translation and interpretation of the OT, the theology and literature of Judaism, the languages and literature of Semitic peoples, patristic theology and literature (Kalle Kasemaa).

Chair of the New Testament (NT) (holder *mag. theol.* Peeter Roosimaa). The main fields of research are exegetic studies for educational purposes, the study of the preparation and translation of the Estonian Bible, studies of 1 Peter as well as Johannine works and related topics (Peeter Roosimaa); social and historical studies of the New Testament (Ain Riistan).

Chair of Church History (holder Associate Professor *dr. theol.* Urmas Petti). The main fields of research are medieval studies (Marju Lepajõe); church history at the Reformation period, particularly as pertaining to M. Luther (Urmas Petti); today's church history (Riho and Lea Altnurme).

Chair of Systematic Theology (holder Associate Professor *dr. phil.* Anne Kull). The main fields of research are social ethics (Jaanus Noormägi); modern theology, science and religion (Anne Kull).

Chair of Practical Theology (head Professor *dr. phil.* Tõnu Lehtsaar). The main fields of research are the pedagogy of religion (Pille Valk); the psychology of religion (Tõnu Lehtsaar); practical church theology (invited lecturers).

Chair of Comparative Theology (head Professor *dr. theol.* Tarmo Kulmar). The main fields of research are the history and religious history of pre-Columbian America, particularly those of Peru, the role of religion in ancient totalitarian states, the concept of God and the phenomenology of the soul in prehistoric religions of North Europe, oriental studies in Estonia and the history of early theology (Tarmo Kulmar); the philosophy of religion, the philosophy of the spirit (Jaan Kivistik).

Chair of Lutheran Theology (head Professor *dr. phil.* Alar Laats). The main fields of research are systematic Lutheran theology, particularly Christology and ecclesiology; relationships between Eastern and Western Christianity, foremost from the perspective of systematic theology; planned for a more distant future is actual Lutheran theology; a subsidiary field is Lutheranism in Estonia.

Seminary of Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (head Extraordinary Professor *dr. phil.* Thomas R. Kämmerer (Münster, Germany)). The main fields of research are ancient Eastern languages (Akkadian and Sumerian); the history of religion; archaeology.

A subdivision of the Chair of Church History is the **Research Group for the History of Church and Religion in Estonia** headed by *dr. theol.* Riho Altnurme. The main objective of the Research Group is to study the Christian religion within the current borders of Estonia in the past and present. The objects of research are the activity of religious associations (churches), the history of theological thought and individual religiosity.

A subdivision of the Chair of Systematic Theology is the **Collegium of Science, Religion and Society** headed by *dr. phil.* Anne Kull. The Collegium intends to facilitate communication between science and religion across the disciplinary borders. The founding members of the Collegium are all accomplished researchers and educators from different fields of scientific and religious research.

A subdivision of the Chair of Practical Theology is the **Department of Religious Education** headed by M.A. Pille Valk. The main task of the Department is to train teachers of religious education, provide them with refresher training and carry out research on the pedagogy of religion.

Organisation of Research Projects

Scientific research at the Faculty of Theology is predominantly done at the chairs. All the teaching staff are obliged to do both educational work and research. The research is connected with particular projects. The Faculty of Theology is involved in four projects.

1. State base-funded (target funding) research topic Religiooni sotsiaalkultuurilised funktsioonid [Social and Cultural Functions of Religion].
2. Scientific studies supported by Estonian Science Foundation grants.

3. The European Commission Fifth Framework project Churches and European Integration.

4) Research carried out at the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Studies.

General Comments

Although also other institutions in Estonia are working in theology (the Tartu Academy of Theology as well as Baptist, Methodist and two Lutheran seminaries), the Tartu Faculty of Theology is the only institution in Estonia working in theology to the highest level and giving degrees to the highest level too. The faculty has a special obligation in developing the national culture of Estonia after a break of fifty years in theological studies and research. By and large the faculty fulfils this obligation. In the exegetical chairs - Old and New Testament - the members also have an obligation of translation work for a new Estonian Bible.

The research of the faculty combines several methods, i.e. philological, historical and systematic methods, and these methods are used in different disciplines, each with a chair of its own.

The quality of research in the faculty is somewhat unevenly distributed among the different chairs, because some of the chairs are not represented by senior researchers. The fact that the faculty was re-established only twelve years ago may be a partial cause of this.

Two chairs stand out because they do not belong to the core activity of theology, but they are nevertheless relevant to theology, namely the Chair of Comparative Theology and the Department of Ancient Near East Studies.

