**RESEARCH INTEGRITY ANNUAL STATEMENT 2014**

Goldsmiths is a signatory to *The concordat to support research integrity*. One of the recommendations of the concordat (p. 20) is as follows:

**“employers of researchers** should present a short annual statement to their own governing body that:

* provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues (for example postgraduate and researcher training, or process reviews)
* provides assurances that the processes they have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation
* provides a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken

To improve accountability, and provide assurances that measures being taken continue to support consistently high standards of research integrity, this statement should be made publicly available.”

The first such annual statement is attached. If approved, it should be made publically available via the Research Office web pages.

Chris French

Associate Pro-Warden (Research Integrity)

November 2014

**Research Integrity Annual Statement 2014**

Actions and activities to support understanding and application of research integrity issues

As a research-intensive organisation, Goldsmiths supports the implementation of *The Concordat to Support Research Integrity* (<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Documents/2012/TheConcordatToSupportResearchIntegrity.pdf>, Universities UK, July 2012). Professor Chris French was appointed to the newly created post of Associate Pro-Warden (Research Integrity) in 2013 with specific responsibility for leading on “the development and implementation of a Research Integrity policy and associated procedures, working in consultation with the Research Office, Research & Enterprise Committee, and academic departments.” Dealing with research integrity issues also requires collaboration with a range of professional services including Human Resources, Governance and Legal Services, and Finance.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues across the University, including:

* Sourcing various funder ethical guidelines and reviewing these to ensure they match research activities (both funded and unfunded)
* Amending the ethics approval form to reflect changes in open access, data sharing and research integrity domains.
* Reviewing the Code of Practice on Research Ethics, suggesting changes for updates.
* Recommending the formalisation of the role of departmental research ethics and integrity contacts in relation to the Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee and in line with discipline-specific and funder requirements.
* A familiarisation process with medically-related ethical approval systems to promote interdisciplinary research integrity.
* Contacting Departments to ascertain who would act as a Research Integrity Contact.
* Raising awareness of the need for and demands of research integrity.

The name of the Research Ethics Sub-Committee was changed to the Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee, as were its Terms of Reference and membership in order to reflect the wider remit outlined in the concordat. An implementation strategy was considered and approved by the Research and Enterprise Committee.

Additionally, members of REISC have attended various research integrity events in order to familiarize themselves with best practice across the sector. At Goldsmiths, postgraduate students have been introduced to research integrity issues during Induction Week and as part of the Academic Practice module provided by the Graduate School.

Processes for dealing with allegations of research misconduct

Although Goldsmiths’ current procedures for dealing with allegations of research misconduct appear to be adequate and in line with those of other HEIs, a review is currently taking place in order to ensure that such procedures reflect best practice.

Formal investigations of research misconduct

There have been no allegations nor formal investigations of research misconduct in recent years.