

Institution: University of Aberdeen
Unit of Assessment 33: Theology and Religious Studies
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Aberdeen Divinity and Religious Studies (DRS) undertakes research in all the core theological disciplines and in religious studies, devoting much of its energy to research, dissemination and postgraduate research student (PGR) training. Building on its long-established reputation as a centre of academic excellence with a strongly international orientation, DRS has continued to expand and develop since RAE2008, with investment to produce a larger and more diverse staff complement, an enhanced range of sub-disciplines, strategic library resourcing and a correspondingly more substantial body of PGRs. The staff in DRS consciously engage in shared areas of research both within and across sub-disciplines. There is also research collaboration with colleagues elsewhere in the University, especially in Philosophy, Law and Medicine, as well as collaborations nationally and internationally. DRS is located within the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy; the School is part of the College of Arts and Social Sciences. The School and College structure facilitates pursuit of common research interests and PGR training, and affords access to both wider organizational and operational resources and stable financial and administrative support.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Research activity in DRS is primarily focused within sub-disciplinary groups, and distributed across the full range of speculative, textual, historical and practical inquiries in theology and religious studies. Research in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible (Schaper, Tiemeyer) focuses on the Deuteronomistic History, exilic and post-exilic prophecy, and texts such as Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, the Psalter and the Septuagint, especially the Wisdom of Solomon. In New Testament (Mason, Clarke, Leonhardt-Balzer), there are concentrations in the environments of early Christianity, Josephus, Philo, Qumran, the Johannine corpus, and the Pauline communities. Research in Church History (Ehrenscheidtner) concentrates on female spirituality in the medieval period, and the interactions between literacy, perceptions of monastic space and religious practices. Systematic theology research (Greggs, Nimmo, Ziegler, Wood, Re Manning) ranges over the sources and norms of Christian doctrine (especially the nature and function of Scripture), central doctrinal topics (such as providence, soteriology, ecclesiology, sacramentology), public theology, patristic, Reformation and post-Reformation historical theology, modern German Protestant thought (especially Schleiermacher, Barth, Bonhoeffer and Tillich), and contemporary theology. In Christian Ethics (Brock, Mawson) attention is devoted to scripture and ethics, the Lutheran tradition, Bonhoeffer, medical, social and economic ethics and disability. In Practical Theology (Swinton, Brittain) work is undertaken in disability studies, healthcare, Christian responses to historical traumas, congregational studies and the critical theory of religion. In Religious Studies (Segal, Pokorny, Tuladhar-Douglas, Hadromi-Allouche) research ranges across the nature of religion, the study of myth, ethnobiology and ethnobotany in relation to the anthropology of religion, Islam, East Asian religions and New Religious Movements.</p> <p>In addition to sub-disciplinary groups, there are three established research centres based in DRS which work across disciplinary and sub-disciplinary boundaries. (1) The Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability (CSHD), directed by Swinton, is a well-established interdisciplinary hub for studies in the field which has attracted considerable research income. CSHD brings together academics, healthcare practitioners and educators from different disciplines, countries and constituencies to work on the relation of spirituality, health and healing, and on the theology of disability. Since 2008, research projects have examined dementia, suicide, depression, spirituality and learning disability, and the theology of adoption. Symposia and conferences are held regularly; recent events include symposia on dementia (2012), on profound intellectual disability and Catholic theology (2010) and on adoption (2010, 2012). The Centre has been heavily involved in the formation of further research groups nationally and internationally: the European Society for the Study of Disability and Theology; the Autism Spectrum People and Religion Research Group; and the British Association for the Study of Spirituality. (2) The Scottish Centre for Himalayan Research (SCHR), directed by Tuladhar-Douglas, brings together Scottish researchers from a wide range of disciplines studying the Himalayas and contiguous areas. Collaborations have included a conference in 2009 on 'Health in a Suffering Landscape' and meetings for fieldwork researchers in Kathmandu in 2010 and 2012. With the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, the SCHR runs a</p>