There are some obstacles to improving the quality of research: not enough time for research because of a relatively heavy teaching load for some members of the faculty;

scarcity of funds for refurbishing library stocks, especially with respect to journals and modern theological books in English; the need for travel grants.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Based on the publication record the research activities are judged *good*.

If a national perspective in the evaluation were to be adopted, a higher rating might have been given.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capability is judged *good*.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The faculty has the obligation to transfer results of the international theological community to Estonia and make it available to the public. This obligation seems to be met in an admirable manner by the faculty; as well else the education of future ministers in the Estonian church. Here a new Bible translation will play an eminent role.

Recommendations

The faculty should at the earliest possible moment appoint professors with doctor's qualifications to the chairs where such researchers do not exist at the moment: the chairs of Church History, of New Testament and of Systematic Theology, especially because of the high significance of the last two disciplines within the body of theology.

It would be desirable if some of the chairs became more internationally orientated in their research.

The chair of Practical Theology should put more stress on research in the classical branches of practical theology, e.g. liturgy and homiletics.

A greater part of the research ought to be published in widely distributed theological journals with referee system, especially in the English language.

In the future, if a larger budget were to be available, a greater share of the budget should be used for strengthening the library and for travel grants, especially for younger scholars.

Finally, it would be desirable if some chairs had a greater scientific output continuing the special traditions of the former Tartu faculty of theology.

3) Department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory, Estonian Institute of Humanities (Head: Prof. Kaupo Känd, PhD)

Members of the project and their specific areas of research

Tnu Viik Hegel's philosophy of culture, aiming at what has recently become called the \mp non-metaphysical \mp reading of Hegel, according to which Hegel's \mp system \mp is seen as a phenomenology of cultural formations (*geistige Gestalten*) instead of the traditional reading of Hegel's philosophy as a foundationalist metaphysical substance theory.

Kaupo Känd - 19th century German philosophy of culture, focusing on the notions of culture in Hegel's and Nietzsche's philosophies.

Mihhail Lotman semiotical study of culture, Russian cultural philosophy in 19th and 20th century

Rein Raud cultural identity and cultural difference

Triin Kallas philosophical and semiotical study of myth

Research programmes and research grants

The main areas of research activities of the department are presented below in four thematical chapters.

The first two, *The Philosophy of Culture* and *Timespace and Its Discourses* represent the established interest of several staff members into the philosophical and comparative study of cultural phenomena that has given output in international circles, conferences, and published papers.

The other two research projects are focused on the national level and relate to the missions of educating qualified academic philosophers, and of translating the basic texts of philosophy into Estonian. Both tasks are urgently required to create the discourse of philosophy involving the general public outside the academic world.

Grant applications from non-public universities are not normally considered by Estonian public bodies unless the specific field of research has been positively evaluated, for that reason, the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory has not received grants from the ESF up to this date.

General Comments

The Department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory has a dynamic research group that is characterised by its multidisciplinary approach. Given the poor financial means – the research of the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory has not been evaluated so far and for that reason its members are excluded from applying for most of the available research funds and grants in Estonia – the research output is impressive. An important part of the research has been devoted to the translation of classical philosophical texts into Estonian.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Based on the publication record the research activities are judged *good to satisfactory*.

This judgement focuses on the number of international publications. In case a different (national) perspective had been taken, the evaluation might have been more positive.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capability of the group is good.

The multidisciplinary approach of the group is original and to a certain extent novel, though there is also the danger that this approach becomes too heterogeneous. The topics of investigation are, taken from a monodisciplinary perspective, perhaps non-standard, but nevertheless valuable. However, the presentation of the research could be improved. If the research group would have had the opportunity to apply for funds and grants, it might have been more productive. As many of the researchers are relatively young, there exists a possibility for further growth in quantity and quality.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The translations of classical philosophical texts into Estonian, as well as the contributions to the cultural debate, form an important contribution to Estonian culture.

Recommendations

Although the evaluation team acknowledges the importance of translating classical philosophical texts into Estonian (and – in doing so – contributing to the creation of a national philosophical vocabulary), and of contributing to the national social and cultural debate in the national language, it is of the opinion that the research group should increase the number of publications in international journals and book series. Especially for a small language community as the Estonian, it is important to become part of the international community of scholars in the chosen fields of specialisation.

The evaluation team is of the opinion that it is important that the philosophical research of the different institutes in Tallinn (such as the Estonian Institute of Humanities and Pedagogical University of Tallinn) should be combined in order to create one strong Tallinn Department or Faculty of Philosophy. The establishment of one University of Tallinn creates a unique opportunity to do so. It should be avoided that the different research groups remain autonomous institutes within this new university. In case an additional chair could be established, the Estonian Institute of Humanities should

consider carefully whether this chair should be devoted to Cultural Theory or to Philosophy proper.

