

<p>Institution: Durham University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 33 Theology and Religious Studies</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The submitting unit corresponds to the Department of Theology and Religion (DTR), a research community consisting, as at 31 October 2013, of 25 academic staff, 6 postdoctoral researchers and 163 registered research postgraduates.</p> <p>The DTR understands 'Theology' and 'Religion' not as two separate research domains, but as fluid labels for a field which requires multiple perspectives and is interdisciplinary in method. The DTR is organised into three overlapping research areas: Biblical studies, Christian theology and contemporary religion. It includes two formal research centres, the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) and the Centre for Death and Life Studies (CDLS), which have a particular focus on developing interdisciplinary, externally funded research initiatives. The DTR's overall research strategy is overseen by a Research Committee (headed by the Director of Research); postgraduate affairs are overseen by a Postgraduate Committee, including a designated Postgraduate Training Co-ordinator. The DTR is one of seven Departments within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and much research activity involves departments such as Classics, History and Music. Two Faculty Centres, the Centre for Medical Humanities and the Centre for the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East, provide support for certain DTR research; as do two University research Institutes, the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS) and the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), which funds visiting scholars and themed interdisciplinary research.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p><u>Achievement of Strategic Aims since 2008</u></p> <p>Our strategic aims expressed in RAE 2008 were to expand our international reputation for quality in each of our three principal research areas; and to inaugurate innovative research through collaboration both within and beyond the DTR, without being confined by traditional methods and perspectives. We planned to achieve these aims by attracting greater grant and endowment income, in particular to support academic and postdoctoral appointments; and by expanding our postgraduate numbers and providing postgraduates with the highest-quality research training and career support. More specifically, we planned to develop existing strengths in textual, historical and theological study of the Jewish and Christian traditions; to nurture the newest of our core research areas, contemporary religion; and to build up the two (then infant) Centres.</p> <p>There has been considerable success in expanding staffing through external income. The expansion includes a £2.67m endowment for a new Bede Chair in Catholic Theology (Ayres, 2009-13, who remains a professor in the DTR; from 2014, Kilby). A successful bid for Church of England funding to lead a new national theological training partnership (see REF3a) has provided a new Chair in Theology and Ministry (Higton), while a legacy administered by Durham Cathedral has generated a further £2m to fund a Chair in Anglican Studies, to which we expect to appoint in 2014. A University initiative to bolster strategically important fields led to the appointment of Harkins (medieval theology) and Miles-Watson (anthropology of religion). There are currently six post-doctoral researchers (5.8 FTE, 4.3 FTE of which is externally funded).</p> <p>Another measure of general vitality is research seminar series: the DTR now hosts 11, with a total of 111 seminars in the 2012-13 year (virtually one per day during the teaching year). For the expansion and support of the postgraduate community, see below, section c.ii.</p> <p><u>Developments within the three principal research areas</u></p> <p>1. <i>Biblical Studies and Ancient Judaism</i>. Our research base in this area of traditional strength has been maintained by fresh appointments: Doering in New Testament and ancient Judaism, Bertschmann in political interpretation of Paul, Heath in New Testament and visuality. It has remained our strongest area for postgraduate recruitment, with European, South Asian and East Asian students increasingly joining the longstanding British and North American presence. Postgraduates are supported by research seminar series in New Testament, Old Testament and ancient Judaism, and by regular reading groups in Coptic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin and theological German. Collaborative projects in the field include Hayward's role in a Manchester-led AHRC project on the categorisation of Jewish literature; also Watson's Leverhulme-funded project, 'Gospels Canonical and Noncanonical' (2008-11) and the follow-up AHRC-funded project, 'The Fourfold Gospel and its Rivals' (2012-16), each of which supported three-year postdoctoral RAs.</p>

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Doering's interdisciplinary projects on epistolography (2011) and on ancient views of time (through the IAS, 2013) have both led to conferences and publications. The subject area collaborates internationally with Tübingen, with whom we host a quinquennial conference (most recently 2004, 2009; next 2015), usually leading to publications; and through the 'Themes in Biblical Narrative' network (with Groningen, Princeton, Göttingen and Munich: Durham conference 2012).

