

**Institution: The University of Edinburgh**

**Unit of Assessment: 33 Theology and Religious Studies**

**a. Overview**

Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Edinburgh is situated in the School of Divinity in the historic building of New College on the Mound. The School is organisationally situated in the University's College of Humanities and Social Science (CHSS). Research is organized into four Research Groups: Biblical Studies, History of Christianity, Religious Studies, and Theology and Ethics. The School is also home to three research centres which are central to research impact and knowledge exchange: the Centre for the Study of World Christianity, the Centre for Theology and Public Issues and the Centre for the Study of Christian Origins. The School is also home to two high impact scholarly journals: the *Scottish Journal of Theology* and *Studies in World Christianity* (both journals ERIH 2007 Ranked 'INT2').

**b. Research strategy**

Since RAE 2008 the School has enjoyed a number of notable marks of success in research outcomes and support. We have secured a 237% increase in research income over the comparative RAE period from £794k to **£1.88 million**. We awarded **124** PhDs giving us the largest number of doctoral awards per faculty member in CHSS. We received a **US\$1 million** endowment for New College library and specialist collections. We have enjoyed a significant renewal of faculty which has allowed us to hire **8** new strong researchers, five of whom are ECRs, and one of whom is a prominent Muslim public intellectual. These achievements are reflected in strong research productivity and impacts reported in REFs 2, 3A and 3B, and they reflect success in the research strategy the School has developed since 2008 which has five aims: I The promotion of innovative individual research; II Facilitation of collaborative scholarship; III Development of the next generation of scholars in the discipline (see section c below); IV Increasing research grant income; V Increasing public engagement. Research groups help us to focus on priorities I-IV. Research centres underwrite IV and V.

**I Promoting Innovative Individual Research**

Membership of research groups at the census date is as follows: Biblical Studies (S. Adams, Bicket, Bond, Foster, Jack, Klein, Lim, Novenson, Reimer), History of Christianity (Brown, Chow, Dawson, Hardman Moore, Parvis, Stanley), Religious Studies (Adogame, Appleton, Holtschneider, Longkumer, Siddiqui, Sutcliffe, Koeping), and Theology and Ethics (N. Adams, Clegg, Eglinton, Fergusson, Grumett, Harris, Kidwell, Mitchell, Northcott). Notable individual research achievements in *Biblical Studies* include new editions and scholarly studies of early Christian and extra-canonical texts and manuscripts by Foster and Lim, and a new study of reception history by Jack. In *History of Christianity*, innovative individual research projects include Brown on *empire and religion*, Dawson on the *Wode Psalter*, Hardman Moore on *English puritans and New World pilgrims*, and Stanley on the *Edinburgh 1910 Missionary Conference*. Prominent individual research projects in *Religious Studies* include ethnographic studies of *minority and diaspora religions in Europe and Africa* by Adogame, the interface between *Jewish and Museum Studies* by Holtschneider, and *Islamic law and Islamic views of Christ* by Siddiqui. Significant research achievements in the *Theology and Ethics* research group include N Adams' project on *Hegel and reparative reasoning*; Fergusson's Glasgow Gifford lectures on the *new atheism*; Mitchell's work on *media, violence and peacemaking*; Northcott's interdisciplinary exploration of the *politico-theological implications of climate change science and politics*; Purcell's (dec. 18.10.2013) interdisciplinary explorations of philosophical phenomenology and its theological implications

**II Facilitating Collaborative Scholarship**

Research groups and research centres are important foci for collaborative research both within and beyond the University of Edinburgh. Collaboration in **research groups** is underwritten by fortnightly research group seminars, and named public lecture series hosted by the School: together, these are supported by £12k annually of School research and lecture endowment funds. Each research group also has responsibility for organising teaching, and this is done in a way that

