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Institution: University of Glasgow
Unit of Assessment: 33 Theology and Religious Studies
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Research in Theology and Religious Studies (TRS) at the University of Glasgow (UoG) is wide-ranging and interdisciplinary: indeed, at a time when the role of religion internationally is increasingly one of conflict and negotiation, this approach is urgently needed. UoG has pursued the study of TRS since its foundation in 1451. Its approach is distinguished by a shared public duty to contribute both high-level and high-impact research. Following an internal restructuring of UoG in 2010, TRS is part of the School of Critical Studies, along with English Literature, English Language and Scottish Literature. The period under review has been one of renewal and repositioning for the UoA. Our research ambitions have been supported by the UoG which has invested in a series of strategic appointments, balancing senior and early career colleagues and paying careful attention to issues of mentoring and critical mass. Taking advantage of retirements and other departures during the assessment period, we have made five new appointments, resulting in a UoA that has been substantially invigorated since RAE2008. Our recruitment strategy has balanced major investments in early career talent, augmented by professorial leadership. We are returning 10.85 FTE, representing 86% of eligible staff.</p>
<p>b. Research Strategy</p> <p>Our vision is to be an internationally leading focal point for the study of Theology and Religious Studies with emphases on <u>Religion in Scotland</u>; <u>Religion, literature and culture</u>; and <u>Religion, conflict and transition</u>.</p> <p>a) realising strategic aims from RAE2008</p> <p>Our strategic aims for RAE2008 were to: <u>develop international profiles of staff</u> by enhancing the quality and reach of our research; <u>develop research themes as mechanisms for growing research quality and capacity and for developing skills of collaboration and leadership</u>; <u>form new collaborative networks</u> with a view to growing larger, collaborative projects; and <u>grow recruitment to postgraduate degrees</u>. The range and depth of our research outputs and doctoral student activity indicate that we have achieved our strategic aims. Indicators of our success include: the volume and quality of our outputs that include some 30 research monographs, editions or edited collections and over 100 essays and refereed articles, many in our discipline's leading journals; and substantial development in our research-led collaborations. In the previous submission (RAE2008) we identified six areas of significant research capacity: <u>Biblical Studies</u>; <u>Systematic Theology/Ethics and Church History</u>; <u>Practical Theology and Ministry</u>; <u>Literature, Theology and the Arts</u>; <u>Islamic and Persian Studies</u>; and <u>Inter-Faith studies</u>. Following an internal review reflecting on RAE outcomes, student demand, the changing nature of the discipline, staff turn-over and the restructuring of UoG, TRS refocused its research during this period of review into three new areas: <u>Religion in Scotland</u>; <u>Religion, literature and culture</u>; and <u>Religion, conflict and transition</u>. Within the three categories, the commitment to both theology and religious studies remains strong, as does investigation within religion (as a category) and religions (in particular, to Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism). The three research themes combine traditional textual and historical analysis with the interdisciplinary studies that underpin all our recent appointments. These themes are used to develop research activity by supporting research seminars, work-in-progress meetings and peer-to-peer support and have been active in developing a range of initiatives including: the Church and World War I; the role of the Church as Scotland approaches a vote on independence; comparative mysticism; the marginalisation of minority religious groups; and work on Scottish religious cultures. We have used these three research themes to provide robust intellectual and practical support for our researchers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As a key UoA within an ancient Scottish University, TRS has maintained a demonstrably prominent role for its research on <u>Religion in Scotland</u>, with a prominent impact role deriving from this – eg, our on-going partnership with the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, Glasgow – with which we have delivered new arts events for the public and new learning opportunities for our doctoral researchers – see our Impact Template for more information; and <u>leadership positions such as</u> Jasper's role as Convenor of the Doctrine Committee of the Episcopal Church (2008-12) and Walton's membership of the Working Group on Issues in Human Sexuality within the Mission and Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland (2005). We consolidated this theme with a new appointment (Spurlock) and are developing new interdisciplinary projects with

