

Institution: University of Leeds

Unit of Assessment: D33 Theology and Religious Studies

a. Overview

Theology and Religious Studies (TRS) at the University of Leeds is part of the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science (PRHS), within the Faculty of Arts. This new, unitary School is the result of an extensive review of research and teaching activity following RAE2008 and changes in government and research council funding. A key strategic goal of the review was to build on TRS's research strengths in the interdisciplinary study of contemporary religion. Within the Faculty, TRS's research is supported by the Leeds Humanities Research Institute (LHRI), which promotes the Faculty's interdisciplinary research culture, the HEIF-funded Cultural and Creative Industries Exchange (CCI), established with the aim of brokering relationships between academics and industrial or community partners, and the Faculty's 'Arts Engaged' project. The latter, wherein TRS has been centrally involved, was created to foster impact-oriented research activity, and won funding of £850K from the University's Transformation Fund, which was established in 2007 to initiate projects able to generate a step-change in research income through the leverage of substantial external funds. Within this broader School and Faculty context, TRS's research activity has been centred on two hubs: the Centre for Religion and Public Life (CRPL), focused on the study of religion and society, and, more recently, the Centre for Philosophy of Religion (CPR). The latter, a new development since RAE2008, reflects a strategic focus on, and investment in. collaborative research potential across TRS and Philosophy. Indeed, leadership and management of research within the School is shared across the TRS, Philosophy and History of Science areas, with TRS staff exercising key leadership roles, most notably Mellor as the Head of School, Muers as a Deputy Head of School (previously McLoughlin), and Tomalin as Director of Impact and a Research Centre Director.

b. Research strategy

In RAE2008, TRS's strategy was focused on three challenges: 1) ensuring that the CRPL continued its development as an internationally recognised centre of research excellence; 2) enabling further success in the development of projects with the capacity to generate external income and build collaborative national and international networks and partnerships; and 3) developing a staffing strategy that would enable TRS to expand its staff in the context of planned retirements and the reduction in staff numbers that had occurred in the previous assessment period. In what follows, we demonstrate that TRS has developed significantly as a major interdisciplinary forum for sociological, theological and anthropological studies of contemporary religion, with research income over £700K and a substantial and growing record of external partnership work. Alongside this, significant investment in staff, at early career (ECR) and more senior levels, has allowed TRS to enhance its research capacity and quality. In addition, projects and collaborative partnerships, the creation of the CPR, focused on challenging and extending established categories in the philosophy of religion, has allowed TRS to expand and diversify its research base and activity.

Building on over 30 years' experience in conducting its research in the context of external partnership work, the CRPL has played a key role in the Faculty's Arts Engaged project. Initially developed under Knott's leadership, and with Mellor, Tomalin and others within the School also closely involved up to the present, this project's focus on delivering cutting-edge impact-oriented research is strongly aligned with the CRPL's ongoing strategic commitment to collaboration, partnership and research excellence. Thus, since RAE2008, the CRPL has added to its regular hosting of guest speakers from a range of national and international institutions a number of colloquia and events focused on developing more sustained partnerships and collaborations. Highlights include: the Colloquium on Religion, Policing and Security, with the participation of senior police officers and civil servants as well as academics; a round-table on the HEIF V-funded 'street-grooming' project with the participation of Manchester police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre; a series of events involving the participation of a range of local and national community representatives to mark the 35th anniversary of the Community Religions Project, e.g. a public exhibition (which proved an opportunity for further primary research); and the creation of the 'Religion and Society@Leeds' research network. Meeting several times a year, for full or half days, the latter embraces staff and PGR students from across the Arts and Social Sciences Faculties at Leeds and other UK



universities, and international colleagues, e.g. staff and PGR students from the universities of Copenhagen, Turku and Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK); institutions with which TRS has developed strategic partnerships for exchanges to build research collaborations. Focused on a broad range of topics that build on the strengths of individual researchers at Leeds, the network study days have explored religion/non-religion (Mellor), colonialism and postcolonialism (McLoughlin, Tomalin, Stiebert, Ward), interfaith relations (Muers, Stiebert), violence (Mellor, Ward), media and sexuality (Tomalin, Ward), and a range of other issues, including an Adrian Hastings Africa Study Day in honour of Hastings's work at Leeds and its legacy for current work and scholarship funding for African students (Stiebert, Ward, Van Klinken). These interdisciplinary research days have added significantly to the CRPL's international and national profile and standing.

