

Institution: King's College London
Unit of Assessment: 33
<p>A. Overview</p> <p>The Department of Theology and Religious Studies has transformed itself since 2008 in terms of size and scope. The Department is now a thoroughly interdisciplinary Unit including specialists in the Anthropology and Sociology of Religion, Buddhist and Confucian Studies, Biblical Studies, Jewish Studies, Christian History and Doctrine, Islamic Studies, and the Philosophy of Religion. The integration of Middle East and Mediterranean Studies (consistent with our strategies of approaching religion within social, political and cultural contexts and of developing the Abrahamic dimensions of our work) is a particularly enriching feature. Another integrating factor is the development of Religion and the Arts, which involves elements as diverse as Patristics and Buddhist Studies. Several Research Centres provide infrastructure to sustain these enterprises.</p>
<p>B. Research strategy</p> <p>Research strategy in the current period has been driven by our commitment to respond to a 21st century world coming to terms with its social, cultural and religious diversity, set within the context of College priorities of expansion, globalization and public engagement. At the time of RAE2008 the Unit was in a transitional period. After an array of key departures from 2003-06, which caused considerable disruption, the Unit from 2005-08 was beginning the task of rebuilding with the dual goals of replenishing and sustaining traditional areas of strength, and looking to initiate new areas of research, the latter especially with a view to capitalizing on the opportunities afforded by our unique location in the heart of London, with its unparalleled access to cultural, political and educational institutions locally, nationally and internationally. As noted in RAE2008, several developing lines of innovation were beginning to emerge at that time, key among which were: Christianity and the Arts; the incorporation of Mediterranean Studies; theological engagement with China; and (encompassing these three) the study of religion in social and cultural contexts. Against this backdrop, our research strategy for the current period has prioritized five key elements: (1) development of the nascent areas of innovation mentioned above; (2) consolidation of traditional core areas; (3) strong emphasis on growth in external research grant, an area of notable underperformance in RAE2008; (4) nurturing growth in high quality national and international research collaborations; and (5) establishing a robust postdoctoral presence, the latter three prioritised as part of broader efforts to enhance the quality of research culture.</p> <p>The present section 'B' will focus on priorities (1) and (2); priorities (3)-(5) will be addressed in subsequent sections. Significant advances have been made with regard to all five of these priorities, supported through strong research leadership and Research Centres, so that the picture today is one of dynamic growth, innovation, and increasing vitality. Academic staff numbers have almost doubled – from 18 to 38 (33.5 FTE) – research grant capture has increased almost 37-fold, with actual grant income (expenditure) during this period increasing almost 14-fold; and funded postdocs have risen to 9 in this period from none in 2008. By developing a research infrastructure that nurtures collaboration and interdisciplinarity alongside excellence, we have fostered productive alliances both within the College and with major international partners (see section E.1).</p> <p>1. Developing innovation in fresh areas of research</p> <p>1.a. Religion and the Arts emerged as a strategic priority in 2007, when the Department appointed its first Professor of Christianity and the Arts (Quash), embodying the College's commitment to connect research activity with the cultural sector. Since 2008, this focus on Christianity and the Arts has broadened to encompass diverse religious traditions, leading to the establishment in 2011, under Quash, of the <u>Centre for the Arts and the Sacred at King's (ASK)</u> [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/trs/research/ask/index.aspx]. Under the auspices of ASK, various partnerships and collaborations have been forged with London arts institutions, notably the National Gallery, the Courtauld Institute, and the Victoria and Albert Museum (see REF3). The Centre now encompasses several major collaborative projects, including research initiatives springing from joint MAs in Christianity and the Arts, with the National Gallery (Quash), and in Buddhist Art History and Conservation, with the Courtauld (Crosby); a BARDA-funded project on 'Early "Christian" Art and Iconography After Dölger' (Vinzent & Brent); a joint research seminar with the Courtauld; and two conferences on major exhibitions at Tate Modern, in conjunction with <i>Art and Christianity Enquiry</i>. 16 PGRs are currently associated with ASK; the Centre will soon host visiting researchers and is negotiating a joint doctoral programme with the Augustinianum in Rome. Innovation in Religion and the Arts was developed further in 2012 by a joint Lectureship in Sacred</p>

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Traditions and the Arts with King's new Liberal Arts programme (Rosen), which extends research expertise to contemporary Jewish, Christian and Islamic art and aesthetics.