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- UoG's interdisciplinary Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies, based in our School of Humanities.
- Religion, literature and culture is a cross-cutting theme for the UoA that is developed through a weekly research seminar attended by researchers across the whole of the School of Critical Studies, including some twenty postgraduates and visiting scholars. Key outputs include Jasper's most recent monograph (*The Sacred Community*, 2014) as well as significant impact activity. Our annual residential research colloquia at Great Cumbrae allows a deeper reflection on the topic and enhances the collegiality of our research community. The international nature of our work in this area has been maintained with research students from the UK, the Netherlands, the USA, Canada, China and Germany. The UoA has hosted numerous international scholars including Yang Huilin (from Renmin in 2010) and Marij Althorf (Amsterdam, 2012). This theme has been developed via a number of conferences – eg, *Sacred Topographies: Pilgrimage and Place* (on creative writing, 2011), and a joint seminar with scholars from Gotenberg's Swedish Network in Religion and Literature (2013). Our international profile in this area is affirmed by Jasper's appointment as Distinguished Overseas Professor at Renmin University, China. This research theme benefits from the recent appointment of Pattison and Spiro, whose primary interest focuses upon modern Jewish literature, and from the ongoing participation of Walton and Jasper.
 - Religion, conflict and transition embraces the dynamics of the social contexts of religious traditions and the fashion in which doctrines and practices evolve and contribute to society, with major monograph and edited volumes being completed in the period of review. Key successes here include Ridgeon's AHRC-funded network on Sufism in the Contemporary Age, that led to two edited collections including one edited by Ridgeon for 2014. TRS' traditional disciplines of Biblical studies and church history co-operate and liaise with emerging areas of study – eg, in Jewish studies. The theme has been enhanced by appointment of Yazaki in Islamic studies, Orzech in Eastern Religions and Spiro in Jewish Studies. Leadership is provided by Ridgeon and Clague.

Within each of these three research themes staff have the opportunity to disseminate their work in informal peer networks, weekly seminars and one-off events and workshops, as well as via engagement with visiting researchers – eg, in 2012-13 our programme of visiting speakers included: Luke Bretherton (King's College, London); Arne Grøn (Copenhagen); Rose Drew (Uppsala); Francisco Saffie (Edinburgh); Nacim Pak Shiraz (Edinburgh); Sturla Stålsett, (Oslo); and Nigel Biggar (Oxford). Our programme of visiting researchers allows us to develop dialogues with an international network of researchers, showcase the work of our own researchers and ensure that our postgraduates are exposed to new ideas and approaches.

b) future plans and aspirations

The UoA has five main aspirations in the next REF cycle which are:

1. to enhance the quality of our research outputs by continuing our strategic approach to mentoring researchers, peer review of research outputs as well as peer review of grant applications (both large and small), planning research leave and maintaining a schedule of research seminars, workshops and colloquia that involves all members of the UoA. We will seek opportunities to develop in areas of cross-School interest – eg, Religion in Scotland – and by securing additional research staff through research projects;
2. to support the development of early career researchers through robust mentoring and the Performance and Development Review (P&DR) framework; research incentivisation – targeted seed funding, PIs/Co-Is benefiting directly from reinvestment of overheads; and a supportive working environment inspiring creativity and rewarding excellence;
3. to grow research leadership through an increased portfolio of major research projects, by sustaining mentoring relationships beyond early career status towards a better supported and more sustainable research career;
4. to strengthen and expand our PGR community, in particular through securing new project-based studentships, the enhancement of interdisciplinary links at School of Critical Studies and College of Arts (CoA) levels and targeting well-qualified students towards the new AHRC Scottish Doctoral Training Centre (from 2014);
5. to raise the profile of our research themes through significant publications, international networks and conferences, ensuring their visibility within the discipline and their active deployment in delivering our knowledge exchange and impact goals. The following have been identified as specific goals for the next cycle:
 - Religion in Scotland – building on the appointment of Spurlock we are developing an

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interdisciplinary project with the CoA's Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies. The referendum on Scottish independence is shining a fierce light on complex questions of Scottish and British identities and the debate is already highlighting the crucial role that religion has played and continues to play in identity-formation. Both building on our long-term responsibilities towards research on religion and Scotland and capturing new opportunities arising from social, cultural and political debates we have made a clear commitment to supporting work in this area.

