

**Institution: University of Edinburgh**

**Unit of Assessment: 31 Theology and Religious Studies**

## **Section 1: Unit context, research and impact strategy**

### **Overview**

Theology and Religious Studies (TRS) at the University of Edinburgh comprises a diverse and collaborative community of 35 researchers (33.5 FTE, 26% growth since REF2014), with strengths in textual studies, theology and church history, and the study of religions in global contexts. Over the REF period, the unit has seen considerable growth, with 10 new appointments (net gain 6.9 FTE) strategically building capacity, particularly in science and religion and Christian-Muslim studies. This has provided welcome opportunities for wider collaboration beyond the School of Divinity, notably with Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, from which two scholars are included in this return. The expansion in volume and scope has been accompanied by 65% growth in grant income, and a thriving PGR community which attracts more than 30 new students each year and has achieved 189 completions in the REF period. Our research environment has also benefited from major investment (c£5,000,000) in the refurbishment of the landmark New College buildings and the curation of its historic library collections.

### **Research Strategy**

Over the current REF period, our overarching goal has been to advance excellent research and impact through enriching core disciplinary strengths in TRS and augmenting these with fresh and timely initiatives. We have achieved this through five strategic priorities.

- (1) Investment in 10 outstanding early and mid-career researchers (7 Lecturers, 2 Senior Lecturers, 1 tenure-track Chancellor's Fellow), alongside comprehensive measures to support research across all career stages.
- (2) Development of new priority themes in science and religion and Christian-Muslim studies, and the establishment of other new research networks (Edinburgh Buddhist Studies and the Scottish Network for Religion and Literature).
- (3) Support for external grant applications, resulting in £4,166,084 funding, representing an average increase of 65% per annum since REF2014, including 60% growth in the number (11) of postdoctoral fellowships secured.
- (4) Fulfilment of key elements of our equality and diversity strategy, becoming the first TRS unit in the UK to receive Athena SWAN silver.
- (5) Investment in partnerships, support, and training to advance our public engagement, knowledge exchange, and impact activities, through appointment of a Web and Communications Officer, the part-time hiring of an impact specialist, and the establishment of a KE committee to develop engagement work across the Unit.

This strategy has enabled us successfully to sustain and expand our range of expertise during a time of national contraction in TRS.

### **Research Groupings**

Since 2014, we have strengthened and expanded our three established research clusters in theology and church history, global religions, and textual studies. Each of these three areas bring together academic staff with cognate interests, a diverse programme of research seminars,

and an associated research centre. Within each cluster, new initiatives in the form of research networks have emerged during the current REF period.

### (1) Theology and Church History

Comprising 16 staff, this is our largest grouping. Research and impact flourish across systematic theology, ethics, history of Christianity, and public theology. This group has expanded over the REF period, with 5 new appointments building additional capacity, particularly in science and religion. Our particular strengths in church history (4 staff) ensure that theology is pursued in close interaction with historical study. We have achieved substantial grant capture during the census period, most notably **Harris** and **Lane Ritchie's** £2,440,000 Templeton award, alongside production of 14 single-authored monographs and influential editorial projects, e.g. the *Cambridge Companion to Reformed Theology*, *The History of Scottish Theology*, and the *Oxford Handbook of the Oxford Movement*. Other highlights include awards to **Purvis** for the Best First Book Prize (2018) by the Ecclesiastical History Society for *Theology and the University in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, and to **Eglinton** for the Gospel Coalition's History and Biography of the Year (2020). Two other books were shortlisted for prizes – **Dawson's** *John Knox* for the Scottish Saltire Society History Book of the Year (2015), and **Bicket's** *George Mackay Brown and the Scottish Catholic Imagination* for the Ecclesiastical History Prize (2018).

With its increased generation of external income from the Binks and Porticus Trusts and several other sources (rise of c50% from £270,000 in the previous REF period), the **Centre for Theology and Public Issues (CTPI)**, led by **Mitchell**, has completed an impressive range of projects at home and overseas with a particular focus on peacebuilding and the arts. Following the appointments of **Schmiedel** and **Ralston** (recently promoted to a Readership), further expertise has been added to the leadership of CTPI. Together with the Institute for the Advanced Study of the Humanities (IASH), CTPI is jointly funding one early career and one senior interdisciplinary visiting fellowship related to public theology each year; the inaugural awards will be in 2020/21. Important CPTI achievements during the REF period include:

- *The Peacebuilding through the Arts* project (c.£120,000 second phase from the Binks Trust), generating publications including a multi-authored, international volume on *Peacebuilding and the Arts* (Palgrave MacMillan 2020) already with 8,300 downloads, a monograph on *What Makes for Peace: Peacebuilding and Catholic Social Teaching* (University of Notre Dame Press 2020) and a forthcoming book on *Peacebuilding and Photography* (co-funded by the Social Trends Institute);
- a Porticus-funded project (c. €120,000 funded by the Jerusalem Trust) on religion and reconciliation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, leading to three co-authored monographs and several edited collections;
- the Religious Leaders and Journalists in Israel/Palestine Project with funding (€88,000) from the Dutch Government (Foreign Ministry) and staff support of the Norwegian Government (Foreign Ministry), leading to interreligious peace talks and digital resources;
- the Women in Conflict project (co-hosted with the Beyond Borders Festival and funded by the Scottish Government – in total £1,200,00 over three years to Beyond Borders), leading to international workshops and panels;
- international and interdisciplinary conferences on Populism and Theology, Practical Theology, and Transformations of Tragedy, generating further edited collections.

*The History of Scottish Theology* project has built upon the School's strength as the leading centre in the world for the study of Scottish church history and theology. Supported by **Fergusson's** AHRC Leadership grant (£186,000), conferences were held in 2016/17 in Princeton and Edinburgh. These generated a 3-volume publication by OUP in 2019 edited by **Fergusson** and Elliott (Glasgow) and supported by **Forsyth** as RA. Eight members of the unit

and several former doctoral students contributed essays to the collection, with two other staff serving on the editorial advisory board (**Brown** and **Hardman Moore**).

Led by **Harris**, who continues his research work in physics, the science and religion grouping has emerged as a powerful research sub-group within this cluster. A cohort of 14 doctoral students have been recruited to the field since 2014. Investment in staff appointments (**M. Fuller**, **M. Leidenhag**, **Lane Ritchie** and **G. Fuller**) has added capacity and a wider range of expertise. Collaboration with colleagues in philosophy has led to the development of an online MSc in science, philosophy and religion with over 60 students enrolled in 2019/20; this programme is now producing several candidates each year for research degrees. The success of this emerging area is highlighted in Christopher's Southgate's comment that 'the science and religion program [at Edinburgh] is, in my personal view, at present the most creative and vigorous British training ground for new researchers in the science–religion debate.' (*Zygon* 51.2, 2016, 366). This was confirmed by the award of the Boyle medal to **Harris** in 2018, and a clean sweep of all three research prizes at the 2018 European Society for the Study of Science and Religion (ESSSAT) by Edinburgh students (**Sarah Lane Ritchie**, **Joanna Leidenhag** and **Jaeho Jang**).