Common across all of TRS's research activities is a focus on the intersection of embodied, practical, and local aspects of religious life and traditions with the institutional, political and global contexts within which religion is shaped today. In this regard, though the CRPL is well established, the CPR represents an emerging area of research strength, and an area of major recent investment (with the appointments of Wynn, Scrutton, Skrimshire, and Burley). Here, the focus is on challenging and extending established categories in the philosophy of religion, bringing it into constructive conversation with other disciplines engaged in the study of religion in its lived context. Indeed, although the CRPL and the CPR have their distinctive concerns and trajectories, the common focus on lived religion, supported by the research culture and infrastructure of TRS as a subject area, has given rise to a range of high-quality, innovative research outputs across a range of interconnected thematic areas: Mellor's research partnership with Shilling (Kent), has, via a new model of the 'religious habitus', sought to reorient established debates about secularisation towards the lived experiences of embodied subjects; Wynn's phenomenology of religious experience has offered an innovative embodied religious epistemology through its exploration of the interconnections between feeling, perception, action and place; **Scrutton**'s exploration of religion, emotion and feeling brings this focus on embodiment to a new examination of notions of God's (im)passibility, while **Burley**'s exploration of death and immortality within an analytical philosophical model has added a further dimension to TRS's work in this area; Muers, working within a theological framework, has also produced substantial new work on the nature and theological and ethical implications of eating, asceticism and diet across history and in the present, including explorations of eating and believing in relation to breastfeeding. Key strands within this focus on religion and embodiment engage substantively with feminist theology (Muers) or social theory (Mellor), though explorations of religion, gender and sexuality have been central to the work of a broader group of researchers. Stiebert's engagement with Hebrew scriptures via feminist critique is of note here, as is Van Klinken's work on gender and religion in Africa and Tomalin's award-winning work on Buddhist feminist transnational networks and her influential studies of women and development, while Ward's critical work on homosexuality in the global Anglican communion, both on his own and as part of the AHRC/ESRC Sexuality and Global Faiths Network. is of particular note as a contribution to a rapidly evolving set of global challenges concerning sexuality.

Innovative analyses of religion at the nexus of global and local challenges concerning community, identity and social change are key not only to TRS's work on bodies, gender and sexuality, but also to its AHRC/ESRC funded work in the areas of diasporas and migration, Department for International Development (DFID) sponsored work on religion and development, and a range of other studies of local and global religious communities. McLoughlin's work on British Asian diasporas is grounded in empirical studies in localities such as Bradford but contextualised within broader European and global patterns of migration, identity formation and cultural change; Tomalin's work on religion and development, and that of Skrimshire, Tomalin and Muers on religion and environmentalism, exemplifies a multidisciplinary interrogation of local and global challenges facing religious communities; while Ward's studies of Rwandan genocide and the East African Revival, together with Van Klinken's work on African Pentecostalism and Stiebert's studies of the people's Bible in Africa, represent the CRPL's continuing commitment to African studies, alongside more locally-centred work, such as that associated with the Community Religions Project (McLoughlin, Tomalin). The latter has continued to be the host for a number of empirically-based and publicly-engaged research projects of local, regional and national significance and, in addition to its involvement in research and consultancy relating to the rising



profile of religion in diversity training, government consultation and public policy, it has also developed local research collaborations with the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Chaplaincy, the Oastler Centre and Leeds Church Institute (most recently a collaborative project on the theology of money).

