

<p>Institution: University of Manchester</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 33 (Theology and Religious Studies)</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Religions & Theology is one of the leading centres of the combined study of Theology, Biblical Studies and Comparative Religion in the UK. The submission consists of 14.5 FTEs of whom 4 have taken up their positions since 2008. The submitting unit of colleagues with collaborative research interests can be divided into three broad sections: Biblical Studies; Christian (Theological) Studies; and Religious Studies (previously Comparative Religion). Biblical Studies remains defined largely as in RAE 2008, with its focus on early Jewish literature (Dead Sea Scrolls), New Testament Studies, and Gnostic Studies. In Christian Studies there are special strengths in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Theology, Political and Environmental Theology, Continental Philosophy, Christian Social Ethics, and in the History of Christianity. In Religious Studies, research activity is focussed on three groupings of textual, historical and social science approaches in Islamic Studies including Iran, Jewish Studies, and South and East Asian Studies. In the REF period we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authored/co-authored 17 books, 71 journal articles and 145 book chapters; • Secured £1.179m of research grants including a share in an ERC grant of €1.2m in 2012; • Awarded 44 PhDs with 38% securing academic posts; • Attracted more than 25 leading international scholars; • Made extensive use of the John Rylands Library's collections of manuscripts and archives; • Taken advantage of the interdisciplinary opportunities arising from our location in one of the largest schools of arts and humanities in the country.
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The research strategy of the UoA is in line with the University of Manchester's Strategic Plan, <i>Manchester 2020</i>, and has been implemented and facilitated by the formation of the new School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (SALC). The overall aim of Religions & Theology is to maintain and enhance the international standing of Religions & Theology through judicious appointments, increased grant capture, quality research outputs, and significant attention to social responsibility. We aim to build on the achievements of previous RAEs (1996 5*; 2001 6*; 2008 4* 25%, 3* 40%). In 2008 we stated that we would continue to enhance research through small research networks and groupings; the strategy statement that follows indicates that this has been pursued successfully.</p> <p>The UoA's Research Strategy has six principal goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance and promote excellence in published research both of individual scholars with major external awards and of research groupings with international collaboration. 2. To contribute to and benefit from the interdisciplinary potential of SALC, allowing Religions & Theology greater freedom to work with Middle Eastern Studies and other departments (e.g. joint supervision of PhD students across departments in a wide range of subjects). 3. Actively to foster research with regular research seminars of specialist constituencies of Jewish, Biblical, and South and South East Asian Studies as well as the regular Departmental seminar, for staff and PGR students across the research groupings. 4. To encourage and improve applications for research grants by the sharing of knowledge between the several successful grant-winners in the UoA and future applicants. 5. To maintain a strong, well-integrated PhD community, through the international visibility of the UoA's highest quality research publications, that attracts high calibre PGT and PGR applicants from around the world. 6. To foster progression from UG to PGT and PGR by ensuring that teaching is research-led. <p>Religions & Theology is located in SALC which provides much of the infrastructure to support research activity at all levels, from induction of new PGR students to the administrative support for major grant projects and applications. The recent formation of the Division of Archaeology, Religions & Theology and Classics & Ancient History (ARC) has greatly enhanced local interdisciplinary synergy. The three main research groupings of the UoA each have a distinctive structure and history and particular strategies for the development of research.</p> <p>Biblical Studies. The focus of excellence in Biblical Studies is the Rylands Chair of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis (see e.g. Oakes on F.F. Bruce in <i>BJRULM</i> 86/3). The research strategy in Biblical Studies is centred around the study of the contexts of the production and transmission of</p>

the biblical texts. Research synergy is provided by the Centre for Biblical Studies (**CBS**) which sponsors more than ten Honorary Research Fellowships [HRF] (e.g., Middleton [Chester]; Mills [Liverpool Hope]; Swanson [Nazarene TC, Manchester]) and hosts the weekly Ehrhardt research seminar that attracts both national and international speakers (e.g., 2008 Gruber [Bar Ilan]; Dundeborg [Helsinki]; 2010: Tov [Jerusalem]; Frey [Zurich]; 2011 Aejmelaeus [Helsinki]; Lange [Vienna]; Falk [Oregon]; 2012: van Kooten [Groningen]; 2013: Ben Dov [Haifa]). There is ongoing international research collaboration with Lausanne. Since RAE 2008 there have been three retirements (2009: Jackson; 2010: Alexander; 2011: Curtis); all three continue to make contributions. E.g., since 2011 as an HRF Curtis is editing the new SOTS-Phoenix Guides to the Old Testament. The **CBS** is home to a Newton International Fellow (2009-2011 Feldman) and, with Jewish Studies, to a British Academy PDRF (2013-2016 Haralambakis).

