

Institution: Cardiff University

Unit of Assessment: UoA33 Theology and Religious Studies

a. Overview: Theology and Religious Studies in Cardiff has a staff complement of 13.2 FTE. The unit's distinctive feature is to combine historical and textual-linguistic study of religious traditions and theologies with social-scientific approaches to religion in contemporary societies. The unit is home to three research groups whose common interest is the study of religion and theology as a social, historical and cultural phenomenon, locally, regionally and globally:

- **Religion in Late Antiquity** has a strong focus on the Middle East with the study of Syriac Christianity and early Islam (King, Trombley) alongside Greek and Latin Patristics and early Christian and Manichaean studies (Baker-Brian, Lössl);
- **Asian Religions** includes the study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, and of texts and literatures related to these traditions in Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese and Japanese (Brodbeck, Deeg, Hegarty, Johnson, Samuel);
- **Religion in Contemporary Societies** is strong in the study of Islam in contemporary Britain, Chaplaincy Studies, Body, Health and Religion, and Film Studies (Ali, Child, Gilliat-Ray, Malik, Samuel, Todd).

In line with the unit's common interest these three groups drive their own research agendas while also interacting with each other: *Religion in Late Antiquity* and *Asian Religions* are collaborating in the study of Christianity, Buddhism and Manichaeism in Central and East Asia (Baker-Brian, Deeg, Trombley), *Religion in Contemporary Societies* and *Religion in Late Antiquity* in the area of Islamic Studies (Ali, Gilliat-Ray, Malik, Trombley). Samuel's research on Tibetan longevity practices links *Asian Religions* with *Religion in Contemporary Societies*.

The groups provide sustainable research structures and a supportive environment for PGRs and RAs. Each group operates group-level meetings and seminars open to staff and students from across the University and beyond. The groups also function as bases for research related events (lecture and seminar series, conferences, workshops and network meetings) and for collaborative research projects in partnership with similar groups outside Cardiff, nationally and internationally, thereby attesting to the unit's vitality [see below under e.].

b. Research strategy: Research in Theology and Religious Studies at Cardiff has performed well against key indicators set out in 2008, which were 1) to maintain the high level of external research income in order to sustain strengths in key areas and undertake new ventures in and beyond these areas, 2) to consolidate staffing in key areas and to maintain PGR recruitment, 3) to strengthen the group- and centre-based research structure, especially in the two key areas of *Asian Religions* and *Religion in Contemporary Societies*, and 4) to translate increased quality and intensity of research into an increased number of research outputs. Against these key indicators the unit's

- research income increased by 16.5% from £1.32m (2002-2007) to £1.58m (2008-2013); the latter figure includes 5 AHRC grants worth £200k+ in each of the three key research areas;
- staffing has increased by 10% from what was already a very solid basis in 2008 (12FTEs); 7 new staff have been appointed, including 4 ECRs, either to replace retired staff in key areas to assure sustainability, or to invigorate new areas, for example Todd in the area of Chaplaincy Studies, and Malik and Ali in the area of Islamic Studies;
- in addition to existing research centres in *Late Antiquity* and *Islam in the UK*, two new research centres were launched in the areas of *Asian Religions* and *Religion in Contemporary Societies*: the *Centre for the History of Religion in Asia* and the *Cardiff Centre for Chaplaincy Studies*;
- recruitment of research students has increased steadily over the census period, and in recent years more vigorously, with most students being externally funded: 7 by AHRC BGP or project grants; 1 by an AHRC collaborative award; 3 by overseas government grants (China 2, Turkey 1); 5 by a £300k grant from the Jameel Foundation (supporting postgraduate study of Islam in the UK), which also committed a further £600k for a further 10 students until 2019;
- the total number of research outputs has significantly increased with 261 in 2013 (compared to less than 200 in 2008) including 17 single-authored and 16 edited volumes, 61 peer-reviewed journal articles, 77 chapters in edited volumes and more than 90 encyclopaedia and hand-book entries reflecting increased and increasingly recognised research activity. Members of the unit

Environment template (REF5)

organised more than 45 conferences, conference panels, colloquia and workshops to advance the unit's research. Significant outputs include: Samuel, *The Origins of Yoga and Tantra* (2008); Brodbeck, *The Mahabharata Patriline* (2009); King, *The Earliest Syriac Translations of Aristotle's Categories* (2010); Johnson, *The Oxford Dictionary of Hinduism* (2010); Gilliat-Ray, *Muslims in Britain* (2010); Lössl, *The Early Church* (2010); Baker-Brian, *Manichaeism* (2011); Ali, Gilliat-Ray and Pattison, *Understanding Muslim Chaplaincy* (2013).