In 2019, members of the science-religion team (**Harris** and **Lane Ritchie**) secured a grant of £2,440,000 from the John Templeton Foundation for work on 'God and the Book of Nature'. This has enabled the establishment of ten collaborative research groups from across different European and American institutions, each comprising a tenure-track academic in theology or philosophy and a post-doctoral researcher tasked with developing links to specific empirical sciences in a laboratory setting. Selected themes are God and nature, mind and nature, and naturalisms and nature. **Harris** also secured substantial funding (£130,000) from the Issachar Foundation to research a volume on theology and quantum mechanics. His leadership was recognised by promotion in 2019 to a Personal Chair in Natural Science and Theology.

A 'rapid response impact' grant was awarded by the university to **G. Fuller** and **Lane Ritchie** for a project on theology and the Covid-19 pandemic. In June and July 2020, *TheoCon* offered international and interdisciplinary theological reflection on the pandemic. 20 keynote lectures were recorded from scholars across a host of different theological disciplines. These were shared through a website, sent to 1,300 people who signed up via email, and over 500 on a podcast feed. Lectures served to frame a series of live streamed sessions featuring presenters, respondents and the hosts. The 9 live sessions were streamed as a video on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube; these have already reached a global audience of more than 26,000.

## (2) Global Religions

Comprising 12 academic staff, this cluster has longstanding strengths in the historical, theological and social scientific study of religions, with recent growth of capacity in Buddhism and Islam. A pioneer in the study of world Christianity, Edinburgh continues to offer international leadership in this field. Recent achievements in the study of global religions include the production of 13 monographs, capture of three large grants, and innovative outreach work in religious studies. **Stanley's** *Christianity in the Twentieth Century: A World History* received the 2018 Book of the Year Award from the American Society of Missiology, an Award of Merit from *Christianity Today* magazine in the USA and was shortlisted for the *Catholic Herald* 2019 Books Awards in the History Category.

Since 2014, the **Centre for the Study of World Christianity (CSWC)** has maintained a vigorous international programme, teaching a cohort of 44 doctoral students drawn from 26 countries. Following the part-retirement of **Stanley**, two co-directors – **Chow** and **Wild Wood** – have been appointed and are leading new initiatives in research funding (especially for research in global health) and international collaboration. The founding director, **Andrew Walls**, was awarded an honorary degree to mark his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Research highlights include:

- the peer-reviewed journal *Studies in World Christianity* (now edited by **Chow** and **Wild Wood**) celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019;
- the annual Yale-Edinburgh conference (alternating between New College and Yale Divinity School) attracting an international attendance of c100 delegates;
- the substantial archives of the Centre being catalogued and integrated into the University Library, partly through an external benefaction (\$1,000,000 from 2006-2016).

In recognition of its established international profile, staff have been sought out by institutions aiming to develop capacity in the study of world Christianity. **Stanley** has acted as a consultant for Duke University and the Bethesa-Khankho Foundation in north east India, while the Centre has hosted visits from colleagues at Basel University and St Stephen's College, Delhi with a view to the establishment of similar centres in these institutions.

Led by **Siddiqui**, the Christian-Muslim Studies Network has emerged as a major new growth area with significant public impact. This has been significantly enhanced by the appointments of **Ralston** and **Rahemtulla**, together with the arrival of two postdoctoral research fellows (**Rahman Mustafa** and **Anchassi**). A large grant (\$450,000) was secured from the Luce Foundation to host conferences, workshops and collaborative partnerships in several international locations. Both **Ralston** and **Siddiqui** have published in this field and have delivered keynote lectures at conferences and symposia in Jakarta, Beirut, Doha, Cyprus and in the USA at Boston, Emory and Yale. This activity has generated collaborative work with several European, Middle Eastern and North American institutions including Paderborn, the American University of Beirut, Emory, and Georgetown. In September 2017, a major international conference to launch the Christian-Muslim Studies Network was hosted in Edinburgh with speakers from over 5 continents, 19 countries and 24 institutions. A growing cohort of research students (10 at July 2020) has been recruited, and a new Masters programme will be launched (2020/21) – this will stimulate further research recruitment. **Newman** and **Corboz**, both specialist in Shia studies, provide valuable links with Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (IMES) and with the Alwaleed Centre (one of two in the UK); its core objectives link research into the globalised Muslim world with the promotion of the public understanding of Islam – **Corboz** serves as its Deputy Director.

The research cluster has been further enriched by the establishment of **Edinburgh Buddhist Studies (EBS)**, a network convened by **Appleton**, which connects university colleagues working on Buddhism across different disciplines. Associate members are drawn from other HEI's in Scotland and the north of England. Launched in 2019, the EBS holds regular workshops, seminars and CPD events (online and on-campus) for school teachers delivering the Buddhist unit at National 5 and Higher levels. EBS has been invited to host the annual UK Association for Buddhist Studies conference in 2021. **Appleton** has already secured initial running costs and a doctoral scholarship from the Khyentse Foundation (c£38,000 p.a.).

Co-founded by **Cotter** (Leverhulme Fellow) and **Robertson** (Edinburgh PhD graduate), the *Religious Studies Project* (RSP) is an international collaborative initiative producing weekly podcasts with leading scholars on the social-scientific study of religion. Since January 2012, c400 interviews on cutting-edge theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues have become available through the website, iTunes and other portals. In addition to the podcasts, the website also features weekly essays, roundtable discussions, book reviews, resources, and conference reports, plus a weekly digest of opportunities (jobs, journals, conferences, etc).

### (3) Textual Studies

Research in this area connects 7 staff, with expertise in Hebrew Bible and New Testament studies. Achievements over the REF period include publication of 7 monographs, recruitment of talented research students (c10 per annum), leadership in scholarly societies, editorial work (e.g. *Oxford Handbook of Pauline Studies*, *Oxford Handbook of the Bible and Ecology* and the 3



volume *Reception of Jesus in the First Three Centuries*), and the attraction of distinguished visiting scholars to Edinburgh. Published monthly by Sage, *The Expository Times* is based at New College. It boasts high circulation figures (4,000 annual subscriptions, and over 10,000 downloads of articles on various platforms each month) ensuring wide reach amongst academic scholars and clergy.