1.b. The integration into the Unit of the **Middle East and Mediterranean Studies Programme** (MEMS) in 2008 signaled an important expansion and innovation in the Department's research profile. With its specializations in historical, political, socio-economic and conflict-resolution facets of the Middle East/North Africa region, the Programme broadens the boundaries of a typical TRS remit while creating rich synergies with existing research on religion across common regional areas and providing innovative opportunities for expanding and developing the 'Abrahamic' dimensions of our work. Since its integration into the Unit, MEMS has grown dynamically from a fledgling programme of just 2 staff in 2008 (Miller, Karsh) to 8 currently. The 6 new strategically focused MEMS appointments since 2008 (Kerr, Boutieri, Gutkowski, Larkin, Mishrif, and Waldman) have augmented the Department's already strong research profile in the Social Sciences (see 'Religion, Politics and Society' below). Over the period, MEMS has spawned an array of vibrant research initiatives, among which is its pivotal role in the Centre for the Study of Divided Societies (see REF3), an interdisciplinary forum which serves as a platform and flagship for the development of scholarly enterprises on ethnic-conflict regulation, peace processes, third-party intervention, and truth and reconciliation processes [<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/ahri/centres/divsoc/index.aspx>].

1.c. Sustained multi-disciplinary engagement with **Religion in Eastern Asia** has evolved out of the prospects with China identified as a strategic priority in RAE2008. In 2008 the appointment of Yao as Professor of Chinese Religions brought Confucian Studies to the Unit; in 2011 the King's-Renmin Partnership in Philosophy and Religion was inaugurated with a conference in Beijing; and Yao now directs the College's newly endowed China Institute. These innovations have facilitated a revival of Buddhist Studies, anchored by a new Professorship (Crosby) and already invigorated by a major funded project on Southeast Asian manuscript collections in Oxford, Cambridge, Thailand and Burma, a Senior Research Fellowship (Skilton) and 3 postdocs. Social-scientific research on Islam in Indonesia (Kersten) and on indigenous religion in South-West China and Mongolia (Swancutt) has further strengthened engagement with Religion in Eastern Asia.

Throughout the current period this engagement has retained a strong theological dimension, intensified through new work in Transformation Theology (Davies, Janz, Sedmak), notably within the framework of the King's-Renmin partnership. Since 2011 the Centre for Social Transformation [<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/trs/research/cst/index.aspx>] has forged close links with the Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Renmin and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and has run a series of international colloquia in Sino-Theology. Articles on Transformation Theology in the Chinese context are both published and forthcoming in leading Chinese journals.

2. Consolidating core research areas

The innovations outlined above have not distracted us from maintaining a strong commitment (supported by the School and College) to consolidating and enhancing established strengths.

2.a. After some lean years during the last RAE period, **Biblical Studies** has been significantly expanded and revitalized. Robust research leadership has been established with new Professorships in Christian Origins and Second Temple Judaism (Taylor) and in Biblical Interpretation (Burridge), and by the restoration of the Samuel Davidson Chair in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible (Joyce), supported by new Lectureships in Hebrew Bible (Stökl) and New Testament Studies (Griffith-Jones). The range of Biblical Studies in the Department now stretches from archaeology to theological interpretation by way of exegesis and reception history, and is further enlivened by strong links with **Jewish Studies**, also expanded by new appointments (Schatz, Saperstein, Rosen, Sacks) and consolidated by AHRC and Rothschild grants (Schatz).

2.b. Researchers in the social-scientific study of **Religion, Politics and Society** have focused on producing high-impact collaborative research on global changes in religion and society, much of it bearing on the Muslim world. Consolidation of this focus has come through projects such as the European Science Foundation funded collaboration on 'The Idea of the Caliphate among Young Muslims and Its Implication for Europe' (Shterin, Kersten, Al-Rasheed); a Volkswagen Foundation funded project on 'Religion and Politics in the Enlarged Europe' (Shterin); and AHRC/ESRC funded workshops on 'Urban Young Muslims in the UK and Russia' (Shterin). This subject-area has been particularly enriched by the integration of MEMS; and new lectureships in **Islamic Studies** (Murata), the Social Anthropology of Religion (Swancutt), and Religion and Politics (Cardaun) have extended expertise in Religious Studies.

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2.c. The consolidation of **Theology** has been achieved by fostering creative collaborative work in the interplay between **Historical Theology** and the **History of Christianity**, **Systematic Theology**, **Philosophical Theology**, and the **Philosophy of Religion**. New senior appointments (see below) have provided research leadership, and new lectureships (Carlisle, Ledger-Lomas, Papadogiannakis) further enhance established strengths. Especially significant within the current period is the revival of the Unit's distinguished tradition in **Patristics**, initiated in 2010 by a new Professorship in the History of Theology (Vincent) and the establishment of a Patristics research seminar; consolidated in 2012 by a new part-time Professorship in Early Christian History and Iconography (Brent) and a Lectureship in Patristics (Papadogiannakis, joint with Hellenic Studies); and complemented in 2013 with the appointment of a Professor of Historical Theology (Turner). Considerable resources are already sustaining this expansion: notably, the BARDA grant on Early Christian Iconography (Vincent and Brent), and a major ERC-funded project on 'Defining Belief and Identities in the Eastern Mediterranean between the 6th and 8th Centuries' (Papadogiannakis). The Centre for Social Transformation supports both ongoing research and new projects, including 'Making Peace: Neuroscience, Culture and Religion', an interdisciplinary collaboration with a focus on conflict resolution; and 'Theology in Act', in partnership with the Salvation Army, which brings Transformation Theology into direct engagement with Christian social activism (see REF3a).