The unit's performance has been supported by its merging in 2010 with two other departments into a new School of History, Archaeology and Religion. This retained the underlying research structure with its key areas and groups while adding vitality to the research environment by providing access to increased internal funding at School level, increased administrative support for external funding bids and management of externally funded projects, and improved facilities for staff and research students. It also created new opportunities for collaboration and cross-disciplinary initiatives, for example by combining Archaeology and the History of Religion in Central Asia.

The integration of the School into a newly formed Cardiff University College of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in 2012 has intensified this process and shapes the unit's strategic aspirations for the period 2014-2019. In particular, the unit will

- increase its external research income further by at least 10% over the next five years and in addition to other awards attract at least one grant of £1m+ in one of its key research areas (either through RCUK or ERC funding) to make use of sustained strengths and dynamics in these areas and potential convergence, for example by combining expertise in *Religion in Late Antiquity* and *Asian Religions* to create a collaborative project on *Religion in Central Asia and China* (Baker-Brian, Deeg, King, Trombley) to increase further the unit's sustained research strength and vitality in these key areas;
- sustain staffing in all key areas and increase staffing in at least one of the most vital areas, for example by appointments in East Asian Religion and in Orthodox Christianity with the aim further to strengthen these key areas and introduce new aspects to their study in the unit;
- increase successful PhD completions by 100% by recruiting research students through the new AHRC Doctoral Training Programme (DTP) in consortium with – among others – Bristol and Exeter, AHRC-funded project-studentships, Cardiff University funding schemes such as the President's scholarships, and overseas schemes and privately funded schemes such as the studentships awarded by the Jameel Foundation for the study of Islam in the UK, which has committed a further £600k for PG study until 2019;
- annually review the research groups and centres and thus sustain and continuously revitalise them as attractive places for research and research-related events through regular meetings, annual lecture and seminar series (for example: William Jones lecture and Islam-UK lecture series), conferences, workshops and networking events (3 international conferences already planned for 2014-2017), and secure funding for these initiatives both externally (£5-10k p.a. from AHRC, British Academy and comparable overseas partners) and internally (£5-10k p.a. from Cardiff University and School Research Committee funds);
- increase quantity and improve quality of research outputs through successful completion of current research projects and provision of increased research time for staff through regular, internally and externally funded, research leave schemes including a new scheme launched by Cardiff University in 2012 offering competitive research leave for staff across the Humanities.

The unit recognises the importance of prioritisation for success. It will build on existing strengths and encourage groups to envisage larger research initiatives, more cross-discipline collaboration and internationalisation. In detail:

- **Religion in Late Antiquity:** Following their £232k AHRC project (2007-2010) on translation and Christianisation in Latin and Syriac biblical and philosophical commentaries, King continues his research on late-antique Syriac philosophy and on ancient Bible translations, while Lössl's focus is on early Christian (Greek and Latin) intellectual culture and Patristic Biblical commentaries. In the wake of his study of Julian the Apostate, Baker-Brian continues to explore the role of the Constantinian dynasty, now through a collaborative project on Constantius II, while Trombley continues his research on war in the Byzantine and early Arab world. These projects are linked with each other and with external collaborators through the *Centre for Late Antique Religion and Culture* which provides an infrastructure for larger projects and a platform for research-

Environment template (REF5)

related events, for example the 17th Byzantine Spring Symposium planned for 2014, or the 6th British Patristics Conference planned for 2016. Publication plans include edited volumes and books on Constantius II (Baker-Brian), ancient Bible translations (King) and early Christian intellectual culture and Biblical exegesis (Lössl).