A key feature of TRS's work is the commitment to the future of the disciplines on which it draws, encompassing research that aims to reshape theology in the light of a methodological and ethical future-orientedness (Muers and Skrimshire), to map a new direction for the sociological study of religion (Mellor), and to shape emergent or rapidly evolving cross-disciplinary areas of study including religion and development, diasporas and migration and issues of globalisation, gender and sexuality (Tomalin, McLoughlin, Ward, Stiebert, Van Klinken), as well as the development of new research agendas at the intersections of philosophy and religion (Wynn, Scrutton, Skrimshire, Burley). Looking ahead, we regard our strategic commitment to the further development of TRS's two research Centres as offering a basis for a significant contribution to the innovative, interdisciplinary and evolving study of religion. Their orientations are issue- and subjectbased, with the intention of fostering diversifying or overlapping interests across disciplines (a number of staff are members of both Centres), and focused on nurturing individual excellence within a context of mutual challenge, collaboration and partnership inside and outside the academy. In this respect, the individual and collaborative monographs and large-scale research projects already in preparation for the next REF cycle represent a solid underpinning for the development of TRS at Leeds, and reflect a broader strategic commitment to the study of religion as an interdisciplinary, publicly engaged subject area. TRS's significant investment in ECRs is of note here: Burley, Scrutton, Skrimshire, and Van Klinken all have impressive records of postdoctoral achievements in research, but Leeds's strategic investment in them, and the structures to support them and develop their talent, will benefit not only TRS at Leeds but also the subject nationally and internationally.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

TRS's staffing strategy is geared to providing staff with the support, resources and guidance that will allow them to conduct research of the highest quality, and with maximum local and global impact. Staff are encouraged to publish in the highest ranked international journals, participate in international colloquia, networks and conferences, pursue individual and collaborative funding for projects from international and national bodies, and develop a range of academic and nonacademic partnerships and collaborations. One third of contract time is set aside for research (factored into the School workload model), while there are regular periods of research leave (one semester in seven), research travel and conference support of £1200 per year, and a comprehensive system of mentoring, appraisal and training. The latter includes an annual Academic Meeting with the Head of School and the Director of Research for the appraisal of activity and the setting of objectives, and an annual Staff Review and Development (SRDS) meeting with a senior colleague (a probation meeting for staff in the first two years of their contracts), which facilitates mentoring and the identification of development and training needs with regard to career progression. These needs are addressed in a variety of ways, including further mentoring by senior staff within the School, e.g. in relation to publication strategies, but draw extensively on the expertise and resources of the University's Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU), an integrated training and development service for all staff and PGRs.

ECRs are given more focused advice and support through the probation process, and can be given lighter teaching loads or accelerated sabbatical leave at key stages in the development of their research profiles. They, and research postgraduates, benefit from the *Next Generation* research programme developed in line with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, and the LEAP Training Hub, which provides access to training and development opportunities for Arts, Humanities and Social Science PhD students and ECR staff. This offers training and development courses covering areas such as professionalisation, communications skills, research methodologies, networking, and PhD process and career management issues. **Burley, Scrutton, Skrimshire** and **Van Klinken** have been supported through these arrangements and structures.

TRS's strong commitment to equal opportunities in relation to recruitment is evident in that the new recruitment of female researchers (**Stiebert, Scrutton**) during the assessment period has



contributed to a healthy gender balance within the unit as a whole. **Muers** has been promoted to Senior Lecturer since the last RAE, and **Stiebert** to Associate Professor. Our PGR students have diverse ethnic, racial, religious and non-religious backgrounds. In this regard, our support for African PGRs through the Adrian Hastings Africa Scholarships is of note, while our commitment to facilitating and supporting partnership with faith communities is evidenced by our support of **Singh**'s work on British Sikhism: initially an AHRC/ESRC Collaborative Doctoral Award holder at Leeds (in partnership with the Bradford Educational and Cultural Association of Sikhs), he is now one of the Faculty's five post-doctoral 'impact' fellows attached to Arts Engaged, continuing to be based in TRS. In this, TRS has made a contribution to addressing the notable absence of Sikh researchers in the arts and humanities nationally.