The **Centre for the Study of Christian Origins (CSCO)** hosts a dynamic programme of seminars, lectures, collaborative publications, and fund raising. Linking staff across Biblical studies and early church history, CSCO also hosts lectures from colleagues in Classics and Ancient History. Highlights include:

- the annual Kennedy-Wright lecture (Gillian Clark 2017, Martin Goodman 2018, Dale Allison 2019) which has attracted capacity audiences of c100;
- a popular student-led blog and social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram – 5000 followers in toto) bringing the Centre's work to an international audience;
- the 2018 award of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Thomas Reid Medal for Early Career Contributions to the Humanities and Social Sciences to **Novenson**, director of CSCO;
- a new CSCO-branded monograph series with Edinburgh University Press edited by **Novenson**, and supported by an editorial board including university colleagues from Divinity, Classics and Ancient History;
- a new scholarship fund in memory of **Hurtado**, founder of CSCO.

The historical methodology of CSCO has been complemented by the establishment, in early 2019, of the **Scottish Network for Religion and Literature (SNRL)**. Led by **Jack**, with support from **Bicket** and **Jasper** (honorary fellow), this enables cross-disciplinary interaction with colleagues in English and Scottish Literature through seminars, conferences, symposia and funding applications. The SNRL held its launch event in January 2020 with novelist James Robertson as keynote speaker. A new Masters degree will be introduced in 2021/22 – this is expected to stimulate recruitment to research degrees. A Templeton Religion Trust grant (\$234K) on *Art Seeking Understanding* was secured by **Jack** in 2020 for work with performers and audiences in the sacred arts programme at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. (Owing to Covid-19, this has been deferred until 21/22.) The project brings together a multi-disciplinary team of 13 scholars in the humanities, social sciences, and creative arts.

### **Impact Strategy**

Our impact strategy aims to foster reflection, understanding, and constructive reception of religion both locally and globally. This is illustrated in three submitted case studies which profile research that has consistently displayed an outward dimension in its engagement with Scottish society, UK government, and wider international audiences. **Dawson's** 2015 biography of John Knox has challenged monotonous stereotypes of the leading Scottish Reformer as misogynistic, intolerant, and hostile to the arts. The enthusiastic reception of her work in the national press and in a play performed at Edinburgh's Lyceum theatre illustrates ways in which painstaking historical research can shift public attitudes. In 2016, **Siddiqui** was invited by the Home Office to chair a commission reviewing the function of Sharia councils in the UK. Its findings persuaded the government to back the Register our Marriage Campaign (ROM) which has the dual aim of raising awareness of the lack of legal protection for unregistered marriages and reforming the 1949 Marriage Act to require the civil registering of all religious marriages. **Bond's** TV documentary work on Christian origins has produced several series that have been screened worldwide. Shown at Easter 2018, her Channel 4 programme *Jesus's Female Disciples*, co-presented with Joan Taylor (KCL), generated viewing figures of c1,500,000. Her broadcasts have resulted in historically informed accounts of Jesus and his followers reaching much wider international audiences beyond the academy and the churches.

During the REF period, strategic support for impact has focused on three main areas:

(i) *Incentivising and supporting impact activities through seed funding, and building impact into annual review and research leave.* The CAHSS KE and Impact Fund offers start-up costs for new projects – the School has been successful in securing several small grants since 2014 (total £18K), including **Dawson's** work and projects such as **Holtschneider's** Jewish walking tour of Edinburgh, and **Grumett's** work on Teilhard de Chardin's encounter with the inquisition. A commitment to impact is now assessed in all applications for research leave and in the allocation of internal funds for research travel and support costs. Annual research interviews also include a discussion of impact plans, as do the University's workload model and promotion criteria. This has resulted in a broader set of impacts across the unit.

(ii) *Investing in specialised support for impact activities and digital communications to broaden public engagement and dissemination of research.* Impact projects are monitored by the Research and the Knowledge Exchange Committees, with a former postdoctoral fellow engaged at 0.2 fte to assist with the development of impact work. Our Web and Communications Officer assists staff members with the dissemination and profiling of their work, especially through social media and the School's website. While **Bond** and **Siddiqui** are already well established as communicators on radio and TV, others have increasingly become involved in media work (**Eglinton, Jack** and **Bicket**). The use of digital technology is impressively evident in the Religious Studies Project and Homebrewed Christianity, mentioned elsewhere.

iii) *Strengthening collaborative partnerships with external bodies.* Existing links with local churches, ecumenical bodies, and government have been complemented by a range of partnerships with local schools, Scottish Shia communities, civic bodies in the UK, and charitable organisations, as in the CTPI highlights reported above, in **Wild-Wood's** work on religion and global health and **Grumett's** work with the DEFRA animal welfare committee. Further details are listed in Section 4.

### **Open Access and Digitisation Policy**

Our pro-active approach to Open Access has exceeded REF requirements. Since January 2015, all publications have been recorded in PURE, the institutional online repository, in line with relevant OA conditions of the publishing outlet, allowing open access to all outputs supported by public funding from UKRI and other named funders. The School of Divinity held a 100% OA compliance at the end of 2019. We are currently working towards the inclusion of data management plans in all of our research projects from the outset, using University data management and storage facilities as appropriate. A range of Open Access web pages, data bases, and short films have been produced on our School website.

Staff members work with a variety of disciplinary approaches and data-gathering methods, usually from a qualitative perspective. Our research is typically textual (primary sources), archival (public and private repositories), and ethnographical and/or interview-based. Where legally and ethically permissible, we seek to maximise access to archival data, open where possible and closed only as necessary. One example is **Longkumer's** AHRC-funded project to digitise material located at the Naga Archive & Research Centre (NARC) based in Dimapur, Nagaland. Amongst this archive are important 'prophecy files' collected over the last 60 years from political and religious events, consultations, and large public gatherings across the Naga areas relating to the struggle for independence from India – the world's longest running civil war. The digitized archives will be made available to the public via a website.

We are vigorously pursuing opportunities for extending the reach and accessibility of other resources through digital means. A new MoU was negotiated with the Church of Scotland in 2019 to enable digitising of materials in the New College Special Collections. The construction of an online database on the lives of the Buddha in Indian textual and visual contexts was achieved through the award of a Philip Leverhulme Prize (**Appleton**). Two separate archival digitisations –

material by the psychiatrist Maurice Nicoll, and the life reformer Dugald Semple (**Sutcliffe**) – were deposited with the University Centre for Research Collections. **Holt Schneider's** project with Spiro in Glasgow has digitised elements of the collections of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre.