is closely related to the research of its members, and so as to facilitate focused time for research by all colleagues. The three **research centres** have enjoyed renewal and growth since 2008. The **Centre for Theology and Public Issues** (CTPI) has a 25-year record of interdisciplinary research and public engagement in ethics, theology and public and social policy. It takes direction and leadership from Mitchell which has seen the adoption of a new focus on arts, humanities and peacemaking while continuing to build on areas of existing strength. CTPI generated **£270k** in external income, for two research projects under the interdisciplinary interface of peacemaking, media and the arts, which provided for the temporary employment of three ECRs, including Wilkes reported on in REF3B. Since 2008 CTPI has sponsored **28** public lectures and debates, **17** academic and policy oriented conferences, and **1** art exhibition. The **Centre for the Study of World Christianity** (CSWC) builds on the outstanding global reputation of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World. It has been particularly strong in the census period in postgraduate recruitment, and in research impact. Notable achievements include the sponsorship of a large international conference and network to mark the Centenary of the World Missionary Conference held in Edinburgh in 1910 whose impacts are reported on in REF3B. In 2013 CSWC collaborated, with the City of Edinburgh Council, on the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of David Livingstone, including a public lecture by Scotland's leading historian of the British Empire, Professor John MacKenzie, at the National Museum of Scotland, and a day conference on the legacy of Livingstone. The **Centre for the Study of Christian Origins** brings together scholars at the interdisciplinary interfaces of Old and New Testament texts and early Christian cultures and manuscripts and has held two well-attended international conferences in the census period (Irenaeus in 2009, Peter and Earliest Christianity in 2013). Both will result in edited collections of papers.

Examples of the success of research groups and centres in promoting collaborative research include the following:

In **Biblical Studies**, Foster, Bond and Hurtado worked with scholars in Archaeology, Classics, New Testament and Patristics, on new interdisciplinary approaches to early Christian manuscripts, and the biographies of early Christian and related figures such as Pilate and Peter. Lim, Foster and Parvis have collaborated in new interdisciplinary research with scholars in archaeology, biblical studies and patristics, and in producing new critical editions of Dead Sea Scrolls, apocrypha, and lesser known early Christian manuscripts.

In **History of Christianity**, Dawson's 'The world of Reformation Britain as seen and heard in the Wode Psalter' (**AHRC £303k 2009-12**), fostered collaboration between Scottish museum curators and researchers, musician scholars in CHSS, and choristers and churches in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Brown and Fergusson's work on the Scottish Enlightenment fostered collaborations with scholars at Princeton Theological Seminary, and Wuhan University, Beijing.

In **Religious Studies**, Appleton is working with colleagues from Cardiff University on narrative approaches to Buddhist, Jain and Hindu religious texts and iconography (**AHRC £133k 2013 – 2015**). Holtschneider is developing a university network in Jewish studies, supported by **£11.7k**, from the CHSS Challenge Investment Fund and University Knowledge Exchange Grant, and **£6.1k** from a School alumnus and private donations. The aim is to build partnerships across Schools to provide the base for developing research proposals capable of attracting significant external funding of interdisciplinary research on contemporary European Jewish culture.

The **Theology and Ethics** research group has attracted research funds for five substantial collaborative research projects. The first of these, 'Christianity, Psychotherapy and Spirituality in Scotland' (**AHRC £283k 2010-12**), was led by Fergusson (with co-I Sutcliffe) and sponsored an interdisciplinary network of scholars, psychotherapists and clinical pastoral counsellors and educators from two Schools in the University and from professional and ecclesiastical settings within and beyond Scotland. The project built on the distinctively theological approach to Scottish psychoanalytic theory in which interpersonal communion is a central concept. The other four are detailed below under IV Increasing Research Grant Income.

The promotion of prominent endowed lecture series by the School and the University provides a second strong strand within the strategic priority of collaboration. These series bring eminent

public intellectuals and scholars of the highest international renown to Edinburgh to lecture on a broad range of themes, which promote interdisciplinary engagement and networking among researchers and research students. Rowan Williams gave six Gifford lectures on political theology in a plural society (November 2013); Marilynne Robinson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, gave a series of three public Croall Lectures on the religious background to her novels (September 2013); Bruno Latour of Sciences Po, Paris, gave six Gifford lectures on the politico-theological implications of climate change (February 2013); Steve Mason of Aberdeen University gave five illustrated public lectures on the Judaeo-Roman War of 66-70 CE (June 2012); Richard Hays of Duke University gave the Gunning Lectures on 'Israel's Scripture through the Eyes of the Gospel Writers' (January 2012); Diana Eck of Harvard University gave six Gifford Lectures on religious pluralism and identity (April and May 2009).