3. Future research strategy 2014-19

Following the expansion and major innovation of the current period, strategic development over the next five years will focus on sustaining and consolidating the vitality of research in the Unit; on enhancing research excellence within the frameworks now in place; and on further enriching the research environment for staff, postdocs, and PGRs. The research environment will be enhanced by the additional presence on staff of two distinguished senior figures, Denys Turner from Yale and Lord Sacks, the recently retired Chief Rabbi. The strategic focus on research leadership within the current period has built a firm basis of expertise and experience that will sustain future ventures. Given our significant growth over the past 5 years, expansion of HEFCE-funded posts will plateau from 2013, so that further growth will concentrate at postgraduate and postdoctoral levels. Postgraduate support will be significantly enhanced by the new £18 million AHRC-funded London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP, between King's, UCL and the School of Advanced Study) which will fund and train approximately 400 PGRs over 5 years.

Research income will remain crucial to our objectives of sustainability and consolidation. We enter the next REF period with several large awards, and with an infrastructure to support further grant applications already in place. Research Centres will continue to be key to vitality and sustainability through the next period, and these will focus more explicitly on supporting income generation as well as producing world-class research. In addition to the three established Centres noted above (B.1) two new Centres are currently in development: (a) The Centre for Early Christian History will bring sustainability to an existing collaborative network extending from King's College London to Rome, Mainz and Berlin. The Centre's current priority is to develop new models for understanding early Christian history through non-literary, epigraphic and iconographic sources. The BARDA project on iconography and the ERC project on religious identities in the 6th- 8th centuries will feed into the work of the Centre. (b) At an earlier stage of planning is the Centre for the Study of Religious Texts and Contexts, which will approach texts as artefacts, as literature, and as ideological entities, combined with an emphasis on cultural, social and historical contexts. This Centre will foster collaborations between textual-contextual researchers in Biblical Studies, Jewish Studies, Christian History, Islamic Studies, Buddhist Studies and the Social Sciences.

C. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

As will be evident from the previous section, the implementation and success of research strategy has been integrally interwoven with a carefully managed staffing strategy. In this period, the College has committed to an ambitious programme of investment in the Arts and Humanities, of which TRS, thanks to its strong performance and innovation, has been one of the major beneficiaries. Since 2008, a total of 25 new appointments (19.5FTE) have been made in the Unit, 7 at Professorial or Reader level, 2 at Senior Lecturer, and 16 at Lecturer level. This mixture ensures both vitality and sustainability by securing both growth in research leadership and a commitment to nurture junior researchers: 11 of the new staff were early career at time of appointment. The large majority of current academic staff (33.5FTE) are full-time, open-ended appointments. As the previous section has shown, a vital strategic factor in virtually all appointments, beyond the highest

standards of research excellence within the various subdisciplines per se, has been strong evidence of opportunity for interdisciplinarity between them across various shared areas of expertise, such as the fine arts, social sciences/social transformation, politics or regional affinities. The result is a significantly more cohesive and integrated Department than in 2008.

1. College implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers underpins **induction, probation, training and promotion** procedures. HoD oversees all areas of staff development, and reports to Head of School. Research is an important component at all stages of progression. Induction of new staff, at Unit, School and College level, includes dissemination of information regarding the College's research resources, facilities and support. In their first year, all new staff have an academic mentor, who provides advice on research planning and management, training and funding opportunities. Probationary staff maintain their mentors until confirmation of post, usually three years after appointment. Probation cases are considered by a School panel, for which research achievement is one of three areas of consideration. Postdocs are mentored by their departmental subject lead or the PI grant holder. All staff have an annual performance development review with a senior colleague who reports to HoD. This includes a review of research performance and future plans, workloads, and training needs. The Graduate School provides training workshops in managing research projects and PhD supervision.

2. The above framework underpins successful **career progression**, for which research activity and achievement (including publication, PhD supervision, research funding, and the management of research projects) are important criteria at all stages, increasingly so for promotion to Reader or Professor. The effectiveness of these procedures is proved by the fact that, since 2008, all 11 TRS applications for promotion have been successful, and all new staff whose probationary period had run its course were confirmed in post without difficulty. Fixed-term and part-time staff are mentored and fully integrated into all aspects of departmental activity, providing opportunity to develop well-rounded profiles to support both current research and future career development. Such successes reflect the broader institutional environment: King's has been awarded the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research Badge in recognition of its commitment to ensuring good working conditions and supporting career development opportunities for researchers.

3. New **early career staff** have reduced teaching loads in their first 1-2 years to allow them to acclimatize and to increase time for research. Strong links between senior staff and early career staff (including postdocs) are built through mentoring relationships, seminars and Research Centres, ensuring full support and integration into the Unit's research culture. The Departmental Research Committee Chair leads in training especially younger staff (including postdocs) to develop research profiles, publication and grant proposals, and routinely reviews publication proposals and all grant applications prior to the School internal peer review process.