- **Asian Religions:** Following completion of their £210k AHRC project (2008-2011) *The History of Genealogy in South Asia*, Hegarty, Brodbeck and Johnson have embarked on two further projects, the *Harivamsha Project* (£214k, AHRC, 2011-2014) and *The Story of Story in Early South Asia* (£297k, AHRC, 2013-2016). This research focuses on the study of classical Indic texts and on narrative and performative genres, areas in which the unit has shown sustained strength and continues to lead in the years to come. Deeg continues his research on Chinese Buddhist and Central Asian material in collaboration with *Religion in Late Antiquity* and research groups in China and Nepal. The British-Academy funded three-day conference *Xuanxang and the Records of the Western Regions* (2012) promises to be a starting point for a major project on religion in Central Asia. Major publication plans in this group include a translation of *Hari's Line* (Brodbeck), a monograph on the *Story of Story* project (Hegarty) – both planned outputs of AHRC grants – a multi-volume translation (with introduction and commentary) of *Xuanxang* (Deeg) and a two-volume study on the Chinese Nestorian manuscripts (Deeg).
- **Religion in Contemporary Societies:** Focus in this group has been on Samuel's project on Tibetan longevity practices (£206k, AHRC, 2006-2009) and on Gilliat-Ray's *Muslim Chaplains Project* (£270k, AHRC, 2008-2011). A further initiative has been a conference on *Ritual and Sacrifice* in 2012 led by Child, with a contribution by Brodbeck. In collaboration with Ali, Gilliat-Ray is planning for a major grant on Islamic legal professionals in Britain, while Gilliat-Ray and Todd are planning a large Europe-wide (ERC funded) project on Muslim chaplains. Publication plans include books on *Mothers, Vampires and Ghosts* (Child), a co-authored monograph on *Tibetan Longevity Practices* (Samuel) and co-edited volumes on *Ritual and Sacrifice* (Child, Brodbeck) and on *Chaplaincy Studies* (Todd).

An overarching priority in the unit is the drive towards further collaboration and coordination of research within each group, across the three groups and beyond the unit at School level and with other institutions, for example with groups in Ancient History, History and Archaeology, especially for projects in Central and South Asia. The aim is to create a basis for larger, more visible, and nationally and internationally more closely connected research projects, especially in *Religion in Late Antiquity* (research on commentaries and translation following on from the *Latin and Syriac Commentaries* project), *Asian Religions* (narratological research: *The Story of Story*; research in Central Asian religions: *Xuanxang Project*), and *Religion in Contemporary Societies* (Islam-UK; Chaplaincy Studies; *Muslim Chaplaincy Project*).

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development: The unit's commitment to helping staff achieve their full potential at all career stages is evident from its track record. Since 2008 key senior researchers have been retained (Deeg, Samuel, Trombley). Staff who in 2008 were returned as ECRs hold leading positions (Baker-Brian, Child, Hegarty). Former RAs (King, 2007-2010; Brodbeck, 2010-2013; Ali, 2010-2011) hold independent positions. Brodbeck won a highly competitive Cardiff University 'Serious Brainpower' fellowship. 7 staff were promoted to senior, including professorial, positions in response to their vitality and sustained performance as researchers (Baker-Brian, Child, Deeg, Gilliat-Ray, Hegarty, Lössl, Trombley). Retired staff were replaced (Trevett by Baker-Brian, 2009; Watt by King, 2011). New appointments were made in key areas (Malik, Ali: Islamic Studies; Brodbeck: Asian Religions; Todd: Chaplaincy Studies). Further appointments in Asian Religion and Theology are planned. This reflects a research environment characterised by vitality and sustainability, where excellence in researchers is identified and supported in the long term.

This track record is made possible by the policies and strategies that guide the unit's approach within its institutional context, the quality of which is internationally recognised. Cardiff University was awarded the European Commission's 'HR Excellence in Research Award' in 2010 and again in 2012 in recognition of the University's progress in implementing the 'Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers'. Cardiff also has 'Investors in People' accreditation and participates in the 'Vitae Researcher Development Framework'. It uses the latter to structure its training and development of PGRs and research staff through the University's Graduate College and the 'Cardiff Researcher Programme'. This provides staff with the offer of a broad range of

workshops, online modules and one-to-one coaching in over 100 topics. Staff in the unit took up these opportunities more than 50 times during the census period. In 2010 Cardiff was shortlisted for a Times Higher Award for 'Outstanding Support for Early Career Researchers' and won a Times Higher Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Leadership Development'.