programme of intensive training for PGRs on field skills for herbarium collections and traditional knowledge. SCHR PGRs at Aberdeen have worked in Ladakh, Makwanpur and Kathmandu, and SCHR PGRs and staff are contributors to the 10 volume *Flora of Nepal* project. (3) In 2008, the Centre for the Study of Myth was founded by **Segal**, who acts as director; it hosts lectures, seminars and conferences in the field, and runs the Acad-Myth List with the University of Essex. Events have included a conference on 'The Construction of Scottish Myths' and a workshop on 'Scottish Theology', co-hosted with the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies.

After its success in RAE2008, DRS has implemented a strategy for consolidation and selective growth, whose aim (as described in RAE2008) has been to provide the most supportive environment for scholarly inquiry and to maintain and enhance the standing of DRS as a major international location of research and PGR training. The primary instrument of achieving this aim has been internal investment to secure four senior and one junior appointments in areas identified as ready for expansion or new development; all new professorial positions have established newly-created PhD studentships to ensure effective recruitment of high-calibre PGRs in areas of expansion. The appointment of **Mason** to the Kirby Laing Chair has further invigorated New Testament studies, bringing a world-leading scholar of Josephus, early Christianity and its Hellenistic-Roman-Jewish environment, and associating DRS with major research projects such as the multi-volume Josephus translation and commentary project. The traditional strength in systematic theology has been maintained through the commitment of the institution to two chairs in this field. **Nimmo** (recipient of a 2009 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise) has been appointed to a chair in systematic theology to continue the unit's focus on constructive doctrinal work in the Reformed tradition, and especially its historic attention to the legacy of Barth. Enlargement has been achieved by the addition of **Greggs** as a second professor, bringing additional expertise in patristics, historical theology and public theology, as well as reinforcement of research and PGR supervision capacity in modern systematic theology which is a particular interest of overseas doctoral candidates. Particular attention has been directed to the establishment of theological ethics as a distinctive sub-discipline in the unit, building on the work begun by **Brock** prior to RAE2008. This has involved the appointment of a professor (who ceased to be in the University's employment in October 2013) and a lecturer (**Mawson**), provision of £80K over 5 years for additional library resources, and the institution of a weekly research seminar in the field. The theological ethics group has quickly established itself in DRS, by providing a focus for research and PGR supervision in theology and disability, scripture and ethics, political theology and modern moral theology. It is also creating opportunities for engagement with researchers in social science and medicine. The University remains committed to strategic investment in this area. Expansion of religious studies has involved complementing existing research strengths in the study of myth (**Segal**), the history of the study of religion (**Segal**) and in anthropology of religion (**Tuladhar-Douglas**) with research in Islamic literary traditions (**Hadromi-Allouche's** current work in Qur'an, *Sira* and *Hadith* literature), in East Asian religion and in new religious movements (**Pokorny**, whose post has been partly endowed by the Bruce bequest).

The success of all these initiatives is evident in augmentation of the range of research and volume of publication. During the census period, DRS staff have published 19 single author books, 31 edited volumes, 105 articles in refereed journals and 164 chapters in edited volumes. In addition, new appointments have enhanced the attractiveness of the University to PGR candidates and led to a diversification of fields of PGR study.

For the next six years, DRS has set itself six principal research goals. (1) Maintenance of excellence in all areas of its research work by continuing to provide the intellectual setting as well as financial, organizational and operational resources for the continuation or completion of long-term research projects currently in process, such as **Mason's** editorship of the Josephus translation and commentary; **Schaper's** International Critical Commentary volume on Leviticus and his commentary on the Wisdom of Solomon for Herders Kommentar zum Alten Testament; **Re Manning** and **Greggs'** editorship of the 7 volume Edinburgh Critical History of Theology (Edinburgh University Press); and the numerous research activities of the Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability, such as its recent work on dementia. (2) Consolidation of the investment in theological ethics by further expansion of PGR numbers, the establishment of a Scottish Ethics

