

Institution: University of Winchester
Unit of Assessment: D33 Theology and Religious Studies
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Centre for the Study of Theology and Religion (CSTR) was established in 1998 to support and promote the University's research activity in Theology and Religious Studies. It is directed by Messer and based in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. It brings together members of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies (Andreopoulos, Hedges, Linzey, Meredith, Messer, Paddison, Welch), the Winchester Centre of Religions for Reconciliation and Peace (King, Owen) and the Institute for Theological Partnerships (Isherwood).</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Four main strategic priorities were identified in CSTR's RAE 2008 submission. Progress in relation to these can be briefly summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p><i>Continue supporting individual staff in their research interests.</i></p> <p>Of the staff named in the 2008 submission, Gudmarsdottir and Overend (now Pearson) have left the institution, and Stuart has moved to the senior management post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Those staff who have remained research-active members of CSTR have been supported in the fulfilment of the research plans identified in 2008 in various ways, described below, and progress has been monitored through annual staff reviews. The results of this support include the following, much of which appears in REF2: Hedges' publications on interfaith dialogue and the theology of religions include a monograph, a textbook, a reader and numerous articles and chapters; Isherwood has published edited books, articles and chapters on embodiment and theology; King's research on Vaishnavism has been published in journal articles and chapters; Welch's research interests have shifted to the representation of religion and spirituality in visual and material culture, particularly with reference to death and dying. Andreopoulos, Linzey, Meredith, Messer, Owen, and Paddison have joined CSTR since 2008. Support for new and existing staff between 2008-13 is described more fully later. It has included mentoring, advice, and the use of research income to fund research leave, teaching cover, fieldwork, conference travel and the initial development of new projects.</p> <p><i>Continue to expand our research student body, encouraging all students to apply for external funding.</i></p> <p>There has been notable success in achieving this aim, detailed in section (c.ii) below.</p> <p><i>Continue to attract internationally recognised academics as honorary research staff to enhance our research culture and international links.</i></p> <p>CSTR's network of Visiting Professors and Research Fellows has continued to expand, and now includes James Attwell (Dean of Winchester Cathedral), Andrew Bradstock (London), Paul Collins (Holy Island, Lindisfarne), Graham Dwyer (Greenwich), Shirley Firth (Winchester), Nikolaos Loudovikos (Thessaloniki), Lord Plant of Highfield (King's College London) and Alan Race (London). They have participated in various ways, including speaking at conferences hosted by the unit, guest lectures, research seminars, and co-supervision of research students with contractual staff.</p> <p><i>Focus on securing external funding for research projects.</i></p> <p>This has been a focus of CSTR's strategy since 2008, with the success detailed in section d (i) below.</p> <p>CSTR's strategic aims for the period 2014-19, and the principal ways in which they will be achieved, can be summarised as follows:</p> <p><i>Aim 1. Nurture a strong, sustainable and resilient research environment that will enable all CSTR staff to achieve their full research potential.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on the well-established CSTR research seminar programme to sustain and develop a strong, collaborative and collegial research culture within CSTR. Sustainably maintain the established research leave schedule of one semester's leave

approximately every five years for FT academic staff in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, subject to the staff member's having a clear and achievable research plan which will contribute to the research profile of CSTR.

- Use staff reviews and annual reporting to monitor and support staff in their research development, including their contributions to the wider research environment of the discipline.

Aim 2: encourage the further development of established and emerging research specialisms within CSTR.

- Established and emerging specialisms within CSTR are: (1) science, theology and ethics (including animal and environmental ethics); (2) death, religion and culture; (3) inter-religious dialogue, reconciliation and peacebuilding; (4) Orthodox Christianity; (5) sexuality and gender; (6) theology and religion in public life.
- Target a proportion of available research income (e.g. QR) to support activities such as conferences, workshops and networks in these areas of specialism.
- Make use of Visiting Professors and Research Fellows to contribute to these specialisms, and where appropriate appoint further Visiting Professors and Research Fellows to strengthen these specialisms.