2. *Christian Theology, Historical and Systematic.* Traditional strengths in Patristics have been enhanced by **Ayres'** appointment, with **Banev** appointed to deepen longstanding connections to the Orthodox tradition. Further appointments have strengthened under-served but strategically important areas: medieval theology (**Harkins**) and Anglicanism (**McIntosh**). The subject area has had particular success in securing externally funded postdoctoral posts: in early modern historical theology (**Gehring; Kelly; Underwood** (2013); **Willis** (2010-11); **Royal** (2013-14)), in Catholic studies (**Canaris, Furnal** (0.5 FTE funded)) and in Anglican studies (**Bonner**). Subject provision for research students centres on five seminar series: Anglican Studies, Catholic Theology, Ecclesiastical History (jointly with the Department of History), Patristics, and Theology and Ethics. Collaborative work in the subject area includes **Harrison's** project on early Christian listening, which has led to the creation of a Durham Network for Music Theology (with the Department of Music). IMEMS has provided a collaborative context, and research funding, for several DTR researchers, notably, **Ryrie**, whose AHRC network in 'Early Modern Worship' (2008-09) was run jointly with a colleague from History. Cross-Faculty collaboration has engendered a series of public lectures and a conference marking the exhibition of the Lindisfarne Gospels in Durham (2013).

3. *Contemporary Religion.* This growing subject area has been supported by a dedicated appointment (**Miles-Watson** in religious anthropology) but also by collaborative ones (**Burity** (2010-13) in religion and globalisation, with the School of Government and International Affairs; **Higton**, in theology and education, spans subject areas 2 and 3). **Cook's** fractional contract has been progressively extended, reaching full-time in 2012, to support his work on spirituality and mental health. A further three research seminar series (Faith and Globalisation; Religion and Society; Spirituality, Theology and Health) support research students. This has been the strongest subject area for collaborative work. **Burity** and **Guest's** work on globalisation produced a Durham-based conference on 'Faith, Citizenship and Globalisation' in 2011; **Cook** has worked with the Centre for Medical Humanities on a Wellcome-funded project on 'Hearing the Voice', and with the Royal College of Psychiatrists (see REF3b CS1); **Song** is CI on an ESRC grant administered through the Policy, Ethics and Life-Sciences Centre at Newcastle University, and a steering-committee member of its Stem Cell project. Departmental expertise in the sociology and anthropology of religion has issued in funded collaborative projects on cremation and woodland burial (see below under Centres) and on student Christianity (**Guest**), supporting postdoctoral researchers in this area (**Sharma** (2009-12), **Page** (2011-12)).

Developments within the departmental Centres

The *Centre for Death and Life Studies* (CDLS) was founded in 2007 by **Davies** to support research into cultural change around death and dying, and into religious and secular responses to it. The Centre hosted the 2011 'Death, Dying and Disposal' conference (over 200 delegates), with select papers edited by Davies. It has also attracted funding for major research projects including a Leverhulme project on Cremation in Scotland (2008-11), which supported two research fellows and a PhD student in addition to conferences and publications. An AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (2007-10) supported an innovative project on natural burial, resulting in a film (see REF3a) and a book (2013). An EU-funded project on 'Welfare and Values in Europe' (2007-10), involving a comparative study of eight European towns, staged its UK project through the Centre, again involving a postdoctoral researcher.

The *Centre for Catholic Studies* (CCS) was founded in 2007 by **Murray**, with the aim of becoming a leading forum for Catholic theology and Catholic studies within the public, secular academy. It has since secured external income to provide postgraduate scholarships and bursaries in excess of £337,500 across the REF period; to fund an annual visiting fellowship for senior international scholars; to support postdoctoral researchers in ecumenism (**Furnal**) and in early modern British Catholicism (**Kelly, Underwood, Royal**); and above all to endow the Bede Chair (from 2009), intended to provide leadership for British Catholic theology. External funding also supports an administrator and a development officer. The Centre's major research ventures have been the Receptive Ecumenism project (see REF3b CS2) and a study of female Catholic religious life in the

UK and Ireland, funded by the Conrad Hilton Foundation. It has held seven one-day conferences and postgraduate study days since 2009, sometimes jointly with institutions such as the University of Nottingham, Roehampton University and St Mary's University College.