Founded in 2015 by **Longkumer** and Heneise (Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø), *The Highlander: Journal of Highland Asia* is an academic, open-access, and peer-reviewed online journal, broadly concerned with the study of Highland Asian communities historically situated at the margins of the state. This new journal is based at the University of Edinburgh. *Studies in World Christianity* conforms to Green OA, with the aim of switching to Gold OA, if and when this becomes affordable for the majority world target audience.

### **Ethics in Research**

Several of our academic staff engage with issues of ethical sensitivity arising on the interface between religion and society. These include animal welfare (**Grummet**), right-wing populism and Christian identity in Europe (**Schmiedel**), Sharia marriages and civil law (**Siddiqui**), Hindu nationalism (**Longkumer**), and conflict and peacebuilding (**Mitchell**). This body of expertise attracts research students from around the world, many of whom face ethical challenges in relation to fieldwork and in tackling subjects of political sensitivity.

In 2015, we undertook a review of our monitoring processes which resulted in a reconfiguration of our Ethics in Research Committee to ensure more comprehensive and robust reviewing of relevant work. Functioning previously in response-mode, the committee has moved to a formal constitution. Membership now represents cross-school disciplinary expertise in the School. The Ethics Approval Process Levels 1-3 has been revised, including Face-to-Face sign-offs between supervisors/mentors and students/post-docs at all levels. The committee scrutinises submissions to ensure that ethical practices are followed in engaging with participants in the research, and in the handling and storage of data collected during the course of it. When fieldwork is taking place in different (and sensitive) cultural contexts, including the majority world, and when taking part in such research might lead to participants being subject to persecution, or to any form of social or political victimisation, more detailed scrutiny is applied. Care is also taken to ensure that researchers are aware of any risks to themselves which may arise through their engagement with printed or online material deemed inflammatory or illegal by governments within whose jurisdiction they are operating or to which they will return.

### **Forward Strategy**

Our strategy over the next REF period will focus on four main goals.

1. We will further develop our two designated growth areas - science and religion, and Christian-Muslim studies - through recruitment of research students, generation of external income, and collaboration with scholars across the world. The new MTh/MSc in Christian-Muslim studies is expected to contribute to an increase in research student numbers.
2. Our two new research networks in Buddhist Studies and in Religion and Literature will promote links with other Schools in CAHSS, and develop their plans for knowledge exchange. The proposed MTh/MSc in Religion and Literature (2021/22) has strong potential to generate additional research student numbers and critical mass in this area.
3. We have set ambitious targets (presently £1,000,000 per annum and exceeded last year) for the generation of external income. To enhance quality control in funding applications we will fine-tune our processes, including greater integration with the Edinburgh Research Office and the strengthening of our anonymous peer review.

4. Using our agile support structures, we are responding to the current crisis in developing projects that address the complex relationship between religion and public health in the majority world, as for example in **Wild Wood's** AHRC grant (£110,000) for research with colleagues in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These projects will further extend our impact work.

## 2. People

### ***New Appointments***

With a view to longer-term sustainability and vitality, we pursue a highly successful strategy of appointing early and mid-career scholars with demonstrably strong potential. Ten new academic staff have been recruited during the census period. These comprise one Chancellor's Fellow (**Townsend**), seven lecturers (**Bicket, Corboz, Forsyth, Lane Ritchie, Rahemtulla, Ralston, and Schmiedel**) and two senior lecturers (**Burton and Wild Wood**). In several cases, these have succeeded colleagues who have advanced to more senior positions in the UK and USA (**Adams, Adogame and Schumacher**) while also replacing senior staff who have retired or part-retired (**Dawson, Northcott and Stanley**). Recent appointments have also provided additional capacity in new priority areas – **Lane Ritchie** in science and religion, **Rahemtulla and Ralston** in Christian-Muslim studies, and **Bicket** in religion and literature.

Since 2014, the unit has hosted 11 post-doctoral researchers, including one British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow and two Leverhulme Early Career Fellows, representing an increase of almost 60% on the previous census period. Their addition has injected further energy through outputs, knowledge exchange, collaborative projects, seminars, and interactions with our postgraduate community. We have secured a private donation from an alumnus based in Hong Kong together with match-funding from the Edinburgh Futures Institute, for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in theology and AI. This will commence in 2021, as will the CTPI/IASH jointly funded fellowships and a further Leverhulme Early Career Fellow working in Quaker studies.

### ***Support***

Staff at all career stages are supported in achieving ambitious research goals through a series of measures. At individual annual meetings, the Director of Research reviews progress and plans. Focussing on publications, grant applications, research leave, knowledge exchange and impact work, these meetings establish priorities, set realistic timetables, and identify new opportunities for grant income and collaboration. Advice is offered, particularly to early career staff, on matters relating to publishing houses, journals, and funding bodies. Consequently, we have significantly increased support for grant applications during the census period (see Section 3 below).

From the outset of their appointment, ECRs are offered a full and integrated role within the staff body through *inter alia* membership of the School Forum and other key committees, participation in research seminars and postgraduate review boards, an annual research interview, and in the development of new courses that reflect their particular research interests. ECRs also benefit from a scheme in which a mentor outside of their cluster offers support over a 3-year period. The mentor's role is to provide personalised support and advice on research, publications, and grant funding. This system has proved valuable in fostering collegial relationships within the School and in advancing the career prospects of ECRs. By functioning independently of any formal appraisal, review, or promotion process, the mentor can also offer confidential advice and pastoral support.

The School Research Committee receives and approves applications for research leave (normally 1 semester in 7). The Director of Research disburses an internal fund (c£30,000 per annum) to provide support for travel, conference attendance, and research work outside



Edinburgh. Upon completion of each period of research leave, staff are required to submit for approval a progress report on their research plans. In the case of early career scholars, there are opportunities for bringing forward periods of leave to complete major projects that require intense periods of research activity, e.g. a Habilitationsschrift.

In addition, we have undertaken a review of career support for guaranteed-hours, research-only, teaching-only, part-time and fixed-term staff, many of whom are at an early career stage. The findings revealed unintended exclusion from support processes of Guaranteed Hours Contract (GHC) staff who are not PG students. To rectify this, GHC staff are now given an annual review, regular mentoring, and access to a range of facilities. The School has also appointed a Teaching Fellow (full time) to train, support, and review GHC tutors, most of whom are PhD students in the School.