4. The Unit grants 1 term of **research leave** in 7 (i.e., after two years service). All requests (fixed-term and part-time staff included), supported by the HoD, are considered at College level. Special teaching relief has also been granted to staff working to deadlines or on major grant applications. All staff receive an **annual research allowance** (currently £700), and may apply for larger sums. The School Research Committee supports research through small grants for early career researchers and postgraduates, and conference funds and publication subventions for all staff.

5. A key priority in this REF cycle has been to cultivate a robust **postdoctoral presence** in the Unit. Over the period of the RAE2008 we had no postdocs; in this REF period we have 9 fully funded postdocs with several more beginning in 2014, including a 2-year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship. While the research time of postdocs is carefully ring-fenced, they do a limited amount of teaching, typically to a high standard of motivation and preparation (including undertaking the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice for teaching). Career support for postdocs is provided through mentoring and training at Unit level, and through the Graduate School.

6. The Unit implements College policy on **equal opportunities** and diversity, following approved procedures in the recruitment and management of staff, including REF selection. Of the 19.5 FTE new appointments since 2008, 9 have been female. Of the 6 promotions to Reader or Professor, 3 have been female. Questions of equality and diversity are integral to the Unit's research agenda, as demonstrated, for example, in Sedmak's research which is being used for improvements in foster care in developing countries (see REF3), but also more broadly in our work on anti-racism, Islamophobia, anti-semitism, humanities & health, poverty alleviation, and postcolonial studies.

ii. Research students

1. The strategic expansion of the Department has included significant growth in the doctoral student body from 44 in 2008 to 164 FTE currently. The strong PGR presence in the MEMS programme accounts for about one third of these (52). Within the 2008-2013 period, 46 students have been awarded the PhD, with a further 31 now registered at 'writing up' or 'submission' status. Given very strong recruitment in 2009/10 and 2010/11, a total of 63 of current PGRs are on track to complete by December 2014. Of the PhDs awarded this period, 9 have secured full-time university lectureships in the UK, USA, Hong Kong, Oman and Cyprus and 2 have secured postdoctoral fellowships. Many of our graduates take up non-academic posts in churches and religious institutions, or also in politics, the diplomatic corps and NGOs. Some notables among the former are: Dean of St Nicholas Seminary and Bishop elect of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana; and a Senior Chaplain with the NHS. Notables among the latter are: diplomats in the Kuwaiti and Greek Foreign Ministries; advisor to European Commission; and Vice President, Foundation for Defense for Democracies, Washington DC. Our PGRs this period have held awards and studentships from the following funders: AHRC (13, through Block Grant and Project Grants); British Academy (3); ORSAS (1); Templeton Foundation (1); Rothschild Foundation (3); China Research Council (3); and a range of College and School funded Studentships (7); also 6 further full PhD scholarships from King's Theological Trust (KTT) and the Unit's Walton Scholarship, funding up to 2 PhD students annually at £4500 each. Many PGRs in MEMS and Islamic Studies come with full scholarships from their home countries (35). Others have been funded through church bodies and various international foundations (7). The KTT also offers small grants to PGRs, ranging from £500 to £3000 annually. This is open to all PhDs in the Unit, with the large majority of applicants receiving some support. The Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) scheme also provides financial remuneration, and we occasionally offer paid assistantships within the Unit.

2. The significant growth in PhD numbers, in postdocs and in major research grants supporting several PhD studentships are all factors attesting to the deepening vibrancy of an exceptional **research culture** in the Department, which prepares our doctoral students for further research activity. Very important in promoting and sustaining this are our 9 thriving and highly popular research seminars (8 subject-specific, 1 interdisciplinary), all meeting either weekly or fortnightly throughout the three terms and featuring international and UK guest speakers. We have also seen a very significant increase in research conferences (see section E), supported by the Department and the School, to which our PhDs contribute actively as participants and as organisers.

3. **Training and skills development support** for PhDs is provided in several ways. The provisions of the College's Graduate School and Doctoral Training Centre are complemented by the School of Arts and Humanities' (A&H) bespoke Training and Research Skills for Graduates (led by Sedmak for A&H 2008-12). The King's Learning Institute offers an 'Enhancing Academic Practice' course (for PhDs, GTAs, and postdocs) and also a two-day 'Preparing to Teach in Higher Education' course. PhD training at Unit level is both supported by and contributes to this. While the various subdisciplines in the Department tailor training to meet specialism-specific demands, indicative examples of good practice include: a fortnightly Social Sciences methodologies training seminar (Shterin); a fortnightly postgraduate training seminar (Vinzent); induction sessions on art-historical methodologies for PhDs focusing on fine arts (Quash); workshops on PhD life in London (Boutieri); training sessions on academic writing, publishing and career planning (Gutkowski); and a departmental PhD Student Support Group, which meets regularly. The integration in 2008 of MEMS, with its particularly strong record of good practice in training and student support, enhanced training provision throughout the Department.