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Centre, hosting an international consultation on Luther's Theological Ethics in 2017, and development of collaborations with other researchers and bodies within and outside the institution. (3) Deliberate coordination of interests in theological interpretation of Scripture, where the interests of a number of researchers coincide (**Wood** and **Nimmo** in doctrine of scripture; **Greggs** in scriptural reasoning; **Brock, Clarke** and **Wood** in theological commentary on scripture) and where there is enduring PGR interest. A common research seminar is planned, leading to a wider consultation and publication for which external funding is to be sought. (4) Enhancement and extension of research and PGR recruitment in public theology, in particular in fields where there is established interest and expertise, such as religion and disability (**Brock, Swinton**) or socio-cultural and theological study of aspects of contemporary Christianity (**Brittain, Brock, Greggs**). (5) The formal launch and development of the Centre for Ministry Studies that is currently being established under the directorship of **Swinton**; the work of this Centre, building on a long tradition of DRS involvement in ministerial formation, will include inter-disciplinary research in the theology and practice of ministry (see c.i below). (6) Establishing a Centre for Bonhoeffer Studies, drawing on the highest concentration of scholarly Bonhoeffer expertise worldwide (**Ziegler, Greggs, Brock, Mawson**). The Centre will provide a basis for attracting international PGR students; run conferences and workshops on Bonhoeffer; network with other institutions such as the International Bonhoeffer Society; and establish a monograph series in Bonhoeffer Studies. In all six areas, DRS intends to further its contribution to the well-being of the discipline by exemplifying the highest standards of research.

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

The success of DRS over the past decade has depended in large part upon its recruitment and nurturing of research staff of the highest intellectual calibre from a wide variety of backgrounds in the UK, Europe and North America. At the end of a decade of continued growth as a result of internal investment in high-performing sectors in the institution, DRS has moved from a staff of 14 in 2001 to 21 (20.25 FTE) in 2013 in the following sub-disciplines: Old Testament/Hebrew Bible (one professor, one senior lecturer, 0.25 lecturer); New Testament (one professor, one senior lecturer, two lecturers); church history (one lecturer); systematic theology (two professors, one senior lecturer, one lecturer); theological ethics (one reader shared with practical theology, one lecturer); practical theology (one professor, one reader shared with theological ethics, one senior lecturer); religious studies (one professor, three lecturers). In addition, the Lord Gifford Fellow (**Re Manning**) is shared with Philosophy, though his research is in the field of theology. The current complement of staff has a balanced distribution of seniority: senior professors, mid-career staff whose research profile has matured in the census period, and early career members. This configuration ensures that DRS research is both strong and sustainable.

All members of staff are expected to devote considerable time to research and publication, and do so. They are also expected to be involved where appropriate in PGR supervision, whether as lead supervisor or co-supervisor. Equally, all involved in managing and appraising the research activities of colleagues are expected to ensure that all researchers are valued, suitably equipped and supported, and that opportunities are provided for their career development. Research activities are overseen and monitored formally by the School Research Committee, the School Research Leave Committee, Head of School and the DRS Research Leader (**Greggs**), as well as by the College Research Committee. The School Research Committee formulates, enacts and evaluates research strategy, disburses internal research funds in line with overall research goals, assesses annual reports of research centres and oversees peer review of applications for external research funds.

The School's research policy provides one half-session's (six months) research leave after seven half-sessions. Application is made by presenting a research proposal to the School Research Leave Committee; application to external funding sources is encouraged and supported at School and College levels, but success in securing external funds is not a condition for research leave. On completion of a period of research leave, a report is required. Longer periods of research leave enabled by outside funding bodies, are encouraged. In recent years, for example, **Tuladhar-Douglas** has been funded for thirty months' research leave in the Central Himalayas by the Wellcome Trust; **Mason** has been awarded a one year Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung

Forschungspreis to undertake research in Berlin; **Pokorny** has been awarded a two-year funded research fellowship at Stockholm University.