- Religion, literature and culture – building on the appointments of Pattison and Spiro, whose primary interest focuses upon modern Jewish literature, we will extend the reach of this theme with existing and new international partners including Renmin and Georgetown.
- Religion, conflict and transition – will lead our internationalisation agenda. With the appointment of Yazaki in Islamic studies, Orzech in Eastern Religions and Spiro in Jewish Studies, and the established leadership of Ridgeon and Clague, key targets are a new monograph and edited collection on the origins of sinology.

c) support for collaborative and interdisciplinary work

This period has seen a review of how we develop, manage, review and evaluate our research. Support for research is provided through a number of structures and activities. TRS has a dedicated Research Committee (lead: Pattison), which includes representatives of all three research areas. It meets regularly to discuss, develop and review our research strategy, to organise seminars and plan our visiting speaker programme and to decide on the allocation of prizes and awards, to both staff and students. A member of this group contributes to the School's Research Committee, which also supports our research ambition through seed funding and shared activities including cross-School training and mentoring – eg, Yazaki's knowledge exchange activity on women in Islam. TRS at UoG has a number of endowments that the Research Committee can target to support a range of research activities. These include:

- major investments, such as the appointment in 2012-13 of an 0.8 FTE post to promote, organise and teach on the Doctorate of Practical Theology – supporting a new research cohort in the UoA that consists of some 20 part-time students since it commenced in 2011;
- mid-scale investments that support our programme of high-profile international conferences and other seminar and visiting speaker programmes – eg, *Shi 'ism and Identity* (2008), *Art, Religion and Identity: A Celebration of Hannah Frank* (2010), *Religion and Public Life* (2010), *Love and Law* (2010), *Science and Religion* (2010), *Re-Writing the Bible: Devotion, Diatribe and Dialogue* (2010), *Sacred Topographies: Pilgrimage and Place* (2011), *Subjectivity and Religious Community* (2011) and *Women in Ministry* (2012) *Sufism and Salafism* (2013) have attracted scholars from Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia as well as providing an exciting intellectual context for our researchers to present work; and
- small awards to support individual researchers to disseminate their work at a conference or seed a project through supporting an early networking meeting.

c. People, including:**I. Staffing strategy and staff development**

There are 10.85 research active staff in the UoA (September 2013). In response to a number of retirements and colleagues moving to promoted posts elsewhere, the UoA has recruited a group of internationally leading researchers and an exciting cohort of talented early career researchers since 2008. TRS has re-built its research base through strategic appointments that seek to emphasise not only our traditional core-strengths in theology, but also on areas targeted for future development. In addition to the appointment of Pattison to the 1640 Chair in Theology – and the commitment to research leadership that this signifies for the UoA – we have appointed Orzech as a Reader who has a research focus on Sufism and mysticism in Eastern Religions and three early career researchers: Spurlock on the religions and cultures of Scotland; Spiro to a post in Jewish Studies, this our first appointment in this area; and Yazaki, with research expertise in Islam, who has been appointed to a highly-competitive UoG Kelvin-Smith Fellowship, that will transfer to a permanent position on successful delivery of research targets. All of these appointments were made to deliver cutting edge research in their respective fields and to enhance our public role by setting a leading agenda for research-informed work with the full range of our local and international communities.

Our established strengths in theology, largely based on Christian traditions, have been enhanced through the recent appointment of Pattison. With the opportunity presented by staff departures and available investment by UoG, TRS at UoG has been nimble in changing direction

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and seeking new opportunities. In the period under review we have sought to secure and sustain research capacity in areas of traditional strengths – eg, Religion, Literature and Culture led by Jasper – as well as developing strengths and expanding into new areas – eg, Spiro's appointment in Jewish studies which adds to our capacity in Religion, Conflict and Transition. The commitment to provide research and teaching expertise in World Religions – and the appointments of Orzech, Spiro and Yazaki – is a response to both student demand and also the wider shifts in Scottish and UK society. In a similar fashion, the appointment of Spurlock, complementing the expertise of Walton and Methuen in Religion in Scotland is particularly timely.