4. **Academic career development** is dealt with in the context of PhD supervision as well as through the GTA scheme and other staff-led fora such as those mentioned above. The GTA scheme was introduced in 2011 to consolidate and enhance both training in HE teaching and mentoring relationships with academic staff. All PhD students are invited to apply to the GTA scheme, and the programme offers a robust framework for career development. All GTAs receive training and induction in classroom teaching, assessment and eLearning, and undergo regular teaching observation with module convenors. Research students considering a non-academic career are encouraged to consult the Department's adviser in the College Careers Service.

5. The College's infrastructure for the **support and monitoring of research students'** progress toward timely completion (the Core Code of Practice for Research Degrees) secures **quality**

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assurance, while **training** for supervisors is offered at School and College level. Within the Department, **supervision** arrangements include a secondary supervisor for all students, both of whom report to the PARC Chair (who is the departmental convenor of doctoral studies). In 2011 **reporting** became an online process, whereby regular progress reports are submitted by both supervisors and monitored by the PARC Chair. Upgrades from MPhil to PhD status, or to 'Writing Up' status, involve a viva with both supervisors and a PARC representative as Chair. A doctoral student sits as **student representative** on PARC and other relevant Departmental committees.

6. PhD applications are assessed in line with King's policy on **equal opportunities** and diversity. 41% of our PGRs are female; 49% are overseas (non-EU) from countries across the globe, with especial concentrations from the Middle East/North Africa, China, Southeast Asia and North America, and also other regions such as central Africa, India and Russia, yielding a student body of wide ethnic diversity. King's Theological Trust provides full scholarships with living stipend (6 currently) limited to students from developing nations, plus further targeted assistance to other students from developing regions. About 1/3 of our PGRs are mature students, mid-career in non-academic sectors, taking a PhD to add value to their jobs. This acts as a strong stimulus for facilitating **exchanges between academia and business, public and third sector bodies**.

D. Income, infrastructure and facilities

1. Research income – After our disappointing performance in RAE2008, the Department prioritised strategic development in this area. As a result, the number of applications has soared and our success rate has been gratifyingly high. Total grant capture during this period has increased more than 37-fold to a combined value of £1.99 million. Grant income (expenditure) has risen almost 14-fold: from £54,314 in RAE2008 to £739,698 in this REF cycle, yielding a per returned staff member (26FTE) grant-capture figure of £76,549 and a grant-spending figure for this period of £28,450 against just £3394 in RAE2008 (16 FTE).

This income includes the initial accountings (to July 2013) of two major multi-year grants: a 4 year ERC of £961,531 commencing from Sept 2012 (Papadogiannakis) and a 3 year AHRC of £577,281 commencing from January 2013 (Vinzent). These recent awards bode well for medium term sustainability, especially when taken together with five further major grant applications now in process (AHRC [2], ERC [2], Leverhulme) and several others in preparation for 2014. Awards have been received from AHRC (3), ERC, British Academy (2), Leverhulme (3), Rothschild, Templeton and Dhammakaya Foundations. The arrival of Crosby in April 2013 came with prospects of major endowment funding for Buddhist Studies: by August 2013 endowments of £1.2M had already been received by the Department with the promise of considerably higher gifts in 2013/14.

Staff have held Leverhulme Major Research Fellowships (Al-Rasheed), Leverhulme Research Fellowships (Adams), two AHRC Early Career Fellowships (Kersten, Erdozain), a Leverhulme 'Artist in Residence' fellowship (under Quash), and a Templeton fellowship (under Sedmak). Crosby, Brent, Sedmak, Schatz, Saperstein and Vinzent have held funded fellowships internationally (see section E.10). Further support has come from King's, especially for innovations, including: £16,200 seed funding to Miller from King's Policy Institute for work on Palestinian private sector; £6K to Miller and £5K to Kerr as King's 'Innovation fellows'; £14K to Kerr from King's Business for 'Conversation with Diplomacy'; £6K annually to Kerr from AHRI for Centre for Conflict Resolution; £25K annually to TRS for innovative collaborations (e.g. with the National Gallery).

2. Scholarly infrastructure supporting research – The Department's location in the heart of London situates it at the centre of an unsurpassed research resource base, with London's many libraries, archives and museum collections all within very close proximity. Staff make regular use of the British Library, the British Museum, the Courtauld and Warburg Institute Libraries, Lambeth Palace Library, LSE and SOAS Libraries, Dr Williams's and Middle Temple Libraries. This augments King's own impressive resources housed primarily in the Maughan, Senate House, Franklin-Wilkins, and Foyle Special Collections Libraries. Among areas of special note are: strong holdings on Dead Sea Scrolls and also biblical resources; one of the best classics libraries in the UK at the institute of Classical Studies, Senate House; the Box Collection, for Middle Eastern archaeology and history, Jewish history and literature; the Ratcliff Collection for Christian liturgy and Church history; the Relton Collection for ecclesiastical history and Christian theology; special collections on 17th and 18th century China (inherited from the Royal Archives); the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Historical Collection; the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives; and the Institutional Archives of King's. Researchers have access to all the main on-line resources in our

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fields, and also a broad range of databases. Further scholarly infrastructure is provided by the world-leading Department of Digital Humanities, and the Centre for E-Research, with whom TRS staff are increasingly collaborating in the development of digital projects.