Aim 3: continue to support and encourage strong applications for external research grant funding, particularly in CSTR's established and emerging specialisms.

- Use a proportion of QR income as 'seed corn' funding to support the development of external funding bids, particularly in the specialisms identified above.
- Review grant bid activity in annual staff reviews.
- Use those with experience of successful grant applications in CSTR and elsewhere in the institution to mentor staff in preparing funding bids.
- Strengthen and extend our network of links with other institutions, to facilitate the development of inter-institutional collaborative bids.

Aim 4: maintain present PGR numbers and make full use of any available opportunities for external funding of PGR students.

- Develop existing and planned Master's degree programmes in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies as routes for the recruitment of PGR students.
- Develop international institutional links and church theological networks (e.g. in Orthodox Christian Studies) as routes for international PGR recruitment.
- Identify and develop the strongest projects for opportunities such as Collaborative Doctoral Awards and Project Studentships.

Aim 5. Maximise research impact – means of achieving this are described in REF 3a.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Support of all academic staff in CSTR is conducted according to the University's policy on Staff Development and Review. In addition, for new staff, the policy on Induction, Mentoring and Review for New Academic Staff provides for research mentoring and allowance for the development of research activity in workload allocations. All staff have access to a University-wide Staff Development Programme, and new staff are expected to undertake a PG Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Supervisors of research students are required to participate in the University's supervision training and enhancement programme, and may undertake a PG Certificate in Research Degree Supervision. The University adheres to the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*. CSTR currently has one early-career researcher in post, for whom support includes the research mentoring and training provision already described,

financial support for research development, conference participation etc., and advice on career development from his line manager as part of the Staff Development Review process.

Research activity is discussed and monitored through the annual Staff Development Review. Research objectives for the coming year are agreed at each review and any specific training or support needs identified. Mentoring, support and advice are also offered between annual reviews. An allocation of 400 hours per annum (for 1.0 FTE staff) for research and knowledge exchange activity is included in the annual workload plan agreed by each staff member with their line manager. For CSTR staff with teaching and administrative responsibilities in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, a programme of research leave provides one semester's leave approximately every five years, subject to the agreement of a research plan with the Director of CSTR. In addition, some QR income is targeted towards teaching cover for the completion of projects or publications. Research time for CSTR staff based in other units is negotiated with their line managers. QR income is also used strategically in other ways to support the development of staff and research – for example, by funding fieldwork, international conference participation, and 'seed corn' support for the development of external grant applications.

Career progression for all academic staff, including fixed-term and part-time staff, is governed by the University's Procedures for the Grading and Promotion of Staff. Development reviews to assist staff in preparing for progression to higher grades take place during the annual Staff Development Review process for staff who have reached progression points. There is also an annual promotions round during which staff may apply for Readerships or Professorial titles on grounds of research achievement.

CSTR's commitment to equal opportunities is guided by the University's Equality and Diversity Strategy, its annually published Equality Objectives and a range of policies in which those objectives are embedded. CSTR research interests have enabled the unit to make a distinctive contribution to several aspects of this institutional equality and diversity agenda. Examples include: contributions to a series of University events for LGBT History Month in 2012; leadership of institutional interfaith dialogue events; development of an institution-wide online resource for developing religious literacy; leadership of an interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies. The Faculty is participating in the trial of the Gender Equality Charter Mark for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

CSTR has a high level of contact with non-academic, especially third-sector, partners. The Winchester Centre for Religions for Reconciliation and Peace and the Institute for Theological Partnerships are particular foci for such exchange. The former's partnership activity is supported by central University funding and the latter's by the annual allocation of a proportion of CSTR's QR income.

ii. Research students

Research culture: research students are encouraged to present their work and participate fully in the CSTR research seminar programme, which runs throughout the academic year, and the annual CSTR Postgraduate Seminar Day. They are actively encouraged to participate in other events organized by CSTR, such as those described in section e (iv) below. There are also Faculty and University-wide events in which students are encouraged to participate, and supervisors advise students on appropriate opportunities to present their work at external academic conferences.