The UoA supports staff development at all career stages to enhance the quality and extend the influence of our staff's research. It encourages ambition and assists in maximising publication opportunities and exploiting opportunities for KE/PE. In 2009 UoG implemented the 'Concordat for Career Development of Researchers'. In 2010 it received, and subsequently retained, the European Commission's 'HR Excellence in Research' award. All staff are supported in their professional and personal development via an annual review process, conducted by a senior academic from the UoA. P&DR invites staff to reflect upon performance and development in the last year and agree objectives for the next; staff are supported to undertake short and longer-term planning. P&DR also provides staff the opportunity to identify training needs and discuss promotion or reward and recognition goals. The UoA's readers and chairs now provide research-mentoring for all academic staff. In regular one-to-one meetings, colleagues discuss achievements and plans with the chair of the Research Committee. At the same time, colleagues in the UoA can access training for the development of research skills. UoG Staff Development Training delivers an extensive portfolio of workshops, targeting different stages of a research career – eg, Fellowship Interviews, Managing Successful Research Projects. This provision is complemented by the services of ArtsLab – a CoA facility launched in 2010 to support and encourage research and interdisciplinary collaboration. Staff are supported to develop projects targeted to external funders with seed funding available within both the School and CoA. Mentoring and support within the School supports the development of projects and external applications whose value is over £75,000 benefit from rigorous internal peer review at CoA level: one beneficiary of this support and development policy was Ridgeon's AHRC Network application.

The UoA, guided and supported by UoG's HR processes, provides support for early career researchers to develop independent careers. UoG currently operates a three-year probation system whereby new staff's research time is protected by a reduction of administrative and teaching workload – 50% in their first year, 25% in the second and 10% in the third. This policy is facilitating our ECRs' strong research record – eg, Yazaki has secured a number of grants for work with a strong KE-edge. All ECRs are paired with an academic mentor. Their skills are developed through the UoG New Lecturer Programme, leading to a Certificate in Academic Practice.

UoG has a research leave system, based on one semester of institutionally-funded leave after six for the support of clear research objectives. Staff are encouraged to augment institutional support with external funding. Since 2007 nine members of the UoA have been awarded research leave. In addition the UoA has facilitated completion of specific research projects by providing targeted teaching relief – eg, for Jasper's book *The Sacred Community*.

A series of initiatives within the UoA support the development of new ideas. These include a weekly programme of visiting speakers, workshops, conferences and symposia – eg, *Subjectivity and Religious Community* (2011), *Women in Ministry* (2012) and *Sufism and Salafism* (2013). All staff are encouraged to share their research at such events, providing opportunity for peer review, and an interdisciplinary research sandpit is also organised. In addition colleagues may apply to the School and CoA Strategic Fund for seed funding to support early networking opportunities or modest teaching buy out – eg, up to £800 – to develop external funding applications – eg, Ridgeon's AHRC Network was developed in this way.

As gender, sexuality and ethnicity are key concerns for the research and teaching undertaken by the UoA, issues of equality and diversity are central to our research culture. We are committed to the UoG's promotion of equality and work towards an environment free from discrimination and unfair treatment. All our staff have completed online equality and diversity training delivered by the UoG, with managers and prospective PIs undertaking an additional course. This training outlines the Equality Act 2010 and ensures that all staff involved in all recruitment and other relevant process, such as P&DR and REF, are suitably trained. UoG joined the Athena Swan Charter in August 2011 with an action plan to advance female academics. The Colleges of Arts and Social

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Sciences also developed a women's peer mentoring scheme, pairing female academics across all grades. During the review period Walton was a member of the School's management team as head of TRS. UoG was awarded Athena SWAN Institutional Bronze in 2013.