These larger frameworks and initiatives are implemented at unit level. Since 2010 the unit has a dedicated ECR policy which commits it to supporting ECRs in particular when appointing them in replacement of retiring staff. ECRs are paired up with experienced staff who provide mentoring during the first three years. ECRs are supported in their efforts to develop research networks and projects. For example, all of the unit's centres and groups have been founded or at one time led by ECRs. ECRs' career development needs are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the probation and appraisal process. ECRs receive additional funding for research related activities and library needs (a start-off amount of £3k) and scaled relief from administrative and teaching duties (for two years following appointment). ECRs make up a majority of staff attendances at Graduate School training events (26 over the census period).

It is the unit's policy that all staff engage in all types of teaching regardless of seniority. This is to ensure that ECRs do not have to shoulder undue burdens. Mentoring of probationers and annual appraisal for all staff assure a vital and sustained research momentum. Staff who are mentoring ECRs or serving on appointment panels are required to have undertaken appropriate training. All staff have undertaken E&D training within the last two years, some have completed research and senior leadership training and are currently in leadership positions at School and University level (Baker-Brian, Deeg, Gilliat-Ray, Hegarty, Lössl).

The main objective of the unit's staffing and staff development strategy is to build and sustain vital research capacity by motivating and enabling all staff to participate in the unit's research culture. This includes above all the opportunity to give research seminars both at Cardiff and elsewhere and to 'time-plan' and finance such activities with the help of mentoring and appraisal processes and equal access to internal funding mechanisms. Research leave is a central component of the unit's staffing strategy. In line with policy, staff are entitled to apply for at least 1 semester in 7. All staff have had 12 months or more of internally funded research leave between 2008 and 2013 in addition to the usual research time available to staff throughout their employment and additional research time made available through external grant funding. Externally funded research leave included visiting positions of 6 months or more at Harvard (Deeg), Münster (Lössl), the Lumbini International Research Institute in Nepal (Deeg, Hegarty), and the Universities of British Columbia (Hegarty) and Toronto (Samuel).

Applications for internally funded research leave are peer-reviewed and outcomes are monitored. The individual research plan is part of the annual appraisal. Research time is allocated by a points-based workload model according to which 25% of work time or 375 out of 1,500 working hours p. a. are ringfenced for research. On average at least one staff member is on research leave every single year. Since 2012 a University wide competitive research leave scheme offers £10k p.a. for teaching cover and £3k for research related expenses. Two of the unit's staff members (Baker-Brian, Lössl) are among the first 30 award-holders on this scheme.

ii. Research students: Since 2008 the unit has continued to recruit fully funded high quality PhD students nationally and internationally. Careful selection in areas requiring specialisation at a high level, especially in classical languages (for *Religion in Late Antiquity* and *Asian Religions*), has led to a gradual but sustained increase of numbers and guaranteed vitality for those projects that did receive awards. There are currently 16 students enrolled in PGR programmes across the unit, 6 in *Religion in Late Antiquity*, 3 in *Asian Religions*, 7 in *Religion in Contemporary Societies*. There have been 9 completions since 2008. 5 students received AHRC BGP funding, 1 student won an AHRC collaborative doctoral grant, 3 students came with overseas governmental grants from China and Turkey; other, mostly privately funded, students came from the USA and Bangladesh. 4 students were awarded competitive and fully funded Cardiff University doctoral grants and the unit overall was awarded a £300k block-grant by the Jameel Foundation for students in the area of the study of Islam in the UK. In 2012 Jameel extended this commitment with the award of a further £600k for the period until 2019.

As a distinctive feature, the unit's BA Religious and Theological Studies scheme offers research skills development with progression through its MA schemes, for example in classical languages

Environment template (REF5)

(Greek, Sanskrit, Syriac) and in social-scientific research methods (MA Islam-UK), serviced by Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences. The unit runs dedicated research preparation MA schemes and pathways for each key area. As a consequence, 5 current PhD students across all key areas are 'home-grown'. All of them won fully funded competitive studentships with topics in areas such as *Religion and Science in Late Antiquity*, *Multiculturalism*, and *The Translation of Chinese Buddhist Texts*.

