

<p>Institution: University of Gloucestershire</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA 33 Theology and Religious Studies</p>
<p>a. Overview</p>
<p>Theology and Religious Studies (TRS) in the University of Gloucestershire exists in a vibrant and notably collegial culture of research, scholarship, research-informed teaching and engagement with communities. As a research area whose scope includes the study of the major world religions and philosophy, it distinctively combines rigorous critical scholarship and an orientation towards engagement with issues in the world beyond academe: social, political and religious. Thus our biblical research has developed an emphasis on the relationship between critical biblical study and ways in which the Bible is used, research in Judaism and Islam is socially and culturally engaged, and our philosophy is concerned with philosophical thinking in relation to social as well as theological issues. Within this context the reception of religious traditions in works of art is a particular focus. Theology and Religious Studies staff includes high-profile researchers who are engaged internationally both in research and in the development of their disciplines. The area benefits from a strong position within the University, deriving from an institutional foundation that set the subject at its heart. This has been undergirded by specific investment, which continues to strengthen to the present. The unit has grown since the last RAE, having now four professors and two readers, and this is reflected in the increased number of staff submitting outputs in REF 2. In addition to producing major research outputs, members of the unit are engaged more broadly with the work of scholarship and research-informed teaching, evidenced for example in the production of a number of widely used textbooks, all of which contribute to the intellectual excitement in this area. There is also a lively postgraduate research programme, with strong recruitment, training, and participation in research seminars along with staff and external speakers.</p>
<p>Organizationally, the UOA sits within the School of Humanities and the Faculty of Media, Arts and Technology, at Francis Close Hall in Cheltenham. The Head of School, Professor Shelley Saguro, is also Faculty Lead on Research. Along with the University's Dean of Research, she has oversight of research policy in this UOA, while sharing responsibility for developing it with the four Professors and the two Readers. All members of staff are allocated at least one research day per week, within the University's Work Allocation Model, with higher allocations for Professors and Readers. A Faculty Research Awards Advisory Group (FRAAG) is chaired by one of the Professors in TRS, and has a responsibility to develop capacity in obtaining external funding for projects. All members of staff have also been able to access QR and other internal funding through the Faculty Research Committee (FRC), to support research activities, such as conference attendance, and by means of relief from teaching duties to facilitate publication, and the development of projects.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p>
<p>The research strategy of TRS is to promote research and scholarship at the highest level in the areas of its greatest strengths, based on rigorous critical enquiry and aiming to serve both our teaching programmes and our constituencies beyond the academic environment. Thus it aims to build on and develop previous successes. In the 2008 RAE, we were able to enter four researchers, three in Biblical Studies and one in Jewish Theology. In that exercise 85% of the outputs entered were 'internationally recognized' or 'internationally excellent', including 40% at 3, with an element of '4' for research environment. The historic strength of the area in Biblical Studies was recognized when the International Centre for Biblical Interpretation (ICBI) was cited in the UOA's achievement of a '4' for research environment.</p>
<p>For 2014 we are entering six researchers, with a fuller representation of our subject areas. In this expansion there are several factors. The capacity of the Biblical Studies area has been further developed (as described in c below). On the side of Religious Studies, to the research excellence in the work of Raphael in Jewish Theology have been added new research strengths in Philosophy and Islam. This has been the direct result of the successful growth of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics as a taught course, together with a university-wide commitment to research-based teaching.</p>

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The UOA's current activities and future plans are in line with the University's research strategy, which is to give specific support (in terms of budget and time allocation) to areas of perceived strength, for the purpose of raising the University's profile and developing income streams. It is also committed to encouraging cross-disciplinary and thematic research units and projects. In the UOA, this is reflected in several ways.

The UOA's historic and continuing strength in Biblical Studies is attested by the fact that the subject has the University's only Endowed Chair. The Portland Chair in New Testament Studies, endowed by the Sir Kirby Laing Trust, was held, since its inception in 1999 and up to 2013, by Prof Andrew **Lincoln**. In the period to 2008, the Chair was supported by the additional appointment of a Research Assistant, but in the present period this was upgraded to a Senior Lecturer post in New Testament (**Pietersen**). In the present year, in recognition of Professor Lincoln's work and in anticipation of a new appointment to the Chair, the Sir Kirby Laing Trust agreed to increase the Endowment further, with an additional grant of £500,000 (supplementing the original £1,250,000), by which it expressed its confidence in the University's continuing resolve to support the subject at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Following this, the University has been able to appoint Prof Philip **Esler** to the Chair, while Prof **Lincoln** continues in the UOA on a fractional appointment. This Trust has also endowed Biblical Chairs at Oxford and Aberdeen.

