

<p>Institution: Canterbury Christ Church University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: Theology and Religious Studies (33)</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>All researchers contributing to the Unit are based in the department of Theology and Religious Studies, an inter-disciplinary department with expertise in Christian theology and major world religions. The department comprises seven permanent members of staff and one colleague seconded from the Chaplaincy, of whom 6 FTEs are being returned to REF2014. The Unit's research is structured around five research themes, as set out below. Canterbury Christ Church University is a Church of England Foundation and belongs to the Cathedrals Group, an association of 15 universities and university colleges with Church foundations. The department of Theology and Religious Studies therefore plays a key role in developing and promoting the University's ethos and Christian distinctiveness.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The Unit's research strategy is grounded in the identification and support for five research themes: <u>Sexuality, Gender and the Body</u>; <u>Religion and Art</u>; <u>Religious Education</u>; <u>Interfaith Dialogue</u>; and <u>Social Justice and Religion</u>. All members of staff in the Unit have contributed to one or more of these themes, and since 2008 this thematic focus to the Unit's work has been strengthened with QR funding being targeted on high-quality research in these areas. This has led to greater collaboration and synergies within the Unit, across the Faculty and the university and with other research partners in the UK and abroad.</p> <p>The Unit's research strategy is developed and implemented by the Department's Research Committee, taking cognizance of the Faculty and University Research strategies, and supported by the University's Research and Enterprise Development Centre (RED). In support of the above research themes, the Research Committee has prioritised the following strategic objectives: to enhance the UoA's research environment for staff and students; to create and protect dedicated research time for staff and in particular to support the production of high quality outputs reflecting one or more of the above themes; to grow the research student community and increase PhD completions; to encourage and support applications for external funding; to develop and implement strategies for maximising research impact. The Research Committee, in consultation with all members of staff, provides guidance and mentorship to maintain and enhance the quality of research, develop KE and Impact activities and secure funding.</p> <p>The Research Committee (comprising the Head of Department, the REF coordinator (chair) and the members of the REF Steering group) also oversees the spending of QR money, the allocation of study leaves, PG research, and the planning of conferences, workshops and research seminars. The University allocates QR funds to those departments who contributed to RAE 2008, and in recognition of its contribution to the last RAE, the Unit received approximately £30,000 QR funding per annum throughout the assessment period. The Research Committee chair is responsible for preparing an annual QR plan, as well as an annual QR report, for approval by the PVC (Research and Knowledge Exchange) and Dean of Faculty. These documents set out and report back on the Unit's strategic objectives, and measure its performance each year against agreed KPIs. Activities funded by QR throughout the assessment period have included projects leading to publications that reflect one of the above five themes; conference attendance and presentations; research trips, including library and archival visits; organisation of conferences and workshops; publication subsidies; research-specific equipment and resources.</p> <p>The research cluster on <u>Sexuality, Gender and the Body</u> has produced a series of publications in the assessment period examining the role and construction of the body and gender in different religious traditions. Beckford has studied the role of the body and clothing in Pentecostal churches ('Black Suit Matters'). Diemling has edited a volume on notions of the Jewish body in the early modern period (<i>The Jewish Body</i>). Norman has published on the idea of 'jouissance' in Christian</p>

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theology ('Jouissance, Generation, and the Coming of God'). **Scherer** has published on gender and sexualities in a contemporary Buddhist movement ('Macho Buddhism'), on the symbolism of the body from a comparative perspective ('Vertikale Hierarchie') and contributed to Queer Theory by editing the book series *Queering Paradigms* and co-founding and serving as one of the executive editors of the online peer-reviewed journal *Religion and Gender* [<http://www.religionandgender.org/index.php/rg>].

Religion and Art is a theme that brings together the Unit's research interests in contemporary urban music, film, theatre and literature. With a particular expertise in Pentecostalism, Rastafari and black music culture, **Beckford** is now working on a project that engages with the recent translation of the Jamaican Bible, aiming to make it accessible for a younger, 'hard to reach' generation by the innovative use of recording a mix tape with urban music, accompanied by a workbook explaining and contextualising biblical passages. **Burton** has examined Hindu films by Deepa Mehta and Satyajit Ray from a feminist perspective ('Fire, Water and The Goddess'). **Khovacs** is an expert on theatrical aesthetics and dramatic discourse in theology and has worked on the visual language of film montage for theology ('Through a glass, darkly').