Our strategy to stimulate and facilitate collaboration and exchange is evidenced by Ridgeon's AHRC Network project and is underpinned by our commitment to a number of honorary appointments, and visiting scholars who have also taught in the subject area. These include Wang Hai, post-doctoral fellow funded jointly by UoG and Renmin, China (2011-12), Alana Vincent, Rothschild Post-Doctoral Foundation based in Hanadiv (2010-12), Sturla Stålsett (Oslo, 2011-12), Sari Lievone, Leverhulme Artist in Residence (2010-11), Ewan Kelly (2012-13), Leah Robinson (2010-13) and Matthias Martinson, from Uppsala (2011-13).

c. II. Research students

Over the cycle the research student population in the UoA was 35.70, with an average of 4.03 doctoral degrees awarded per research-active staff. The new senior and ECR appointments made in the period are expected – and will be supported – to grow this number. Studentships awarded include: six from the AHRC Block Grant Partnership; and three CoA scholarships. Specific to the UoA are two scholarships of £5,000 from its St Mungo postgraduate award-scheme. We attract and retain excellent research students by offering a number of scholarships and internships at UoG, CoA and School levels. All postgraduate courses can be taken part-time, and course leaders are sensitive to the needs of part-time students in their organisation of seminars and research events. Dedicated workspaces are available for all graduates who need them, and the refurbished Gilchrist Postgraduate Club offers a venue for students and staff to gather, work and socialise. TRS research students have their own dedicated postgraduate room, and an adjacent area with IT facilities within the TRS building. TRS houses its own library, and students have access to the historically significant collection of books related to TRS in the Main and Mitchell Libraries.

The PhD application and scholarship process is managed and monitored by the CoA Graduate School, with equal opportunities underpinned by transparent criteria. Scholarship applications are ranked by the UoA's Scholarship Committee according to quality-driven criteria. Our doctoral researchers are valued members of the UoA's research culture. The UoA delivers discipline-specific training through Research Methods courses. Our students are represented on the School's Postgraduate Students Staff Liaison Committee and its PG Committee. The School of Critical Studies Postgraduate Committee oversees the wellbeing of research and taught postgraduate students, and is attended by postgraduate conveners from each of the constituent subject areas in the School as well as an overall School of Critical Studies postgraduate convener. It is responsible for disbursing School funds to graduates, and the School and subject area postgraduate conveners alert graduates to the various opportunities and specialist support mechanisms available to them in CoA, UoG and beyond. These provide a strategic forum for students' contribution to the development of our research community – eg, the planning and delivery of research events directed towards their needs. They participate fully in our programmes of research seminars including suggesting, hosting and introducing visiting speakers, and organise our UoA's annual PG Research Symposium. Recognising a growing cohort of part-time students, with different timetabling needs, the UoA is flexible in its scheduling. The CoA Graduate School and the UoA also provide financial support to our doctoral students to visit archives/libraries, pursue fieldwork and attend national and international conferences.

Our students' research development is supported through the CoA Graduate School's portfolio of over 70 workshops. A suite of core courses, including 'Research Integrity', provides a foundation for advanced research. These courses and workshops are complemented by provision from the Research Strategy and Innovation Office. Training delivered at UoG-level generally has an interdisciplinary focus, with some offered online – this a resource valued by our part-time students. Our doctoral researchers collaborate on shared learning opportunities funded through the Graduate School including two student-led, peer-reviewed publications – *eSharp* and *The Kelvingrove Review* – which have provided opportunities to develop publishing, editorial and peer reviewing skills, ensuring our students' preparedness for academic careers. Where appropriate we support our students' participation in discipline-specific research events – eg, the annual Scottish Universities Theology and Religious Studies Postgraduate Conference.

We implement robust quality assurance processes guided by UoG's 'Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research'. Each student has two trained supervisors guaranteeing uninterrupted

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specialist supervision and enabling cross-subject/cross-disciplinary supervisory teams. To support students, a rigorous Annual Progress Review has been implemented during the period of review: academic staff other than the student's own supervisors review sample writing, research plans and overall progress. The review invites reflection on training in relation to the 'Vitae Researcher Development Framework' and an opportunity to comment on supervisory support.