The holder of the Kirby Laing Chair directs the International Centre for Biblical Interpretation (ICBI), the University's first Research Centre. The Centre co-ordinates research activities for staff and students in Biblical Studies, including research seminars; it convenes international symposia, and hosts an annual lecture in Biblical Studies. Past lecturers have included Profs N. T. Wright, H.G.M. Williamson, Frances Young, Christopher Seitz, and R. W.L. Moberly. In the current REF period this high standard has continued with lectures by Profs. Paul Fiddes (Oxford, 2008), Markus Bockmuehl (Oxford, 2009), Robert Gordon (Cambridge, 2010), David Ford (Cambridge, 2011), John Barclay (Durham, 2012), John Rogerson (Sheffield, 2013). The lecturers and topics alternate between the Old and New Testaments and in some cases (such as Prof Fiddes in Christian Theology) are given by scholars who bring a perspective on the Bible from their own subject areas. In 2014 the lecturer will be Prof Valentine Cunningham, Professor of English Language and Literature in Oxford University.

At the time of the last RAE, the University was developing a number of new Research Centres, among them the Centre for Bible and Spirituality. This cross-disciplinary Centre comprises staff from Biblical Studies and Theology (Christian and Jewish) as well as History and English Literature, all of whom have contributed to its regular series of research seminars. The Centre has been at the forefront of developments in the relatively new academic discipline of Biblical Spirituality and has twice received external funding from Bible Society to support this, totalling £46,500 (of which £45,000 supported a three-year project on the topic (2011-13). In 2010 it hosted its first International Symposium at the University, these included Prof Kees Waaijman of the Titus Brandsma Institute, Nijmegen University, recognized as the world's leading expert in the study of Spirituality and other Dutch and South African colleagues. In 2012, as part of the three-year project, a larger International Symposium at the University included Profs Sandra Schneiders and Barbara Green of Berkeley; Ellen Davis and Stephen Chapman of Duke University, Mike Gorman of Baltimore, and Pieter de Villiers of South Africa, as well as Walter Moberly and other leading UK figures. Schneiders is recognized as the world leader in Biblical Spirituality. The papers from the first Symposium were published as *Acta Theologica Supplementum 15* (Bloemfontein, 2011, edited by Pietersen and de Villiers), and those from the second have been published by Wipf and Stock in 2013 as *Biblical Spirituality: Exploratory Essays in Reading Scripture Spiritually*, edited by **Lincoln**, **McConville** and **Pietersen**.

The three-year funded project aimed not only to develop the discipline of Biblical Spirituality, but also to facilitate a dialogue between it and perspectives on spirituality from other disciplines. This aim has been met principally by a series of seminars by eminent external speakers, mainly from disciplines outside Biblical Studies, including Prof Ursula King (world religions), Prof John Cottingham (moral philosophy), Dr Joanna Collicutt (psychology), Dr Mark Vernon (religion and philosophy), Dr Stephen Barton (New Testament), as well as staff from the UOA and other parts of

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the University. Topics have included spirituality and art, moral change, challenges facing the planet, idolatry, the emotions, and dementia. Prof Alec Ryrie of Durham is due to come on 15 January 2014, and speak on 'Faith, Doubt and the Problem of "Atheism" in Post-Reformation Britain'. Accounts and discussions of these have appeared on the University's Theology blog Theoglos (www.uogtheology.wordpress.com). The project also supports a research student, Sheona Beaumont, a professional artist, working on a PhD on modern photography in relation to biblical spirituality. It will culminate in March 2014 with a day-conference, led by Dr Paula Gooder, together with **Lincoln, McConville** and **Pietersen**.

The Centre for Bible and Spirituality is already planning for development of its work beyond the end of the present sponsored project. With the contacts made in the course of it, a planning meeting is to take place at the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) in Baltimore (November 2013) with a view to running a section on Biblical Spirituality at SBL, and also to hold a further International Symposium in 2015, in Hong Kong or South Africa.