The Jewish Second Temple context is represented by work on the Dead Sea Scrolls (relevant outputs since 2008: Alexander [emeritus] 7; **Brooke** 44; Swanson [HRF] 2). Collaborative work on the John Rylands Library's Reed Dead Sea Scroll Manuscript fragments forms part of one of the submitted Impact Case Studies. The major international project (with Yeshiva University, NY, and Copenhagen) to revise *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert V* (1968) is intended for publication in 2015. Academic staff members of the Nordic Network for Qumran Studies commonly visit (e.g., 2008 Winnige [Umeå]; 2011 von Weissenberg [Helsinki]; 2012 Pakkala [Helsinki]) and since 2008 5 Nordic PGR students have spent at least one semester in Manchester; a Manchester PhD graduate holds a PDRF at Agder (2012-2015 Davis). In 2013 the **CBS** hosted Nordic staff and PGR students for a **SALC** Research Networking Fund workshop on the patriarchs.

The early Christian context is visible in multi-faceted research. Work on the Testament of Solomon has been followed by research on the Eighth Book of Moses (**Klutz**), and a project on the re-evaluation of categories in the study of Gnosticism (**Klutz**). In addition the Graeco-Roman context of the New Testament has been addressed by work on archaeological and inscriptional evidence that challenges standard readings of New Testament books (**Oakes**, *Reading Romans in Pompeii*) and by consideration of Greek philosophical (Downing [HRF]; *Order and (Dis)order in the First Christian Century*, Brill, 2013) and historiographical matters (L. Alexander [HRF]). Application of the social sciences to the New Testament is ongoing: **Klutz** continues with sociolinguistic techniques in textual analysis; **Oakes** is a member of the international 'Contexts Group', and in 2012 also joined a similarly innovative CNRS project based at Aix-en-Provence.

Christian Studies. Christian Studies comprises three overlapping concentrations of (1) **Theology**, esp. Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Danish and German theology, and political theology (**Hoelzl** and **Law**); (2) **Social Ethics** (Cornwall, **Scott**, Skrimshire, B. Wood); and (3) **History of Christianity**, with special strength in Methodism, the long Eighteenth Century and apocalypticism (**Crome**, **Gregory**; and research active library staff: Lloyd, Nockles). The strategy is to continue and enhance these research concentrations.

(1) **Theology** has seen changes since RAE 2008, with a growing focus on the contemporary world, whilst retaining strengths in classical Theology. In Nineteenth Century Theology **Law's** longstanding project (supported by AHRC Leave 2008-2009: £30K) on Kierkegaard's Kenotic Christology came to fruition in his monograph (OUP 2013). He has multiple other Kierkegaard outputs including an essay in the *Oxford Handbook on Kierkegaard* (OUP 2013). **Law's** expertise is pursued in research on the rise and fall of kenotic christologies in Anglican and Lutheran thought. **Law's** work, e.g. *The Historical-Critical Method* (Continuum 2012), and **Hoelzl's** work on European political theology both serve to remind current UG and PG students of the breadth and rigours of the discipline, particularly as practised in Germany. This has also created synergy with Biblical Studies (**Brooke**, **Klutz**, **Oakes**).

(2) **Social Ethics**: One contemporary wing of Christian Theology is the Religion and Civil Society Network, comprising the **Centre for Religion and Political Culture (CRPC)** (**Hoelzl**; and Ward until leaving for the Regius Chair of Divinity, Oxford, in 2012), and the **Lincoln Theological Institute (= LTI: Scott**; with three PDRFs during the assessment period). The **CRPC** has completed projects on The New Visibility of Religion in European Democratic Culture and on Political Theology, taking the lead with the Continuum series 'Studies in Religion and Political Culture', and networking with colleagues in political and social sciences, theology and philosophy. Of particular importance is its involvement with several European and other partners in the International Research Network on Religion and Democracy, of whose Executive Committee **Hoelzl** is the sole UK member. The **LTI** has inaugurated and completed several major projects

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since 2008: ('Women and Ordination'; 'Patriotism?'; 'Big Society—Bigger Nature'; 'Divinity after Empire'; 'Future Ethics—Climate Change', 'Remoralizing Britain'; 'God, City, Place'). Current projects are: 'Belonging and Heimat'; 'The Common Good'; 'Intersex, Identity and Disability'; 'Systematic Theology for a Changing Climate'; and 'Churches, Communities and Society', all with symposia and ongoing publications and focus on the impact agenda. The LTI's staff, PGR students and HRFs meet regularly in workshops to discuss strategy.