3. Organisational infrastructure – The College has made major investment in staff during this period. In addition, the School provides £1000 per FTE for support of research, and reroutes 20% of research overheads to the Department. This has enabled the Department to sustain individual research allowances, and to support the Research Seed Fund to facilitate projects at their initial stage. Interdisciplinary Centres are supported by an annual subvention of £6K from the School to support research activities and administrative support. Since 2012, collaborations with cultural organizations have been supported by King's Cultural Institute (KCI), providing infrastructural support for links with external institutions, and the cultural and creative industries.

4. Operational infrastructure – Research is supported by a Departmental Research and Resources Manager, a School Research and Development Officer, and the Arts and Sciences Research Office (currently 6 full-time staff). Office provision and facilities for academic staff, postdocs and postgraduates has been enormously enhanced by the Unit's move in September 2013 to the newly acquired Virginia Woolf Building, refurbished to high standards through heavy investment by the College. The Department now occupies its own full floor of 1248 sqm, including 151 sqm of space dedicated to research students, fully outfitted with access to IT equipment and support, and a student common area of 100 sqm. All academic staff (including postdocs) have office space, computing equipment and full IT and library support. Especially relevant for our students working in the fine arts are outstanding facilities for exhibitions and curatorial activities in the East Wing of Somerset House, and performance practice space in the Old Anatomy Theatre.

E. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

1. Collaborative research projects and networks – This period has seen significant growth in this area, with TRS staff leading or collaborating on 57 projects with over 75 university partners.

13 of these are **funded research collaborations**, 4 with UK partners, 4 further UK & international, and 5 further with international partners, including: **Crosby & Skilton**, CI and PI (Dharmakaya) with Bodleian & Cambridge Libraries, British Library and Library of Congress, and scholars in Southeast Asia – *Revealing Hidden Collections* (2011-15); **Larkin**, CI (ESRC, interdisciplinary) with Cambridge, Queen's Belfast, and Exeter – *Conflict in Cities Project* (2008-12); **Ledger-Lomas**, CI & Director (ERC, interdisciplinary) with CRASSH Cambridge – *Bible and Antiquity* (2012-17); **Schatz**, CI (AHRC) with Oxford – *The Reception of Josephus in Jewish Culture from the 18th Century to the Present* (2012-15); **Shterin**, PI (AHRC/ESRC, interdisciplinary) with Institute of Anthropology and Ethnography of the Russian Academy of Sciences – *Urban Young Muslims in the UK and Russian Federation* (2009-2010); **Vinzent**, PI (British Academy, interdisciplinary) with HEIs at Bari, Augustinianum Rome, Oxford, Instituto Svizzero, Cambridge, Mainz – *Early "Christian" Iconography and Epigraphy* (2010-12); **Vinzent**, PI (AHRC, interdisciplinary) with HEIs at Erfurt, Tübingen, Pontifical University Rome, Salento, Augsburg, Lorraine – *Meister Eckhart and the Parisian University in the early 14th century* (2013-16).

Department staff also occupy leading positions in 12 **research networks** (2 national, 10 international). Among these are: **Crosby**, one of ten founding members of *The Theravada Civilisations Project*, the first international network on Theravada with many universities worldwide; **Crosby** is a leading figure in 5 further major international interdisciplinary networks in Buddhist Studies including International Association of Buddhist Universities, Bangkok; Shan Cultural Association; **Gutkowski**, co-director of interdisciplinary network with UCL, St Mary's Twickenham and Heidelberg – *Non-religion and Secularity*; **Larkin**, interdisciplinary network (AHRC funded, CI) with York, Oslo and Dublin Universities – *Imagining Jerusalem Network* (2013-14).

Departmental staff occupy leading positions in **32 other collaborative projects**, several yielding major joint publications, others national and international conferences with scholars at the following HEIs: St Anselm (USA), Berkeley, Berlin, Birmingham, Bologna, Brussels, Cambridge, Cologne, Courtauld Institute, Florence, Frankfurt, Graz, Groningen, Hamburg, Harvard, Leuven, National Gallery, Nijmegen, Nottingham, Oxford, Renmin (Beijing), Sibiu (Romania), Stanford and UCL.

2. Membership of Research Council or similar committees – 4 TRS staff are or have been members of AHRC Peer Review College during this period (**Quash**, **Vinzent**, **Joyce**, **Yao**), and **Davies** was member and panellist of AHRC Peer Review Panel Eight (responsible for ranking all applications in Philosophy, Religious Studies, Law); **Davies**, Specialist Advisor for Theology in

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2008 for RAE; **Kersten**, Member, Panel of Experts for ERC FP7 Ideas Programme; **Quash**, reviewer and panelist, Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS); **Sedmak**, Member, Consultants' Board of the Austrian Research Association; **Shterin**, Chair, International Panel of Experts for the Russian National Programme of Collaborative Scientific Research; **Vinzent**, Member, European Academy of Science and Humanities (Vienna).