Strategy for 2014-20

We aim to produce world-leading research, both collaborative and individual, across our three subject areas, and to support this through external funding. In particular, in the next REF period we aim to foster research cutting across subject areas or religious traditions, while engaging rigorously and with integrity with specific faith traditions and religious practices. Specific plans include:

1. Deepening collaborative work involving the Biblical Studies subject area, for instance through interdisciplinary research on the history of reception of the Bible, building on **Watson's** 'Fourfold Gospel' project, **Ayres'** 2011 Fisher Lectures in Cambridge, drawing in the research interests of **Barclay, Harkins, Moberly, Weeks** and others, and in collaboration with the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies.
2. Creating a Centre for Spirituality, Theology and Health in order to advance research in this area, in particular through external collaborations. Specific plans include work on the sexual abuse crisis in the Roman Catholic Church, and a comparative study of spirituality and wellbeing in the UK and USA. The Centre will be led by **Cook** and involve **Murray, Song** and others, and will build on links with the University's Centre for Medical Humanities.
3. Tradition-specific studies. Our experience is that the DTR's nonconfessional ethos can both support and be enriched by close and sustained engagement with specific Christian and other traditions, especially when work on multiple traditions takes place side by side. We plan an expansion of the DThM programme, which is designed for practising ministers to apply theological research to their own contexts. More particularly, we plan to expand the following areas:
 - a. *Anglican Studies*. We will establish what will be the UK's only Centre for Anglican Studies, to be led by a new Professor of Anglican Studies (to be appointed 2014: funding now in place). This will draw together links with Durham Cathedral and with the Departments of History and English, current staff research (**Insole, McIntosh, Ryrie, Song**), and the possibilities opened by **Higton's** recent appointment and the contract to oversee theological training for the Church of England (which will produce a second academic post in Theology and Ministry in 2014). Research themes will include Anglican historical identity and Anglican social and educational practice.
 - b. *Catholic Studies*. The CCS plans expansion in two principal areas. (i) History of English Catholicism from 1500, a field with serious implications for both Catholic and English identity. Partnership with the Bar Convent (York) has funded three postdoctoral fellowships in this area (**Kelly, Underwood, Royal** (not yet in post)). Durham University's recent memorandum of understanding with the former Catholic seminary at Ushaw College has opened up a largely untapped archival resource for this subject. Funding will be sought for further studentships, postdoctoral posts and an academic post in this area. (ii) Catholic Social Thought and Practice, a field at the interface between theology and social and political ethics, involving theologians, ethicists and biblical scholars. £1.6m has been secured since 2012 to endow a planned Chair. This will complement the recent appointment (from 2014) of Rowlands, a specialist in this field.
 - c. *Other traditions*. Plans are under way, led by **Banev**, to formalise our longstanding strength in Orthodox studies (a partnership agreement is in negotiation with St. Tikhon's Orthodox University, Moscow) and to support and develop work in Jewish, Methodist and Mormon studies.
4. Strengthening our postgraduate and postdoctoral community, not simply by numerical expansion and securing studentship funding, but by facilitating collaboration across the research community and by strengthening professional training and career-development support, taking advantage of the momentum established by significant recent developments in postgraduate training (see c.ii, below). Specific plans include the systematic provision of mock vivas and job interviews to doctoral students; expansion of the departmental Research Assistant scheme (see c.ii below); the development of training transcripts to evidence the full range of students' experience; the provision of greater financial and administrative support for student-led conferences; and expanding the career-development seminar series to embrace 'impact' activity.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Appointments of *non-fixed-term staff* have been planned (a) to strengthen core subject areas at all levels of seniority (**Ayres, Harkins**, Kilby and **McIntosh** in Christian theology; **Doering** and **Heath** in Biblical studies); (b) to develop fields of emerging growth (**Miles-Watson** in anthropology of religion); and (c) to open up new fields in line with our strategic plans (**Higton** in Theology and Ministry). New appointments have been made at all levels (junior, mid-career, and senior) in order both to nurture rising academic talent and to secure internationally excellent scholars able to provide leadership within the DTR and within the discipline as a whole.