(3) **History of Christianity** continues to have two major areas of research strength: English church history from the Seventeenth to the Nineteenth Centuries (**Crome**; **Gregory**; also Lloyd and Nockles at the Rylands Library) and the social history of early Christian groups (Cooper, now based in **SALC's** Centre for Late Antiquity with two large research awards). **Gregory** is a leading figure nationally as President of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies since 2010 and (with Cooper) as former co-editor of *Studies in Church History*, and co-editor of *Literature and History*. Individually and collaboratively his interests include the role of the Church of England in New England from the late Seventeenth Century onwards. There is close collaboration with **SALC**: UG/PGT courses are offered to History (**Crome**) and PGR supervision is conducted with Art History (**Gregory**). With a colleague in History, **Crome** has run two video-conferenced seminar series: 'Radical Religion in the trans-Atlantic World, 1500–1800' – with Queen's Belfast, Edinburgh and TC Dublin, and 'Millennial Studies' with Queen's Belfast and Boston University.

Religious Studies has a long tradition of excellence at Manchester, beginning with the world's first Chair in Comparative Religion over a century ago, now integrated in a coherent group of specialists in **Islamic, Jewish, South and East Asian Studies**, all of which strategically reflects the ethnic complexity of the city of Manchester itself. Research collaboration is actively pursued in both research and teaching. For example **Williams**, the current Professor of Comparative Religion, was principal motivator for the collection of essays *Religion, Language and Power* (Routledge 2008) by members of all areas of the UoA. Several colleagues co-supervise PhD students with other departments (e.g. **Dreyfus** History, **Sen** Social Anthropology, **Williams** English, **Zavos** Middle Eastern Studies). There is a long-standing collaboration between Religions & Theology and Middle Eastern Studies (MES) in Islamic and Jewish Studies, as in the *Journal of Semitic Studies* whose editorship they jointly share. The joining of two separate schools to form **SALC** brings Religions & Theology and MES back into close strategic synergy in which research agendas have been reinvigorated. **Williams** brings international expertise in Islamic and Iranian Studies, and has been awarded a prestigious British Academy Wolfson Research Professorship (£150,000 replacement costs and travel grant) for 2013-16 for 'The Restitution of Rumi's *Masnavi-ye Ma'navi*'. He also publishes research on Old/Middle Iranian and Zoroastrian studies, e.g. a monograph on the *Qesse-ye Sanjan* (Brill, 2009, from an AHRC leave award in 2008, awarded the International Society for Iranian Studies Yarshater 2010 Book Prize). In **S. and E. Asian Studies** **Suthren Hirst** works on issues of gender and how S. Asian religious traditions are presented at all levels of education in the UK. **Suthren Hirst's** recent collaboration with **Zavos** has resulted in an innovative work *Religious Traditions in Modern South Asia* (Routledge, 2011) informed by the pedagogy of those traditions themselves. They also jointly initiated and continue to develop the South Asian Studies in the North (SASIN) network, a seminar collaboration between five northern universities. **Zavos** was PI on an AHRC Project (2008–2010) 'The Public Representation of a Religion Called Hinduism: Postcolonial Patterns in India, Britain and the US' and lead editor of *Public Hinduisms* (Sage, 2012), exploring the public representation of Hinduism in India and the diaspora. He has collaborated on a project funded by the German Research Council's Initiative for Excellence on 'Citizenship as Conceptual Flow', based at Heidelberg. As a Council member of the European Association of South Asian Studies he brought the 20th Biennial European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, with 350+ delegates, to Manchester in 2008. **Mair** (Buddhism) and **Sen** (formerly RCUK Fellow) are recent permanent junior appointments, sharing social scientific approaches, a deliberate strategic move within the sub-group. **Sen** works on religio-political conflict and sub-cultures of violence among marginalized urban communities, and related gender issues. **Mair** works on the ethnography of Buddhism, especially in Mongolia.