### III Developing the next generation of scholars in the discipline

The School has an exceptional record in postgraduate research recruitment and supervision. This success is evident in the average for 2008-13 of one completed PhD per year per Cat A staff, in the exceptionally high quality of research outputs produced by School postgraduates, and in the excellent record of the School in supporting its postgraduates through to appointments at other HEIs. The recruitment, supervision and mentoring of postgraduates through to early career positions is described more fully under C ii below. Besides mentoring postgraduates towards early career positions in other HEIs, our strategy going forward is to expand research student recruitment and scholarships, and to increase the range of externally funded research projects, and other funding sources, for the employment of outstanding postgraduates as postdoctoral researchers and ECRs. An example of early success is the employment of ECR Bicket through partnership between the School and the University of Edinburgh's Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) of which Mitchell is Academic Director.

### IV Increasing Research Grant Income

In 2011 the School Research Director (Northcott), with the collaboration of the School Research Committee, CHSS Research Office and Edinburgh Research and Innovation (ERI), established the strategic priority to increase substantially School research grant income. This included new focused and targeted efforts to mentor new and established colleagues in framing their research to attract grant income, in identifying potential sources of grant funds, and in planning and writing grant applications with a good prospect of success, supported via peer review.

Colleagues in the Theology and Ethics Subject Area have achieved particular success since 2011 in securing new funding for collaborative research as follows:

- (1) 'Templeton Masters Programme in Science and Religion' (**Templeton Foundation £253k, 2012-15**), led by Harris and Fergusson, is designed to train research students and to grow further research funding in Science and Religion. The new structure and programme of activities that the MSc programme has established was developed from the activities of an existing inter-university research network in science and religion (active since 2001 and founded by this School) and have been facilitated by the development of the network's contacts with the funder. The Science and Religion network includes researchers in Divinity, Health Studies, Physics, and Science Studies
- (2) 'Religion and Ethics in the Making of War and Peace' (**Porticus and anon. Dutch trust £114k, 2011-14**), is led by Mitchell with a research fellow, Wilkes, under the auspices of CTPI and described in REF 3b.
- (3) 'Peace-building through Media Arts' (**Binks Trust et al £156k, 2011-14**), is also led by Mitchell and employs postdoctoral fellows Stevenson and Hawksley. The project investigates the potential of creative arts in reducing violent conflict and creating peaceful and just communities, through healing trauma, fostering compassion, and building communication across cultural, ethnic, religious and social divide. It has drawn together a UK-wide network of fine artists, film and documentary makers, musicians, dancers, theatre directors, playwrights, museum and art curators with researchers from the University of Edinburgh, York St. John University, and the Kroc institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.
- (4) 'Caring for the Future Through Ancestral Time: Engaging the Cultural and Spiritual Presence of the Past to Promote a Sustainable Future' (**AHRC/ESRC £877k, 2013-16**), is led by Northcott.

Along with researchers from Geosciences, History, Philosophy, and Political Science at Edinburgh, and through a unique partnership with the third sector group Eco-Congregation Scotland, this project will research concepts and practices of sacred time in faith communities, and their potential to undergird an intergenerational culture of climate care in contrast to short-term temporalities promoted by consumerism and cost-benefit accounting.

Since 2011 the number of applications for external funding has doubled and six colleagues used seed money from the CHSS Challenge Investment Fund, Carnegie Scotland and other local sources to help build research networks as the basis for envisaged large funded research projects. **Northcott** used Carnegie Scotland awards of **£7.5k** to build a network of collaborators in ecology and religion in Southeast Asia with whom he is developing an innovative and interdisciplinary research project with a view to attracting significant RCUK and/or international research grant funding; **Mitchell** and **Wilkes** are identifying new sources of research funding for their interdisciplinary work on peacemaking, the arts and religion; **Harris** and **Fergusson** are building on the Templeton grant funding to develop collaborative research grant proposals with colleagues in other Schools who are part of the Science and Religion network.