Finally, the University Executive has recently identified a number of research priority areas for support and development in the coming five-year period, following competitive internal bids. One of those it has nominated for support is entitled 'Being Human: Past, Present and Future'. This development is based largely on the School of Humanities, and is now led by Professor **Esler** in TRS. This is set to encourage strands of research already developing strongly in TRS in the direction of cross-disciplinarity and collaboration. It will provide a context for the further flourishing of research in the subject area, while suggesting new cross-disciplinary inflections.

Besides the Research Centres, there is a series of research seminars in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, with external and internal speakers. Pamela Anderson (Oxford) has given one of these, and also engaged are Aaron Rosen, (Kings College, London), Isabel Wollaston (Birmingham) and Agata Bialik (Nottingham).

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The TRS UOA consists of twelve staff, eight of them full-time, one (**Pietersen**) on a 0.8 fractional contract, and three others on lower fractional contracts (**Carter, Lincoln, Wilson**). There are four Professors (**Esler, Lincoln, McConville** and **Raphael**), two Readers (**Jackson, Large**), and four others at Principal or Senior Lecturer level (Long, **Pietersen**, Pitkänen, Webster). All members of the UOA are research-active, and also have undergraduate teaching responsibilities on courses in Theology, and in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE). In addition, Dr Theodore Gabriel continues as a highly research active Honorary Research Fellow, with his own office in the School.

The most significant staffing development in the period is the appointment of Prof Philip **Esler** to the endowed Portland Chair of New Testament, with responsibility for the ICBI. With Prof **Lincoln's** move to a fractional contract, this gives us the benefit of two senior New Testament professors. The renewed commitment of the Sir Kirby Laing Trust to the endowed Chair, with substantial additional funding, coincides with the University's re-introduction of a full residential undergraduate programme in TRS, under way in 2013. The development thus reinforces the strategy in the University and in TRS to build its capacity in research-led teaching. The development of **Pietersen** from research assistant (to the Chair) to a full Senior Lecturer position in New Testament completes the picture of staff development in this foundational area in the University's commitment to Theology and in the sustaining of theological research.

A number of the existing staff have made visible progress in their research contributions and capacity in the period. **Jackson** (Philosophy and Islam) has developed a strong research profile and been appointed Reader (2012). **Large** (Philosophy), who was appointed at the beginning of the REF period, was also made Reader in 2013. **Wilson** was moved from a PTHP contract (in the outgoing Distance Learning course) to a permanent (fractional) contract, in anticipation of her contribution to the new undergraduate provision in Theology. Her teaching is underpinned

by her research activity in Church History.

All TRS staff are teaching on the new undergraduate course, which has been developed with special attention to their research interests. This is apparent in the theme of human flourishing that runs through the final-year syllabus of the course, and which finds echoes in the research commitment to Bible and Spirituality, in the engagement between the religious traditions and social and cultural issues, and in the broader research theme of 'Being Human'.

In essence, the strategy of the University, School and TRS itself is to encourage and promote the flourishing of its staff as researchers, scholars and teachers. Their shared commitment to all these aspects of the work issues in a range of scholarly activity beyond outputs that are strictly research.

This is evident in the kinds of scholarly activity that are carried on here apart from that which is represented in REF 2, but which form an essential part of lively academic environment of TRS. Several colleagues have published textbooks (**Large** on Heidegger, **Jackson** on philosophy), and Pitkänen has a major commentary on the book of Joshua (IVPUSA, 2010). This range of activity bespeaks a broad culture of academic exchange that is not limited to a focus on the Abrahamic religions. Besides continuing his long-standing work on Islam, including, now as editor of *Sufism in Britain* (Continuum, 2013), Gabriel researches Indian religions, as in his monograph on the Muttappan Cult of North Malabar (Equinox, 2009). Webster continues to publish in the area of his primary research on Buddhism, now in relation to philosophy of religion and religious dialogue. He has also written a book on contemporary spirituality, *Dispirited: How Contemporary Spirituality Makes Us Stupid, Selfish & Unhappy* (Zero Books 2012), which has been part of a dialogue with the Bible and Spirituality theme, and has led to a number of public and academic events. In recent articles he also engages with other contemporary topics including masculinity and religious attitudes to death.

ii. Research students

The training and supervision of PGR students is the responsibility of the Postgraduate Research Centre (PRC). The PRC oversees the admissions process, normally arranging for applicants to be interviewed, the appointment of first and second supervisors, a system of supervision - recording and a Joint Annual Progress Report (JAPR). Record-keeping and reporting is managed, from 2013, through the online Skills Forge, and the PRC maps PGR research at the University against the QAA Researcher Development Framework. Students' research projects are submitted, following a rigorous process of scrutiny of their viability, to the Faculty Research Degrees Committee (FRDC), then the University RDC. This happens normally within six months to a year from registration, and is a pre-requisite of proceeding to submission of the thesis.