Cross-disciplinary work is advanced through the aforementioned research interviews, an annually-updated dossier of current research projects, and the development of funding applications, with support from ERO, which can partner colleagues elsewhere in CAHSS (for example, by engaging in 9 new cross-school research themes identified in 2019). The promotion of formal links with colleagues in other institutions, often through the approved strategies of centres and networks, also contributes to the range of cross-disciplinary activity. Research seminars increasingly meet conjointly, while our named visiting lectureships enable the School to attract scholars from different disciplines and institutions. Our 2 recent growth areas – science and religion, and Christian-Muslim studies – involve cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration, as do the nascent research networks in religion and literature, and Buddhist studies.

### ***Equality and Diversity***

Our academic staff body is increasingly ecumenical, multi-faith, international, and ethnically diverse. Of the 35 staff returned to the REF, 13 are women, 28 are from outside Scotland, 16 are from outside the UK, and 6 are BAME, with 7 nationalities represented. (The comparative figures for 27 staff submitted to REF2014 were 9 women, 21 from outside Scotland, 10 from outside the UK, 4 BAME, and 8 nationalities represented.)

At present, women comprise 37% of academic staff in the current submission, representing an increase from 33% in REF 2014. The current School leadership attests the key role played by female staff members – **Helen Bond** is the first woman to serve as Head of School, while the posts of Director of Postgraduate Studies (**Wild-Wood**), Director of Undergraduate Studies (**Klein**) and Principal of New College (**Hardman Moore**) are all currently held by women. The Athena SWAN process (silver award 2018) has enabled us to build on areas of good practice to strengthen gender equality amongst staff. Key improvements evidenced through staff surveys include more positive perceptions of the annual review process and mentoring opportunities, and uptake of E&D training. The inclusion of Professional Services staff in the silver application process has also enabled us to take a broader view of our working culture and career support. The process has impacted on all staff through curricular review, improvement of gender balance of visiting speakers, review of the workload model, and one-off innovative activities such as a 'Women and Religion Wikipedia edit-a-thon' which resulted in the profiling of important theological figures on Wikipedia, e.g. Ruth Page, first woman Principal of New College and pioneer eco-theologian. Teaching rooms have been renamed after other leading female theologians associated with the School (Elizabeth Templeton and Marcella Althaus-Reid).

Regular E&D sessions are included in training for both new and experienced tutors, with a discussion of inclusive teaching for the latter. A postgraduate representative is now elected to sit on the E&D Committee. A new event, 'First Friday PG Conversations', held 6 times each year, has been launched with the aim of fostering a more collegiate environment for PG students. Academics from within and beyond the School speak at this event, addressing themes relating

to the PG experience and the E&D agenda, e.g. work-life balance, mental health, and dealing with peer-review.

Informal meetings and discussion groups are regularly convened by the Director of Equality and Diversity (**Holtschneider/Townsend**) to promote a safe environment for LGBTQ+ students and allies. A successful day conference on LGBTQ+ issues at New College, attended by c80 people, was held in February 2020. The conference included a tribute to the pioneer work in queer theology of Marcella Althaus-Reid. Workshops are held each year during the annual staff away day. In 2018 (attendance 77%), this focussed on bullying and harassment, and in 2019 (attendance 78%) on unconscious bias. Given the proportion of staff regularly on research leave, these figures represent a high uptake.

A programme of works is currently under way to refurbish, protect and improve accessibility within our nineteenth-century buildings which present some challenges in relation to mobility. The entrance to New College is being redesigned, better wheelchair access to our historic Library will be provided through the installation of a new lift shaft, new signage has been introduced near the entrance to the courtyard to offer clearer assistance to those with mobility problems, and a new stairlift has been installed to enhance access to our social hub, the Rainy Hall.

In accordance with the University's REF2021 Code of Practice, we have carefully monitored REF2 output selections while ensuring that all staff are apprised of the process through meetings of the School of Divinity Forum. Our institutional policy of inclusion has been pursued in the definition of 'independent researcher' resulting in a maximal submission of eligible staff. Following a review of each nominated output by 2–3 independent assessors, a prioritised list was generated. This was subsequently benchmarked against E&D criteria, the findings being scrutinised by a sub-committee comprising the REF Director, Head of School, and the Convener of the School E&D Committee to ensure output selection had not been affected by unconscious bias. The following breakdown was noted and approved. The distribution of 40 staff (including several who left the unit during the REF period but whose outputs have been returned) represented 62.5% male and 37.5% women. The selected outputs comprised 63% male-authored and 37% female-authored. The per capita distribution of outputs across the three research clusters was: theology and church history – 1.91, global religions – 2.5 and textual studies – 2.13. With respect to staff grades, the output selection per capita was Grade 7 – 1.5, Grade 8 – 2.0, Grade 9 – 2.36, Grade 10 – 2.17. In considering the fluctuations across clusters and grades, the sub-committee was satisfied that these were within an acceptable range and that distribution was well balanced across gender, research area, and career stage.

### ***Postgraduate Research Training and Support***

Our large postgraduate community generates a range of important research-related activities (workshops, mini-conferences, seminars, reading groups and language classes). Around 30 research students (MTh by research and PhD) are recruited each year ensuring that there are 100+ research students within New College at any one time.

Since 2014, strenuous efforts to generate further scholarship funds have proved successful. Results include a gift of £800,000 from the Kirby Laing Foundation to support graduate students from the majority world, a bequest of over £500,000 from the estate of Dr Ruth Page, a gift of \$100,000 in memory of Dr Lloyd Ogilvie, and a further donation of \$100,000 to the J. S. Stewart Scholarship Fund. Each year, the School disburses almost £500,000 to its graduate students. During the census period, 5 of our candidates secured AHRC studentships. Doctoral candidates may also apply to the Gunning Fund for financial support to a maximum of £500 per annum for conference attendance. Recognising that all this remains insufficient in view of rising costs, we are continuing with these fundraising efforts, not least with the aim of recruiting more students from the majority world.

We have enhanced induction and research training since 2015. A Welcome Week programme introduces students to the School, CAHSS and individual programmes of study, in addition to which there is a programme of social events and a public lecture. In September 2015 (as a result of our Athena SWAN work), the programme included a session to raise awareness of E&D policy. An 'away day' is held each September in the Scottish Highlands. This affords an opportunity for research students (and their families) to meet with academic staff and other students. Induction events continue during the first part of Semester 1, via 'Approaches to Research in Theology and Religious Studies', which meets for 2 hours weekly in weeks 1-6. This provides further exposure to the School's research culture, training in postgraduate skills (programme/project-related and transferable), and sessions on career development, e.g. guidance on presentation, preparation of CVs, interview techniques, applying for postdoctoral fellowships, and how to publish a thesis. Input is provided by the University's Institute for Academic Development and a commissioning editor from a university press. At the outset of each academic year, the PG Students Committee organises the allocation of study space, each incoming research student being offered a place within one of the study rooms in New College – these are open 24/7 via swipe-card access.