Our *recruitment policy*, to attract the best applicants from across the world, has resulted in increasing diversity in national origin. We maintain a gender mix on all appointing committees, and require equality and diversity training for all their members. Conscious of our inherited gender imbalance, we seek out female scholars who may be encouraged to apply for advertised posts, and have appointed four female staff (**Bertschmann, Heath**, Kilby, Rowlands) since 2011. Durham University belongs to Stonewall's Diversity Champion programme to support LGBT staff. Diversity in recruitment, retention and promotion is supported by the provision of flexible working arrangements for staff whose family commitments make this necessary, and by managing workloads to provide appropriate support for staff experiencing complex circumstances.

Early career staff normally serve a three-year probation period, with timetabled targets, interim reports and regular meetings with the Head of Department. This includes a lightened teaching, examining and administrative load (set at 70% in the first year in post, 80% in the second, and 90% in the third). The DTR also earmarks additional funding for research expenses for early career staff. Recently appointed junior staff have both led and benefited from the fledgling early career association of staff in our field (BECAT), which has twice met in Durham. Through appointment as secondary supervisors and co-investigators, they are inducted into the supervision and leadership of research. Our general staff policy thus exceeds the expectations of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers; we act here in line with Durham University policies, which gained a European Commission HR Excellence in Research Award (2011; one of 15 in the UK).

All this is in addition to the provision for *all academic staff*. Annual Staff Reviews with a senior mentor are complemented by rolling five-year Personal Research Plans, with progress tracked and plans reviewed annually in consultation with the Director of Research. All staff participate in a regular, staff-only 'emerging research' seminar. Each staff member has a grant development mentor who, through biannual meetings, helps maintain appropriately ambitious plans to seek external research funding. Draft funding applications receive reiterated feedback both within the DTR and from the Arts Faculty, supported by the University Research Office. Training in doctoral supervision, project leadership and other research-career skills is available from the University's Centre for Academic and Researcher Development. The DTR's workload distribution (annually reported and reviewed) is designed to ensure that 50% of staff time is devoted to research: to this end, at least one day per week during term-time is kept free from teaching commitments for all staff. The DTR employs 15-20 research students each year as Research Assistants to academic staff (normally 120 hours per year), both to support staff research and to provide professional experience for students. It is University policy that academic staff may apply for three terms' research leave every seven years. Research leave may be timetabled flexibly, and includes full relief from all teaching and administrative duties, normally including research supervision. This entitlement is unaffected by other schemes funding research leave, for which staff are strongly encouraged to apply. The DTR provided £18,500 of funding for staff conferences and research travel in 2012-13, in addition to substantial funding through the Arts Faculty and the University's Research Institutes which, for example, support a substantial reception at the annual AAR/SBL conference in order to raise the DTR's profile. During this REF period six staff have been promoted to personal Chairs, for which research excellence is the central criterion.

Fixed-term and postdoctoral staff have the same entitlements as non-fixed-term staff in all possible respects, including mentoring, IT support, research funding, office space and involvement in research supervision. Postdoctoral staff are also provided with research mentors in addition to their project directors. The DTR regards the nurturing of these fixed-term staff as integral to its commitment to the development and sustainability of the discipline: six fixed-term staff who have left the DTR during the REF period have gone on to permanent academic employment elsewhere.

ii. Research students

The DTR aims to be one of the UK's most successful centres for the development of future

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academics in Theology and Religion. During the REF period 114 students (111.6 load) have graduated with doctorates. Almost three-quarters have had their doctoral research published, either as monographs or in articles. We know of 45 former DTR postgraduate research students (PGRs) who have gone on to secure academic employment in this period: 18 in the UK, the remainder in 12 other countries.