3. Involvement on research advisory panels, strategy or review boards – In this period, TRS staff have served on 24 research advisory panels or review boards in the UK, Belgium, USA, China, Israel, Singapore, Turkey and Russia. Examples are: **Al-Rasheed**, Member, Yale University Law School Middle East Study Group; **Crosby**, Member Research Assessment Exercise Panel, Ghent University; Member, American Council of Learned Societies; Advisor, Bodleian Libraries; **Karsh**, International Advisory Board, Centre for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University; Board of Directors, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East; **Miller**, Academic Advisory Council, Center for Middle East Peace Studies, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China; **Mishrif**, Advisor, Academic Board of Directors, Boston Business Management School, Singapore; **Quash**, Lead for 'Curation and Programming in the 21st Century', King's Cultural Institute; **Sedmak**, Member, Advisory Board of Catholic Social Academy; Member, Board of the Pope Benedict Foundation (for research); **Shterin**, Chair, Panel of Experts for the Russian Programme of Collaborative Scientific Research.

4. Leading positions in subject associations / learned societies – TRS staff in this period held leading positions in 19 subject associations and societies, including: **Al-Rasheed**, Member, European Science Foundation Network; **Davies**, President, Society for the Study of Theology (SST, to 2008); **Joyce**, Member, Society of Biblical Literature's Annual Meeting Program Committee; **Miller**, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee, European Association of Israel Studies; **Quash**, Executive Committee, SST; Board Member, Society for Scriptural Reasoning (SSR); **Saperstein**, Member of Council, Jewish Historical Society of England; **Schatz**, Member, British Association of Jewish Studies Committee; **Sedmak**, President, Austrian branch of Academics Stand Against Poverty; President, Salzburg Ethics Initiative; **Stökl**, Member, Society for Old Testament Study Committee; Directing Committee, Palestine Exploration Fund; **Taylor**, Executive Member, Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society; **Ticciati**, Steering Committee, SST; Intellectual Convenor, SSR University Group; **Vinzent**, one of the Directors of the International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford.

5. Editorial positions – About three-quarters (28) of TRS staff are editors or serve on editorial boards of over 50 scholarly journals or book series.

Journal Editorships include: **Crosby & Skilton**, co-editors, *Journal of Contemporary Buddhism* • **Karsh**, editor, *Israel Affairs*; **Kerr**, senior editor, *The Levantine Review*; **Stökl**, editor, *Culture and History of the Ancient Near East*; **Taylor**, editor (to 2012) *Strata: The Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society*; **Vinzent**, editor, *Studia Patristica*; **Yao**, associate editor *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*; **Yao**, associate editor-in-chief *Frontiers of Philosophy in China*.

Book Series Editorships include: **Gutkowski**, 'Studies in Nonreligion and Secularity' (De Gruyter); **Karsh**, 'Israeli History, Politics, and Society' (Routledge); **Kersten**, 'Contemporary Thought in the Islamic World' (Ashgate); **Miller** (with **Mishrif** co-editor), 'Political Economy of the Middle East' (Palgrave MacMillan); **Sedmak**, 'Grundwerte Europas' (Darmstadt); **Silverstein**, co-editor (with Stroumsa), 'Oxford Studies in the Abrahamic Religions' (OUP); **Vinzent**, co-editor (with **Brent**) of 'Studia Patristica Monographs' (Peeters).

Editorial Board Memberships include: *Journal of Contemporary Religion* • *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* • *Buddhist Studies Review* • *Vetus Christianorum* • *Augustinianum* • *Modern Theology* • *Eckhart Review* • *Reviews in Religion and Theology* • *Journal of Biblical Literature* • *Scottish Journal of Theology* • *Religious Studies* • *Journal of the Balkans and Greater Middle East* • *Review of International Law and Politics* • *Journal of Religion, State, and Society*.

6. Examination of doctorates – During this REF period TRS staff have examined 126 PhD theses (99 in UK & 27 at international universities).

7. Organisation of conferences – 29 staff from all subdisciplines have acted as organizers or co-organizers for 123 conferences and symposia over the period: 59 at King's, 39 at other UK HEIs; and 16 at international HEIs including at Beijing, Yale, Munich, Jerusalem, Copenhagen, Toronto and UCLA. Staff organized 9 further symposia for SBL annual meetings at locations across the USA. Among roles as **lead organisers** are: **Adams**, major conference, 'The Bible on TV' with CTVC (King's, 2012); **Burridge**, International Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature (King's, 2011);

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Annual Conference, British New Testament Society (King's, 2012); **Davies**, four symposia on 'Neuroscience, Social Transformation and Religions' (King's, Cologne, Graz, Beijing, 2011-13); **Kerr**, 'Conversations with Diplomacy' series (King's 2011-13); **Larkin**, international conference, 'Jerusalem and Other Contested Cities' (Jerusalem, 2010); **Quash**, two conferences with Victoria and Albert Museum for the V&A exhibition 'The Future: A History' (King's, 2013); **Schatz**, international Jewish Studies conference, 'Topoi of Time' (King's, 2011); **Taylor**, five 'Bible and Archaeology' study days with the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society (King's, 2011-12); **Yao**, International Conference on the *Analects of Confucius* (King's, 2010).