Development of staff at all career stages is monitored and evaluated so the unit is able to offer support where appropriate; research performance is a major element in monitoring and evaluation; and a significant role in research strategy is a key criterion for promotion to a chair. All staff participate in a yearly research support interview with the Head of School, Deputy Head of School, School Director of Research and DRS Research Leader at which research and publication activities are reviewed, and research plans (including research leave and applications for funding) are discussed; more frequent interviews are held if necessary. In addition, annual appraisals of all staff include the opportunity to discuss research performance. More informal monitoring is undertaken by senior staff in the sub-disciplines. Staff are expected to record publications, presentations, research funding and other research activities on a central university database.

For early career staff, development of research potential and integration into the research culture are given high priority. Staff on probation have a significantly reduced teaching and administrative load, in order to provide opportunities for establishment of research habits. Probationary staff are assigned a senior colleague in their sub-discipline as a mentor to provide specific research guidance; regular meetings and reports include review and appraisal of research activity, and successful completion of probation is contingent upon, amongst other things, fulfilment of agreed research and publication plans. Many training opportunities are provided by the University Researcher Development Unit, which provides programmes of professional and career development for researchers at all levels and in all disciplines; all its programmes are aligned with the Researcher Development Statement and Framework. Further training, including training in research skills and planning and in PGR supervision, is provided by the College and School, drawing on experience and expertise of more senior researchers; records of staff participation in training are kept in the School office and reviewed in probation and appraisal interviews. More generally, early career staff are integrated into the research culture of DRS by participation in research seminars in their fields of interest, and by provision of resources for conference attendance and research-related travel. All staff, including early career researchers, are given an annual research allowance; further funds can be provided on application to the School Research Committee, or to other internal sources such as the Principal's Excellence and Interdisciplinary Funds. Information on funding opportunities is regularly circulated by e-mail. Training in application to external funding bodies is provided by the College; recent workshops attended by DRS staff have treated proposal writing, business plan construction and acting as principal investigator. The University also hosts visits from research councils and other funding bodies such as AHRC, Leverhulme and the EU Framework programme.

The strategy of long-term investment in developing early career staff has been successful, and has led to consolidation and organic growth within the unit, which was a strategic aim following the RAE2008: the profile of the unit has developed since RAE2008 to contain more promoted staff and senior researchers. Alongside strategic senior appointments, there have been a number of existing staff who have gained promotion internally. Through an annual promotions exercise, the University has clearly defined criteria for promotion to the various levels of appointment, among which research and publications, PGR supervision and research leadership weigh heavily. DRS staff have been very successful in this exercise. For example, in the census period, **Brittain**, **Tiemeyer** and **Ziegler** were promoted to Senior Lecturer, and **Brock** to Reader. **Schaper** has translated into the Established Chair of Hebrew and Semitic Languages. Monitoring of career progression is undertaken in annual appraisals in the case of established staff, or in the course of routine monitoring in the case of probationary staff.

Like all University staff, those in DRS are bound by the University's Equality and Diversity policy. Application of this policy in recruitment and appointment of staff is overseen by Human Resources; thereafter, it is the responsibility of Heads of School to apply the policy and to monitor its application in such areas as promotion, evaluation and provision of training, in establishing expectations of research performance and in distribution of resources for research. E-training on equality and diversity is available to all staff, and mandatory for those with responsibilities for

recruitment and staff appraisal. The Unit has also achieved Investors in People (IiP) status, and uses the IiP standard as a framework to help achieve its 'people' objectives, as outlined in the University's institutional Strategic Plan. The Unit, as part of the wider university, was awarded the 'HR Excellence in Research' award by the European Commission for its work to implement the UK Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