Jewish Studies at Manchester is a vibrant area. Its outward-facing research activities are focused in the **Centre for Jewish Studies (CJS)**, which has long-established links with the local Jewish community, which itself dates back to the 1780s and is the largest in the UK outside London. With associates and HRFs in several departments of the University and from elsewhere,

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CJS has interdisciplinary networked research projects of all kinds. Those externally funded and completed during the assessment period are on the Jewish Built Heritage; on Genizah Digitization; on Agunah; on the Typology of Anonymous & Pseudepigraphic Literature; and on German Jewish Refugees. Smithuis, a recent appointment to replace Alexander, continues working on the Genizah catalogue for which she was the PDRF, making it a flagship resource for the study of Genizah manuscripts (see Impact Case Study). In teaching also Smithuis uses the John Rylands Library on several UG and PG courses. The impact of the Agunah Project is gradually taking hold in various Jewish communities around the world and will be a strategic highlight of the next REF period.

The future direction and strategy of Jewish Studies research is already embedded in the success of **Dreyfus** in securing substantial funding (ERC €1,200,000 grant 283-617; 2012–2015) with partners from the École des Hautes Études (Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les Enjeux Sociaux) and the University of Groningen for the project on Corpses of Mass Violence and Genocide. With the research expertise of **Dreyfus** from Holocaust history the project and its outcomes should prove substantial for policy makers concerned with all aspects of mass graves. **Langton** has completed substantial work on Jewish views of Jesus and Paul and has secured a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (£95,122) for 2013–2015 for a project on Darwin's Jews: Evolutionary Theory, Jewish Thought and Interfaith Relations. Alongside these projects based in Religions & Theology the research of Samely on further aspects of Literary Types, and of Behar in Israel Studies, both based in **MES**, offer many kinds of opportunities for collaborative research activity in certain aspects of both the ancient (with **Brooke**) and modern (with **Dreyfus**) worlds.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Since 2008, a new phase of capacity building has developed in the UoA with several new appointments, in Jewish Studies (Smithuis Lecturer; Haralambakis BA PDRF £211,133), in S. Asian Studies (**Sen**), in Buddhist Studies (**Mair** Lecturer), in History of Christianity (**Crome** Lecturer) and in the **LTI** (Cornwall PDRA; B. Wood PDRA). Moreover there have been several promotions to Professor (**Gregory, Langton, Law, Scott, Williams**), and Reader (**Dreyfus**). This has invigorated and rejuvenated the UoA and offset the departure of senior colleagues (retirement: Alexander, Curtis, Jackson; move: Graham [to Chester], Ward [to Oxford]). The influx of younger scholars and rise of mid-career colleagues has also shifted the research focus of the UoA from a previous predominance in ancient and medieval world studies to a better balance with modern and contemporary studies, without weakening strength in textual and historical studies. The UoA has benefitted from the new environment of **SALC**, with its integrated inter-disciplinary structures, and is bearing fruit in joint PGR supervision with, e.g., English, History and Middle Eastern Studies and in cross-School teaching and research. These developments have further enhanced Religions & Theology as a strong research active unit of international standing. The recent awards of Leverhulme (**Langton**) and AHRC (**Law, Smithuis, Williams, Zavos**) scholarships and a British Academy Research Professorship (**Williams**) testify to this in real terms.

The UoA participates in an annual Professional Development Review, undertaken by professorial staff through which staff members see the School providing active support as they develop their research profiles within the seven key principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. This is also reflected in the recent Capita Staff Survey (which put the University of Manchester 1st of 28 HEIs surveyed in 2012-2013): 71% of staff responded, of whom 97% agreed with the University's core goals in supporting world-leading research. Part of the Review process is the encouragement of interaction and exchange with public and third sector bodies; this has included, for example, **Dreyfus** cooperating with Imperial War Museum North.

The UoA has been fortunate to welcome a continuous stream of variously funded PDRFs: e.g., Skrimshire is now on staff of the University of Leeds; Feldman now at Brite Divinity School, Texas; Haralambakis, PDRF at Romanian Academy of Sciences, Bucharest, is now returning to Manchester as a BA PDRF (see above); Stanley is now on staff at the University of Newcastle, Australia; Tarocco at NYU, New York; J. Wood at Lincoln University. **Crome**, previously a PhD here, spent a year as a PDRF at TC Dublin before returning to take up a full-time post. Most recently Cornwall has moved to a lectureship at Exeter and been replaced by B. Wood.