Recruitment: During the REF period the number of registered PGRs has increased by 28% from 127 (2008) to 163 (31 October 2013, including 22 on continuation and 22 under examination). During this period 17 PGRs have been funded by the AHRC, plus one AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (with the Arbory Trust); one student was funded by the Leverhulme Trust. 6 have won highly competitive Durham Doctoral Studentships (fees and living expenses), in addition to 4 other University-funded full studentships. Durham's successful consortium application to AHRC BGP2 has secured 157 full studentships across the three partner institutions in 2014-19, with an indicative 11 earmarked for the DTR. During the same period, the University has also committed to fund a further 12 studentships annually across the Arts Faculty, in addition to existing scholarship schemes. The DTR also works to secure PGR funding from other sources. The CCS has raised funding for 4 full-fees scholarships; other UK bodies (such as Porticus UK, the Panacea Trust and the Methodist Church) have provided full bursaries for 7 further students and at least £23,700 of other scholarship funding. Numerous overseas students receive funding from institutions in their home countries (eg. the Lucas-Tooth Scholarship). Indeed, in 2012-13 only 45% of DTR postgraduates were UK nationals, with the remainder drawn from 23 countries, principally the USA, Canada, South Korea, Ireland and Romania. (One PhD was awarded jointly with a French university.) A four-year 'integrated PhD' programme (MA + PhD) is designed specifically for overseas students, for whom it can significantly ease immigration issues. Supervisory teams routinely assist applicants with drafting research proposals in advance of formal application. Admission is in line with the UK quality code on academic excellence. Careful provision is made to support those studying part-time or at a distance, who form a significant minority of our PGRs. During the REF period the proportion of women amongst our PGRs has risen from 28% to 32%, and the proportion of woman amongst our overseas PGRs from 18% to 31%. The DTR has actively supported the student-led 'Café des Theologiennes', since 2009 a regular meeting of female PGRs and postdoctoral scholars developing leadership in research.

Induction and Integration: The DTR organises a peer-mentoring scheme for new postgraduates. PGRs share a common room with staff, and there are personal workspaces for 25 DTR PGRs in and adjoining our buildings. From 2013 they also have access to 70 workspaces in the new Arts and Humanities Postgraduate Hub. PGRs are allocated dedicated departmental funds for research expenses and for inter-library loans. College affiliation provides further facilities and tutorial support. PGR representatives are voting members of all the major Departmental committees. Because they interact with taught postgraduates (often sharing classes with them) and with undergraduates (by working as Teaching Assistants), PGRs are core to disseminating a research ethos through the whole Department. At induction, PGRs are introduced to the DTR's eleven regular research seminars (see b. above); all are expected to participate as regularly as possible in at least one, and to contribute papers of their own when ready to do so. Seminars sometimes incorporate a specific training component (such as annual in-camera sessions on textual criticism in the New Testament seminar).

Supervision: All PGRs are accorded (at least) two supervisors. Supervisory teams regularly cross disciplinary boundaries within the DTR or include supervisors from other departments. Full-time PGRs receive a minimum of 20 hours of supervision per annum: records are kept of each supervision, with causes for concern noted by the Postgraduate Education Committee. Two further members of staff conduct a major review after 9 months of study or part-time equivalent. Regular annual reviews thereafter monitor progress with a view to ensuring the formation of a viable thesis and steady progress towards timely completion.

Training: All PGRs undertake an annual Training Needs Analysis, identifying required skills or competencies. The DTR's Postgraduate Training Co-ordinator oversees a departmental programme ranging from language reading groups to interview preparation (staff-led). The University's DTC offers a substantial menu of training events for postgraduates in generic skills: the Faculty, IMEMS and other University bodies provide training in languages, palaeography and other specialist skills. DThM students take part in a dedicated annual summer school and an initial

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research-training week, and receive intensive training in quantitative and qualitative data-handling.