The University's *Strategic Plan 2011-15* recognises and prioritises CCCU's strengths in public service education, training and development. In particular the University has a strong tradition of teacher training and reflection on the academic practice of teaching. Reflecting and supporting this institutional focus, members of the Unit have contributed strongly to Religious Education from their specific research disciplines. **Diemling** has initiated with a colleague from the University of Edinburgh and in collaboration from researchers worldwide, an online teaching resource on Jewish-non-Jewish relations aimed at undergraduate teaching that provides access to cutting-edge research in the field [<http://www.jnir.div.ed.ac.uk/>]. **Norman** has reflected on action research in teaching Theology and Religious Studies at British Universities ('Theological foundations of action research for learning and teaching'). **Law** has published on the role of HEIs with a Church foundation ('A Distinctive Vocation: Serving the Economy of Life') and is currently involved in a research project (to be completed by December 2013) that aims to develop a practical theology in form of a handbook that takes cognisance of, and is in dialogue with, the key contemporary factors shaping the exercise of ministry for Chaplains employed by Anglican HEIs in the UK.

The Unit's research interest in Interfaith Dialogue has led to the organisation of a conference on Interfaith prayer whose proceedings were co-edited by **Diemling** (*Interpreting the 'Spirit of Assisi'*) in collaboration with our partners at the Franciscan International Study Centre (FISC) and which included a contribution by **Norman** ('Lord Herbert of Cherbury: Religions and Prayer') and collaborative partners at FISC and the South Eastern Institute for Theological Education (SEITE).

In response to emerging political and social developments at a time of fiscal austerity, recession and global protest movements demanding social justice, the Unit's researchers have developed a research cluster on Social Justice and Religion, bringing together most members of the Unit. **Beckford** has developed his research on 'theology as political engagement' in his critique of 'colonial Christianity' as an oppressive force with a lasting impact on African Caribbean Christian communities in Britain (*Documentary as Exorcism*). **Capper** has a long-standing research expertise on the economic systems (such as the community of goods) of Early Christianity in what he argues should sometimes be classified sociologically as religious 'orders' rather than 'sectarian' groups ('Jesus, Biblical Covenant, and the Essene New Covenant', 'John, Qumran and Virtuoso Religion', 'Jesus, virtuoso religion and the community of goods', 'Community of Goods in the *Rule of the Community* (1QS)', 'How did Jesus Help the Poor?'). **Khovacs** has worked on the 'Theatre of the poor' and examined the theological turn in Augusto Boal's performance of powerlessness. **Scherer's** work engages with LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, Intersex and Queer/Querying) communities, bridging the boundaries between Queer Theory and applied Queer Theory (edited book series *Queering Paradigms*, vol. 1-3). Most recently, four members of the UoA have presented new research projects on Social Justice at the *British Association for the Study of Religions* conference at Liverpool Hope University (**Beckford, Diemling, Norman, Scherer**, September 2013).

The 2014-2019 research strategy will take the Unit through to a new phase, consolidating the sustainability and vitality of each of the five research themes outlined above, and in particular encouraging interdisciplinary research that brings together the specific research interests of members of the Unit. These aims are reflected in the following strategic objectives:

- Formation of a research centre in Social Justice and Religion. The research centre will establish national and international research networks with institutions and NGOs working on social justice projects and be the Unit's principal vehicle for generating external research income. The research centre will also focus on raising the profile of the Unit, enhancing the impact of its research, and fostering nationally and internationally collaborative research projects and funding bids. Two significant conferences are already in planning. In June 2014 **Beckford** and **Diemling** will co-organise the annual Arts and Humanities Faculty conference on the theme of Social Justice and seek contributions from historical and contemporary perspectives. The Unit intends to publish a selection of the presentations as a thematically coherent volume. In 2015 **Scherer** will host the Annual Queering Paradigm conference at CCCU, which will attract an international audience of academics and activists and also lead to a peer-reviewed volume.
- Development of a focus on current debates in Religious Education. The University's ethos as a Church of England foundation highlights the importance of critical reflexion on the meaning of Religious Education in a post-secular academic environment. To develop this area of research expertise, the UoA will focus on making a substantial contribution to current national debates, including through the development of a bid for The Anglican Identity Project for Church Foundation HEIs (**Law** and **Norman**, with colleagues from the Faculty of Education), contributing to research on the identity of universities and colleges belonging to the Cathedral Group.
- Using QR funding and other support structures to enable members of staff to prioritise completion of research monographs, thereby making substantial research contributions to the Unit's key research themes.
- Further enhancing the research environment for research students, and growing the number of registered research students, including through the validation of an MA by Research (2013).