The monitoring and training process addresses the broad range of skills and development that a student needs in preparation for employment and effective further academic work. The JAPR identifies specific training needs, and means for meeting them. The PRC holds an annual conference and summer school, at which students have the opportunity to present papers to their peers. The Media, Arts and Technology Faculty also has an annual PGR symposium, the most recent topic being 'employability'.

In addition, TRS holds regular research seminars, at which staff, students and invited speakers give papers. The University is also one of the sponsors of the Annual PGR TRS Conference held at Bristol University, at which many of our students have given papers during the present REF period. Staff members **McConville** and **Pietersen** have organized this for the University and attended all the conferences in the period. Students attended the Bible and Spirituality International Symposium in May 2012 and met participants. As a result **Parker** participated by Skype in a research seminar at Princeton. Beaumont, as a funded member in the Bible and Spirituality project, exhibited and gave a commentary on some of her work in photographic art, which is represented in the published volume of the Symposium.

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Finally, PGR students have access to teaching opportunities. Two TRS students taught modules on the University's Applied Theology course in the current period. PGR students are encouraged to engage fully with the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES). Students are encouraged to participate and network nationally in their subject area. Full-time students are allowed £200 p.a. for the purpose, and part-time students £120, and they have access competitively to further funding through FRC.

In the present REF period there have been thirteen PhD completions in TRS (with one further successfully passed in October 2013), and another submission imminent. (In addition, **Large** had two PhD completions in the period at the University of Exeter). Of these thirteen, the following six are in academic posts: Thomas (Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest NC); Fantuzzo (Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia); Farelly (Faculté de Théologie de Vaux-sur-Seine); Lee (Trinity Theological College, Singapore); Thang (seminary in Burma); Lecureux (Trinity Theological College, Brisbane). Sumpter has taught for a year at Nazareth Bible College, Israel. Georgina Jardim has had PTHP contracts at the University of Gloucestershire. Of current students, Tim Davy is Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Mission at Redcliffe College, Gloucester (a partner college of the University), as well as Director of the Centre for Bible and Mission, and leader of an MA programme. Cyndi Parker is a Faculty member at Jerusalem University College, where she teaches courses in Historical Geography.

Students who graduated in the period have the following publications: Lecureux' thesis (2011) is published as *The Thematic Unity of the Book of the Twelve* (Sheffield Phoenix, 2012). Farelly has published *The Disciples in the Fourth Gospel: A Narrative Analysis of their Faith and Understanding* (WUNT 2/290; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010). Thomas (PhD 2008) has published *Poetry and Theology in the Book of Lamentations* (Sheffield Phoenix, 2013), edited *Great Is Thy Faithfulness? Message and Meaning of Lamentations* (Pickwick Press, 2011), and *Holy War in the Bible* (IVP 2013), and published articles in VT, BBR, and TynBul. Sumpter (2012) has published "Brevard Childs as Critical and Faithful Exegete," Princeton Theological Review 38 (2008), 95-116. His thesis is to be published by T&T Clark/Bloomsbury, and he has articles forthcoming in JSOT and Biblica. Lee's revised thesis is forthcoming with Wipf and Stock. Jardim's thesis (2008), is forthcoming with Ashgate (2014) as *Recovering the Female Voice in Islamic Scripture: An Abrahamic Commonplace for Reasoning about Women and Silence*. Current student Randles has published several articles in ExpTim.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Faculty Research Committee manages an annual QR budget and makes awards to staff on a competitive basis for the purposes of conference attendance, the support of projects by granting relief from teaching, and the production of outputs. In the period, all members of the UOA were supported by FRC for such purposes.