In addition to the career development of those on PDRF or Early Career appointments, one new member of staff (Smithuis) appointed in 2010 has had a reduced teaching load and very limited administration at the start of her appointment as is standard at Manchester for new appointments. The appointment of **Mair** in 2012 has taken account of his early career research development by

permitting him immediately to take up a short-term research fellowship in another university and providing substitute teaching during his absence.

SALC's policy for research leave is based on University sabbatical policy (entitlement every seventh semester). Research-active members of the UoA must submit research applications before periods of research leave are granted. Applications for longer periods of externally funded research leave are actively encouraged (e.g., **Langton** for 2013–2015, **Williams** for 2013-2016). Retrospective reports are submitted upon completion of leave.

The UoA has welcomed 11 postdoctoral researchers since January 2008. These have made substantial contributions to the research of the UoA through work on specific projects in Biblical Studies, Jewish Studies (including a University funded PDRF in the social sciences: Stoetzler, *The State, the Nation, and the Jews*, Nebraska UP, 2009), Christian Theology and Social Ethics, and Church History. The continuous availability of an externally funded PDRF position in the **LTI** has provided for a strong underpinning of the wider research agenda and activities of that institute.

A good example of our commitment to equal opportunities is apparent in recent junior appointments which are equally balanced in gender. In general the UoA's research strategies involve considerable elements of diversity, particularly as these involve ethnic minority groups, such as those promoted in the research of the former Centre for Applied South Asian Studies now taken forward by **Zavos** and **Suthren Hirst**. In addition, for example, the joint PI on the ERC funded *Corpses of Mass Violence and Genocide* is Dr Elisabeth Anstett (École des Hautes Études (Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les Enjeux Sociaux) and the other lead researcher is Dr Caroline Fournet (Groningen); the principal researcher on the LTI Intersex project is former PDRF Cornwall, and one of its distinctive voices is provided by Sally/Selwyn Gross, director of Intersex South Africa.

ii. Research students

The number of PGR students in Religions & Theology year on year has remained steady at about 40. Approximately 10 PGR students complete each year. Supervisions and panels between PGR students and their supervisors are now comprehensively logged in the electronic e-Prog monitoring system, a transparent method for tracking the training and progression of every student through from start to finish. As well as regular fortnightly supervisions, students have two panels a year with their main and co-supervisor, at which a third panel member, a student advisor responsible for pastoral care, is also present. Since its creation in 2012 **SALC** has invested heavily in PGR support and resources both physical and virtual, and provides a scheme for generic research training skills. The peer-assisted PGR Seminar programme has run successfully since 2010. There is also associated research development: for example, an annual training day in Biblical Studies with the Universities of Durham and Sheffield (sometimes with AHRC support) when there are papers by PGR students and their peer assessment. An Ecclesiastical History Society PGR Day School in the History of Christianity has been held annually since 2003 at the John Rylands Library with PGR students from across Europe (**Gregory**). Regular PGR student contribution to the three departmental research seminars is considered obligatory and is a main focus of intellectual life in the UoA (Ehrhardt Seminar in Biblical Studies [weekly]; Jewish Studies Seminar [fortnightly]; Religions & Theology Seminar [fortnightly]). This gives the UoA an atmosphere of a lively scholarly community in which PGR students are encouraged to play an active role along with academic staff and HRFs. In addition there are funds for research students to participate in specialist conferences and those of learned societies, so that they can present papers at suitable stages in their research. They are also encouraged to prepare items for publication, such as book reviews and journal articles or book chapters—e.g., four of the papers in O. Creanga (ed.) *Men and Masculinity in the Hebrew Bible and Beyond* (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010) were by Manchester doctoral students (three female: Haralambakis; Jacobus; Lazarewicz-Wyzykowska; one male: Davis). Jacobus was awarded the 2011 ASOR Sean Dever Memorial Prize for another essay published while a doctoral student. At Manchester conferences organized by the **LTI** there have been frequent contributions by doctoral students who have been integral parts of some research projects.