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

In the assessment period, two new appointments were made to enhance the Unit's academic profile and to strengthen key research areas: Theologian Dr Ivan **Khovacs** joined the department in 2008 as director of theological education in partnership with Church of England dioceses and the Franciscan International Study Centre. This appointment strengthens our strategic links with key organisations in religious education in the UK and ensures the sustainability of our expertise in this area. After the departure of Prof Gareth Jones in 2011, to take up a position as Principal of SKH Ming Hua Theological College, Hong Kong, the Department recruited the theologian and broadcaster Dr Robert **Beckford** as Reader in Theology and Society. This is a key appointment to develop the Unit's emerging strategic focus on Social Justice and Religions, providing academic leadership in the field and attracting high-quality research students. Additionally, the Dean of Chapel, Dr Jeremy **Law**, has been seconded from the Chaplaincy in a 0.2 role to the Department since 2011, further enhancing the research environment. At the census date, the department comprises three Senior Lecturers (**Burton**, **Diemling**, **Khovacs**), one Principle Lecturer (**Norman**), two Readers (**Beckford**, **Capper**) and one Professor (**Scherer**).

All members of staff are supported by the University's staff development opportunities, including particular activities and programmes aimed at developing and enhancing the personal, professional and career skills of its emergent and established researchers. The University has clear procedures and criteria for promotion, including to Reader and Professor. Applications are invited to be considered on an annual, open basis, directly to the Promotions Panel or Professorship Committee. **Scherer** was promoted to Reader in 2009 and to Professor in 2012. **Norman** was promoted to Principal Lecturer in 2011.

The departmental staff development strategy utilises both the formal appraisal system to identify researchers' staff development needs, as well as the utilisation of devolved QR funds and departmental resources to support a wide range of staff development activity including study leaves, teaching remissions, small grants and conference attendance. All staff are appraised annually by the Head of Department who is appraised in turn by the Dean of Arts and Humanities. The appraisal covers the full remit of their contracted role but research is a key aspect in the appraisal. The departmental policy on study leave is that all research-active staff are eligible to apply for term-length periods of study leave in order to pursue research projects. Since 2008 all members of staff have been awarded QR funded study leave to pursue and complete research projects. All staff have also been awarded small research grants from the department's QR funding to undertake library and archival research and fieldtrips, deliver papers at conferences, and other research related activities, including funding to cover printing costs for a monograph, and to organise a research conference and workshops.

The department's commitment to Equality and Diversity is demonstrated by research in the areas of Social Justice and highlighted in the work of **Beckford** (research focus on Black Theology and postcolonial critique) and **Scherer** (research focus on Queer Theory and founder of the *Queering Paradigm* network). **Beckford** has also been successful in attracting research students from BME backgrounds, **Scherer** has supervised several international research students. **Scherer's** contribution to Queer Studies and engagement in the University's Equality and Diversity Committee has impacted the University's Sexual Orientation Position Statement and the Gender Identity Statement (see case study 1), which reflects the University's commitment to providing a fair environment in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect. This commitment is embedded in all the activities of the University and is evidenced by the fact that it has held Investors in People status since 2004, been awarded the two ticks symbol for its commitment to the employment of disabled people and its role as a Stonewall Diversity Champion.

ii. Research students

All members of staff are research-active and all are currently supervising PG students as first or second supervisors, having been trained through the University's Supervisor Development Programme. This consists of eight weekly seminars facilitated by experienced research academics, and an annual supervisor conference. At census date, there are total of fourteen PG students registered of which two have passed their viva at the census date. In total, four PhD students have completed in the assessment period. The planned introduction of an MA in Anglican Studies (by research) mentioned as an aspiration in RAE2008 was expanded to an MA by Research in Theology and Religious Studies to allow for our strategic shift in research focus and was formally implemented in May 2013. This new MA by Research allows UG students to gain research experience before embarking on a PhD.