Recruitment: The research student body has grown from 23 in 2008 to 34 in July 2013, one funded by an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award. Equal opportunities practice in research student admissions is governed by the University's Equality and Diversity Strategy, and research students have access to the support for students with disabilities and special needs provided by the Student Services Department.

Exchanges with non-academic bodies: in addition to the CDA already mentioned, many of CSTR's research students are part-time and undertaking research degrees for professional development in sectors outside higher education, such as ministry and religious leadership.

Supervision, training and support: every research student has a supervisory team comprising a Director of Studies and at least one other supervisor; the full supervisory team is normally expected to meet with the student at least three times a year. In addition, each student has a

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personal tutor who is not part of the supervisory team, who serves as a point of contact for any concerns that the student wishes to raise. Agreed written records are kept of all supervisions. Research students' progress is monitored by annual reports from the student and Director of Studies, including an agreed action plan for coming year. These reports are received by the University Research Degrees Quality Committee, which oversees research students' progress.

CSTR research students undertake the University's Research Training Programme, which has been developed to fulfil the generic training requirements of the QAA, AHRC and other Research Councils, and was commended in the QAA Institutional Audit in 2009. The programme is focused on the development and practice of a wide range of skills and knowledge required of the research professional/professional researcher. It broadens students' engagement with research outside their own fields, introduces them to national agendas in research assessment and knowledge exchange, and provides opportunities for work on research career development. They also have the opportunity to teach and to receive training in HE learning and teaching.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**i. Research income**

Isherwood: Co-I for a collaborative project on Religion, Gender and Politics, funded by an A\$50,000 grant held by Dr Kathleen McPhillips at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia

King: £2,000 from Spalding Trust to support Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions.

Messer and Paddison: AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award 'Bioethics, Public Policy and the Church of England', awarded May 2011 (total value £50,000 approx.).

Welch: Henry Moore Foundation research grant, Oct 2012 (£1,340); research grant from Church Archaeology Trust, Jan 2013 (£563). She is also Co-I for the AHRC Connected Communities award 'GEM (Grown, Edible, Meaningful): Herbal Probes for Community-Driven Environmental Change' (total FEC £39,983; Winchester component £15,298). The award was made in Dec 2012, and Welch's contribution to the project began at the start of the 2013-14 academic year.

ii. Infrastructure and facilities

Scholarly infrastructure: The University's Martial Rose Library currently holds some 300,000 books and 8,000 journals (most of the latter available online) across the arts, humanities and social sciences. The Library's Special Collections include the Thorold and Lyttleton Library, a collection of some 9,000 volumes in Theology and Religious Studies deposited with the University by the Diocese of Winchester. The University is establishing a data repository, which will be operational for the 2014-20 REF cycle.

Organisational infrastructure: The University Research and Knowledge Exchange Centre provides central support and administration for research grants, REF preparations and research students. QR income is largely devolved to the units generating it as a result of RAE 2008, and the allocation of QR income within CSTR was described in section b. During the census period, the Winchester Centre of Religions for Reconciliation and Peace was established with central university funding to develop research, knowledge exchange and impact in the area of religion, reconciliation and peacebuilding. The Institute for Theological Partnerships was established to develop research and other collaborations with faith community partner institutions. A strategic decision was taken within CSTR, in agreement with the Faculty and University, to develop Orthodox Christian Studies as a new area within the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. Investment in this area included the creation of a new academic staff post with support from the University's Academic Development Fund. A fixed term early-career post in Theology and Religious Studies was created in 2013 with central University funding.

Operational infrastructure: The University's IT Services give academic staff access to computer hardware, online library resources and research databases. Purchase of specialist hardware such as digital recording devices is organised through IT Services and usually funded from CSTR research income. Licenses for specialist software such as SPSS and Nvivo are purchased and usually funded centrally.

The balance between scholarly, organisational and operational infrastructure is determined

centrally through the University's annual budgeting process.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

i. Collaborations, networks and partnerships

Andreopoulos is a Director of the Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge and a Board member of the Montreal Institute of Orthodox Theology.