Seven doctoral students hold AHRC awards in the UoA at any one time. Of those completing between 2008 and July 2013 9 had AHRC awards, 12 had funding from other scholarship sources within the UoA, **SALC** and the University, and 3 had funding from other external sources. There were 44 doctoral completions during the assessment period. Of those completing in the earlier part of the assessment period many have published their revised theses: e.g., Docherty (Mohr Siebeck); Garner (Gorgias); Hadari (Deborah Charles); Haralambakis (Continuum); Jacobus (Brill);

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Lucass (Bloomsbury); Newey (Ashgate); Tait (PBI); Tso (Mohr Siebeck).

Throughout their studies doctoral students are provided with skills training, workshops, careers events and other opportunities by the artsmethods@manchester programme run by the recently refurbished Graduate School within **SALC**; such training is offered with methods@manchester which has its focus on social science skills and with the Humanities Research Development Team which provides relevant and effective professional career development for doctoral students. The success of such training is evident in part in the academic appointments of recent doctoral graduates: for example, Docherty (Newman University College); Tso (Ambrose University College, Canada); Haralambakis (PDRF Romanian Academy of Sciences); Davis (PDRF Agder, Norway); Stanley (Newcastle NSW); **Crome** (Manchester); Silva (Lisbon); Garner (Manchester).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income has been generated during the assessment period by the majority of the members of the UoA (£722,930 spent in 2008-2012; £456,255 awarded in 2013 for 2013-2016 = £1.179m). Large grant success has occurred notably in Jewish Studies: during the period of assessment **CJS** has completed several substantial research projects: The Jewish Built Heritage of Great Britain and Ireland Project (BA and AHRC; Sharman Kadish, *The Synagogues of Britain and Ireland An Architectural and Social History*, Paul Mellon Centre, 2011); the Rylands Genizah Digitization Project (AHRC and others; Alexander (PI) and Smithuis); the Agunah Project (Leverhulme and others; Jackson (PI)); the Typology of Anonymous & Pseudepigraphic Literature project (AHRC; Samely (PI), Alexander and Hayward (Durham)); the German Jewish Refugees Project (Hanadiv and others; Bill Williams, *Jews and Other Foreigners*, MUP, 2011). **Sen** was funded for five years from the highly competitive RCUK Fellowships programme. Current projects with funding include ongoing work of **Brooke** with Feldman (Newton International PDRF; BA/FRS/RAE); the work of **Dreyfus** with Corpses of Violence and Mass Genocide Project (ERC €1.2M grant 283-617; 2012–2015); **Langton's** Project on Darwin's Jews (Leverhulme: £95K); **Williams's** project on Rumi's *Masnavi* (British Academy/Wolfson: £150K); and multiple projects being pursued by **Scott** through the **LTI** (LTI Trustees; who also continue to fund the **LTI** PDRF (c. £35K pa)). In addition income generated from the editing of the *Journal of Semitic Studies* (c. £5K annually) is applied directly to support research activity of the **CBS** and the **CJS**.

The strategy by which appropriate balance is achieved between scholarly, organisational and operational infrastructures is managed at Faculty and School level. There are various internal funding schemes: there is a Personal Research Allowance (£600 p.a.), a Research Support Fund (£30K p.a.), which accepts applications of up to £3K for pilot projects leading to grant applications, and a Research Networking Fund (£20K p.a.), to which groups can apply for support of up to £5K in establishing research networks. Staff are encouraged by the School and Departmental Research Coordinator to use the support facilities of the well-staffed **SALC** Research Office in applying for grants, by taking advantage of the School's application of Faculty policy for research leave, and, importantly, by encouraging teaching to be based on current research interests of staff (see Research Strategy). Religions & Theology research grant applications have been greatly supported by the **SALC** Peer Review College, which has assisted in reviewing draft applications, and applications are costed and, when successful, administered by the Research Office.

The University of Manchester has several major resources which support some of the ongoing research activities in Religions & Theology. The special collections of the John Rylands Library include: the Reed Collection of Dead Sea Scroll Fragments; the 15,000 Rylands Genizah Fragments, an internationally important archive that illuminates all aspects of the history, and the religious, social, and commercial life of the Jews in the Levant from the 9th to the 19th centuries; the widely renowned Methodist Archives and Research Centre (MARC) which holds the world's largest collection of manuscripts relating to John and Charles Wesley (Lloyd, the archivist, is co-editor of *The Letters of Charles Wesley Volume 1* [Oxford University Press, 2013]) and other holdings in English church history (Nockles, their curator, is co-editor of *The Oxford Movement: Europe and the Wider World 1830-1930* [Cambridge University Press, 2012]). All these bring a steady stream of researchers through Manchester. The newly established John Rylands Research Institute is beginning to realize its ambitious plans to provide the scholarly infrastructure for expanding this international research on the library's special collections in which staff of Religions and Theology are taking a leading role (e.g., **Gregory** and **Brooke** on the editorial board of the revamped *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library*).