Postgraduate students form a significant element in our research culture and recent postgraduate students have made successful transitions to international academic careers: Stéphane Saulnier [PhD in 2006] is Head of Department at Newman Theological College (Canada), Pulane Lizzie Motswapong [PhD in 2007-2008] is Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Botswana, Eva Seegers [PhD in 2011-12] is currently a research fellow at the Centre for Buddhist Studies at the University of Hamburg, Germany. Stéphane Saulnier's PhD thesis was published as *Calendrical Variations in Second Temple Judaism: New Perspectives on the Last Supper Debate* (Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism) by Brill in 2012.

The recruitment and support of new postgraduate students is managed by supervisors and the Graduate School, which offers studentships and provides a programme of research training for students and supervisors. All research students have a supervisory panel comprising a first and second supervisor and a chair. Their progress is monitored by an initial review (after six months), annual review, upgrade (M.Phil. – PhD) and a final review prior to submission. Research students are encouraged and given financial support to present papers at internal and external conferences and are involved in attending and giving papers at the departmental research seminar series.

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The University's Graduate School offers a comprehensive Researcher Development Programme (RDP), consisting of regular workshops and seminars, for all postgraduate research students. This programme, which is organised around the four main domains of the Vitae Researcher Development Framework, provides research skills training and development, including in-depth modules in quantitative and qualitative research methods, generic sessions on research design, methodology and theory, data collection and analysis techniques, project management skills, specialist software training, presentation and publication activity and Viva preparation. The Graduate School's programme for research students emphasises the value of interdisciplinarity as a means for enhancing the mobility and employability opportunities for new researchers, and aims to engender the value of networking and collaboration. The RDP reflects the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, the QAA Code of Practice for research degree programmes and the 'Roberts' recommendations for postgraduate researchers and research staff'.

The student-led Postgraduate Research Association (PGRA) organises regular work-in-progress forums where students are encouraged to present their research, as well as organising an annual conference hosted at the university. University investment in postgraduate research includes twelve central MPhil/PhD studentships which are offered annually across the university (five of these have been awarded to students in the department who have started or completed PhDs in the assessment period), the building of a new £30m University Library, and the opening of a dedicated computer suite and study area for research students which is open 24 hours a day.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Staff and research students are actively encouraged to bid for both internal and external funding. Research funding support is available from the University's Research and Enterprise Development Centre (RED). This includes the sourcing and identification of funding opportunities, bid development support and advice, facilitation of peer review through to project set-up and ongoing project management support. In addition RED employs a team of Business Development Managers who facilitate engagement with external organisations through the development of a wide range of research, knowledge exchange and impact generating initiatives.

Bids have been submitted to national funding schemes and charities, including The Bible Society, British Academy, Church of England Board of Education, The Leverhulme Trust, the Higher Education Academy, the Spalding Trust and the Rothschild Foundation. **Beckford** was awarded in 2013 £15,000 from the Bible Society for the Jamaican Bible Remix Project that engages with the recent translation of the Jamaican Bible and aims to make it accessible for a younger, 'hard to reach' generation by the innovative use of recording a mix tape with urban music, accompanied by a workbook that will explain and contextualise biblical passages. **Diemling** was awarded as co-applicant £2,000 (via the University of Edinburgh) from the Spalding Trust in 2011 for an online teaching resource in Jewish-non-Jewish relations. **Diemling** was awarded as co-applicant £2,000 (via the University of Kent) from the Rothschild Foundation in 2012 for a postgraduate workshop with Prof David Biale for the 2013 conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies, held at the University of Kent. **Law** received £8,500 from the Church of England Board of Education for consultancy on a research project that develops a form of practical theology for Chaplains employed by Anglican HEI in the UK.

Research activities are underpinned by a sound organisational and operational infrastructure. The university has invested in electronic resources that allow access to major e-journals and digital archives (such as EEBO, ECCO, Periodicals Archive Online, JSTOR, Project Muse) and also set up an Institutional Repository (CReaTE). In recent years, some substantive collections that particularly benefit research in Theology, have been incorporated into the university's Augustine House library holdings: The holdings of the Burgate Library (approx. 4,500 items) and the Theodore collection (1,717 books), both originally from the former St Augustine's Library in Canterbury, as well a collection of theological books from SEITE (1,840 books) have been made available to support research activity at the university.