DRS has a long tradition of engagement with others sectors of society, and staff are encouraged to make full use of opportunities to present their research in public fora, and to offer their expertise to those outside academia. This has been part of the unit's commitment to impact and engagement (see impact strategy REF 3a). **Greggs** is CI (with Higton, Durham) and **Nimmo** a core group participant in a £29K AHRC Network Grant to bring together research users from the church, media and politics to ask what kind of public impact academic research into Christian doctrine can and should have in a society 'after Christendom' in which the public value and relevance of Christian doctrinal claims is contested. **Tiemeyer** serves on the Theology and Public Policy Advisory Commission of the Evangelical Alliance, and many staff have a high level of involvement with ecclesial groups or inter-faith organizations (**Brittain, Brock, Clarke, Greggs, Nimmo, Swinton, Tiemeyer**). The Church–Theology Forum meets regularly to enable exchange between clergy and theological academics. Clergy training and continuing education activities are undertaken by, for example, **Greggs** as Visiting Professor at St Mellitus College (London) and **Swinton** in his capacity as Master of Christ's College, one of three Church of Scotland training colleges for ministerial formation. In collaboration with Christ's College, an Aberdeen University Centre for Ministry Studies is being established, with **Swinton** as director; its work is to include inter-disciplinary, cross-denominational ministerial education, both lay and professional, and research in the field of ministry studies. Initial funding of £80K has been secured. **Nimmo** serves on the Joint Doctrine Commission of the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church, and has served on the Church of Scotland working group on Issues in Human Sexuality. **Re Manning** is Co-convenor of the Boyle Lectures in Science and Religion which is designed to inform and influence clergy and laity about issues in science and religion. Other staff are involved in deploying their research in the formation of public policy. **Tuladhar-Douglas** is co-chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Mountain Social Policy working group, and a member of the steering committee of the IUCN working group on Cultural and Spiritual Values on Protected Areas. The Centre for Religion, Health and Disability, directed by **Swinton**, is deeply involved in research with direct impact on social and healthcare policy, such as on suicide, dementia, autism and chaplaincy. The Centre collaborates with, for example, the Breast Cancer Unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in research on spirituality and breast cancer, and with the Universities of Hull and Stafford on a Department of Health project on spiritual care at the end of life. A recent development in the area is the establishment, through securing substantial external funding from The Porticus Trust and The Jerusalem Trust, of the Kairos Forum for people with Intellectual or Cognitive Disabilities (KFICD) which provides a forum for inter-professional networking and a range of consultancy services, educational programmes and resources to help people with disabilities achieve respect, care and participation in the community.

ii. Research students

Training of PGRs is an essential component of the DRS research culture, which continues to flourish as a premier international centre for postgraduate research in theology and religious studies, attracting a very large group of high-calibre PGR students, most from overseas: there are currently 106 registered PGRs, of whom 74 are international students. All submitted staff are involved in PGR training and supervision. PGRs are drawn to Aberdeen by the research and publication profiles of staff and by their reputation for accessibility and dedication. Recruitment of gifted PGRs (for example, when attending international conferences, or in targeted recruitment visits to such North American institutions as Princeton Theological Seminary, the Toronto School of Theology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Regent College, Vancouver) has high priority, and bears fruit in substantial numbers of PGRs, as well as in the quality of candidates (entry into PGR programmes is competitive). PGR students can be found in all sub-disciplines of DRS; particular concentrations of students are found in systematic theology, New Testament studies, practical theology and theological ethics. Because most PGRs are international students, their eligibility for funding by UK research councils is minimal; however, for several years all

successful applicants have been entered for College studentships, and the School has additional funds to distribute to PGR students. DRS has also been successful in securing PhD studentships under the competitive College Research Project Award Scheme which funds cross-disciplinary research and PGR training (**Greggs** is co-Principal Investigator for a project on 'Authority and Texts' with Law; **Ziegler** is Principal Investigator for a project on normativity in theological and philosophical ethics and law); each offers 8 full fee and maintenance awards with entry over 2 years.