The extent and diversity of the University of Manchester's research base means there are many scholars with shared interests in other Schools: this creates opportunities for research collaboration and interdisciplinarity. The **CJS** acts as the focus for activity in Jewish Studies which in addition to Religions & Theology and MES, includes Languages and Government. The regular seminars in South Asian Studies are managed from Religions & Theology by those in the relevant research cluster but attended by researchers from across many areas of the University.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Collaboration happens in numerous ways and since the study of religion and theology involves so many sub-disciplines, work with others is common. It is promoted especially through the research sub-groupings as outlined above, through which various synergies within the UoA have been promoted, usually involving two sub-groups, such as the **LTI** and the **CRPC**, or the **CBS** and the **CJS**, working together, but occasionally being based on the thematic research concerns of the whole UoA, as with the book *Religion, Power and Language* (Routledge, 2008). Within the School and in other parts of the University, collaboration is promoted by such elements of infra-structure as the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Arts and Languages, but also by research seminar activity, often initiated by Religions & Theology (as in Jewish Studies or South Asian Studies).

Staff are active in collaborative projects: sometimes these are initiated and managed from Manchester, as with most of the **LTI** activity; sometimes by Manchester researchers as equal partners in collaborative projects. As well as **Dreyfus's** project cited above, there is international collaboration of staff from Biblical Studies (**Brooke**) and Jewish Studies (Alexander) with staff from Vienna and several other universities as part of creating the basis for an Initial Training Network application (EU Framework 7); they have collaborated in international seminars with proceedings (Vienna [*In the Second Degree*, 2010]; Koblenz [*Between Text and Text*, 2013]; Aix; Bucharest). **Hoelzl** is instrumental in taking forward the International Research Network on Religion and Democracy through Manchester's Centre for Religion and Political Culture based in the UoA. Sometimes experts from Manchester are keynote contributors to projects elsewhere: e.g., **Oakes** in the Network on the Bible and Social Sciences based in a CNRS project at Aix-en-Provence.

In **Biblical Studies** two collaborations of another kind have continued in the assessment period. First, there is ongoing, shared PGR student training with the Universities of Durham and Sheffield (in 2013 supported by AHRC £2.6K). Second, the twinning with the Institut Romand des Sciences Bibliques at the University of Lausanne has resulted in further conference proceedings: *Torah in the New Testament* (2009); *Writing the Bible: Scribes, Scribalism and Script* (2013); researchers from Sheffield and Geneva have also joined these Manchester-Lausanne seminars.

In addition to memberships of editorial boards and other general advice to publishers through the preliminary assessment of manuscripts, most research active staff have been more widely supportive across the discipline as follows. They have held offices in learned societies (**Brooke**: SOTS President 2012; **Gregory**: British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, President; **Langton**: BAJs and European AJS Secretary). They have acted as confidential assessors of research grants nationally (e.g. **Law**: AHRC Peer Review College 2009-2012, **Williams** AHRC) and internationally (**Williams** Arts and Humanities Research Council of Canada). They have advised on senior appointments both in the UK (e.g. **Brooke**: Samuel Davidson Chair KCL) and overseas (**Williams**: Aga Khan Chair in Iranian Studies, Harvard). They have held or hold senior editorial appointments (**Brooke** for Brill; Curtis for SOTS/Sheffield Phoenix Press; **Oakes** for Continuum; **Hoelzl** for Bloomsbury). They have acted many times as external examiners of doctorates in the UK and overseas (e.g., **Brooke**: Dublin 2012; Haifa 2012; EBAF, Jerusalem 2012; Helsinki 2013). They have assisted in the organising of conferences of international societies (**Brooke**: IOQS Helsinki 2010, Munich 2013, **Zavos** EASAS 2008) and national learned societies (**Brooke**: SOTS Manchester 2012; SOTS/OTW Amsterdam 2012), and have promoted collaborative research through symposia commonly held in Manchester (**Scott**; **LTI**).