Hedges belongs to an invited network of theologians based on Glasgow and Uppsala Universities.

Isherwood is a co-founder of a research network with partners from Harvard Divinity School and the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, USA.

King is a participant in the 'Non-Human Animals and Ethics' project based at the University of Sydney, NSW, Australia, a member of the Complementary and Alternative Medicine research network based at Southampton University, and an Adviser to the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. She and Owen are developing a research partnership with Loyola College, Chennai, and Arul Anandar College, Madurai, India.

Messer is a founder member of the Public Discourse Network sponsored by the McDonald Centre, University of Oxford, and an invited participant in the project *Systematic Theology for a Changing Climate*, led by Michael Northcott (Edinburgh) and Peter Scott (Manchester).

Paddison is the founder and co-ordinator of the interdisciplinary research network *Theology and the City*, founded in May 2011 and involving participants from the Universities of Birmingham, Chester, Cumbria and Exeter.

Welch is part of a research consortium on religion and the environment with John Bull (Environmental Science, Plymouth University) and two NGOs, the Alliance of Religion and Conservation and UrbanAg.

ii. Membership of committees, advisory boards, editorial positions etc.

Andreopoulos serves on the steering committee of the Orthodox Theological Research Forum and the Editorial Board of the series *Studia Traditionis Theologiae* (Brepols), and has been a guest editor of a theme issue of *Studies in Christian Ethics*.

Hedges serves on the Executive Committee of the Australian Association for the Study of Religions, is an Editor of the *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion* and was an Editorial Board member of the *Journal of Religious History* (2009-12). He is General Editor of *Controversies in Contemporary Religion* (3 vols., Praeger).

Isherwood was Vice-President of the European Society of Women in Theological Research until 2009. She has been an External Assessor for professorial applications at the Universities of Alabama and Exeter (both 2009). She is Executive Editor of *Feminist Theology* and an Editorial Board member of *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. She is a Series Editor of five book series for Continuum, Equinox, Pilgrim Press and SCM Press and General Editor of *The Cultural History of Women in Christianity* and *The Cultural History of Women in Religion* (both 8 vols., Equinox).

King is Founding Editor of *Religions of South Asia*.

Linzey is Co-editor of the *Journal of Animal Ethics* and Co-editor of a Palgrave Macmillan book series on Animal Ethics.

Messer is a member of the AHRC Science in Culture Theme Advisory Group and a Board member of Societas Ethica: the European Society for Research in Ethics. He has been a guest editor of issues of *Christian Bioethics* and *Studies in Christian Ethics*.

Paddison is a member of the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Theological Interpretation* and a member of the Steering Committee of the British Early Career Association for Theologians (BECAT).

Environment template (REF5)**iii. Doctoral examination**

CSTR staff have been external PhD examiners at numerous universities, including Aberdeen, Anglia Ruskin, Derby, Durham, London, St Mary's University College Twickenham, Swansea Metropolitan and the University of Wales, Trinity St David.

iv. Conference organisation

CSTR has held or hosted the following international conferences in Winchester, organised by the staff members named in brackets:

- Interfaith Dialogue in Modernity and Postmodernity, 2008 (Hedges)
- The Challenge of Relational Theology in the 21st Century, 2009 (Isherwood)
- European Society of Women in Theological Research, 2009 (Isherwood)
- Saving Paradise: How Christianity traded Love of the World for Crucifixion & Empire, 2010 (Isherwood)
- Interfaith and Social Change: Engagement from the Margins, 2010 (Hedges, Welch)
- The Bible: Culture, Community and Society, 2011 (Messer, Paddison)
- The Divine Liturgy (with Orthodox Theological Research Forum), 2011 (Andreopoulos)
- Britain and Ireland School of Feminist Theology (20th anniversary), 2012 (Isherwood)
- British Association for the Study of Religion, 2012 (Hedges).