More broadly, our transformative staff changes have been focused on extending our research ambitions and enabling us to meet more expansive research aims. Thus, while Sirriyeh has retired, and Knott has moved to another institution, the appointment of **Van Klinken** in African Christianity has enhanced TRS's already strong profile in African studies, and the appointment of **Stiebert** has not only contributed to this but also added research strength in the area of the Hebrew scriptures. In addition, the appointments of Burley, Scrutton, and Skrimshire are part of a strategy to build the philosophy of religion within the School as a whole, a strategy that has also seen the appointment of Wynn to a Chair in Philosophy and Religion (for which the School won funding from the University as part of its Leadership Chair investment project). With these staff, along with Le Poidevin, Shalkowski (submitted under Philosophy), and the relocation of the Cambridge journal Religious Studies to PRHS at Leeds (where we will host the 'Religious Studies at 50' conference in 2014), there is the capacity to make it the pre-eminent location for research and teaching in philosophy of religion in the UK, and a major international centre. Offering a unique breadth of expertise, covering traditional approaches alongside innovations centred on embodiment, eastern as well as western traditions, and analytic, phenomenological and continental perspectives, these appointments add a significant dimension to existing strengths in the study of religion at Leeds.

ii. Research students

PGR students in TRS occupy a central place within its research culture, where nurturing the next generation of researchers is a key priority. PGR student funding has come via TRS's involvement in the AHRC's Block Grant Partnership and a range of School, Faculty and University scholarships. The range of support, mentoring and guidance we offer them is broad. The University aims to deliver a research student experience that attracts and develops the very best students, and it monitors progress in achieving this through participating on a biennial basis in three national surveys: Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) for research students; Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) for research staff; Principal Investigators and Research Leaders Surveys (PIRLS). Within the School, the Director of Postgraduate Studies is tasked with strategic and practical responsibility for ensuring the quality of the PGR experience, monitoring progress, and facilitating training and development, assisted by a team of PGR Tutors (**Stiebert** in TRS).

All research students agree a training plan with their supervisor within one month of starting. To facilitate this, the University's online Postgraduate Development Record System (PDR) provides a training-needs analysis tool based on the national Researcher Development Framework. The PDR is also used to record supervision meetings and training courses attended, and is accessible to research students, supervisors, PGR Tutors, advisers, external supervisors, research groups, transfer panel members and relevant administrative staff. The latest QAA Institutional Review highlighted the PDR system as an example of good practice in the University's 'holistic approach to partnership as a joint enterprise that recognises the mutual obligations of staff and students'. The training and development of research students also comes within the University's Next Generation Researcher programme, delivered by the LEAP training hub in collaboration with SDDU and other central services. Research students have opportunities to present their research at faculty conferences and an annual University of Leeds Showcase conference, as well as to access national Vitae training and resources (the University hosts the Yorkshire and North East Vitae Hub). They can also access an extensive range of training courses designed specifically for arts and humanities students in the LHRI, as well as those provided within the School. Extensive participation in Religion and Society@Leeds research days is a clear expectation and students regularly offer papers, chair discussions and participate in conference preparation and organisation, providing them with skills of considerable value for the development of their careers.



There is also a fortnightly 'work in progress' seminar for all PGRs, and several journal clubs and reading groups, a number of which have been formed, organised and led by students.

Training and development for research students is also attentive to the need for students to engage productively with the impact agendas of the AHRC, HEFCE and other funding bodies. This is addressed not only through the Religion and Society@ Leeds network, where one part of each meeting is devoted to funded research projects, but also via tailored support for individual students. PRHS was the only School within the Faculty of Arts to acquire two post-doctoral impact fellows as part of Arts Engaged (one in TRS and one in History of Science), reflecting its strength in this area. Singh, the TRS impact fellow, was also supported via Worldwide Universities Network funding for a visit to CUHK, along with staff members Tomalin and Stiebert, while a CHUK PGR, Chan, was able to study at Leeds with **Mellor**. In terms of fostering research impact, the School has also supplemented the post-doctoral impact fellowship awards with pump-priming money for PGRs engaged in impact activity in each of its research centres, while TRS has been active in enabling students to gain HEIF V funding for impact via the Faculty: thus, Lindsey and Starkey, under **Tomalin**'s mentorship, were able to gain HEIF V funding to explore the impact of religion on public perception of the 'Big Society' while pursuing their PhDs (which also led to the achievement of a Local Authority grant to conduct research on its engagement with religion. Alongside this, Starkey won a grant from the Spalding Trust to carry out fieldwork with a new community of Buddhist nuns in San Francisco (2013) and, with **Tomalin**, obtained funding from English Heritage to carry out field work on Buddhist buildings in the UK to enhance its National Heritage Protection Plan.