In the assessment period, the department has continued to convene a regular programme of

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Research Seminars, typically three seminars per term. They are attended by staff and students and colleagues from our collaborative partnerships. Seminars are given by members of the department, PG students and invited speakers from other institutions. In recent years seminars were organised around a research theme that links to one of our research clusters, *Religion and Identity* (2011-12), *Religion, Wealth and Poverty* (2012-13) and *Social Justice* in 2013-14. The first speaker in this year's series was American scholar Randall Bailey, Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor of Hebrew Bible, Area I, at the Interdenominational Theological Centre in Atlanta, Georgia.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

All members of staff are making contributions to a range of diverse disciplines through service to professional societies, stewardship of journals, peer-reviewing, conference organisation, as well as collaborations with researchers from other institutions. The contributions of staff to the research base are inter- and cross-disciplinary, with evidence as follows.

Collaborations have increased substantially since 2008 and members of the department have been involved in a number of joint research projects, networks and research partnerships involving both national and international partners. This includes specific Knowledge Exchange projects in partnership with colleagues from other British universities and with external national and international partners. University KE awards have been made to two members of staff for the following projects: developing a research-based online teaching resource in Jewish-non-Jewish relations (**Diemling**, £2,000, in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh); a research project in cooperation with the Jewish Reform Community of East Kent (**Diemling**, £2,000, in collaboration with the University of Kent and the Thanet and District Reform Synagogue); and for a project exploring the possibility of Buddhist Teacher Training in South Asia (**Scherer**, £850, in collaboration with the Karmapa International Buddhist Institute, Delhi, India).

International collaborative research projects include **Capper's** long-standing research collaboration with Prof Kapera of the Jagiellonian University of Krakow on the Dead Sea Scrolls and his collaboration with Prof VanderKam of the University of Notre Dame, one of the current editors of the Dead Sea Scrolls. These have led to a number of publications authored by Capper, including 'How did Jesus Help the Poor?' **Khovacs** is collaborating with academics from St Bonaventure University (USA) and the University of St Andrews in the working group *Theological Aesthetics, Theatre and Film*, which included a conference presentation and will lead to a co-edited volume on theological Aesthetics. **Scherer** has founded the *Queering Paradigm* network, bringing together scholars in Applied Queer Studies from multi- and interdisciplinary perspectives which has led to a scholarly book series (Oxford: Peter Lang, edited by **Scherer**) and annual international conferences (see also: Impact Case Study 1). National collaborative partnerships have been developed and are overseen by **Khovacs** to deliver the majority of the University's work with the Church to train people for ministry. These partnerships play an important role in the University's identity as a Church of England foundation. Our partners include the South Eastern Institute for Theological Education (SEITE), Kent Initial Ministerial Education (KIME), Southwark and the Franciscan International Study Centre (FISC). On the census date, 26 students were working at PG Dip/MA Level. Academic staff delivering these programmes regularly attend and contribute to the department's research seminars.

In the assessment period, members of staff have organised the following conferences: **Scherer** convened an interdisciplinary one day colloquium on *Que(e)rying Culture* in cooperation with the University's Equality and Diversity department. This was followed by an international conference on *Queering Paradigms* in February 2009 held in Canterbury (50 attendees). A selection of the papers presented was edited by **Scherer** as the first volume in the *Queering Paradigms* series [see case study 1]. **Scherer** co-organised the following *Queering Paradigms* conferences in Brisbane 2010 (150 attendees), SUNY 2011 (250 attendees) and Rio 2012 (600 attendees). A peer-reviewed selection of conference papers is published in the *Queering Paradigms* series edited by **Scherer** (Oxford: Peter Lang). **Diemling** organised in collaboration with the Franciscan International Study Centre (FISC) a conference on *Praying for Peace* for the

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25th Anniversary of the World Day Prayer for Peace (2011, 50 attendees) that resulted in a peer-reviewed volume including a selection of the conference papers and additionally commissioned book chapters (*Interpreting the 'Spirit of Assisi'*). **Beckford** convened a workshop on *Black Messiah: Images of Jesus in Black Urban Cultures* in cooperation with Widening Participation at the university which brought together urban theologians with artists (November 2012). **Diemling** was co-organiser of the annual *British Association for Jewish Studies* (BAJS) conference, held in July 2013 at the University of Kent, which attracted about 100 delegates from all over the world.