UoG and the UoA provide career support for research students through CV workshops, mock interviews and one-to-one advice offered by UoG's Doctoral Students' Careers Service. We alert our students to opportunities for career enhancement – eg, UoG's 'Speaking My Language', an AHRC-funded language and cultural competency programme that supported one of our doctoral researchers to learn Portuguese and undertake research in Brazil and the CoA's 'Hunterian Associates Programme, which has proved particularly attractive to our students. The UoA provides all doctoral students with the opportunity to develop teaching skills. We operate a transparent Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) appointment process and our GTAs must complete UoG's Learning and Teaching Centre's statutory training, as well as subject-specific training. UoA staff provide feedback to GTAs on teaching practice. The UoA is proud of its strong employability record of doctoral graduates both in academia and beyond: our graduates have been employed as academics nationally and internationally including at Asbury, Chester, Fu-Yen, Glasgow School of Art, Miami, Stirling, Taipei and Utah Valley.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

With strategic use of the UoA's endowment to support research, we have secured external income of £189,961.77 across the period of review. This total reflects £25,727 for 2009, £44,400 for 2010, £66,712 for 2011 and £53,121 for 2012. Some key successes have included: Ridgeon's AHRC Research Leave (*Javanmardi and Persian Sufism*) £23,222 and his AHRC Research network Grant (*Sufism in the Contemporary Age*) £29,775; and Sherwood's AHRC Barda award (*Between Abraham and the Modern*) £112,500.

The UoA's scholarly infrastructure benefits from the outstanding resources of UoG Library and the Hunterian Museum. UoG Library, one of the UK's largest research libraries, has major holdings utilised in the School's research, including all major online resources/databases. TRS enjoys the support of a specialist librarian, an essential resource for our PGR community and our early career researchers who can discuss with the librarian their particular research needs. UoG Library holds a substantial number of works of interest to TRS researchers, including a department of Special Collections which has been built up over a period of more than 500 years by purchase, gift and bequest. Special Collections now contain more than 200,000 manuscript items and around 200,000 early printed works, many of which are of particular interest to TRS, including devotional literature from the medieval period, thousands of early printed texts, including many Bibles and Biblical criticism and sermons. There are also many Arabic and Persian manuscripts as well as a significant collection of Buddhism works. Students are also able to access Glasgow's Mitchell Library, Europe's largest public reference library, and the in-house Robert Carroll Library.

In its organisational infrastructure, the UoA has increased its strategic focus on clusters of overlapping research interests, as demonstrated through the appointments of our four new early career researchers. The CoA is home to cross-subject research centres, the most important of which for the UoA are the Centre for Medical Humanities and the Stirling Maxwell Centre for the Study of Text/Image Cultures.

In terms of operational infrastructure, TRS has benefited from the administrative changes that attended UoG restructuring in 2009-10. In particular, the UoA now has access to dedicated research administration within the School of Critical Studies, which it did not have as a stand-alone department. This has facilitated preparation of grant bids, grant administration and conference management – eg, Yazaki's KE project on women in Islam. Day-to-day IT support is provided by Arts Support within IT Services, while advice and support in humanities computing is provided by our School's specialist IT unit, STELLA

(<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/aboutus/resources/stella/>), provides support for research as well as teaching. The CoA Equipment Committee encourages research-led requests for specialised software/hardware, with generous allocations available in accordance with UoG's IT Strategy.

Prioritising and balancing these elements is chiefly the responsibility of the School of Critical Studies management group and UoA's Research Committee. The head of the UoA sits on each. The School develops research support of common interest to its units, and has established transparent processes for bidding for new members of staff and other resources, according to

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agreed criteria. The UoA's priorities are pursued within these parameters and mechanisms.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The UoA develops research collaborations in order to create interdisciplinary perspectives, build concentrations of expertise for major projects, and extend international reach. Such collaborations include: Ridgeon's AHRC-funded Network; Clague's work as co-chair of the United Nations Population Fund Joint learning initiative on HIV/AIDS and Maternal Health and as co-founder of the HIV, AIDS and Religion collaborative; and Walton's work as Co-I of AHRC project 'Landscape aesthetics meaning and experience in Christian pilgrimage'.