PGRs are guaranteed funding of £900 over the duration of their course to support research expenses, including conferences and workshop attendance, and they have given papers at conferences organised by BASR, IAHR, BSA Sociology of Religion Study Group, SST and others. They are actively supported in developing their work for publication, and highlights here include papers in *Body and Society* (Russell), *Feminist Theology* (Grant), *Political Theology* (Wood), *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion* (Starkey), and *International Journal of Public Theology* (Barton). Other notable PGR achievements include an AHRC/Library of Congress scholarship to study at the Kluge Center, Washington, DC (Francis), runner-up in the University of Leeds Postgraduate Researcher of the Year, 2010 and appearances on BBC Radio's 2 Pause for Thought and the Sikh Channel (Singh), and the organisation of a national conference at Leeds in 2010 on Christianity and vegetarianism, in collaboration with the Christian Vegetarian Association UK (Barton). A particularly noteworthy achievement is Starkey's appointment to the AHRC's Research Strategy Committee, as one of only two PGRs nationwide.

The AHRC's recent award of £19m to the White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership between the universities of Leeds, York and Sheffield, the largest award in the UK, also means, looking forward, we can provide our students with yet higher standards of support: aside from facilitating the recruitment of more than 300 fully-funded doctoral students over five years, the training programme will include: a *research training mobility* scheme allowing students to take specialist training courses across the three universities and beyond; *student-led forums*, providing opportunities for interdisciplinary and collaborative work across the three universities; *researcher employability projects*, allowing opportunities for experience in a range of employment contexts within the UK and abroad; and *knowledge exchange projects*, providing valuable experience in the dissemination of research and the evaluation of its impact. In preparation for these developments, our 4 ECRs have been given co-supervision experience, mentoring from experienced colleagues and have now completed mandatory training ahead of assuming full supervisory duties, enabling a further enhancement of supervisory capacity in the post REF 2014 era.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

In our submission to RAE2008 we identified the further embedding within TRS's research culture of the pursuit of external research income as a major challenge: with expenditure from external research grants totalling over £700K, almost twice the figure for RAE2008, this challenge has clearly been met. TRS staff have won a large number of AHRC awards for projects including **McLoughlin**'s 'From Diaspora to Multi-Locality: Writing British-Asian Cities' (rated 'outstanding' by the AHRC on completion) and 'Hajj: Journey to the Heart of Islam' (in collaboration with the British Museum, as part of the 2012 major international exhibition on the Hajj), **Muers's** 'Vegetarianism as Spiritual Choice in Historical and Contemporary Christianity' and 'Women Reading Difficult Scriptures', and **Ward**'s 'Sexuality and Global Faith Networks'. Projects funded by the British



Academy have included **McLoughlin**'s Mid-Career Fellowship, **Ward**'s 'A History of the Rwanda Mission 1901-2002', and **Stiebert**'s International Partnership award, while the UK government's DFID has funded **Tomalin**'s work for the 'Religions and Development' Research Programme Consortium. Further external funding has come via the Cambridge Interfaith Programme and English Heritage. Looking to the future, as we come to the end of one successful cycle, we can note that the monetary value of applications submitted and pending, or at an advanced stage of development, is approximately £3m (including high-value awards sought by each of our ECRs, and a number of projects that build on earlier LHRI and HEIF V pump-priming).

