

<p><b>Institution:</b> King's College London</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 33</p>
<p><b>A. Context</b></p> <p><b>1. Overview</b> – The Unit's multi-faceted and diverse nature is reflected in the broad range of our research and in the impact our research has had on a wide variety of non-academic users, both nationally and internationally. These include 3 parliamentary committees and 6 government departments in the UK as well as 8 foreign governments, 6 international institutions, research and policy institutes in 9 countries, and 17 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating across the world. They also include cultural, religious and educational institutions, as well as community groups and private sector organisations concerned with issues of corporate responsibility and human development. The beneficiaries can be divided into two groups. The first is made up of consumers of our research in the UK and abroad, including policy-makers in government, the cultural and creative sectors, the clergy, NGOs and the private sector. The second is made up of those whose lives have been changed by the policies of the above consumers of our research. These include gallery audiences and community groups in the UK; children in foster care in Latin America and Africa; small business owners and pro-democracy activists in the Middle East; human rights campaigners in Russia, museum visitors in the UK, Germany and the Vatican; and consumers of print, television, radio and the online media globally.</p> <p><b>2. Our research has 4 main types of impact</b> – (i) influencing how the cultural and creative sectors think about religion; (ii) influencing how policy makers formulate strategies on human development; (iii) influencing how the public and private sectors think about socio-economic engagement from an ethical perspective; (iv) influencing how policy makers engage in divided societies. These impacts are evident in the projects described below.</p> <p><b>3. The main types of impact relate directly to the full range of research</b> undertaken across the Unit's research groups. These include new areas of scholarship, noted by the Unit in RAE2008 as emerging priorities for our long-term strategy for growth (see REF5) – Religion &amp; Art, Middle East &amp; Mediterranean Studies (MEMS), Religion in Eastern Asia – as well as traditional areas of strength in Theology, Biblical Studies, the Social Sciences and Philosophy of Religion. Four broad areas of research have been identified as best reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the unit's research groups. These are (i) human development; (ii) culture, art and religion; (iii) peacemaking in divided societies; (iv) religion, church and society. For example, theologians (Vincent), biblical scholars (Taylor), Buddhist experts (Crosby) and historians (Crankshaw) have worked with museums and galleries. Staff in Jewish Studies (Schatz) and Theology (Griffith-Jones) are working on Jewish courts &amp; secular legislation on intermarriage and on religious minorities and English law.</p>
<p><b>B. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>Prior to this REF cycle we had a strong tradition of public engagement and working with non-academic groups but no formal impact strategy. We have now developed a more formal approach to impact around several common areas of impact activity – mutual areas of focus in which the four broad areas of research listed above (A.3) come together in various ways around impact activity, thereby exemplifying on another level (see REF5) the Unit's depth of interdisciplinarity. This has helped us to meet the knowledge demands of our existing non-academic users and audiences, and to identify new beneficiaries and new types of impact in line with the mission of the College to advance learning and understanding in the service of society, and with national HE policy.</p> <p><b>1. Advising national and international policy making communities</b> – This is exemplified in the case studies of Sedmak and Kerr. The arrival of MEMS in the Unit in 2008 complemented and strengthened the efforts of staff in the social sciences, Islamic thought and theology already contributing to policy formulation in a number of UK and overseas government departments, international institutions and global NGOs. Mishrif and Miller's research on the role of the private sector and socio-economic development in the Middle East informed policy development in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, UNCTAD, the Middle East Committee of the House of Commons, and the governments of Brazil, Qatar and Japan. Kerr hosted a delegation of army generals and Muslim leaders from Thailand (2011) and senior Lebanese politicians visiting the UK (2013) on behalf of the FCO. Along with Larkin and Gutkowski he participated in the Ministry of Defence's consultation on the Middle East for the government's 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review. Kersten worked with the Indonesian Foreign Ministry's Senior Diplomat Training School on 'Islamic Values in Civil Society Practice in Indonesia', the subject of a 9-month AHRC fellowship. Shterin's research on religiously motivated radicalisation has informed the views of the UK Home Office,</p>

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Russian policy makers and NGOs working on conflict resolution in the Northern Caucasus. Davies is working with the Salvation Army, a leading global provider of social care, through a recently established London 'night shelter' project. He is also advising DFID on developing its Faith Partnership Principles and Cafod on Faith Identity and Partnership. Al-Rasheed's research informed the development of policy of the foreign affairs committees of both Houses of Parliament as well as the FCO, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. She was lead advisor and author of the 2009 Annual Human Development Report on Human Security in the Arab World for the UNDP and author of the report on Regional and International Responses to the 'Arab Spring', which formed the introduction to the 2012 UNDP Annual Human Development Report.

