

Institution: University of Sheffield
Unit of Assessment: 33 - Theology and Religious Studies
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>This UoA is based on the Department of Biblical Studies and is unique in that it is dedicated to the critical analysis of the Bible in both ancient <i>and</i> modern contexts. This is reflected in the three overlapping research emphases in the Department: Hebrew Bible; New Testament and Christian Origins; and the reception history of the Bible and biblical texts. These three research emphases underpin staffing and research strategy so that not only are the core areas of biblical studies covered but the Department is also in a position to make a significant contribution to the direction of the field as a whole. What particularly marks Sheffield out is that its focus goes beyond the original historical contexts of biblical texts (to which Sheffield provides distinctive interdisciplinary approaches) to include a pioneering emphasis on the ongoing reception of the Bible in a wide range of cultural contexts (e.g. film, culture, arts, politics, literature etc.), thereby providing a comprehensive narrative of the cultural significance and survival of the Bible. The quality of the research has been shown in external recognition through publications, public engagement, editorial work, research networks, and PGR recruitment and provision.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Progress since RAE 2008: The Department recruited four new full-time staff members (David Chalcraft, Katie Edwards, Mark Finney, and Casey Strine) following a number of retirements and a review of the Department in 2009. The strategy (outlined in RAE 2008) to develop ‘international and cross-disciplinary links’, as well as early career appointments (particularly in New Testament studies) to provide a sustainable international reputation, have all come to fruition in the staffing policy (see Section C). Providing further continuity from 2008, Crossley and Pyper both produced their monographs relating to Orientalism and Kierkegaard respectively. Both also developed international research networks (see Section E). Pyper’s project on children’s Bibles resulted in a co-edited volume and Crossley continued the departmental interest in the social history of scholarship in various publications. By locating biblical studies firmly within major debates in the arts, humanities and social sciences, the Department now aims to provide a model for the sustainability and long-term development of the field, as an indispensable interdisciplinary collaborator which, at research level, has already been shown in publications and involvement in research networks and centres (see Section E).</p> <p>Ongoing research support: A number of monographs are planned for completion and publication by staff in the next REF cycle (e.g. Crossley’s monograph for Bloomsbury on understandings of the Bible in English politics and culture since 1968; forthcoming in 2014). The University and Faculty provide support for staff research activity in the form of RIS advice and consultation. Staff are also eligible to apply for periods of research leave supported by the University. Accordingly, Chalcraft is working on sociologists and the Bible (2013-14 research leave); Edwards is planning a monograph on the intersection of biblical texts with issues relating to sexuality, gender and class (2014 research leave).</p> <p>Networks and centres: Full-time staff have laid the foundations for wide-ranging interdisciplinary work through involvement in new or forthcoming centres and research networks. In 2012 the Department established research links with United Theological College (Bangalore) which are expected to come to fruition (e.g. staff exchanges, academic conferences, research students) in the post-2014 period. In his role as co-director of the Centre for the Freedom of the Media, Crossley has been invited to develop a religion, politics and media section which will involve conferences, seminars, and further co-authored publications with Jackie Harrison (Professor of Public Communication at Sheffield). Crossley will continue involvement with the Religion and Radicalism network (see Section E) through participation in seminars and publications. Edwards will begin work on the new Centre for the Bible in Contemporary Culture (2014-) which will include contributors from across the faculties at Sheffield. Pyper is an invited member of the new interdisciplinary Centre for Nordic Studies (2012) and will continue to develop his research into Kierkegaard’s use of the Bible in collaboration with scholars from Geography, Linguistics, Music, Philosophy, and Sociology.</p>

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The present REF cycle saw the retirements of full-time staff (Whitelam, Exum and Edelman, whilst Matlock returned to America). Four new appointments were made with interdisciplinary expertise and research potential as key strategic considerations. All four appointments – three of whom are early career researchers – join the Department with full-time contracts for the first time. Finney is a trained Pauline scholar who replaced Matlock in this core area of NT studies. Finney's appointment was also designed to develop wider departmental research interests in social-scientific interpretation, Bible and the arts, and religion and violence. Chalcraft develops the Department's historic research strengths in areas such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, Hebrew Bible, and reception history, as well as now applying his sociological training to methodological discussions in biblical studies. Edwards was appointed as part of strategic appointments of early career researchers across the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. At departmental level, Edwards' post was designed to provide greater emphasis on contemporary reception history and expertise in public engagement. In 2013 Strine was awarded a highly competitive Vice-Chancellor's Fellowship (20 were awarded across the University from 814 applications). The Fellowship created a new full-time post which allows an initial three-year equivalent of research leave to develop an interdisciplinary research project, including civic engagement activities. Strine's proposal was supported by the Department to continue research in historical criticism of the Hebrew Bible but adding interdisciplinary engagement with issues of displacement and migration.