We host 6 regular seminar programmes (Biblical Studies, History of Christianity, Theology and Ethics, World Christianity, Religious Studies, and Science and Religion), in addition to which there are 3–4 visiting lectureships (Gunning, Croall, Cunningham and Gifford) attracting attendance from across and outside the School. Speakers have included leading scholars from North America and Europe, e.g. Tanner, Stout, Fuentes, Welker, Phan, Woodhead and Kaufman. In addition to participation in the regular seminar series, student-led initiatives in conference organisation are encouraged. In 2018 **Jo Thor**, a PhD student, played a key role in co-organising 'Research in Religion', a 1-day interdisciplinary conference at New College co-sponsored by QUB. Several non-credit bearing language classes are offered to graduate students, including theological German, Dutch and Latin. Members of staff also run semester-length reading groups on classical and contemporary texts.

Each doctoral student undergoes a review board after the first year of study. This involves meeting with a panel of 3–4 academic staff to whom a proposal and sample of written work are submitted. The subsequent report provides valuable guidance for the development of the student's research project. To ensure progression, those in subsequent years must also submit a brief progress report to a panel. These annual interviews provide useful preparation for the eventual viva.

Our PGR students benefit from opportunities provided by the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities (SGSAH). The inaugural meeting of the new Discipline+ Catalyst was organised by the School of Divinity in November 2019 bringing over 20 first-year PG students and 5 academic colleagues from different HEIs to Edinburgh for informal discussion, instruction and networking. Since 2018 the School has been represented on the Theology and Religion Discipline+ Catalyst within SGSAH by **Sutcliffe** as Depute Catalyst+ Lead.

From 2014–20, more than 40 doctoral students published their theses as monographs. In the same period, more than 30 graduates were awarded post-doctoral fellowships or tenured academic positions. Our graduates have been appointed to academic positions in 12 countries. Within the UK alone, posts were secured in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, St Andrews, KCL, Liverpool Hope, and The Open University.

In 2019, the School of Divinity introduced a distance-learning PhD programme. This requires on-site visits at least twice each year, and attendance at study skills induction events. The availability of part-time off-campus doctoral study is intended to ensure wider participation and to improve the gender balance within the postgraduate research community. To support this new mode of learning, we have developed an online PhD hub for information and training – a virtual study space that will be further developed.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

#### Income

Our strategy of promoting applications for large grants has met with marked success in the current census period, resulting in an increase of 65% per annum in the volume of external income since REF 2014.

The 2 targeted growth areas (Christian-Muslim studies and science and religion) have had noteworthy success in generating substantial funding. **Ralston's** Luce Grant (\$425,000) for promoting Christian-Muslim theological conversation is the first to be awarded by the Luce Foundation outside the USA. **Harris** and **Lane Ritchie's** £2,440,000 grant in 2019 from the John Templeton Foundation for a network of postdoctoral fellowships has ensured that Edinburgh is positioned as a key international hub. In addition, both **Siddiqui** and **Harris** have received Isaachar awards, together exceeding \$600,000, for work on gratitude in inter-faith perspective and the study of quantum mechanics and theology. These projects have an important inter-faith and cross-disciplinary dimension with philosophy and the natural sciences. **Siddiqui's** project comprised 3 international workshops (Edinburgh, Yale and Dubai) with Christian and Muslim scholars, 2 community charity events, and, in collaboration with the Glasgow School of Art, a £1,000 prize competition. Further highlights include **Holtschneider's** 'Jewish lives, Scottish Spaces' AHRC-funded project (2015-18) with Spiro at Glasgow (£236,000) and **Longkumer's** Major Leverhulme Research Grant for work on Gurus, Anti-Gurus and Media in North India (£250,000) involving cross-school collaboration with anthropology and media studies.

The strong growth in post-doctoral fellows and research associates has been facilitated by the Leverhulme Trust, the AHRC, the Templeton Foundation, the Hope Trust and a private benefaction. Prior to her move to KCL, **Schumacher** was successful in winning an ERC grant of over €1,000,000 for a project on early Franciscan thought. Three further post-doctoral posts have already been secured for 2020/21.

All this has been achieved through a proactive and coordinated approach to grant applications. An annual target of £1,000,000 p.a. is now set for the generation of income (this includes the capturing of 6 large grants). Staff receive support from the Edinburgh Research Office in preparing grant applications. This involves *inter alia* the location one day per week of a Research Funding Specialist at New College, and an Open Research Officer to provide 1-to-1 advice on funding schemes, timescales, and costings. Learning lunches are organised to provide information about new schemes and to create a forum for brainstorming. An internal system of anonymous double peer review has been implemented to screen applications at an early stage and to offer constructive feedback, particularly to early career scholars with less experience of framing applications. The annual interviewing of each staff member now has a stronger focus on plans for generation of research income. Our ongoing collaboration with the Development and Alumni Office has also resulted in our receiving several philanthropic gifts. Recent success includes the aforementioned 2-year postdoctoral fellowship in theology and AI (2020–2022). A review of all 3 research centres (2019) with input from an external consultant has prioritised the generation of grant income in the forward strategy of each.

In addition to support from the ERO, the School's in-house research infrastructure has been strengthened by several new appointments in the Divinity Office – a Research Officer, who manages grants and supports the relevant committees, a Learning Technologist, who supports the School's IT needs including lecture and seminar video capture, and a new post of Web and Communications Officer to assist with dissemination, knowledge exchange activities, and publicity.



**Infrastructure and Facilities**

All staff in the School of Divinity are based at the historic New College buildings in the city centre. Colleagues in IMES are housed in nearby George Square in the central campus area. The concentration of staff at New College contributes to the establishment of a cohesive research community while providing an excellent venue for seminars, conferences, and lectures. New College is undergoing major renovation with the aim of opening it to a wider public, as well as enhancing its value as a scholarly resource. In 2018–19, the university invested in a major refurbishment (costing £3,500,000) of our social hub, the Rainy Hall, improving the informal space available to staff, students and visiting scholars. We now open in the evenings to host courses offered to local churches and the wider public. In 2017, floodlighting of the College façade was installed following a major donation from an alumnus in the USA. A further \$200,000 has been received for the upgrading of the courtyard and installation of new artwork. These improvements, both functional and symbolic, promote an attractive city centre forum for our activities.