Skills developed by these schemes include the design and writing of dissertations, participation in the unit's research culture, presenting research orally, designing and developing a research plan, and applying for grant funding. All PGR applications (internal and external) are measured against these standards.

The quality of student applications is expected to be matched by that of supervisory relationships. The unit's formal arrangements in this regard are in line with the University's Code of Practice for Research Degrees. Admission, induction, progression and career development are monitored by Postgraduate Tutors, Director of Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Research Committee. Due to a favourable staff-PGR student ratio (less than 2:1) all students have access to more than one supervisor. Supervisory teams (usually consisting of two staff members) include experienced staff and ECRs. Each student also has a mentor. Monthly supervisory meetings are recorded and followed up by 6-monthly and annual reports and annual meetings of progress review panels until submission. These meetings also address students' needs regarding research skills and career development and students' participation in research related activities including graduate events, research seminars, conferences and networking-meetings that take place in the context of the unit's research groups. Students are thereby as much as possible integrated in the unit's overall research culture and put on a track for their post-doctoral careers. As a consequence our PhD students have gone on to hold (fixed-term and permanent) lectureships at Cardiff and other HEIs (Hunt: Durham, Todd: Cardiff, Tokay: Istanbul, Peddle: Newfoundland), secured post-doctoral funding (Wu Juan: Tokyo, Warden: Cardiff) and published significant research papers and monographs (Todd, Welford, Hunt, Tokay).

To fund research related activities students benefit from a School PGR travel fund of £15k p.a. In addition, students have benefitted from additional external funding of ca. £2k p. a. per student for research visits (within UK and abroad), specialist training and additional 'equipment' (for example microfilms and digitised versions of Sanskrit, Tibetan and Syriac manuscripts, or databases such as the *Vetus Latina Database*). This funding also included conference visits to Europe, the USA, Australia, China, Bhutan, India and Nepal. External funders in these cases include the *Jameel Foundation*, the *Loeb Classical Library Foundation*, the *International Society for Neoplatonic Studies*, the *Centre of Early Christian Studies* (Catholic University of Australia), the *Exzellenz-Cluster Religion und Politik* (University of Münster, Germany), and the *Lumbini International Research Institute*, Nepal.

At Cardiff University's Graduate College, students attended more than 90 research skills related training events including on social-scientific research methods, academic publishing, intellectual property rights and refereeing for academic journals.

On a daily basis students benefit from facilities including a dedicated postgraduate room equipped with telephones, lockers, microfilm readers and networked computers. Equipment is fully replaced every 3 years. New equipment is supplied when necessary. The Humanities and Social Sciences Library is in close proximity and supplemented by specialist libraries in Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology equipped with networked computers and electronic databases. Students have also access to the specialist holdings in Biblical and Practical Theology at the nearby libraries of South Wales Baptist College and St. Michael's College (Church in Wales).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

External funding: This has increased from £1.34m (2001-2007) to £1.58m (2008-2013) and thus added substantially to the vitality and sustainability of the unit. Most of the funding originated from large AHRC grants (itemized under b.). Ca. 10% came from smaller AHRC, *British Academy* and charity grants, for example £20k from the *Loeb Classical Library Foundation*. The effect was an average of 20% additional research time for senior staff, 5 additional RAs working at the unit, ca. £10k p.a. additional funding for library acquisitions, and further funding which enabled research groups to host research-related events such as conferences, lecture series, seminar series and research meetings with national and international project partners. Further funding at a rate of ca.

£20k p.a. was added by international project partners, for example the *Exzellenzcluster Religion und Politik*, University of Münster, Germany, the *Lumbini International Research Institute*, Nepal, and the *Harvard University Centre for World Religions*, usually in form of travel and subsistence grants for short and extended research visits and for the organisation of conferences.

The vitality and sustainability of external grant income generation is maintained by staff training and development and additional support by the School's research directorate and the University's research and commercial division. In the context of their research groups staff are continually tied into funding activities. Research applications are carefully planned and peer-reviewed (internally for applications of up to £10k, externally for larger applications). Internal applications and reports are monitored by an electronic submission system which ensures that external funding is sought whenever possible in order to make optimal use of internal funding (match-funding). Thereby a continuous and growing stream of applications and awards is generated and maintained.