Research leave: As part of staff development, the Department typically implements the policy of research leave after every seven semesters for all full-time members of staff. Crossley, for instance, was given research leave in 2009 and 2013; during his 2009 leave he was able to carry out much of the research for his monograph, *Jesus in an Age of Neoliberalism*. The Department also implements the policy of giving the Head of Department a one-year period of research leave to provide opportunities for research which might otherwise be missed in an administration-heavy role. For instance, Pyper's research leave in 2009-10 meant he was able to complete work on his books, *The Joy of Kierkegaard* and *The Unchained Bible*. As part of early career planning, the Department implements the policy of allowing such staff research leave a semester earlier. In 2012 this allowed Finney to carry out new research (see Section B) following the publication of his first monograph in 2011 while future planning has incorporated the research leave of Edwards in 2014.

Staff progression: Research is also a key aspect of the annual Staff Review and Development Scheme (SRDS) where the previous 12 months of research activity are reviewed and targets set by the staff member and reviewer for the following 12 months. This applies to all staff and is implemented 12 months after the appointment of all new staff. The departmental Director of Research and Innovation meets with early career researchers as part of their induction to establish support for their research programmes (in compliance with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers) and a suitable senior staff member is appointed as a mentor, partly to provide guidance on research development.

This support for research allows progression toward promotion. To assess this, the Head of Department chairs an annual internal meeting (overseen by a senior member of another department in the Arts and Humanities and HR) to make recommendations for possible promotions. This has been shown, for instance, in the progression of Crossley from an early career researcher in the previous RAE to Professor in the present REF cycle.

Infrastructure: The Faculty of Arts and Humanities also provides wider support for staff research development. The departmental Director of Research and Innovation reports from the Faculty Research and Innovation Committee to the departmental Staff Meeting. Following the standard practice of the Faculty, the departmental Director of Research and Innovation meets regularly with all staff for one-to-one consultations throughout the academic year in order to provide ongoing support, assistance and peer review of potential research grant applications. The Faculty also provides induction sessions for early career researchers. These have been attended by Edwards and Finney and the sessions have had contributions from Crossley. In 2013, Crossley also became an academic mentor for early career researchers across the University.

Equality of opportunity: The Department has been dedicated to issues relating to equality and diversity throughout the REF cycle. Senior staff have all undertaken training for chairing interview panels, which includes equality and diversity training. This commitment to equality and diversity in

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staffing has been implemented in all interviews for new posts. Crossley was also involved in the University consultation on the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (including PGRs) and was further able to oversee its implementation with regard to minority identity issues in departmental development of research. Crossley is presently a member of the University's Standing Group for Research Staff which oversees the University's approach to postdoctoral research staff support and provision.

Issues surrounding minority identities have played a major role in the research outputs of the Department. In the published work of all full-time staff, there is engagement with debates on marginalisation and issues of class, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. Such issues have been central in the planning of Edwards' *Hidden Perspectives* project which has been promoted by HR as part of the University Equality and Diversity programme. The focus of the project is to look at the ways in which the Bible intersects with gender, sexuality, class, and ethnicity. The inaugural public engagement festival and conference (June 2013) focused on gender and sexuality and had contributions from, and was partnered by, the University of Sheffield's LGBT committee, the feminist collective LaDIYfest Sheffield, and the Sheena Amos Youth Trust, a sexual health charity working with the most vulnerable or marginalised people under 25. The forthcoming conferences and public engagement festivals (2014-18) will continue this emphasis on marginalisation by engaging with issues of class, race and ethnicity.