An award of **£500,000** was secured from the Sir Kirby Laing Trust in 2013 to increase support for the endowed Portland Chair in New Testament, and thus the International Centre for Biblical Interpretation. This extra funding was the result of a competitive bid, as other universities were seeking similar additional support. Income from the original endowment of **£1,250,000** was **£368,668** in the period Jan 2008-July 2013.

The Centre for Bible and Spirituality was awarded **£45,000** by Bible Society over three years (2011-13) for a project on the Bible and Spirituality, following a preliminary award of **£1,500** in 2010 for an International Symposium. These awards have enabled high-level outputs to be achieved by the holder of the Chair, as a result of the Bible and Spirituality project. **Lincoln** lists four potential REF entries in the period in addition to those actually included in REF2. Key outputs of the Bible and Spirituality project are the two volumes of the 2010 and 2013 International Symposiums, *The Spirit That Inspires* (co-edited by **Pietersen**) and *Biblical Spirituality*, edited by **Lincoln, McConville and Pietersen**. (Essays from these volumes are included in REF2). **McConville** has a contract (with Baker Academic) for a monograph, *Being Human: A View from the Old Testament*, which will be a direct result of his work on the Bible.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Members of the UOA contribute to the discipline in a range of ways.

Learned Societies

Esler is a member of the Council of the Society of Biblical Literature, and was elected to the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2009. **Lincoln** was President of the British New Testament Society (2006-2009). **Pieteresen** is a Committee member of the British New Testament Society (2004-present), and co-chair of the 'Social World of the New Testament' seminar at BNTConference (2006-present). **Large** is a Fellow of Royal Society of Arts and President of the British Society of Phenomenology (to the present). **Raphael** was an elected member of the national committee of the Association of University Departments in Theology and Religious Studies, 2002 – 2010. She has also been elected as a member of The London Society for the Study of Religion (2013). **Jackson** is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and is on the Steering Committee for a new network that is replacing the Islamic Studies Network called BRAIS (British Association of Islamic Studies). **Large, Webster and Jackson** contribute frequently to the work of the **Gloucestershire Philosophical Society** which communicates the results of their research to a public audience.

Editing and Editorial Boards

Lincoln served on the Editorial Board of Biblical Interpretation (2008 -2011), and is editor for the New Testament Guides series for T&T Clark/Bloomsbury. **Esler** is on the Editorial Board of *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, and *Biblical Reception*. **Raphael** is on the international editorial boards of *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*; *The Journal of the European Society of Women in Theological Research* and *Religion and Gender*. **McConville** served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Theological Interpretation* (Eisenbrauns, USA, 2007-11), and is General Editor of the *Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary* series (Eerdmans).

Refereeing and consultancy

Esler is a panellist for the Icelandic Research Fund, and reviews applications for research grants to the Templeton Foundation. He has also refereed for OUP. **Lincoln** was theological consultant for the Church of England at the Meissen consultation on "The Authority and Uses of the Bible in the Life of the Churches" (November 2008, Düsseldorf). He also gave the keynote paper on "Communion - Some Pauline Foundations" for the Third Porvoo Conference on Ethics and Communion (London, January, 2008; Porvoo is a communion of Anglican and Lutheran churches), refereed manuscripts for the Library of New Testament Studies series (Continuum, 2008-09) and for CUP and OUP (2010-11). **Raphael** was Academic Representative of the British Government's FCO Delegation to the Taskforce for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (2004-08), and in March 2012 was academic consultant for an architect-designed Tri-Faith Space for interfaith worship in Regent's Park, London. She has refereed for Routledge, Ashgate, New York University Press, Continuum, and other publishers, as well as acting as editorial consultant for numerous journals. She is also an assessor for the Targum Shlishi Foundation, Florida, USA, which considers applications for Research grants in Jewish Studies; June 2012-present. She is also a member of an international research project on idolatry and representation in the Dept. of Systematic Theology, University of Copenhagen. In June 2010 she was elected permanent member of The Stephen S. Weinstein Wroxton Symposium on Genocide, funded and administered by Fairleigh Dickenson University, USA. **Pieteresen** has refereed for *Acta Theologica*, and **Jackson** for Islamic books for Routledge, **McConville** was an assessor for the Austrian Science Council, 2009, and has acted as referee for and Wipf and Stock (2012), and *Acta Theologica* (Bloemfontein). **Large** has refereed manuscripts and book proposals for Routledge.