All full-time PGRs are provided with office space and their own fully networked PC. A full range of research training programmes is provided. After an induction programme organized by the College Graduate School, covering University PGR culture and administrative systems, research methods, and academic writing, there are College and University-wide courses in generic skills (dissertation writing, IT, interview skills, publishing), aligned with RCUK guidelines, and also required discipline-specific courses in research methods. Research-relevant languages (ancient and modern Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, Akkadian, Coptic, Ugaritic, Nepali, Tibetan, classical Chinese, pre-modern Korean, Sanskrit, Latin, German, French) are taught as required in DRS; reading groups to discuss ancient and modern texts in the original are held each year. Some students are funded to undertake language study abroad, and there are opportunities for PGRs to undertake professional development through the University's teaching training programme for teaching assistants.

Discipline-specific training and integration into the culture of research in theology and religious studies is chiefly undertaken in the regular research seminars in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, New Testament, systematic theology, practical theology, theological ethics, philosophy of religion and religious studies; most seminars meet weekly. Each year sub-disciplines hold one- or two-day conferences at which PGRs present their research to peers, staff and external consultants. An annual joint postgraduate conference is held with other Scottish Theology/RS departments, and PGRs present their work at an annual College postgraduate conference each July. PGRs are expected to be involved in any academic colloquia and conferences organized by DRS. School funding is available for research trips away from the University, and for conference attendance and presentation. Where appropriate, PGRs are encouraged to spend part of their time undertaking research outside Aberdeen.

PGR progress is carefully monitored. Supervisors are required to submit regular reports on candidates. On completion of the first year of study, candidates submit a substantial piece of written work for evaluation by a School review board. Thereafter, a system of annual research interviews with students, supervisors and the DRS Postgraduate Officer monitors progress and identifies specific training needs. In addition, the College Graduate School provides training for new and experienced supervisors. Over 25 monographs originating from DRS doctoral dissertations have been published in the census period.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

A good deal of research in DRS (especially textual and theoretical research) is undertaken as part of the regular work of staff, or on periods of research leave funded internally or externally. Alongside this, DRS has enjoyed success in generating income by securing competitive funds from Research Councils, foundations, trusts and other charities for research projects. **Re Manning** has been awarded £112K by the Faraday Institute for a two-year project 'Emergence: From Biology to Theology', which brings a post-doctoral researcher to Philosophy/DRS. **Swinton** has made a number of successful bids for funds for a range of research activities: £60K from the Jerusalem Trust and £60K from the Porticus Trust for the work of the Kairos Forum; £4K from the British Academy for a project on dementia; £163K from AHRC for research on the spiritual lives of people with profound and complex learning difficulties; £130K from the Porticus Trust and the Jerusalem Trust for research on the spiritual needs of people with learning difficulties; £50K from the Department of Health for research on spiritual care at the end of life; £41K from the Camphill Trust for research on spirituality in the Camphill communities; £160K from the NHS for the Community Chaplaincy Listening project. **Tuladhar-Douglas** secured £2.2K from the Royal Society of Edinburgh for work on immigrant Buddhist perspectives on Scottish government and landscape, and a Wellcome Trust Research grant of £185K to research Traditional Newar medicine.

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The scholarly infrastructure has been further enhanced by the opening of the new Sir Duncan Rice University Library (costing £57million). There are a number of special library collections supporting DRS research and PGR work, such as the Lewis Collection of Barth literature (the largest in Scotland), the Biesenthal Collection (one of the most interesting Judaica collections in the UK), and the Daube collection of Roman and Ancient Jewish Law. The Roman Catholic Church in Scotland has made a substantive deposition of two of its libraries and archives in the University Special Collections. New professorial appointments have been backed up by substantial investment in the expansion of library collections in the relevant areas, notably in theological ethics.