Members have also been involved in organizing the following conferences elsewhere:

- Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions, Oxford, annual (King, Convener and Chair)
- British New Testament Conference, 2008-2011 (Paddison: Convener, Hermeneutics Seminar, 2008-10, and New Testament in Contemporary Society Seminar, 2011)
- Eastern Orthodox and Western Christian Perspectives on Bioethics, Durham, 2009 (Andreopoulos, Messer)
- Societas Ethica Annual Conferences: Arnoldshain, Germany, 2010; Lugano, Switzerland, 2011; Sibiu, Romania, 2012 (Messer)
- British Early Career Association for Theologians, Windsor, 2012 (Paddison).

v. Refereeing, peer reviewing and HEI consultancy

King was External Reviewer of the DFID-funded Religions and Development programme (2009) at Manchester and Birmingham Universities. Messer is a member of the AHRC Peer Review College and has been a peer reviewer for the Wellcome Trust (2009). CSTR members have been peer reviewers for twelve academic journals including *Bioethics*, *Feminist Theology*, *The International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *The Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, *The Journal of Religious Ethics* and *The Journal of Religious History*, and academic publishers including Continuum, Routledge, SCM Press and Wiley-Blackwell.

vi. Scholarly awards and fellowships

Hedges was awarded the biennial Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article published in the *Journal of Religious History* (2008-09). The article was re-published in the 50th Anniversary special virtual issue (2010). Linzey holds Visiting Professorships at Saint Xavier University, Chicago, and the Graduate Theological Foundation, Indiana, USA, and was awarded the Lord Erskine Award by the RSPCA (2010). Messer was a Visiting Scholar at the Hastings Center, Garrison, NY, USA (2012).

vii. Keynotes, papers and presentations

Keynote lectures, invited papers and conference presentations given by members include:

Andreopoulos: St Colman's Society for Catholic Liturgy, Maynooth (2008) and Cork (2010);

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Durham University (2010); Oxford Patristic Conference (2011); Heythrop College (2011); Oxford Centre for Mission Studies; (2011); Horezu, Romania (2012); Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna (2012).

Hedges: European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies, Salzburg, Austria (2009) and Istanbul, Turkey (2011); Stockholm School of Theology, Sweden (2011); University of Bern, Switzerland (2011); European Network of Buddhist-Christian Studies, Liverpool (2011); University of Lund, Sweden (2011).

King: South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion, Bali (2009), and Thimpu, Kingdom of Bhutan (2011); The Sanskrit Tradition in the Modern World, 27th Annual STIMW Symposium, Manchester University (2010); International Conference on Eastern Rationality, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India (2012); International Association for the History of Religions, Trondheim, Norway (2012).

Isherwood: Cambridge Divinity Faculty (2009); American Academy of Religion, Montreal (2009); Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany (2010, 2012); European Society of Women in Theological Research, Salamanca, Spain (2011); Oslo University, Norway (2011, 2012); Chester University (2012); Split, Croatia (2012); Düsseldorf, Germany (2012); Instituto Superior Evangélico de Estudios Teológicos, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2013).

Linzey: Symposium on Biodiversity, Conservation and Animal Rights, SOAS, University of London, (2012).

Messer: Society of Christian Ethics, San Jose, CA, USA (2010) and Washington, DC, USA (2012); Chester University (2011); Societas Ethica, Lugano, Switzerland (2011); St Tikhon's Orthodox University, Moscow, Russia (2011); Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL, USA (2011); Philosophical Society of England, London (2012); Ian Ramsey Centre, Oxford University (2013).

Paddison: British Society for the Study of the New Testament, Aberdeen (2008, 2011); Glasgow University Department of Theology and Religious Studies (2009); Durham University Department of Theology and Religion (2010); Society for the Study of Theology, Manchester (2010), York (2011); Association of American Geographers, New York (2012).

Welch: Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association, Albuquerque, NM, USA (2009), National Fairground Archive with Sheffield University (2009); International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, Amsterdam (2009); Indigeneity and the Arts, Canterbury (2011); Chichester University (2012); National Portrait Gallery, London (2013).