Structures supporting research: The unit has benefitted from merging with the Departments of History and Archaeology in 2010 and from the formation in 2012 of a Cardiff University College of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The unit's research culture is embedded in this bigger structure and supported by it. For example, there is central funding for high profile events such as distinguished lecture series (with lectures by, for example, Patrick Olivelle, Richard Salomon and Charles Allen in *Asian Religions*, Gillian Clark and Lewis Ayres in *Religion in Late Antiquity*, and Linda Woodhead in *Religion in Contemporary Societies*) and new funding structures such as a dedicated research leave fund. In addition to its internal structure (research groups and centres) Theology and Religious Studies at Cardiff has now access to more opportunities for collaboration, increased volumes of internal funding (for example, ca. £30k p.a. for individual and group-related projects) and a stronger basis to attract large scale external funding. A research directorate with dedicated administration and PR staff (3 FTE) supports the process of planning and applying for research grants and the management of projects and of conferences and other research related events. There is also a dedicated post in public engagement to support dissemination events and knowledge transfer initiatives through the AHRC-funded Hub for the Creative Economy (REACT). The School's research directorate links the unit with the University's research and commercial division, which in turn provides a link with the AHRC and other external funding bodies.

The School's Research Committee is chaired by the Co-Director of Research (Lössl). In addition the unit is represented by its Research Leader (Deeg), Director of PGR (Hegarty) and Head of Department (Baker-Brian). It oversees the unit's research culture within its institutional context including the management of research funds and facilities and the allocation of research leave.

Individual staff can apply to an Individual Research Expenses fund totalling £21k p.a. ECRs are additionally supported by a 'start-up' fund of £3k each for library and personal research expenses. The Research Committee assesses research leave applications and outcomes and ensures that all staff access research leave and make optimal use of it (for details see above under c.i)

Facilities: Since 2008 the unit has benefitted from University investment in the library including refurbishment, increase of shelf space, and maintaining and acquiring research collections. For example, in 2010 the University invested more than £1m in the Cardiff Rare Books Collection, a collection of 14,000 items, many of specific relevance for Biblical and Patristic studies. This adds to existing collections comprising more than 250,000 items with significant material for the study of religion in Asia, including documents relevant for Missiology and Reception Studies.

Another focus has been the development of digital facilities (with an annual level of investment of £1.2m across the University) including an open access publication repository (ORCA). Staff and students can now access on- and offsite a wide range of online resources including ECCO and EEBO and more than 21,000 journals. The University has increased its investment on research subscriptions by £130k p. a., while the School has invested nearly £100k since 2008 in holdings in its areas of strength, which include Late Antique and Byzantine Studies, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Islam. Important research databases such as the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* and the *Latin Library* are thus accessible to staff and students at University, School and unit level.

The unit also benefits from a dedicated full-time IT manager, a digital photographic and graphics laboratory with staff supporting the production of publicity material and research outputs including electronic and print publications such as the 'Journal for Late Antique Religion and Culture' and 'Asian Literature and Translation'. ICT resources in the School are on a 3-year upgrade cycle.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Since 2008, staff at the unit have organised ca. 45 conferences, conference panels, workshops and colloquia, served on ca. 15 editorial boards, conducted ca. 70 peer-reviews of monographs and journal articles and ca. 20 peer-reviews of grant applications besides reviewing nearly 100 books in ca. 20 different journals. Many serve in professional or research related organisations and bodies, some in leading roles. Ca. 40 external speakers have given lectures and seminars as guests of the unit. Examples include:

Collaboration (national and international): ‘Southwest’ UK network of Late Antiquity research groups, Cardiff-Bristol- Exeter-Swansea (Baker-Brian, King, Lössl); AHRC research grant ‘The Story of Story in South Asia’ (PI Hegarty) with CI (Appleton) in Edinburgh; managing Hinduism section of Oxford Bibliographies Online (Brodbeck); participation in ‘Exzellenzcluster “Religion und Politik”’, Münster (King; Lössl; Deeg); ‘Exzellenzcluster “Topoi”’, Berlin (Lössl, King, Malik); CNRS project “Islamic natural philosophy” (Malik); Mahabharata upakhyana research group (Brodbeck); Epics and Puranas panels of 15th World Sanskrit Conference, Delhi, 2012 (Brodbeck with Alf Hildebeitel and Adam Bowles); collaboration with Adheesh Sathaye, British Columbia (Hegarty, Brodbeck); Greco-Syriac-Arabic Philosophical Glossary, Bochum (King with Gerhard Endress); **Service on research advisory panels:** Cardiff University Directors of Research, 2008-2013 (Lössl); Hegarty co-author of the European Science Foundation policy document ‘Asian Studies in the Humanities: Visions for the Future’; **Member of peer-review college:** Hegarty, Samuel (AHRC); **Referee of grant applications:** AHRC 5x (Hegarty, Deeg); German Federal Government “Exzellenzinitiative” 1x (Deeg); Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council 1x (Hegarty); Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft 2x (Deeg, Lössl); Humboldt-Foundation, British Academy, Royal Society, Royal Society of Edinburgh, South African Academy of Sciences, Science Foundation of Flanders (FWO) 1x each (Lössl); **Committee member professional society / external organisation:** Vice-President of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (Samuel); Royal Asiatic Society (Hegarty); International Association for Tibetan Studies (Samuel); Board of Directors, 17th Oxford Patristics Conference 2015 (Lössl); Elected Fellow of the Foundation for Science and Technology (Malik); **Member of editorial board:** Religions of South Asia (Brodbeck, Samuel); Asian Literature and Translation (Brodbeck; Deeg; Hegarty; Johnson); Journal of Hindu Studies, Routledge Jaina Studies Series, International Journal of Jaina Studies (Johnson); Asian Medicine, Tradition and Modernity (Samuel); consultants for Hinduism at Oxford University Press (Hegarty; Johnson); The Eastern Buddhist, Zeitschrift für Religionswissenschaft (Deeg); Journal for Late Antique Religion and Culture (Baker-Brian; Lössl); **Refereeing of books:** Oxford University Press (Baker-Brian; Brodbeck; Johnson 3x); Cambridge University Press (Lössl 2x); Routledge (Brodbeck; Hegarty 3x); **Peer-Reviewing of Journal Articles:** Numen (Brodbeck); Culture and Religion (Samuel); Journal of Quranic Studies, Arabic Science and Philosophy (Malik); Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies (Brodbeck; Johnson); Journal of Hindu Studies, Religions of South Asia (Brodbeck; Johnson); International Journal of Jaina Studies (Johnson); International Journal of Hindu Studies (Hegarty; Brodbeck); Augustinian Studies, Vigiliae Christianae, Journal of Early Christian Studies (Lössl); **Visiting positions:** Visiting Fellow, University of British Columbia (Hegarty); Distinguished Majewski Lecture, Oxford University 2011 (Hegarty); Visiting Researcher, Exzellenzcluster “Religion und Politik”, Münster, 2010 (Lössl); Visiting Fellow, Harvard University, Centre of World Religions, 2011 (Deeg); Visiting Professor, University of Beijing, 2012 (Deeg); Resident Fellow of Lumbini International Research Institute Nepal, 2011-12 (Hegarty; Deeg); **International invitations to seminars and conferences:** Invited speaker and convenor at the International Indology Graduate Symposium, Cambridge, September 2010 (Brodbeck); invited speaker at the panel on the Mahabharata, AAR Conference, Atlanta, October 2010 (Brodbeck); invited speaker at the University of Pennsylvania Museum Conference “Mapping Ancient Near Eastern Masculinities”, March 2011 (Brodbeck); invited Speaker at the University of Göttingen Courant Centre on Education and Religion in Pre-Modern Societies (EDRIS), May 2011 (Lössl); invited speaker to University of Oxford conference *The Legacy of Solomon Caesar Malan*, August 2011 (Hegarty); invited plenary speaker to 16th International Patristics Conference, Oxford, August 2011 (Lössl); invited speaker at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; International Summit on Epic Studies, November 2011 (Hegarty); invited speaker at the Institute of Arts Museum, Detroit: Scientific Illustration in Islamic Art, July 2011 (Malik); invited lecturer, Royal Asiatic Society, 2013 (Deeg); invited speaker, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, 2013 (King).