Fellowships, exchanges and internationalisation: During the present REF cycle the Department successfully attracted international researchers. Philippe Guillaume and Russell Hobson both came on British Academy international postdoctoral fellowships for 6 month periods. Both built on the Department's expertise in the cultural and historical context of the Hebrew Bible and both published monographs partly as a result of their visits to Sheffield. Robert Myles (University of Auckland) was awarded funding from the New Zealand government to work with Crossley in 2011 as part of their mutual interest in the politics of scholarship. The Department's focus on international connections is also shown by staff involvement in international research networks (see Section E) and future planning, such as the development of research links with United Theological College, Bangalore (Section B).

ii. Research students

Recruitment of PGRs is a historic strength of the Department. Over the REF cycle, and partly due to an international reputation and history of supervising international students, the Department recruited PGR students from a diverse range of countries, including America, Canada, China, Ghana, Greece, India, Nigeria, South Korea, and the UK. Such diversity is reflected in a range of PhD topics. In addition to more conventional areas of biblical studies, these have also included uses of the Bible in American sexual abstinence programmes, Nigerian nationalism, Dalit theology, postcolonial theory, gender roles in Korean churches, and British radio broadcasting. Just as these PGR outputs reflect departmental concerns for equality and diversity, PGRs have also played a significant role in organising and presenting at *Hidden Perspectives* and engaging with issues of exclusion and marginalisation.

Over the REF cycle, PGR students have published their theses with leading presses in Biblical Studies (e.g. Brill, Equinox, Gorgias, Sheffield Phoenix Press, T&T Clark) and have been appointed to research, management and teaching positions (e.g. University of Helsinki, University of Winchester, Dominican Biblical Institute, Johnson College, St Ambrose University, Leo Baeck College, Lutheran Theological Seminary Hong Kong).

Recruitment: PGR selection is carried out by the director of PGR studies and the departmental administrator, with a second academic member of staff chosen to review a given application on the basis of most relevant expertise. Selection of PGR students is based on academic achievement and/or relevant experience. To attract high quality national and international students, the University also offers competitive scholarships. PGR students from the Department have also been successful in gaining fully funded (fees and maintenance) scholarships. For instance, Iona Hine gained the highly competitive and prestigious University Scholarship, while home and overseas students (e.g. Michael Kok, Chris Meredith, Jonathan Kruschwitz) were awarded full Faculty or AHRC scholarships. Tiffany Webster was awarded full funding (fees and maintenance) for her research on the reception of the Bible in mining communities from the Hossein Farny Scholarship which is dedicated to supporting funding for mining related projects, a traditionally overlooked area in Biblical Studies. The Department has also used the annual Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)

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conference to meet and recruit prospective international postgraduate students. This has proven vital in attracting overseas PGRs. In particular, the 'Sheffield reception' – jointly hosted by the Department and Sheffield Phoenix Press – allows Sheffield PGRs to meet leading international scholars, and staff to meet prospective PhD students.

PGR training: All new PGRs receive a thorough induction with different complementary elements covered at University, Faculty and department level (this was commended by the QAA); elements covered include: research integrity, e-theses, the supervisory relationship, and the University's Code of Practice. At the beginning of their doctoral study, all PGRs will enrol in the University's Doctoral Development Programme (noted positively by the QAA) and undertake a Training Needs Analysis. PGRs and supervisors are then able to see what experience the PGR student has and what areas of academic development and research skills are required. PGRs have the opportunity to learn relevant languages (e.g. German) and develop interdisciplinary skills with modules offered elsewhere in the University. All PGRs take a departmental research skills module where they engage with methodological issues in the field and practical issues in research (e.g. library skills, electronic resources). 100% (12) of the Department's PGRs who completed PRES 2013 agree that their supervisors help them to identify their training and development needs as a researcher (compared to the sector average of 73%). The importance of equipping PGRs with transferable skills and preparing them for careers outside academia is equally recognised. PGRs access the University's Think Ahead framework of support (e.g. professional development programme equipping them with transferable skills; suite of career support; tailored mentoring to inculcate independence amongst junior researchers). Many events within Think Ahead facilitate networking across disciplines (events geared to this include the *GradSchool*).

In its institutional review of December 2012 the QAA praised Sheffield (aspects of Sheffield's provision for research students were highlighted as good practice and no criticisms were made). This marked significant progress on the previous audit in 2008 when aspects of the University's QA processes for research student provision were criticised. QA is now embedded and consists of an annual review (in which research students themselves contribute their perspectives on the quality of provision), a thematic review and a biennial survey.

Seminars and conferences: The University's 'Research Student Proposition', published in 2012 and against which all departments benchmark themselves, outlines what research students can expect from Sheffield and what Sheffield expects in return – research students can expect to be treated as professional colleagues and members of an intellectually stimulating community of scholars. All PGRs are expected to attend the weekly departmental research seminar and all students present an aspect of their research either annually (full-time PGRs) or every two years (part-time PGRs), in addition to engaging with papers from staff and invited academics.