Research is supported by sound operational systems at University, College and School levels, including IT support, a College Director of Research who has oversight of research policy and activities, a dedicated member of the University Research and Innovation team offering specialist assistance with applications for external research funds, and a School secretariat. The School administration is housed in a new facility, with meeting and seminar space which offers an improved environment for discussion.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Professional service is accorded high priority, and DRS continues to make an extensive contribution to the vitality of the discipline and to its longer-term sustainability in a number of ways. Many staff are active (and often leading) members of research networks or collaborators in research projects beyond Aberdeen. **Brock** is a founding member of the Autism Spectrum People and Religion Research Group, a joint initiative between Aberdeen and University of Cardiff. **Mason** leads the international Flavius Josephus translation/commentary project, collaborates in Ben-Gurion University's excavation of Horvat Tsalit (Israel), and is a partner of the current Israel Museum special exhibit (2013) 'Herod the Great: The King's Final Journey'. **Schaper** collaborates with colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin) on questions of the intellectual, religious and economic history of the earliest Mesopotamian states and was the Programme Chair of the Prophecy section of the Society for Biblical Literature International Meetings. **Tiemeyer** leads an international research group of the European Association for Biblical Studies. In October 2013, **Schaper** and **Tiemeyer** became the coordinators of the Edinburgh Prophecy Network (henceforth to be known as the Aberdeen Prophecy Network); this is an international group of scholars who organize conferences both in the UK and on the Continent on aspects of Israelite prophecy. **Greggs** is a member of a number of research groups associated with scriptural reasoning, of the International Bonhoeffer Consultation, and of the Shalom Hartman Institute's Religious Pluralism Consultation, meeting annually in Jerusalem; he is also a founding member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh Young Academy of Scotland. **Clarke** is a research associate in mission and ethics at the University of Pretoria. **Hadromi-Allouche** is a member of the Islamic Studies Network. **Leonhardt-Balzer** is a member of the Jena-based *Corpus Judaico-Hellenisticum Novi Testamenti* project, of the International Philo Bibliography Project, and of a Kiel-based international project on sacred meals. **Re Manning** is a team member of the Order Project hosted by the London School of Economics and the University of California San Diego, of the University of Heidelberg Love and Forms of Empathy research network; he is a past president of the North America Paul Tillich Society, and is editorial director of the Collected Works of Paul Tillich. **Tuladhar-Douglas** is a research associate at the William L. Brown Center, Missouri Botanic Gardens. **Nimmo** is a fellow of the Center for Barth Studies; a member of the Karl Barth Translation Seminar; and a partner in the Karl Barth Literature Search Project. **Ziegler** coordinates the working group on Theology and Apocalyptic at the American Academy of Religion (AAR).

Staff have occupied positions of leadership in professional organizations. **Clarke** is chair of the Tyndale House Council and assistant secretary of the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*. **Greggs** has served as secretary of the Society for the Study of Theology, and co-chair of scriptural reasoning at the AAR. **Nimmo** is treasurer of Society for the Study of Theology, and a member of the steering committee of the AAR Reformed Theology and History Group. **Tiemeyer** serves on the committee of the Society for Old Testament Study. **Tuladhar-Douglas** is a commissioner of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. **Ziegler** serves on the executive committee of the Society for the Study of Theology, and is secretary of the Karl Barth Society of North America.