8. Refereeing academic publications or research proposals – Since 2008 TRS staff have refereed 153 articles for 81 journals; 127 book proposals for 40 publishers; and 149 research proposals for 19 research granting bodies.

9. Consultancy to Higher Education Institutions – This includes: **Al-Rasheed**, External Advisor at INFORM, LSE; **Crosby**, Natural History Museum, Consultancy for a permanent exhibition; British Library, Consultancy for manuscript exhibition in Sri Lanka; Victoria and Albert Museum, Consultancy for permanent gallery on Buddhist Sculpture; **Davies**, Bristol University, Strategic Review for Theology and Religious Studies; Consultant for promotions panel at Heythrop College, UoL; **Joyce**, External Reviewer, Theology and Religion Department, Exeter University; **Kersten**, Resources Development for Teaching and Learning in Islamic Thought (Higher Education Academy, UK); **Miller**, Advisor, Institute for International Studies, Muscat, Oman; **Quash**, Board Member, Archbishop's Examination in Theology (the 'Lambeth Doctorate'); Research Degree Panel, Ministry Division, Church of England; **Sedmak**, University of Vienna, Theology research development; **Turner**, External Review Committee, Theology Department, Notre Dame University.

10 staff have been **assessors/advisors for 42 appointment and promotions** in 24 universities, including: *Senior Professorial appointments* at Harvard University and Chinese University of Hong Kong; *Professorial appointments* at Bar Ilan University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Haifa University; *Professorial promotions* at UCL, SOAS, Universities of Chester, Aberdeen, Melbourne, Boston, St Andrews; *tenure and promotion* at Yale Divinity School; Princeton Theological Seminary; University of California Riverside; Oklahoma University.

10. TRS staff have received **28 distinctions, awards and fellowships** this period, including: **Brent**, DD Cambridge University; Professore Invitato, Augustinianum Rome; **Burridge**, Ratzinger Prize, awarded by the Vatican; Cecil Woods Fellow at Virginia Theological Seminary; **Crosby**, Visiting Professor, Dongguk University, Seoul; **Kerr**, King's Business Award for Conversations with Diplomacy project; **Saperstein**, Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* Hebrew-Union College, Cincinnati; Visiting Professor, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences; **Schatz**, Ella Darivoff Fellow, University of Pennsylvania; Research Fellow, Universiteit van Amsterdam; **Sedmak**, Johann Gottfried Herder Visiting Chair, Jena; Visiting Professor, Cebu University (Philippines); **Swancutt**, Fellowship of the Royal Anthropological Institute; **Turner**, Honorary D.Litt. University College, Dublin; **Vinzent**, Max-Weber Fellow, Erfurt University; Visiting Professor, Korea University; **Yao**, Changjiang Honorary Professor, Ministry of Education, China.

11. Invited keynotes, lectures and/or performances – Departmental staff have made significant contributions to their fields by giving 416 invited lectures and conference papers (222 in the UK, 194 abroad) of which 38 were keynote addresses. Among keynotes & named lectures are:

Brent 2012, The Christopher Morris Lecture, Society of St John Chrysostom, London (keynote); **Carlisle** 2012, Annual Conference, British Society for the History of Philosophy, University of Dundee (keynote); **Crosby** 2010, Theravada Civilisations Project, University of Chicago (keynote); **Davies** 2009, Cardinal Hume Lectures, Heythrop College, UoL (keynote); 2013, Max Weber Institute, Erfurt (keynote); **Kerr** 2009, Queen's University Belfast (keynote); **Miller** 2008: Trinity College Dublin (keynote); **Quash** 2012, Biola University Festival of the Arts, Los Angeles (keynote); **Saperstein** 2013, 7th Annual Jewish Studies Conference, Doshisho University, Japan (keynote); **Sedmak** 2009, ARA Lecture, Technical University of Vienna (keynote); 2011, Inaugural Albert Keller Lecture, Jesuit School of Philosophy, Munich (keynote); 2012, L. Luzbetak Lecture, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago (keynote); 2013, Bernie Clark Lecture, University of Notre Dame (keynote); **Shterin** 2010, International Conference on Religious Tolerance and Intolerance in Europe, University of Graz (keynote); **Turner** 2008, Annual Medieval and Renaissance Society, Villanova University (keynote); 2009, Chicago University Divinity School (keynote).