Invited papers/lectures

Raphael was the Hussey Lecturer in the Church and the Arts, Oxford University, 2011-12, on 'The Image of God in the Image: Women as Religious Subjects in Jewish and Christian Art'. She gave a keynote lecture at the University of Copenhagen, October 2011, 'Disappearing Images: Gender, Forgetting, and the Second Commandment Doubled' in a conference on *Imago Dei: Memory and the Prohibition of Images*; a keynote lecture in 2012 at the University of Marburg in an international

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congress on Rudolf Otto – Theology, Philosophy of Religion, History of Religions, and a keynote lecture at the University of Oxford in 2012 to mark the fifth anniversary of the publication of *The Common Word*, with Miroslav Volf (Yale) and HRH Prince Ghazi Bin Muhammad of Jordan. Her book, *The Female Face of God in Auschwitz*, was the subject of an AAR panel in 2011, and a special issue of *Holocaust Studies* 15 (2011). **Lincoln** gave the Manson Memorial Lecture, University of Manchester (Oct. 2013). He gave the Ethel M. Wood Lecture at King's College, London, March 2009, the invited Plenary lecture for the British New Testament Conference, University of Nottingham, Sept. 2011, and an invited paper to a symposium on *The Divine Courtroom in Comparative Perspective* at the Benjamin Cardozo Law School, Yeshiva University, New York (Feb 2012). He was also the invited speaker for a week of lectures at the Oxford Vacation Term for Biblical Study (July 2008; August, 2011).

Esler, on the strength of his *New Testament Theology: Communion and Community* (Fortress, 2005), was invited in 2012 by Professors Gerd Theissen and Ulrich Luz to be one of two Roman Catholic contributors to provide an essay for an issue of *Evangelische Theologie* they were editing devoted to New Testament Theology. **McConville** is the Annual Lecturer at the Institute of Biblical Research, Baltimore, November 2013, on the Bible and 'the challenge of being human'. He was an invited speaker at interdisciplinary conferences on biblical interpretation in relation to law (organized and funded by Cambridge Interfaith and the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics, Cambridge, March 2012), and religion and violence (Norwegian Summer Academy for Biblical Studies, Kristiansand, Norway, August 2012), both of which have resulted in published volumes. He also gave a keynote lecture at the inaugural conference of BACI, an organization in the Church of Ireland for promoting biblical understanding in the Church (2012). **Pietersen** is an invited speaker at the Church and Peace International Conference in Selbitz, Germany, on Romans 13 and 'Occupy' (May-June, 2013).

Development of subject

Esler introduced social identity theory to New Testament scholarship in 1994 in a paper on the Matthean Beatitudes at the British New Testament Society meeting in Nottingham, as recognized in the *T & T Clark Handbook to Social Identity in the New Testament*, edited by J. Brian Tucker and Coleman A. Baker (London: Bloomsbury forthcoming 2014; 624 pp) in which a revised version of that paper is published for the first time, together with an overview of the theory by Esler. There are essays by twenty-six scholars in the volume and Esler supervised the doctorates of three, was the external examiner of four more, and hosted another for a semester at St Andrews during his Swedish doctorate. The work of **Pietersen**, **Lincoln** and **McConville** has contributed to the recognition of 'biblical spirituality' as a new branch of the discipline of Biblical Studies, with a series of international Symposia now in train, and plans to establish a section on the topic at SBL.

PGR training

As part of PGR training within the University of Gloucestershire, **McConville** and **Pietersen** have contributed to the development of the annual TRS postgraduate conference, of which the University of Gloucestershire is a sponsor. Based in Bristol, it now has a national and international reach.

External examining

Lincoln: External examiner for PhDs at Durham, Dec. 2008; Durham, March 2011; Manchester, Dec. 2011. **McConville** examined PhDs at Durham (2010), the Open University (2010), Aberdeen (2011), Cambridge (2013), and the Staatsunabhängige Theologische Fakultät, Basel (2013). **Pietersen** examined PhDs at Bangor (2009), Otago (2010), University of Wales, Trinity Saint David (2011), and Sheffield (2012). **Raphael** examined PhDs at Manchester University (2010, 2011) and SOAS (London University, 2010). **Esler** examined a PhD at Lampeter in 2008.