Career Development: Most PGRs are offered the opportunity to act as Teaching Assistants, for which they receive University and Departmental training, and individual mentoring, observation and feedback. This can extend beyond leading seminars to offering short extra-curricular courses of their own design for undergraduates. There is an opportunity to secure a formal Durham Learning and Teaching Award, which carries associate membership of the HEA. In addition, annually 15-20 PGRs are employed as paid Research Assistants, working with staff in a variety of research tasks to gain an insight into the operation of top-level research. PGRs are offered financial and academic support in presenting papers at major conferences (e.g. AAR/SBL), and there are dedicated PGR conferences in some fields (e.g. an annual Durham-Manchester-Sheffield PGR day in Biblical and Jewish Studies): the DTR provided £2200 to fund such activities in 2012-13. PGRs are also given financial and logistical support by the DTR or the University's Centres and Research Institutes to organise their own interdisciplinary conferences, which draw participants from around and beyond the UK: such as day-conferences on interdisciplinarity (2009), apocalypticism (2013) and Aquinas (2013). There is also an annual in-camera day conference for DTR PGRs. The Postgraduate Training Co-ordinator hosts regular career-development seminars on issues such as publishing, CV writing, presentation skills, and academic-related careers. Staff also support PGRs in pursuing publication. We know of 55 articles submitted to and accepted by refereed journals by current PGR students during this period, including major journals such as *Harvard Theological Review*, the *British Medical Journal* and *Theological Studies*. Three student articles (in the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and the *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies*) have won prizes; another student's discovery of the oldest known copies of books from the Ethiopian Old Testament was reported in *Times Higher Education* in 2011.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income: The DTR has attracted over £1.6m from HESA-reported sources in the REF period (cf. £635k in the RAE 2008 period). Principal sources are the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust, the AHRC, the ESRC, a variety of Christian and Jewish trusts; and, not least, the European Commission, which had not funded DTR research before this period. While DTR scholars have continued to secure grants for individual research leave from the British Academy (**Barclay, Ryrie**) and the AHRC (**Doering**), or for individual postdoctoral research fellowships (Willis from Leverhulme; **Gehring** from the EU), the increased funding reflects a shift towards larger collaborative projects. **Guest's** 'Christianity and the University Experience' (AHRC-ESRC, £334k); **Watson's** 'Gospels Canonical and Noncanonical' (Leverhulme, £103k) and 'The Fourfold Gospel and its Rivals' (AHRC, £345k), and **Davies' 'Cremation in Scotland'** (Leverhulme, £236k) all funded postdoctoral researchers, and the latter two PhD studentships (in addition to supporting important publications). The CDLS has proved particularly successful in securing such funding, including (in addition to **Davies' project** above) an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (co-funded by the Arbory Trust) on woodland burial, an AHRC Network award (on Emotions, Identity and Religious Communities), and an EU award for Darlington-focused research on Welfare and Values in Europe (part of an 8-country network). Project development is assisted by University seedcorn money (up to £20k available per project) for the preparation of major grant proposals, and by IAS sponsorship of visiting fellows and conferences to foster research collaboration.

Alongside these standard sources, the DTR has sought funding to support new academic posts, postdoctoral fellowships and PGR studentships from the faith bodies to which we have the closest connections. This effort has been facilitated since 2010 by a dedicated Development Officer for the CCS and DTR. In addition to funding from the Church of England's Ministry Division for the new Chair in Theology and Ministry (**Higton**), the DTR has secured more than £6.9m towards other research-related purposes, principally but not exclusively through the CCS:

Endowment of Bede Chair in Catholic Studies	£2,667,000
Centre for Catholic Studies: Administrator and Development Officer	£ 205,000
Centre for Catholic Studies: scholarships and bursaries	£ 140,000
Centre for Catholic Studies: other donations in support of research	£ 260,000
Centre for Catholic Studies: postdoctoral fellowships	£100,000
Endowment towards chair in Catholic Social Thought and Practice	£1,585,000
Legacy for Michael Ramsey Chair in Anglican Studies	£2,000,000 (approx)