Research seminars and invited conference presentations:

In the assessment period, members of the department delivered invited presentations internationally at the Åbo Akademi, Finland (**Scherer**), Bayerische Musikakademie Marktoberdorf (**Scherer**), University of British Columbia, Vancouver (**Khovacs**), University of California, Santa Cruz (**Burton**), Central European University, Budapest (**Diemling**), University of Delhi (**Scherer**), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (**Scherer**), Freie Universität Berlin (**Diemling, Scherer**), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (**Diemling**), University of Hamburg (**Scherer**), University of Helsinki (**Scherer**), University of Hong Kong (**Norman**), Humboldt University (**Diemling**), Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture, Cape Town (**Jones**), Minzu University, Beijing (**Scherer**), Notre Dame University (**Capper**), University of Oldenburg (**Scherer**), Uniwersytet Politechnika, Gdansk (**Scherer**), Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane (**Scherer**), State University of New York at Oneonta (**Scherer**), Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (**Scherer**), Turku University, Finland (**Scherer**), Uniwersytet Warmińsko-Mazurskiego (**Scherer**) and Utrecht University, Netherlands (**Scherer**). Members of the department have given invited seminar papers and conference presentations nationally at St Andrews University (**Capper, Khovacs**), the University of Bristol (**Burton**), University of Cambridge (**Diemling**), University of Chichester (**Norman**), University of Durham (**Norman**), University of Edinburgh (**Diemling**), HE Academy (**Norman**), Kings College London (**Beckford, Capper**), University of Kent (**Diemling**), University of Liverpool (**Burton**), Liverpool Hope University (**Beckford, Diemling, Norman, Scherer**), University of Manchester (**Capper, Diemling**), University of Oxford (**Beckford, Burton, Capper, Scherer**), SOAS (**Scherer**) and the University of Southampton (**Diemling**).

The following keynote and named lectures were delivered by members of the department: the keynote address 'Contesting Religious Identities – A retrospection' at the conference *Contesting Religious Identities* at Utrecht University, Netherlands (**Scherer**, 2010), the keynote address to *Queering Paradigms 4* conference, Praia Vermelha campus of the UFRJ and UNIRIO, Rio de Janeiro (**Scherer**, 2012), the *Sam Sharpe Annual Lecture* at Oxford University (**Beckford**, 2012), the keynote lecture at the *Theology and Media* Conference, Kings College London (**Beckford**, 2012) and the keynote lecture at *Blackness: An Interdisciplinary conference* at Newman University, Birmingham (**Beckford**, 2013).

The Unit's contribution to its disciplines is also demonstrated by service to professional associations or learned societies and editorial positions held. **Diemling** served as elected Member of the Committee and is currently Treasurer of the *British Association for Jewish Studies* (BAJS). **Beckford** was a founding member of *Black Theology: An International Journal*. **Scherer** is the co-founder and one of the executive editors of the journal *Religion and Gender*. **Burton** is on the editorial board of *Contemporary Buddhism*. Members of staff have served as peer-reviewers for Acumen Press (**Burton**), Routledge (**Burton**), the Danish Academy of Sciences (**Diemling**), and the journals *Journal of Buddhist-Christian Studies* (**Burton**), *Culture and Religion* (**Diemling**) and *Contemporary Buddhism* (**Scherer**). **Scherer** has been a senior grant (VICI) referee for *The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research* (NWO). Members of staff have acted as external examiners for PhDs nationally and internationally: **Burton**, University of Bristol (2010 and 2012), University of South Africa (2012); **Khovacs**, York St John University/University of Leeds (2011), University of St Andrews (2011); **Scherer**, Bath Spa University (2008); Universität Bielefeld, Germany (2009); University of Kent (2010). **Diemling** is currently External Examiner for the MA in Jewish Studies at King's College London. **Scherer** was Chief External Examiner and Assessor of the International Institute of Tibetan and Buddhist Studies ITAS, Malaga, Spain (2004-2012).