### V. Increasing Public Engagement

The School has a strong and historic commitment to public engagement in which it continues to innovate, as illustrated by the appointment in 2011 of **Siddiqui**, who is a prominent Muslim public intellectual, and by the complete overhaul and redesign of the School's web site in 2013. Public engagement is also underwritten by the School's Research Centres. CTPI has the strongest public profile, evidenced by its mounting of 7 public-facing policy-focused conferences, an art exhibition, a film series, 3 drama performances, and 15 public lectures in the census period. In 2010 CSWC sponsored the Edinburgh 2010 centennial conference (see REF 3A and 3B). This event drew extensively on the published research of **Stanley** and led to a substantial number of research outputs in other HEIs. The engagement of the research centres in outward-facing activities with a variety of publics is also reflected in a wider pattern of outward-facing projects large and small (see REF 3A).

#### Future:

We plan

1. To build on major previous successes that offer opportunities for future collaborative work – for example the Care for the Future project should provide the platform for a large collaborative research project in ecology, ethics and religion.
2. To build up research collaboration and income in relation to areas of significant growth in student interest including World Christianity and inter-religious studies.
3. To work with the new generation of postgraduates and ECRs and nurture them to be the next generation of leaders, encouraging them to start applying for research grants and providing tailored support through mentoring and peer review which should enable them to achieve success.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

**Recruitment:** Our recruitment strategy in the last five years was designed to deepen research in areas of strength, while also developing new research strands and specialisms with strategic new hires.

The School has expanded its breadth of research with two strategic senior appointments (Stanley, Siddiqui). Stanley's prize-winning work in the history of Christian mission – *The World Missionary Conference: Edinburgh 1910* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009), which received the Award of Merit, 2010 *Christianity Today* Book Awards – has strengthened the study of World Christianity and its appeal to graduates from Africa, Asia and the Americas. Siddiqui's prominent profile as a Muslim public intellectual, and her ground breaking exploration of Islamic law in *The Good Muslim: Reflections on Classical Islamic Law and Theology* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), and of Christian-Muslim relations in *Christians, Muslims and Jesus* (Yale University Press, 2013), enhance our range of religions expertise. Her experience also enhances the University's

historic strengths in Islamic studies and comparative religion and in civic and public engagement.

The School benefited significantly from the University of Edinburgh's investment in Early Career Researchers. With the help of this strategy the School has recruited **8** researchers in the early stages of their academic careers including S Adams, Appleton, Chow, Eglinton, Harris, Klein, Longkumer and Novenson. All have shown early promise in their careers and are responsible for a clutch of innovative research monographs reported on in REF 2.

**Research and Career Development** A range of policies underwrite research activity by staff contracted to contribute to research, teaching and administration. Teaching and administration are managed by a Workload Allocation Model which facilitates the equitable sharing of non-research activities between colleagues and protects research time. A University supported system of annual review includes review of research activities, to identify any obstacles and potential support required.

The Research Director, together with the Head of School and Research Group Convenors, mentor new staff in balancing the demands of teaching and research, in securing research funding, and in publishing research of appropriate quality. Teaching workload reduction for new staff is facilitated under the contractual terms of the University-funded Chancellor's Fellowships taken up by Appleton, Chow, Grumett and Klein. The very large numbers of applicants for these Fellowships, their international spread and very high quality is testimony to the high profile of the School in the discipline. The University has appointed 150 of these new 5-year tenure-track Chancellor's Fellows in 2012-13, and a further 50 will be advertised in early 2014. These prestigious posts are expected to lead to an open-ended lectureship with a normal academic portfolio of research, teaching and administration. This is part of the University's mission to be one of the UK's leading HEIs supporting the recruitment and development of early career academic staff, reinforced by our Institute for Academic Development (IAD).