Conference organisation has been a focus of internationalisation efforts within the UoA and of the development of early career researchers' networks. Clague organised an international colloquium on Christian responses to hunger and food insecurity (2012) and co-organised an AHRC/ESRC colloquium on 'Religion in Health and Healing: How Significant?' (2011); Jasper organised an international seminar on Sino-Christian Theology in the University of Renmin, Beijing, September (2012); Methuen is the co-organiser of the annual conference of the Society for Reformation Studies at Cambridge (2008-13) and has been involved in the organisation of the annual conference of the Ecclesiastical History Society (2011-13); Ridgeon organised two international conferences on 'Chivalry in the Persianate World' at the British Academy (2012, 2013) and also hosted an international conference on Sufism and Salafism at UoG (2013); Spurlock organised three conferences for an IRCHSS-funded project 'Insular Christianity, 1500-1750' (2009, 2009, 2010) and a one-day conference at Queen's Belfast: 'Language, literature and liturgy: the formation of Protestant cultural identity in Britain and Ireland', two colloquia for the AHRC-funded 'Anglo-Scottish Migration Project, 1603-1762' (2013, 2013); and Walton organised the Sacred Topographies (2011) and Women in the Church and Ministry conferences (2012).

Our staff have taken leadership roles with professional bodies and learned societies: Clague is the founder member of the International Association for Catholic Social Thought, a member of the Niebuhr Society, and sits on the steering committee of the American Academy of Religion Ecclesiological Investigations Programme Unit; Jasper was President of Association of University Departments of Theology and Religious Studies through the period of review; Methuen is treasurer and membership secretary of the Society for Reformation Studies; Orzech sits on the steering committees of the Buddhism and Tantric Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion; Ridgeon is a member of the governing council of the British Academy-funded British Institute of Persian Studies and chairs its Research Committee, he sits on the governing council of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies; Spiro is editor/consultant of Azrieli's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs, executive board member and membership secretary of *The Space Between: Literature and culture 1914-45*; Spurlock is council member of the Scottish Church History Society; and Walton is a member of the working group on Issues in Human Sexuality Mission and Discipleship Council, Church of Scotland and a member of NHS Education Scotland Consultation Committee on Spiritual and Religious Care Capabilities and Competencies for Healthcare Chaplains.

The UoA believes that rigorous peer review is essential to the health of the discipline and all members are engaged in such work, including monograph proposals and articles for journals including: *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*; *Feminist Theology*; *Iran*; *Literature and Theology*; *Political Theology*; *Studies in Church History*. In addition Methuen is advisor to the Oxford Philosophical Series; Pattison is a member of the editorial board for Medieval Mystical Theology; Orzech is Area editor for Chinese Esoteric Buddhism for the *Brill Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, and as general editor headed a team of 41 scholars to complete the Encyclopedia; Spurlock edits *Records of the Scottish Church History Society* (peer-reviewed journal), and is book reviews editor for *Theology in Scotland*.

In addition to the awards and fellowships noted above: Clague was International Visiting Research Fellowship at Georgetown University, Washington (2012-13) and held a research fellowship at the Centre for Religious Science, Fondazione Bruno Kessler Research Institute, Trento Italy (2009); Jasper is Distinguished Overseas Professor, Renmin University, China; Methuen was International and Inter-disciplinary Guest Professor for Women's Studies and Gender Studies, Mainz (2010) and was guest lecturer at Tübingen (2012-13); Orzech received the National Humanities Center Henry Luce Fellowship (2009-10); Spiro held fellowships at the Institute of the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization, Northwestern University (2010) and at the Charles H Revson Foundation Center for Advanced Holocaust Research, US Holocaust Memorial Museum (2010), and she was awarded the John Charles Polyani Prize (2011) by the Government of Ontario.