All PGRs are encouraged to present their papers at major conferences. 85%(13) of the department's PGRs who completed PRES 2013 had attended an academic research conference (compared to the sector average of 71%) and the same number had presented a paper or poster (sector average 58%). The Department requires that each title, abstract and paper be cleared by an academic member of staff. This has resulted in the best quality papers being submitted with clear reputational benefits. For example, Joseph Poon won the EABS award for the best PG paper in New Testament studies in 2010. The combination of both staff and PGR papers has enabled the Department to have a strong presence at the annual SBL conference. For instance, Sheffield has consistently been the most represented academic institution over the past ten years. Participation has also included staff and students (including visiting students) co-presenting papers, for instance, Pyper and Timothy Hyun in 2011 and Crossley and Robert Myles in 2012.

The Durham-Manchester-Sheffield postgraduate research day has continued throughout the REF cycle but the attention has shifted towards PGR presentations. Both PGRs and staff are involved in organising and chairing, thereby allowing PGRs to gain both academic skills and a network of contacts. Each institution brings its own strengths and Sheffield's has explicitly been focused on innovations in interdisciplinary approaches.

In the present REF cycle, the Department has hosted three major conferences through the encouragement of PGR leadership with staff guidance. PGR students were then centrally involved in publishing the papers. Matthew Coomber led the 'Bible and Justice' conference (2008) which attracted speakers such as Tim Gorringer, Stanley Hauerwas, David Horrell, Diana Lipton, and Gerald West. Coomber edited the book, *Bible and Justice* (2010), and a special edition of *Political*

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Theology, with contributions from Crossley and Pyper. Iona Hine organised the 'Biblical Literacy and the Curriculum' conference (2011) which attracted teachers and academics from a range of disciplines, speakers such as Liam Gearon, Gordon Campbell, John Lyons, Yvonne Sherwood, and Carl Tighe, and public figures such as Frank Field MP and the former poet laureate Andrew Motion. Hine and Crossley have edited selected papers from the conference for a special edition of *Postscripts*. Michael Sandford organised the 'Bible, Zionism and Palestine' conference (2012) which attracted speakers such as Naim Ateek, Dan Cohn-Sherbok, Lester Grabbe, Mary Grey, Alistair Hunter, Nur Masalha, and Ilan Pappé. Sandford has edited selected papers from the conference, including contributions from Crossley and Finney, as well as PGR students at Sheffield, which are due to be published by the *Relegere* supplementary series in 2014.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Grants: The Department has attracted £70,737 of research-related funding in the present REF cycle. This has supported research for international postdoctoral fellowships and research projects on biblical maps, the influence of the King James Bible, the *Hidden Perspectives* project, and the international partnership with United Theological College, Bangalore.

Research budget: Staff typically have an annual research budget of £800 each. This is additionally supported by money from the University's Learned Societies Fund (up to £350 per application and potentially three times per year) and the Faculty's Rapid Response fund (up to £400). This funding has allowed, for instance, all members of staff to travel to the annual SBL meeting to maintain its significant presence and influence on international scholarship. The Department also received funding from publishers (Equinox, Brill) to support the work performed by Crossley and Pyper as series and journal editors (approximately £3000 per year).

Humanities Research Institute: Following a £1.9m refurbishment, the Humanities Research Institute (HRI) was opened in March 2006. The HRI is the University's dedicated research facility for the arts and humanities and one of the UK's leading Digital Humanities centres, providing desk space, conference rooms, and administrative and technical support for individual or collaborative research. The HRI has been a venue for departmental conferences and seminars, housed visiting international scholars and provided digital support, such as helping to produce the interactive electronic materials for the department's cathedral exhibitions (REF3b D33-2).

Library facilities: The University has an Information Commons and the older Western Bank Library as a dedicated research library. The University's library resources, which includes all the major biblical studies journals, have been increasingly made electronically available which means they can be accessed by staff and PGRs wherever they may be researching. Over the present REF cycle, the Department has received a total of £53,428 for library resources (£20,038 for books, £24,391 for journals). The Department also houses the Clines Library, an extensive collection of biblical studies books donated to the Department by David Clines. Among this collection is every publication in biblical studies from Sheffield Academic Press.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The Department has continued to develop its strengths in research collaboration, publishing, editing, and involvement in learned societies, all of which have demonstrably played a significant role in shaping innovations in, and contributing to, the field of biblical studies.