Individual research excellence is also underwritten through the School-wide provision of research leave of one semester in four years. Academic staff must outline the research project they intend to pursue in their applications for research leave, and how the project will facilitate the completion of high quality research outputs. Applications for research leave are reviewed by the School Research Committee. Research leave is managed so as to facilitate Equal Opportunities and periods of research leave may be added to maternity leave or other kinds of leave in order to ensure good EO outcomes (Holtschneider). Academic staff are also encouraged to apply for external funding for an additional semester of research leave. Four academic staff obtained such extended research leave funding: Parvis, **AHRC** Research Leave: 'An edition with translation and notes of the extant work of the Nicene theologian Marcellus of Ancyra'; Dawson, **Leverhulme** Trust/Research Fellowships, 'John Knox, 1514-1572: a scholarly biography'; Hardman Moore, **AHRC** Research leave: 'The Diary of Thomas Larkham, 1647-1669: a critical edition'; Holtschneider, **AHRC** Research Leave: 'Framing Victims: Photographs of Jews in Holocaust Exhibitions in the UK and Germany'. The School also manages a research and conference expenses fund which is designed to facilitate colleagues' participation in international conferences which are often crucial for research interests and collaboration. In the census period just over **£53k** will have been disbursed. Individuals may apply for up to **£800** per application. The fund also provides support for research-related activities linked to research outputs (Siddiqui was supported in the development of an index for a CUP monograph; Northcott was supported in research visits to Indonesia and Malaysia).

The School has successfully applied to participate in the **ECU Gender Equality Charter Mark** trial and will submit a Bronze Award application in April 2014. The charter mark introduces a partner scheme for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, based upon the existing Athena SWAN framework (Charter for Women in Science, which recognises commitment to advancing women's careers in STEMM academia). The achievement of a Bronze Award will recognise the School's achievements in benchmarking the existing culture of gender equality and implementing action plans for improvement over a three year period. The School of Divinity established a gender equality self-assessment team in December 2012, annual staff and student gender equality surveys have been conducted and statistical benchmarking is on-going in preparation for the formal application process. Only 30 departments from across the UK were invited to take part in

the trial. If successful, the School will be the first in the UK to hold an ECU gender equality award in Theology and Religious Studies. The University also hosts an LGBT Staff Network which is open to all academic staff. The University also provides a range of support services for all staff, including a counselling service, an occupational health service, a chaplaincy (for all faiths and none), childcare support (through University nurseries and a Childcare vouchers scheme), and career transition support.

The School sees innovative research and inspirational teaching as strongly related and mutually supportive. Research innovation that emerges in teaching includes the continuing development of new Honours and taught Postgraduate courses which reflect the research interests of members of the School. A strong and supportive School culture in digital technologies in research has also fostered growing use of innovative digital technologies in teaching including School-wide use of student blogging on primary and secondary texts in first and second-year undergraduate courses. The contribution of this innovation to research is illustrated in the publication of research outputs by Northcott and Kidwell on new digital learning technologies and their outcomes.

Postdoctoral fellows make a vital contribution to the School's research culture and we have hosted 7 since 2008, funded by AHRC, BA, private trusts and the University. All are assigned mentors and are integrated into the work of the School through membership of research groups, participation in research seminars and projects, and in teaching and knowledge exchange activities. Project research assistants receive similar support to establish themselves as independent researchers.

**Research Leadership and Administrative Support** Research leadership and strategic direction are provided by the School Research Director, in collaboration with the Head of School, the School Research Committee, and the CHSS Dean of Research. The Research Director, with the School Research Committee, articulates and manages research strategy across research groups, research centres and the School as a whole. Since 2008 the School has increased the level of administrative support (0.2FTE to 0.8FTE) for its Research Committee, for academic staff seeking research and KE grant funding, and for administration of grant-funded and other research projects. The identification and development of individual research projects, and targeted support in the quest for external grant funding, occur through individual initiative, through the annual review process, and through the Research Committee's ongoing review of applications for Research Leave and applications to the Research and Travel fund.