Part IV

Summary of evaluation

The research at the Department of Philosophy of Tartu University was evaluated as *good to satisfactory* and its overall capability as *good*.

The research at the Chair of the History of Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy of Tartu University was evaluated as *satisfactory* and its overall capability as *satisfactory*.

The research at the Chair of the Philosophy of Science at the Department of Philosophy of Tartu University was evaluated as *good* and its overall capability as *satisfactory*.

The research at the Chair of Practical Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy of Tartu University was evaluated as *good* and its overall capability as *excellent*.

The research at the Faculty of Theology of Tartu University was evaluated as *good* and its overall capability as *good*.

The research at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory at the Estonian Institute of Humanities was evaluated as *good to satisfactory* and its overall capability as *good*.

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Part V

Recommendations

Though the reports submitted were in general clear, in some cases there were still signs of lack of professionalism in presenting research projects. As to the formal aspects of the report we recommend that in the future the publications are ordered differently (see appendix).

We recommend as a general rule that for philosophy, theology, and cultural theory, not more than 30-50% of research time is allocated to publications and translations into Estonian (including publications in more cultural and literary journals for a general audience which is not so much 'research output', but 'contribution to the local culture'). For 50% or more research should be directed at the international community, publishing research results in English, French, German, Spanish or Russian. More often researchers should try to write directly in a foreign language and not first publish in Estonian. (In a way the large number of Estonian journals publishing, amongst other subjects, philosophical papers tends to work against this.)

The Estonian system of financing research tends to discourage co-operation between different researchers and research groups. Target funding tends to go to large groups which only co-operate pro forma in a joint project. Grants from the Estonian foundations tend to go to individual research projects. For disciplines such as philosophy and theology perhaps the target funding should stay as it is, but there should be fewer but somewhat bigger grants from the ESF which should preferentially be given to joint projects.

The possibility of publishing in Estonian-based English language publications (journals such as *Trames*, conference proceedings) is a good thing, in particular for beginning researchers in Estonia. However, individual researchers should definitely not restrict their international publications primarily to this journal, but aim to publish as well in international journals with a wide distribution (i.e. journals present in many university libraries all around the world and often quoted).

Material conditions for research in Estonia are limited. For the disciplines under review here this applies in particular to books and journals and to a lesser extent to other research costs. In the short term the best way to deal with this is to provide possibilities for researchers for regular visits abroad and have access to funds for interlibrary loans and such like. Senior researchers may have access to grants to finance this. But it is important to invest more in young researchers. For example by creating small grants for Ph.D. students for literature and presenting papers at conferences abroad.

For the future of philosophy in Estonia it is of importance that there are two centres of philosophy. From this perspective we recommend the following:

1. The department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory of the Estonian Institute of Humanities should obtain accreditation for graduate studies and research in order to have access to target funding and grants from the Estonian Science Foundation.
2. All efforts should be directed at having one combined Department of Philosophy in Tallinn. In this connection the current Department of Philosophy and Cultural Theory at the EIH should seriously think about where they will put the emphasis in the future: on philosophy or cultural theory. In obtaining a critical mass for a Philosophy Department in Tallinn also the links with philosophers now at Tallinn Technical University might be strengthened.
3. There are a number of Estonian periodical publications that cover philosophy and which tend to be based primarily in Tartu or in Tallinn. (This applies to both philosophical articles and translations into Estonian of foreign philosophical texts.) In the context of quality control via peer review it would be better if all relevant journal would have editorial boards that represent the whole of the Estonian philosophical community.

VI. Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the hospitality of the institutions we visited and the pleasant conversations we had on all occasions. We also acknowledge the administrative and other support of the staff of the Kõrghariduse Akrediteerimiskeskuse juhataja.

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APPENDIX

Suggested ordering of publications for evaluation purposes

A. Publications in foreign languages

A1 Books

1. in English; b) in German; c) in Russian; d) other

A2 Articles in refereed academic journals

2. in English; b) in German; c) in Russian; d) other

A3 Contributions to books and conference proceedings

3. in English; b) in German; c) in Russian; d) other

A4 Book reviews, notes, contributions to dictionaries [texts less than five pages]

4. in English; b) in German; c) in Russian; d) other

A5 Conference abstracts

5. in English; b) in German; c) in Russian; d) other

A6 Dissertations

A7 Reports

A8 Publications in general cultural and literary journals, books, and other popularisations

B1-B8 Publications in Estonian divided as for A1-A8

C Translations

C1 Separately published books

C2 Contribution to Akadeemia

C3 Other translations