Publications: Contribution to the field has been shown in the number, quality and impact of publications. In the present REF cycle, researchers associated and identifying with the Department have produced more than 15 books, 15 edited volumes, 25 journal articles, and 50 articles in edited volumes. All full-time staff have continued to provide distinctive 'Sheffield' contributions to biblical studies in leading peer-reviewed journals and monograph series (e.g. *JTS*, *JSNT*, *NTS*, Library of New Testament Studies, Library of Old Testament Studies, Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft). Staff publications have also gained visible recognition in the field. For instance, Crossley, Edwards, and Pyper have all had monographs reviewed at the annual SBL conference panels. A forthcoming edition of the *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* is dedicated to discussion of Crossley's monograph, *Jesus in an Age of Neoliberalism*, including responses by leading scholars such as Burton Mack.

Staff on temporary or part-time contracts in the present REF cycle have been integrated into the research environment and likewise made notable contributions to the field. In addition to being active in the weekly research seminar, Chris Meredith and Minna Shkul have both published

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articles in leading journals (e.g. *JAAR*) and edited volumes, alongside significant interdisciplinary monographs in their field during their time at Sheffield (Meredith on Song of Songs and spatial theory, Shkul on Ephesians and social entrepreneurship).

The Department is also known for the contribution to the field made by major emeriti scholars such as Clines, Davies, Exum, Rogerson, and Whitelam, all of whom remain active in the research culture of the Department. During the REF cycle, Clines held the presidency of SBL (the only non-American based academic to do so) and Exum held the presidency of SOTS. In 2012, Clines and Exum launched the journal *Biblical Reception*, which is published by Sheffield Phoenix Press. All emeriti have continued to publish high profile research, including Davies' publications in the area of 'minimalism' and ancient Israel, Exum on reception history, and Clines' ongoing *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Whitelam has developed his research for wider online access, notably his e-book, *Rhythms of Time*.

Networks: Involvement in international networks provides further external indication of both collaboration within, and contribution to, the field. For example, Crossley was one of the two main international collaborators for the University of Oslo project, 'Jesus in Cultural Complexity' (2008-2011), funded by the Norwegian Research Council, which led to a volume that Crossley co-edited. Crossley has also been an invited member of the Religion and Political Thought network (University of Copenhagen), funded by the Danish Research Foundation, which led to a special edition *Bible and Critical Theory* (2012) on the 'political Paul'. Crossley has also been an invited participant to the Religion and Radicalism network involving scholars from North America, China, UK, Europe, and Australia and includes seminars in Australia, China, and Germany with publications due in the next REF cycle.

Pyper has been a leading figure in Kierkegaard studies and the major authority on Kierkegaard's use of the Bible. He is Chair of the Søren Kierkegaard Society of the United Kingdom and an active member of the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre (University of Copenhagen). The long-standing influence of his collaborations came to fruition in his book, *The Joy of Kierkegaard* (2012) and an article in the series *Kierkegaard Research: Sources, Reception and Resources*. Pyper was also one of the main speakers for the Kierkegaard's bicentenary which was part of the Northern Lights Festival organised by the Centre for Nordic Studies.

New staff have also been active in networks. For instance, Chalcraft hosted the Society, Religion and Belief Research Group Symposium in Biblical Studies at the University of Derby which involved Crossley and Edwards, as well as a number of international scholars, and will form the basis of a forthcoming volume (2014) on cultural studies and the Bible. Chalcraft has also provided expertise on sociological approaches for the First International Workshop on the Cognitive Study of Religious Texts (University of Groningen, 2010), the Nordic Network on Ritual, Performance and Place at Qumran, and the Qumran Studies network (University of Oslo, 2009).

Publishing and editorial work: Staff have continued our historic involvement in publishing and promoting the distinctive Sheffield 'brand'. Sheffield Phoenix Press continues to be housed in the Department and directed by Clines, Exum and Whitelam. In 2011, Equinox moved to Sheffield due to the involvement of Davies (integral to the founding of the press) and Crossley in editing and advising on religion, theology and biblical studies publications.

In addition to such involvement in publishing houses, staff also have a significant presence in other areas of publishing, particularly interdisciplinary and internationally recognised publishing in the field and beyond. Pyper, for instance, was editor of *Bib. Int.* during the REF cycle while in 2013 Crossley became co-editor of *Postscripts*. Full-time staff have sat on editorial boards and reviewed manuscripts for international and interdisciplinary journals, including: *Max Weber Studies*; *Acta Patristica et Byzantina*; *Bib. Int.*; *Biblical Reception*; *BTB*; *Neotestamentica*; *Religious Studies and Theology*; *Bible and Critical Theory*; *JSHJ*; *JSNT*; *JTS*; and *Postscripts*.