These activities have been supported at subject, School, Faculty and University levels. The LHRI houses the Faculty's research support office, which processes grant applications and administers awards, offers seminar rooms and space for visiting fellows and post-graduate students, administrative support to interdisciplinary centres, and bespoke advice for colleagues in building funding bids. Its pump-priming funding supports researchers in developing projects, enabling activities such as pilot projects. At the University level, the Research Ethics Committee considers matters of general principle and policy and provides a framework of delegated authority within which the likely benefits of research can be considered in relation to its potential risks, and with regard to law, University values, and the highest standards of academic and professional integrity. All research involving human participants is required to undergo ethical review and obtain approval before it can commence. Van Klinken sits on the Faculty's research ethics committee, as did **Mellor** until 2012-13, and **Tomalin**, as Director of the CRPL, provides mentoring and guidance to staff and PGR students in relation to ethical review. Staff and PGRs also have access to the University's Brotherton Library, amongst the biggest research libraries in the UK, with its stock of several million printed books, and manuscripts, 250,000 electronic books, direct access to over 9000 journals (half of these in electronic format), and a designated Liaison Officer for TRS. Staff and students also benefit from the proximity to Leeds of the British Library at Boston Spa.

The strategy by which an appropriate balance between the scholarly, organisational and operational infrastructures relevant to research was developed and deployed has involved staff at all levels of the University. At the most general level, the University's strategy of pursuing world-class levels of achievement in research and securing its place in the top 50 universities worldwide was established, via staff consultation, a number of years ago. As noted above, however, a University review, led by **Mellor** within the School, saw every area of research activity and infrastructure reassessed with a view to ensuring that the School's organisational structure would support research excellence: the key principle was that researchers, individually and collaboratively, are empowered to develop their work to the highest standards and in forms appropriate to the wider evolving research landscape.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

As well as staff collaborating in the University's interdisciplinary centres, including the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies (Tomalin, Muers, Mellor), the Centre for Global Development (Tomalin), the IDEA-CETL for Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied (Skrimshire, Muers, Mellor), and Arts Engaged (Tomalin, Mellor), they have contributed to the development of the discipline nationally and internationally through a range of activities. A number of staff are members of the AHRC Peer Review Panel (Tomalin, Muers, McLoughlin), while, internationally, staff have reviewed research grant applications for the Volkswagen Foundation (Mellor), the Austrian Science Fund (Mellor, McLoughlin), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (Mellor, McLoughlin), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (Mellor), European Research Council (McLoughlin), Research Council of Norway (McLoughlin), the Templeton Foundation (Wynn), and the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Tomalin). Ward has acted as a consultant for an Asbury Seminary project on 'Christian Revitalisation', for Fuller Seminary on conflict resolution within the Anglican Communion, for the Pew Trust on Muslim-Christian relations in Africa, and the US State Department on the US's African policy. McLoughlin also delivered the AHRC/ESRC Religion & Society research training on Ethnography at Oxford and Kent, 2010-11.

Editorial duties have included: membership of the boards of *Religious Studies*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Ars Disputandi* and the Continuum book series in Philosophy of Religion (**Wynn**); the Biblical Interpretation Monograph series (**Stiebert**); the advisory board for *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* (**Scrutton**); co-editorship of the Routledge book series on Religion and Development, editorship of the Routledge Handbook on 'Religions and Development', and



editorship of a special issue of Contemporary South Asia (Tomalin), Associate Editorship of Practical Philosophy (Burley); and membership of the editorial board of Quaker Studies (Muers, Mellor). Staff have acted as referees for a range of journals: Religious Studies (Wynn, Scrutton, Burley); Theory, Culture and Society, Body and Society, American Journal of Sociology, British Journal of Sociology, Journal of Contemporary Religion, Sociological Review, Sociology, Sociology of Religion (Mellor); Journal of Health Services Research & Policy, Journal of International Development, Social Politics, Development in Practice, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Journal of Contemporary South Asia, World Development (Tomalin); Ethnic and Racial Studies, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Ethnicities, Culture and Religion (McLoughlin); Modern Theology, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Studies in Christian Ethics (Muers); American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly, Dialogue, Canadian Philosophical Review, Inquiry, International Journal of Philosophical Studies, Journal of Applied Philosophy, Journal of Philosophy, Mind, Philosophia, Philosophical Papers, Philosophy East and West, Practical Philosophy, Southern Journal of Philosophy (Burley); Old Testament Essays, Missionalia (Stiebert); Journal of Environmental Philosophy, Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, International Political Sociology, Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (Skrimshire). Staff have also acted as reviewers for Oxford, Continuum, Palgrave, Routledge, Zed Books, and Ashgate (McLoughlin, Muers, Wynn, Burley).