The New College Library, an integral part of the Edinburgh University Library, has invested extensively in the cataloguing of its holdings. In 2016, the Funk project for the development of the New College Special Collections was completed after a decade of investment (totalling \$1,000,000) from an American donor. This has enabled a team of archivists to work on several special collections including incunabula, early Bibles in Hebrew and Greek, 16th-century Reformation materials, 19th-century travel writing from the Holy Land and Egypt, and the large pamphlet collection portions of which (c35,000 items) are now in the online catalogue. This work has resulted in a marked increase in enquiries and visits from overseas scholars to consult archival materials. As noted, the revised MoU (2019) with the Church of Scotland has ensured further consolidation of the collections and the right to digitise and place on open access selected materials from the Special Collections. In 2019–20, our library holdings were decanted to enable a major programme of 'asset protection' which will improve fire prevention measures and provide the appropriate storage conditions for housing special collections materials.

The School of Divinity has close links with IASH, an innovative cross-disciplinary institute that connects scholars in the humanities and social sciences through a programme of post-doctoral fellowships, visiting scholars and symposia. IASH brings accomplished and promising researchers to the city, offering them study space within its own building. Several IASH scholars have had close links with the School of Divinity, including **Bicket** who has now been appointed to a lectureship in religion and literature. **Mitchell** served as Deputy Director of IASH (2012–15) and continues as a member of its Management Group.

**4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society****Scholarly contributions**

Staff from across the unit have made a substantial contribution to the research infrastructure of TRS in Scotland, the UK and internationally.

The student-led Religious Studies Project (**Cotter**) has published on a diverse range of topics, including Scientology and American Religious Diversity, 'religion' in the works of Stephen King, and the recently published RE Commission report on Religious Education in UK Schools. These are augmented by a growing social media audience, the production of podcast transcriptions, management of the journal *Implicit Religion*, and a YouTube channel. The website was visited 170,773 times in 2018. Since its inception in 2012, the RSP has produced 393 podcasts, which have been downloaded 790,128 times.

Several colleagues have occupied key positions in academic societies and scholarly associations: **Brown** has served as President of the Ecclesiastical History Society (2016–17); **Mitchell** as President of TRS-UK (2012–18); **Sutcliffe** as President (2015–18) and **Cotter** as

Treasurer of the British Association for the Study of Religions; and **Holtschneider** as President of the British Association for Jewish Studies. **Appleton** is chair of the Khyentse Foundation Prize Committee for the European Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Buddhist Studies. **Chow** is chair of the Chinese Christianities Unit, **Ralston** co-chair of the Reformed Theology and History Unit, **Schmiedel** co-chair of the Liberal Theologies Unit, and Rahemtulla on the steering committee of the Liberation Theologies Group at the American Academy of Religion. **Fergusson** serves on the academic advisory panel of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton. **Foster** is treasurer of SNTS.

In 2017, we welcomed the annual conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies to New College and have been invited to host the annual conference of the British Association for the Study of Religions to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Religious Studies in Edinburgh in 2021.

Staff are at the forefront of their respective academic fields, as evidenced by the number of significant edited volumes produced since 2014. These include 14 collections, several of which are multi-volume length series, and 4 *Oxford Handbooks/Cambridge Companions*. Expertise is also invested in the editing of monograph series, including: Routledge Series in *Science and Religion* (**Harris**); University of Notre Dame Press Series on *Chinese Christianities* (**Chow**); Boydell and Brewer Series on *Religion in Transforming Africa* (**Wild-Wood**); Eerdmans' *Studies in the History of Christian Missions* (**Stanley**); Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht's *Forschungen zur Systematischen und Ökumenischen Theologie* (**Fergusson**); CUP *Current Issues in Theology* (**Fergusson**); Routledge *Studies in Religion and Film*, and *Research in Religion, Media and Culture Series* (**Mitchell**); *Oxford Commentary on the Dead Sea Scrolls* (**Lim**); *Oxford Apostolic Fathers Monograph Series* (**Foster**); *Zondervan Apostolic Fathers Series* (**Foster**); Highlander *Religion and Politics Series* (**Longkumer**); *Persian and Shii Studies*, Routledge/Curzon (**Newman**); EUP's *Islamic Theology and Scriptural Interpretation* (**Ralston**); *Advances in Religious Studies* (**Cox** and **Sutcliffe**); and the *T&T Clark Reception of Jesus in the First Three Centuries Series* (**Bond**).

Several journals have been edited or co-edited by members of academic staff: *Ecclesiology* (**Grumett**); *Expository Times* (**Riches** and **Foster**); *Holocaust Studies* (**Holtschneider**); *Journal of Reformed Theology* (**Eglinton**); *Scottish Church History* (**Newton**); *Studies in World Christianity* (**Chow** and **Wild-Wood**); *Theology in Scotland* (**Lane Ritchie**); *Reformation and Renaissance Review* (**Burton**)

### **Society and the economy**

**Faith Communities.** Our interaction with faith communities and related bodies takes place in both local and international contexts. **Newman** and **Lea's** funded work in the Alwaleed Centre engages Shia Muslim communities in Scotland. With Ridgeon in Glasgow, Newman has secured an RSE network grant (£18K) for a project with two strands. The first involves the interaction of Shii with other faith representatives on the challenges for faith in 21<sup>st</sup> century Scotland; in the second, the lived experiences of Scottish Shii, spanning generations, genders, ethnicities and backgrounds, will be explored through a series of personal interviews that will be filmed, edited and posted online. The founder and moderator of *Shii News and Resources*, **Newman** has built up a list of almost 1,000 subscribers from across the world. The website went live in 2015 and carries news of academic events, work published, and news of Shia outside Iran, Iraq and Lebanon. **Ralston's** consultancy work with European ecumenical agencies has offered expert advice on asylum seekers and refugees from the eastern Mediterranean and North Africa. **Grumett's** project on *The Six Propositions* presented to Teilhard de Chardin by the Vatican generated a staged reading of *Inquisition*, a new play by Paul Bentley which dramatizes Teilhard's enforced dilemma: 'believe in either the Bible or science'. Drawing on her collaborative research (with Mia Spiro in Glasgow) on 'Jewish lives, Scottish spaces' (funded by the AHRC), **Holtschneider** has co-produced a walking tour of the city centre with the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society. The tour is available through the 'Curious Edinburgh' App

(<http://curiousedinburgh.org/jewish-history-tour/>). The success and popularity of the app was recognized by the award of the Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science in 2018. In addition, her project has produced 'Points of Arrival', 5 short films about Jewish migration to Scotland. In response to feedback, freely available digital resource packs are being created for teachers and students to accompany the films. In his commissioned report to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2019, **Forsyth** drew comparisons with church planting projects in England and offered a series of recommendations that were approved. **Jack** serves as theological consultant to Christian Aid Scotland. **Foster** is an Honorary Canon at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. **Fergusson** was appointed by the Queen as Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland and Dean of the Order of the Thistle and convened a 5-person Special Commission of the General Assembly in 2019 which successfully proposed major changes to church governance.