The Department has also had a significant presence in leading monograph series. Crossley, for instance, is co-editor and co-founder of *Biblical Refigurations* for OUP. Staff members have acted as chief editors, sat on the editorial boards, and reviewed manuscripts for a number of international publishers (e.g. Ashgate, Bloomsbury, Columbia UP, OUP, Palgrave-MacMillan, Routledge) and monograph series (e.g. Bible and the Modern World, BibleWorld, Library of New Testament Studies, Sheffield Phoenix Press Monographs, Social World of Biblical Antiquity).

Learned societies: All full-time staff in the Department have been members of SBL during the REF cycle and the Department consistently has a strong presence at the annual meeting (see Section C). Staff also have a significant presence in other major societies including BNTS, EABS, SNTS, SOTS. In the present REF cycle, Edwards was elected to the committees of both SOTS and BNTS. The Department has involvement in steering committees and chairing sessions at major conferences, including: 'Social Scientific Interpretation of Hebrew Scriptures' (SBL); 'Sociology and the Bible Research Section' (EABS); 'Jesus' seminar (BNTS); 'Social History of Modern Biblical Scholarship' seminar (EABS); 'Historical Jesus' section (SBL); 'Ideological Criticism' (SBL); the 'Bible and Theory' (SBL).

Keynotes and invited papers: A clear indication of contribution to the field has been regular invitations to present in leading research contexts. Crossley and Pyper have given a number of major keynote papers in the REF cycle. These include: the British New Testament Conference; South African New Testament Conference; 50th anniversary of *Honest to God*; Theological Society, Trinity College Dublin; EABS Postgraduate Study Conference; SST Annual Conference; Cities in the Hebrew Bible Conference, Cambridge University; Kierkegaard's *Eighteen Upbuilding Discourses* Conference, Oxford University; and the Ethel M. Woods lecture at KCL. Newer members of staff have also given keynote papers, including Reception History of the Bible at the University of Bristol (Edwards) and the Indian Society for Biblical Literature (Chalcraft).

In recognition of the importance of the research carried out in the Department, full-time staff members have all given invited papers at British and international universities. Staff have given invited papers at the major academic conferences (e.g. SBL, EABS, BNTC, SOTS) and at leading universities (e.g. Bangor, Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, KCL, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, St Andrews, UCL).

Full-time staff have also been invited panellists for review sessions of major publications in the field at the SBL, EABS and BNTS conferences, including: Andre LaCocque, *The Captivity of Innocence*; Philip Harland, *Dynamics of Christian Identities*; Heikki Räisänen, *The Rise of Christian Beliefs*; Maurice Casey, *Jesus of Nazareth*; Antonio Negri, *The Labor of Job*; and Halvor Moxnes, *Jesus and the Rise of Nationalism*.

External PhD examining: In recognition of a distinctive expertise in biblical studies, full-time staff are regularly required to be external examiners for PhD theses. Over the present REF period, staff have examined nationally and internationally at, for instance, Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Bangor, Birmingham, Chester, Durham, Edinburgh, Louvain, Oxford, Manchester, Nottingham, St Andrews, Trinity College Dublin, and Trinity St David. Thesis topics reflect the interdisciplinary expertise of the staff and have included, in addition to more conventional topics, ancient economic systems, Kierkegaard, sociolinguistics, and Quaker theology.

Conferences and lectures: In addition to hosting three major conferences during the present REF cycle and regularly invited speakers at departmental seminars, the Department has continued hosting a number of seminars and lecture series. For instance, research seminars in collaboration with Journalism Studies on Religion, Media and Society have taken place and included guest speakers such as Ward Blanton and Douglas Davies. Equinox have also funded public lectures on the study of Bible and religion which have attracted speakers such as Maurice Casey and Francesca Stavrakopoulou. The Department continued its involvement with the seminar jointly held with the Universities of Manchester and Lausanne with regular collaborative publications. Sheffield hosted on the theme of the book of Hebrews, the papers of which are to be co-edited by Crossley and George Brooke (Manchester) and will be published during the next REF cycle.

In 2012 the Department celebrated its 65th anniversary and hosted a lecture series exploring its past, present and future research. Past and present staff gave public lectures on their research in relation to distinctively 'Sheffield' approaches while external speakers examined Sheffield's contribution, e.g. Tim Grass on F.F. Bruce and the founding of Biblical Studies at Sheffield.