The Research Director has deepened the partnership of the School with Edinburgh Research and Innovation (a wholly owned subsidiary of the University providing advice and support for research funding) which has helped to support an increase in the number and value of research grant applications in the census period. Peer review of research grants has also contributed significantly to improved success in individual research grant applications. The number of applications rose by 26% and the value of awards secured rose by 230% from 2011/12 to 2012/13. By 2012/13, the range of staff applying for and being awarded research income had widened to include those in early career stages (Appleton, Longkumer) and new strategic appointments (Siddiqui). Half of our research awards are secured by women staff. The fruits of the School's improved research support are evidenced in a nearly four-fold increase in research grant income in the present over the previous census period (*see d below*). Successful grant applications are supported through the life of the project by the School's Research Administrator and Research and Knowledge Exchange Secretary. CHSS Research and Knowledge Exchange officers provide further support to the School as required.

## ii. Research students

The School has achieved exceptional outcomes in recruiting, supervising and mentoring postgraduate students into early career positions.

### Recruitment

208 research students have joined the School since 2008, reflecting its leading role in growing the next generation of scholars in the disciplines of Theology and Religious Studies. The School's taught Masters programmes are a crucial recruiting and training ground for doctoral researchers, complementing the research masters programme, and have enrolled 171 students in the census

period. 14% of those who enrolled on MTh/MSc programmes went on to become PhD students. The School also runs an MTh/MSc Research programme which provides another route into PhD programmes. 29% of those who have taken the MTh/MSc by Research progressed to PhD programmes.

The School's postgraduate community has always had a strong international profile and is currently drawn from over 20 different countries. The range of financial support for postgraduate students, and number of scholarships made in the census period [in brackets] includes School and New College endowments (54 PhD scholarships and 37 Masters scholarships); scholarship awards created for students at the School by charitable organisations and church bodies – Baillie Scholarship (2), Langham Partnership Award (2, match-funded by the School), T F Torrance Award (6), Miller and Dalziel Award (7); and individual donations, Robertson Award (2). Additionally postgraduate students at the school can apply for support from the University of Edinburgh (Principal's Career Development Scholarship (7, match-funded by the School), CHSS Scholarship (6), CHSS Studentship (6), Edinburgh Global Masters Award (4), Edinburgh Global Research Scholarship (2), Desmond Tutu Award (4)) and AHRC awards (10). New postgraduate scholarships developed in the census period include Tutu, Baillie, Torrance, Langham and Robertson and a fundraising campaign for a further scholarship fund ('John McIntyre') was launched in Spring 2013 with a financial pledge from the *Scottish Journal of Theology*. With these new awards, the School made available **£263k** in scholarship funding to new and continuing postgraduate students (£172k for 2008 entry), in addition to University, CHSS and AHRC funding awarded to our postgraduate students. The recent award of the Scottish Consortium AHRC Block Grant opens future funding opportunities.

### Supervision and Monitoring

Supervision and training of research students is a high priority in colleagues' workflows, and is also underwritten by IAD. We ensure that colleagues' also refresh their supervisory training. The School strongly supports research students in publishing their work at conferences and workshops and in scholarly journals. School funds (**£300** per annum per student) are available to subsidise travel and subsistence costs and senior colleagues hold workshops for research students on academic publishing. Partnership agreements with overseas institutions, including the Institut Catholique in Paris, the *Stift Theologische* at the University of Tübingen, United Theological College in Bangalore and the China Graduate School of Theology enable doctoral candidates to conduct research overseas, thereby benefitting from additional resources and contacts, and language training.

The success of the School in PhD student development is evidenced in the successful publication by its research students of more than **35** scholarly monographs and over **100** research papers in scholarly journals and edited books. Research outputs evidence a very high quality and range of topics and the successful outcomes of mentoring and supervision. Highlights of these research outputs include Blyth, *The Narrative of Rape in Genesis 34: Interpreting Dinah's Silence* (Oxford: OUP, 2010); Burton, *The Hallowing of Logic: The Trinitarian Method of Richard Baxter's Methodus Theologiae* (Leiden: Brill, 2012); Campbell, *When Religion Meets New Media* (New York: Routledge, 2010); Miller, *Animal Ethics and Theology* (Routledge 2011); Joshua Hordern, *Political Affections: Civic Participation and Moral Theology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013); Moseley, *Nations and Nationalism in the Theology of Karl Barth*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013); Schumacher, *Divine Illumination: The History and Future of Augustine's Theory of Knowledge* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