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Infrastructure and facilities: The DTR's research clusters (notably the existing and planned Centres) are discussed in b. above. The support staff are a departmental administrator who oversees staff research requirements, and two full-time postgraduate administrators. The CCS also has a 0.8FTE administrator. The DTR and other University bodies grant research funding to all staff (see c.i. above) and cover the expenses of numerous visiting speakers at research seminars. Throughout the REF period the DTR has hosted an annual three-month Alan Richardson Fellow in the exposition of Christian doctrine. The IAS also provides additional research leave for University staff (in this period, for **Ayres**) and funds visiting fellows and conferences: most recently, a lecture series and a conference on 'Time' contributed greatly to **Doering's** research, while an IAS-funded postgraduate interdisciplinary conference on 'Apocalyptic' was co-organised by several PhD students. The University's Research Office provides support for research proposals and funded projects, while Event Durham provides logistical support for conferences.

A key feature of the DTR's research infrastructure is Durham's library facilities. The recent expansion of the University Library (42% increase in size) allows open access for its entire 1.6m stock. DTR research is supported by over 300 online databases, a large range of e-resources, and departmental library expenditure which from 2008 to 2012 increased by 26% to £57k. There are also various special holdings of particular value to the DTR. The Meissen Library, a German-language theological collection unrivalled in the UK, has recently been incorporated into the University Library. Durham Cathedral Library and the University Library's Special Collections have long provided invaluable resources for medieval and early modern theology and church history, and are used by **Gehring, Harkins, Ryrle, Watson** and other staff and PGRs. These collections are now complemented by Ushaw College's substantial medieval and early modern materials, currently being professionally catalogued for the first time. This hitherto little-known library is already proving to be a treasure-trove for **Kelly** and others' work in early modern English Catholicism. The pairing of Ushaw's Catholic archive with the Cathedral and University's Anglican collection promises together to form a resource unlike any other in the UK.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

The DTR encourages all staff to take leading roles in national and international research organisations, and regards staff commitments to the academic assessment of research as central to its contribution to international scholarship. Such activities are discussed in annual staff review and, where appropriate, reflected in workload allocation and in assessing promotion. As well as the altruistic purpose of serving, contributing to and shaping the wider field, our conviction is that these activities strengthen staff research, provoke collaboration and enable us better to serve our PGRs. Several staff are among the leaders of important national and international scholarly associations. **Guest** and **Higton** sit on the national committee for TRS UK, the association of Theology and Religious Studies departments; **Song** organised two strategic meetings for heads of department in Theology and Religious Studies (2011, 2012). The DTR has provided heads of a series of key subject societies, with associated conference leadership roles: the Society of Christian Ethics (**Song**, 2009-12); the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain (**Murray**, 2012-14); the British Association for the Study of Religions (**Davies**, 2009-12); the British Association for the Study of Spirituality (**Cook**, Vice-President 2013-); and the International Association of Patristic Studies (**Harrison**, 2007-11), a role which included negotiating a new poly-lingual, collaborative series on themes in patristic studies with Brepols. Many others serve on the executive committees of scholarly societies which set the direction of their respective sub-disciplines (e.g. Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas; the Society of Old Testament Studies; the British Association for Jewish Studies; the Ecclesiastical History Society).

The DTR aims to be a hub of research collaboration in its subject areas, and is particularly well networked to leading universities in North America and Europe. On top of the constant interchange of scholarship fostered by the regular research seminars (in the last four years the New Testament seminar alone has hosted 14 speakers from outside the UK), DTR staff have created several important research networks. In the REF period these include two international AHRC Networks and **Harrison's** 'Music Theology' network (begun in Durham in collaboration with the Department of Music, now working with international partners). DTR staff have also established and organised leading sections or roundtables at the major American conferences (the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature, the North American Patristics Society, the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, the American Anthropological Society): we regard these conferences