Invited papers/keynotes have been presented at a range of universities and international conferences, and highlights include: Zurich, Oxford, Hong Kong Baptist University, Brasilia, Geneva, Durham, Glasgow, St Andrews, Durham, Edinburgh, Utrecht, Lund, Tübingen (Wynn); SOAS, Hamburg, Singapore (Tomalin); Tübingen, Cambridge, St Andrews, Exeter, KCL (Muers); Old Testament Society of South Africa Congress (Stiebert); Wales, Sussex, Durham, Oxford, Turku (Burley); Trento, Graz, Oxford, Turku, Kent (Mellor); Aarhus, Toronto, London, Yale (Ward); Casa Arabe, Madrid, TCD, Turku, Tilburg, Florida, Princeton, Oxford, Cardiff, Antwerp, Lisbon, Lahore, Cork and Leiden (McLoughlin).

Conferences organised by staff include: an international meeting of the Bible and Critical Theory and Reception seminar at Leeds, a research day in honour of Professor Adrian Hastings, and a British Academy-funded International Partnerships Fund conference (Stiebert); 'Theology, Spirituality and Mental Health' (Scrutton); 'Religion and Society in Leeds: Working in Partnership', 'Street Grooming in Northern Towns', an 'International Development and Religion' panel at the AAR Conference, San Francisco and the Annual conference of BASAS (British Association for South Asian Studies) (Tomalin): the AHRC Writing British Asian Cities final colloquium, and the European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (McLoughlin). Significant roles in scholarly societies include: Elected Chair of the Muslims in Britain Research Network, Advisory Board Member of the HEFCE Islamic Studies Network, Interim Steering Committee member of the British Association for Islamic Studies, and Consultant to the Higher Education Academy on a HEFCE funded project concerning International approaches to Islamic Studies (McLoughlin); Treasurer of the British Association for South Asian Studies, member of the steering committee of the 'International Development and Religion Group' at the AAR (Tomalin); membership of the committee of the Christian Systematic Theology Section of the American Academy of Religion, and the committee of the joint Jewish-Christian-Muslim Society for Scriptural Reasoning (Muers).

Scholarly awards during the REF period include: **Tomalin's** 2009 article 'Buddhist Feminist Transnational Networks, Female Ordination and Women's Empowerment' was judged 'best article' in that volume of *Oxford Development Studies* and awarded a prestigious prize in honour of the late Professor Sanjaya Lall by The Board of Oxford Development Studies; she was also aappointed as a member of the Committee for the Public Understanding of Religion of the AAR (2013); **Mellor**'s article, 'Retheorising Emile Durkheim on society and religion' was one of four shortlisted for the best article of the year award by the editorial board of *The Sociological Review* (2011), while his 1993 article 'Modernity, Self Identity and the Sequestration of Death' was selected as one of the 'Key Articles in British Sociology' over the last sixty years, as part of the BSA's Anniversary Special Collection, to mark sixty years of the journal *Sociology* (2012); **Scrutton** was Frederick J. Crosson Fellow in the Center for Philosophy of Religion at Notre Dame (2011- 2012); **Ward** was Scholar in Residence at the Overseas Mission Study Center, New Haven, CT (2011); **Wynn** was invited to deliver the Wilde Lectures in Oxford (2015) and to present a plenary paper at the Royal Institute of Philosophy conference on 'supererogation' (2014).