**2. Disseminating research via public engagement in the media** – In this REF cycle, Unit staff contributed 123 opinion and analysis pieces and over 250 interviews, comments and background briefings to hardcopy or online editions of over 70 national and international newspapers and magazines published in 22 countries. They contributed over 200 television news interviews on more than 20 television stations in 14 different countries and to programming on 17 radio stations, including hundreds of interviews and contributions to BBC Radio 2, 3, 4 and the BBC World Service. Mishrif and Al-Rasheed were two of the most frequently called upon commentators in the international media during the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya in 2011. Carlisle's series on 'Thinking About Evil' for the Guardian Online, garnered 5,000 reader comments; her discussion of Kierkegaard on BBC Radio Four's 'In Our Time' attracted 2 million listeners. Three Biblical Studies staff acted as consultants to a total of 7 high profile documentaries on the BBC (Adams, Taylor), Channel 4 (Adams), the Discovery Channel (Taylor), the National Geographic Channel (Taylor) and Malaysian Television (Joyce). 'The Mystery of Mary Magdalene' presented by Melvyn Bragg, for which Taylor was programme consultant, attracted 1.4 million viewers. Adams was consultant for *The Nativity Decoded*, on Channel 4, and the 2-part BBC TV series, *In the Footsteps of St Paul*, presented by David Suchet. Widely praised in the national media, it won the Radio Times Readers' Award and the 2013 Sandford St Martin Awards for best religious programme of the year.

**3. Promoting ethical decision-making and investment in the private sector** – Miller and Mishrif advised major private sector and financial organisations including Credit Suisse First Boston and the Abu Dhabi Investment Forum on their engagement with the developing world and the under-privileged in society. Mishrif's research on private sector development in Egypt led to a collaborative partnership with the Egyptian British Chamber of Commerce (EBCC), which co-sponsored three workshops at King's in 2011-12. Subsequently, the EBCC invited Mishrif to join a delegation to Egypt to advise business leaders and key policymakers including the prime minister. Sedmak advised the last Pope on ethical issues as a member of the Papal Students Circle; sat on a committee advising the Austrian Minister of Finance on the European financial crisis; designed a new type of solidarity-based credit card for the Erste Group (50,000 employees, 17 million customers); designed a social exclusion policy for Essl group, and worked on leadership ethics issues with Allianz, Sony DADC and Porsche. As Deputy Chair of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG), Burrige has been one of the lead figures in drawing up the ethical investment policies for the Church of England's national investing bodies, the Church Commissioners, the Pensions Board, and Central Board of Finance with combined total capital of over £8.5 billion.

**4. Promoting the role of religion in culture and the arts** – This approach is exemplified in the Quash case study as well as in the research of staff in Biblical Studies, Theology, the Philosophy and History of Religion, and Buddhism. Quash's feature on poetry and religious language on the BBC Radio 4 Sunday Programme (24 May 2009) complemented Taylor's poetry project, in which British poets wrote on biblical themes to mark the anniversary of the King James Bible and King's hosting of the KJV Bible Conference in 2011. Quash's work with museums complemented that of Vinzent and Brent's on early Christian iconography that influenced the Directors of the Vatican's museums and the Draiflessen Museum, Mettingen, Germany. Buddhism scholars Crosby and Skilton were consultants to the sponsors of the £1 million Victoria and Albert Gallery of Buddhist Sculpture (2006), the subsequent £2.5 million endowment of a new collaborative programme on Buddhist art conservation at the Courtauld Institute (2013), and the £300,000 'Revealing Hidden Collections' project at the Bodleian with Cambridge University Library.