Staff have undertaken peer review of research proposals. Staff have reviewed proposals for the

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AHRC (**Swinton** is a member of its Peer College), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Israel Academy of Sciences and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. Staff are involved in a wide range of editorial activities. **Mason** edits the twelve-volume *Flavius Josephus: Translation and Commentary* (Brill). **Nimmo** is an editor of the *International Journal of Systematic Theology*. **Pokorny** edits *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Vienna Studies on East Asia*, and *Religion in Austria* (Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht). **Schaper** co-edits the *Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments* (Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht) and co-edited the first volume of the *New Cambridge History of the Bible*, published in 2013. **Tiemeyer** is the editor-in-chief for the Society of the Old Testament Study Monograph Series. A number of journal editorial boards have members from across the DRS sub-disciplines: *Tyndale Bulletin* (**Clarke**); *Religio* (**Pokorny**); *Journal of Religion, Disability and Health* (**Swinton**); *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy* (**Swinton**); *Buddhist Studies Review* (**Tuladhar-Douglas**). There are numerous monograph series on whose editorial boards members of the UoA serve, including *Journal for the Study of Pseudepigrapha Supplement Series* (**Mason**); *Hebrew Bible Monographs* (**Tiemeyer**); *Pickering Studies in Philosophy of Religion* (**Re Manning**).

Most staff are regularly involved in peer reviewing of manuscripts for publishers (including Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Princeton University Press, T&T Clark, Routledge, Ashgate, Brill, Wiley-Blackwell, Eerdmans), or for scholarly journals (including *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *Practical Theology*, *Political Theology*, *Philosophia Christi*, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, *Studia Philonica*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Religio*, *Studia Orientalia Slovaca*, *Journal of Hebrew Scripture*, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*, *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Journal of Jewish Studies*, *Scripta Classica Israelica*, *Modern Theology*, *Pro Ecclesia*, *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, *Religion, Nature and Culture*, *Studies in Christian Ethics*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, *Journal of Ethnomedicine and Ethnopharmacology*.

High profile, prestigious lecture series have been hosted by the unit. For example, the Scottish Journal of Theology (now T.F. Torrance) Lectures were hosted by DRS in 2008 (Mangina, Toronto) and in 2010 (Plantinga Pauw, Louisville). DRS plays the leading role in organizing the Aberdeen Gifford Lectures (delivered in 2009 by McGrath, London, and in 2012 by Coakley, Cambridge); and **Ziegler** is chair of the Gifford Lecture Committee. Visiting lecturers are invited to contribute to the PGR programme by offering additional seminars on their research.

Numerous conferences, workshops and panels in Aberdeen and elsewhere have been convened by DRS staff. The 2009 British New Testament Society conference was hosted and organized by DRS; in 2011 **Tiemeyer** organized a conference on Isaiah; **Ehrenscheidtner** co-organized a panel at the 2010 International Medieval Congress; **Mawson** convened a panel on 'Teaching Disability in the Christian Tradition' at the AAR in 2012; **Ziegler** organized conferences on 'Divine Providence' and on the 75th anniversary of the Barmen Declaration; **Nimmo** organized and convened the first Academy, Church, and Society Conference in Edinburgh in 2013; **Swinton** organized symposia on 'The Theology of Adoption' (2012; funded by the Porticus Trust) and on 'Theology and Dementia' (2012; British Academy funded), and an AHRC funded conference on 'Ecclesiology and Ethnography' in 2010; **Tuladhar-Douglas** convened a panel on 'Taste' at the New Delhi meeting of the Association of Social Anthropologists in 2012, and organized a symposium on 'Religion, Nature and Ethnobiology' at the University of Florida, 2010.

Over 135 public lectures and keynote addresses have been delivered by staff to a variety of audiences in the UK and overseas. Examples from the various sub-disciplines in DRS include: **Schaper** (lectures at Hebrew University, the University of Edinburgh and Durham University); **Pokorny** (lectures at Kyoto University and the University of Vienna); **Swinton** (lectures at Johannelund Theological Seminary, Sweden and the Catholic University of Seoul); **Tiemeyer** (lectures at the University of Göttingen, Laidlaw Graduate School in Auckland and the Africa International College in Nairobi); **Tuladhar-Douglas** (papers at the National University of Singapore and Swarthmore College); and **Nimmo** (the Kerr Lectures, a lecture series in Göttingen, and research lectures in Prague, Reykjavik, Atlanta, Princeton and Bochum).