Evidence of the lead role the School plays in mentoring the next generations of scholars in the disciplines of Theology and Religious Studies is demonstrated in the appointment of many of our research students in other HEIs, including the following: Chris Keith (2008), Professor of New Testament, St Mary's University, Twickenham; Caroline Blyth (2008), Lecturer in Theology, School of Theology, University of Auckland, NZ; Sunwoo Hwang (2011), Lecturer, Department of Theology, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea; Matthew Arbo (2008), Assistant Professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Jamie Pitts (2011), Associate Professor at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary; Nathan Hitchcock (2008), Sioux Falls Seminary, South Dakota; Jean Lee (2007), Lecturer at China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong; Simon Burton (2011),

Canadian Commonwealth Fellowship at McGill University, Montreal; Edwin Tay (2009), Director of Students & Alumni and Lecturer in Systematic and Historical Theology, Biblical Graduate School of Theology, Singapore; Yam Chi-Keung (2008), Associate Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Karl Shuve (2007), Assistant Professor in Religious Studies, University of Virginia; Simon Lien-Yueh Wei (2011), Assistant Professor in Ecclesiastical History, Taiwan Methodist Graduate School of Theology; Crystal Lubinsky (2012), Lecturer in History and Religious Studies, University of Massachusetts; Mark R Gornick (2008), President, City Seminary of New York; John B. White (2010), Assistant Professor, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

##### **Income**

During the REF period we successfully secured **£1.88m** in research grant awards from AHRC, BA, Carnegie, ERC, ESRC, Leverhulme, Scottish Government, John Templeton Foundation, Binks Trust and other charitable foundations. Our achievements have brought an increase of 237% in research grant income over the **£794k** reported in RAE 2008. Numbers of submitted applications (131) over the census period (112 reported in RAE2008) have grown year-on-year in the School: the number of applications in 2012/13 increased by 60% over 2007/08; the value of bids for research grants in 2012/13 increased by 330% over 2007/08. 37% of grant applications in the School were funded in the census period, above average in CHSS and testimony to our effective peer review processes. The most substantial increase has come from major new collaborative projects in research groups, and particularly in Theology and Ethics (see **a1** above) which is responsible for **75%** of the increase in research funding, while members of all four research groups have also grown their success in attracting external funding support for individual research projects. A further **£40k** in research consultancy income was also secured in the REF period.

##### **Infrastructure and Facilities**

The School of Divinity occupies the historic New College building in the city centre, which is half a mile from the University's main Humanities and Social Science campus. New College Library is a major research facility holding 310,000 items. It had a major success in funding with a benefactor donation of **US\$1 million** toward improved security, damp-proof and fireproof storage. The donation also enabled completion of the electronic cataloguing of rare books and pamphlets, and the creation of the new Funk Reading Room for Special Collections.

Staff and students also have access to the facilities and resources of two major research libraries. The University of Edinburgh Library is one of the largest research libraries in the UK. The George Square Main Library complex has completed a significant redevelopment project (**£58 million**). Its overall resources comprise over 3.5 million printed items, around 22,000 unique serial titles including eJournals, and around half a million eBooks. There are over 11,000 linear metres of special research collections. The School of Divinity is also located within a five-minute walk of the National Library of Scotland, a copyright library and one of Europe's most important research libraries.

The collegiate setting of the School gives its activities a strong sense of scholarly community and identity. Located on the New College site are academic and administrative staff offices, three research centres, lecture theatres and seminar rooms, refectory and computing rooms, and a research library and archives. The School hosted visiting scholars from **27** national and international HEIs who contributed to research group seminars and public lectures. During their visits, they were provided with shared office space and IT facilities. Individual offices are provided for all Cat A staff and shared offices for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers. Newly installed lecture capture facilities support public dissemination of research seminars and public lectures.