**5. Unit support and institutional facilities** – Impact is now a strategic priority of the Unit, School and College. The Unit has provided a broad range of logistical and financial support for Unit staff engaged in the approaches to impact set out above in B1-4. Financial support has been provided for blogs and websites, impact-focused conferences at King's, networking, and several large public

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engagement activities (see B.2 above). The Unit has also appointed an Impact Lead (Miller) to coordinate and provide strategic overview of Unit impact activities, advising on sources of expertise within the Unit and also linking to relevant School and College facilities and beyond. At College level, Miller's one-year project (2012-13) on the Palestinian private sector is funded by a £16,200 grant from the King's Policy Institute (KPI) which supports public policy research with potential impact. The King's Cultural Institute (KCI), which provides a framework for a range of collaborative activities with artists, arts professionals, cultural organisations, creative industries and cultural policy makers, has supported staff promoting the role of religion in culture and the arts (for example, £8000 to Quash for 'Curation and Programming in the 21st Century'). Through its 'Creative Futures' programme, funded by HEIF2, the KPI has co-funded a Christianity and Arts e-bulletin disseminated widely beyond academia, and two consultative symposia between Unit staff and curatorial staff at the V&A to discuss the V&A's forthcoming exhibition on 'The Future: A History'. Unit staff engaged in the dissemination of research via public engagement in the media have drawn on the support, training and services of a press officer dedicated to Arts and Sciences provided by the Public Engagement and Public Relations departments. At School level the Unit's Centre for the Study of Divided Societies (CSDS) is one of nine constituent members of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute (AHRI), mandated to foster innovative interdisciplinary research across the School by providing impact, event funding and logistical support. Staff also draw on the expertise of the School's Publicity Co-ordinator, Sophie Smith, whose remit includes identifying ways in which the public engagement activities of the School can be best promoted.

### c. Strategy and plans

The following will form the basis of our strategy and planning over the next cycle as we build on our successes as an interdisciplinary centre for national and international impact, as outlined above.

**Prioritising interdisciplinary research for impact** – Our interdisciplinary research profile will continue to be central to the reach and significance of our impact. We will continue to prioritise it by supporting cutting edge research centres (see REF5) inside the Unit and across the College that offer a good environment for interdisciplinary cooperation and collaborative research and serve as a bridge linking researchers to stakeholders outside of academia.

**Development of formal mechanisms for promoting impact** – We will expand and develop our impact database, created during this REF cycle, as a crucial resource for development and continuity. The recent appointment of an Impact Lead has established the place and importance of impact in the Unit by including it as a prominent position of leadership within formal departmental structures and within existing mechanisms of responsibility and reporting.

**Support traditional and innovative methods of dissemination/engagement outside academia** – We will continue to provide financial and logistical support for the Unit's various seminar series that serve as a public showcase for staff research as well as a tool for PGR development. We will support staff outreach and training for relevant non-academic users and audiences, with further support for innovative methods of engagement and knowledge transfer with potential impact including using digital technologies that can reach new audiences. Examples of this include our backing of the blog 'Theology in Act', a public forum for the exchange of ideas between practitioners and researchers in the area of religiously inspired and non-religiously inspired social action; and Boutieri's role as a founder of the Maghreb Academic Network, the first UK-based platform for collaboration with North African policy institutes and the public and private sectors.

### d. Relationship to case studies

The Unit had several case study options. The four case studies eventually selected all underscore the interdisciplinary nature of our research, and demonstrate the reach and scope of its impact.

**1. Capabilities, children and global foster care** – This project, in partnership with a global NGO across two continents, embodies our commitment to research that offers real practical benefits to the most vulnerable in society.

**2. 'Art in Christianity' and 'Christianity in Art'** – A collaborative partnership with the National Gallery, this case study exemplifies our commitment to research with significant impact on the representation of religion in the cultural and creative sectors.

**3. Conversation with diplomacy** – This study shows impact on national and international policy makers via knowledge exchange between the diplomatic world, academia, and the general public.

**4. Living together with difference** – This study provides a framework for relationship building at a time of deep disagreement and potential division in the Anglican Church worldwide.