as strategically important, and organise teaching timetables so as to allow staff to attend. Leading American institutions have awarded long-term residential fellowships to DTR academics (**Ryrie**, Folger Shakespeare Library 2009, US\$50,000; **Song**, Princeton University 2013, US\$25,000). Our attention to European scholarly networks is demonstrated by staff participation in the ESF-funded projects 'Landscape, Heritage and Culture' (**Miles-Watson**), 'Welfare and Values in Europe' (**Davies**) and 'Halakah in Early Judaism and Christianity' (**Doering**). **Doering** also planned and co-hosted the IAS-supported lecture series on 'Calendars and Festivals' and a conference on 'The Construction of Time in Antiquity' (in collaboration with Haifa University), and is CI in a Berne-based and SNSF-funded research project on Philo of Alexandria.

One sign of these collaborative relationships is the series of conferences hosted in Durham: more than 20 during the REF period. These include national disciplinary conferences across the range of our subject areas; large international conferences of 200 or more delegates, both regular ('Death, Dying and Disposal' 2011) and one-off ('Receptive Ecumenism', 2009); dedicated colloquia on the work of leading scholars in the field, such as Jean Porter (2009), Oliver O'Donovan (2011), Nicholas Lash (2011), Andrew Louth (2012), and Eamon Duffy (2013). At least five conferences arising from specific research projects have issued in publications. There have also been a series of PGR-led or PGR-focused conferences (see c.ii above).

The DTR especially values editorial roles as a means of leading and contributing to the discipline. Most staff serve on the editorial boards of journals or monograph series (**Song** does so for four journals; **Ayres** for three). **Ayres** has co-edited the Wiley-Blackwell series, 'Challenges in Contemporary Theology' for 17 years. Many also lead one-off editorial projects (such as Bloomsbury's six-volume cultural history of death (**Davies**) or the *Cambridge Companion to Edmund Burke* (2012) (**Insole**)). The most significant of these roles are (i) editing the front-rank journals which define their respective fields, and (ii) founding new series and journals which can open new research horizons. (i) **Barclay** is the editor of *New Testament Studies*, a role in which he has been supported by a DTR-funded postgraduate research assistant; **Watson** is to succeed him for 2014-18. **Ryrie** is from 2013 co-editor of the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*. (ii) **Watson** co-founded and co-edits the journal *Early Christianity* (Mohr-Siebeck: Tübingen), which integrates research in New Testament with scholarship on the second century. **Harrison** was sole founder and is managing editor of the Routledge 'Early Church Fathers' series. **Weeks** established and co-edits the series 'Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible' (Eisenbrauns) and the 'ICC Apocrypha' series (Bloomsbury). Since its launch in 2012 the DTR has hosted and provided office facilities for the *Journal of Jesuit Studies*.

DTR staff are encouraged to be involved in research assessment beyond Durham. During the REF period they have been external examiners for at least 113 UK PhDs, and 17 from overseas (e.g., Australia, Canada, Finland, Israel and Ireland). From post-doc (**Kelly**) to professor they have refereed RCUK, BA and Leverhulme research proposals; six have served on the AHRC Peer Review College. Senior staff have advised on professorial promotions in the UK (e.g. Aberdeen, Cambridge, Oxford, St Andrews, Warwick) and several have advised other universities in their REF preparations. They have also served as research consultants internationally. To take a small sample: **Harrison** has advised on promotions for Bryn Mawr College, University of Iowa, Villanova University, University of British Columbia, and Australian Catholic University; **Watson** has been consultant for research grants for the Finnish Academy of Science, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Letters; **Davies** has given strategic research direction to projects in Uppsala and Helsinki and is on the European Science Foundation Panel; **Doering** has reviewed research proposals for the German-Israeli Foundation, the Israel Science Foundation, the Volkswagen Foundation and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research.

Finally, most senior staff have given keynote lectures on the international stage. Thus in 2012-13, **Murray** gave lecture tours in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, **Barclay** keynote conference lectures in Switzerland, Spain and Germany, **Cook** in Saudi Arabia and **Song** in Russia. **Insole**, in addition to keynote lectures in the USA and Germany, has given the McDonald Lectures in Oxford.