##### **Organisational and administrative**

The growing scale and range of individual and collaborative research projects, and the growing level of external research funding, has required an increase (0.2FTE to 0.8FTE) in staff devoted to research support including in the financial and organisational management of research grants. The School has invested in a major redesign of web pages dedicated to the public presentation of research. ERI offers all researchers tailored pre-award advice on funding sources and detailed

personal application development. CHSS also supports a Knowledge Exchange office within ERI which has underwritten public engagement described in REF3B Impact Studies and other Knowledge Exchange activities.

#### **e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base**

As described above the School has actively sought to foster internal and interdisciplinary collaboration within and beyond the School and a number of projects have been consciously designed to engage colleagues in collaborative research. Such internal projects reflect and support the wider collaborations now evident in much of our current research. In addition to large funded research projects, research underway by several scholars carries a collaborative aspect: N. Adams' project on idealist philosophy involves partnership with scholars in Seattle and Berlin; Appleton's AHRC project on South Asian narrative is in collaboration with a scholar at Cardiff University; Brown's project on the Enlightenment involves partners at two leading Universities in China; Jack's project on fiction and theology involves partnerships with scholars in English at Edinburgh and with biblical exegetes in Glasgow and Birmingham; Northcott's project on ecology and religion in Southeast Asia involves partners at leading universities in Indonesia and Malaysia; Siddiqui's project on Christian Muslim relations involves collaboration with scholars at the Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies in Edinburgh, at Georgetown University, Istanbul University, and with the Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Collaboration across HEIs is an important aspect of the contribution by colleagues to research excellence in the wider discipline. This contribution is also evidenced in the enduring influence of scholarly work produced by members of the School, including by emeriti professors Auld, Hurtado and O'Donovan who remain research active. Work in promoting research across the disciplines of Theology and Religious Studies is also seen more indirectly. Many academic staff make important editorial contributions to a wide range of scholarly journals. Three long-established journals – the *Scottish Journal of Theology* (Torrance), the *Expository Times* (Riches), and *Studies in World Christianity* (Stanley) - are edited within the School. Members of the School also sit on the editorial or advisory boards of **28** international journals. Book series founded or edited in the School include *Religion Media and Culture* for Routledge by Mitchell; *Radical Religion in the Trans-Atlantic World* for Palgrave Macmillan by Hardman Moore; *Oxford Commentary on the Dead Sea Scrolls* series for Oxford University Press by Lim; *Studies in the History of Christian Missions* for Wm. B. Eerdmans by Stanley. Research monograph series of this nature contribute both to shaping the discipline itself, and to the research careers of others.

As researchers, we contribute to the organisation and management of research excellence in the wider discipline. We work with RCUK, and in particular in the AHRC at Peer Review College and Panel levels (Brown, Hardman Moore, Mitchell) while Fergusson was on the AHRC Advisory Board 2009-12. Academics also carry a range of responsibilities in international scholarly societies including: Scottish Church History Society (Brown as President), Society for the Study of Theology (Grumett as secretary) UK Association for Buddhist Studies (Appleton as Treasurer). Recognition of individual contribution to disciplines is seen in new fellowship appointments to British Academy (Fergusson), Royal Society of Edinburgh (Dawson). Fergusson was Chair of AUDTRS 2005-8; Mitchell is the current chair of AUDTRS, renamed Theology and Religious Studies UK, 2012 - present.

Many academic staff at all career stages have edited or been invited to contribute to recent discipline-defining collections and scholarly editions of texts in their areas including Adams and Fergusson on Idealism and Hardman Moore's edition of Larkham's diary, both reported on in REF 2. Works by members of the School have been translated into Arabic, Finnish, German and Korean. 92% of members of the School have served as PhD external examiners across the UK and beyond. 67 plenary lectures have been given at international conferences in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia and North America, with named lectures at an impressive range of HEI institutions worldwide: for example, Dawson gave a named lecture at Fordham University; Fergusson gave named lectures at Princeton Theological Seminary, Uniting Theological College, Sydney, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, McGill University, and was the Gifford Lecturer at Glasgow University; Siddiqui gave named lectures at the Angelicum, Rome.