*Media.* In accordance with our impact policy, we have expanded our media work since 2014. One of the most high-profile public intellectuals in TRS, **Siddiqui** broadcasts frequently on BBC Radio 4 and Radio Scotland. **Bond's** TV documentary work on Christian origins has produced several series that have been screened worldwide. **G. Fuller's** highly successful *Homebrewed Christianity*, a weekly podcast disseminating the work of leading scholars to a wider public, has generated almost 1,000,000 downloads from c150 countries. The project has spawned a book series with Fortress and over 30 online classes averaging 1500+ people. **Eglinton** has written numerous op-ed pieces for the *Times*, *Herald* and other newspapers in the UK and the Netherlands, and participated in Gaelic-language programmes on BBC Alba and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal; **Bicket** and **Jack** regularly broadcast on Radio Scotland; **Mitchell's** two-year project on religious leaders and journalists in Palestine, sponsored by the Dutch government, brought together Palestinian and Israeli journalists with a group of religious leaders to create media items and develop skills for better understanding and dialogue. **Ralston** and **Siddiqui** have organised short courses on Christian-Muslim relations for ministers, lay people and the wider public in Richmond, Virginia, in London at St Martins-in-the-Fields, at Lichfield Cathedral, and in Edinburgh. In 2018, the **CTPI** research project to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women in the Church of Scotland was profiled in a BBC2 documentary on the subject (20 May 2018).

*Edinburgh Festivals.* Staff have been actively involved in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, for example in the Rainy Hall CTPI exhibition *Art, Conflict and Remembering: The murals of the Bogside Artists* which explored the non-sectarian civil rights movement in Derry from the 1960s to the present day (attracting well over 1,500 visitors). As part of the Templeton funded Art Seeking Understanding Project, Following the delay caused by pandemic restrictions, **Jack** is currently collaborating with the Festival of the Sacred Arts for work in 2021/22. **Mitchell** has also presented, chaired, and produced events at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. In its collaboration with Beyond Borders, **CTPI** hosted two weeks of workshops and co-hosted several panels in New College and at the Beyond Borders Festival.

*Secondary schools.* We have initiated curricular developments with local schools and teachers. **Corboz** co-organised an Edinburgh High School Workshop for Teachers on Middle Eastern Politics (2019); this was attended by teachers from 8 secondary schools. The work of **Appleton** and **Jack** has extended the range of stories on Jesus and the Buddha employed by teachers of religious education. They have initiated a series of CPD workshops for teachers of RS in Scottish secondary schools; these have focussed on religious stories, and also on issues in science and religion. For school pupils, 'discovery days' have provided opportunities for academic staff to explore elements of the RMPS syllabus.

*Government.* **Siddiqui's** work in chairing the Home Office commission on Sharia marriages has already been profiled. A further example is provided by **Grumett's** work on animal welfare. Having served on the body for several years, he was appointed Deputy Chair of the Defra committee on animal welfare in 2020. The committee advises Defra and the devolved administrations of Scotland and Wales on the welfare of farm animals, companion animals and

wild animals kept by people. As the committee's ethicist, he contributes advice on sentience, cattle production, non-stun slaughter, and other topics.

### **Collaboration**

Through scholarly societies, journal editing, and editorial projects, we have extended our collaboration with other HEI's. Recent highlights include: **Holtschneider's** *Jewish Lives – Scottish Spaces* project with Mia Spiro (Glasgow); **Novenson's** 3-year Swedish Research Council-funded project at Lund University on identity in Ancient Judaism and Christianity; **Longkumer's** cross-disciplinary Leverhulme project and collaboration with the University of Tromsø's Indigenous Religion(s): Local Grounds, Global Networks project funded by the Norwegian Research Council; **Sutcliffe's** participation in the Swiss National Foundation-funded project on experimenting with religions and spiritual practice at the University of Bern (2018–22); **Burton's** co-founding of the Cusanus Society UK and Ireland, his collaboration on edited projects with colleagues in Warsaw and McGill Universities, and his participation in a project funded in 2020 by the Swiss National Science Foundation on 'Reformed Scotism'. **Schmiedel** received a collaborative international grant from the AAR for a project on Islam's Liberalisms and Liberalism's Islam with scholars in Iran and the UK. **Mitchell** chaired 'The Cultures of Peace and Violence', an interdisciplinary network (2017–18) in the University of Edinburgh.

We have forged partnerships with overseas HEI's, including the joint PhD programme with the China Graduate School of Theology in Hong Kong. Research students are able to participate in the Tübingen exchange with a semester or year of study at the Evangelische Stift. The collaborative DMin degree with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary enriches our provision of continuing professional development.

### **Wider recognition**

Named lectureships in other institutions provide evidence of international reach and collaboration. **Lim** was appointed Seymour Gitin Distinguished Professorship (2018) at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, the first UK scholar to hold the post. **Brown** and **Fergusson** have each delivered the Sinlau and Mackay Lectures in Taiwan. **Siddiqui** was Gifford Lecturer in Aberdeen (2016), delivered the British Academy Lecture in Religious Studies (2018), the Distinguished Harold J. Berman Lectures in Law and Religion at Emory University (2019) and the Annual Bartlett Lecture at Yale (2019). **Mitchell** delivered the Keen Lecture at Chelmsford Cathedral (2014), the St Wilfrid Lecture at Ripon Cathedral (2014) and the Montgomery Trust Lectures in different venues (2014–18). **Bond** delivered the Manson Memorial Lecture in Manchester (2017) and the Johannes Munck Lecture in Aarhus (2019); **Foster** was invited to give the 2020 anniversary lecture at the China Graduate School of Theology in Hong Kong, and has delivered the annual Scottish Episcopal Institute Lecture in Aberdeen (2019); **Ralston** delivered the O'Brien and Hasten Lecture in Interreligious Dialogue at Boston College (2018). **Siddiqui** was awarded honorary doctorates by Roehampton University (2014), King's College, London (2016), and Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen (2018). She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Science (2019) and received the Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation from the Archbishop of Canterbury (2019). **Fergusson** was awarded an honorary doctorate by Aberdeen (2014), OBE (2016), and appointed to a visiting fellowship at Princeton Theological Seminary (2016–17). He also delivered the Ferguson Lecture in Manchester (2014). **Klein's** *Habilitation* and *venia legendi* qualification was awarded by Göttingen University (2014).