

**Institution: University of Bristol**

**Unit of assessment: 33 Theology and Religious Studies**

**a. Overview**

Bristol's department of Religion and Theology is part of the School of Humanities, one of 3 schools that constitute the Faculty of Arts. While maintaining a distinct disciplinary direction under the guidance of their individual Subject Leads, the School's 5 subject areas (Classics and Ancient History, English, Historical Studies, History of Art, Religion and Theology) share a streamlined administrative structure that promotes a vital interdisciplinary research culture under the overall management of the Head of School. Religion and Theology has 8.6 research active staff (3 professors, 2 senior lecturers, 4 lecturers). This academic year saw replacement posts in each of the department's research clusters (Christianity and Culture and Buddhist Studies). Since 2008, Religion and Theology has also had 2 postdoctoral fellowships (AHRC and Marie Curie), while the thriving postgraduate research culture has been marked by the award of 7 AHRC PhD-studentships and 3 other fully funded PhD-studentships.

**b. Research strategy**

A relatively small department, Religion and Theology has nonetheless fostered a distinctive research environment and culture, sustaining and building on its strengths in Christian history and thought and Buddhist studies. Our broad strategy is thus to sustain and enhance the vitality of our two distinct research clusters in (1) Christianity and Culture and (2) Buddhist Studies (RAE 2008), and also to realise fully the potential for (3) interdisciplinarity and complementarity both between and beyond these two clusters. Our systems and strategies encourage colleagues, both collaboratively and individually, to be highly productive contributors to their research areas: in addition to the 32 outputs selected for assessment, a further 55 research outputs have been published during the period (3 books, 5 edited books, 47 articles) and a further 19 are in press (3 books, 16 articles).

**(1) Christianity and Culture**

The Centre for Christianity and Culture (co-directed by D'Costa and Muessig) allows the Department to showcase its diversity and range, whilst our small unit enables open dialogue and quick exchange among participants. Reception theory of the Bible reinforces the Christianity and Culture profile through the development of projects on the reception of Jewish scripture (Campbell), and the advancement of research on theoretical and disciplinary issues relating to the reception history of the Bible, investigating areas such as popular music, paintings, preaching, and English history (Lyons). Our annual half-day conference on biblical reception, our collaboration with the Reception research theme in Classics and Ancient History and staff acting as co-editors for major research projects on biblical reception (Muessig for *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*; Lyons for the *Scriptural Traces* series, and the journals *Relegere* and *Bible and Critical Theory*) have sustained and developed this area. Reception activities were further strengthened by Lyons' co-book on the reception history of the Apocalypse of John (the topic of a panel discussion at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2010).

The theme of preaching also embraces departmental research activity in medieval and early modern Christianity. Muessig has published extensively on medieval sermons. Balserak's 2011 monograph was based on an analysis of many of John Calvin's sermons. The Faculty's Centre for Medieval Studies provides a strategic context for Muessig's work on medieval stigmatics and Balserak's research on late medieval and early modern prophecy, as well as for the department's research students working in this area. In the area of modern Christian theology and thought, D'Costa and Crisp worked closely together on the research plans (RAE 2008) related to religion and the university; this resulted in two co-edited volumes, *Theology and Philosophy: Faith and Reason* (2011) and *Christianity and the Disciplines: The Transformation of the University* (2012). The appointment of Leech (in replacement of Crisp) means that these areas of research will continue to flourish and also develop in new directions. Leech's 2013 monograph *The Hammer of the Cartesians: Henry More's Philosophy of Spirit and the Origins of Modern Atheism* has resulted in his being one of '10 young scholars from all over the world' to be awarded the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise for 2014.

**(2) Buddhist studies**

The Centre for Buddhist studies (directed by Gethin) has flourished in three areas: (1) Buddhist

ritual, (2) Indian and Pali Buddhist texts, (3) Buddhist meditation and psychology. The REF period saw the cluster bring the AHRC-funded (£395,806) project (Buddhist Death Rituals in Southeast Asia and China) to a successful conclusion, with the project rated GOOD, and exceeding its intended outcomes: outputs included an edited volume (2012), a doctoral dissertation, exhibitions (Bristol, Birmingham, Leeds, Hamburg), two documentary videos (available online along with other material at [www.bristol.ac.uk/religion/buddhist-centre/projects/bdr/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/religion/buddhist-centre/projects/bdr/)). Some of these outputs have had significant impact outside academia (see ICS). Building on this project, Langer developed a project (Preacher and Ritualist) looking further at the role of monks in death rituals, for which she received an AHRC Research Leave Scheme grant (2009–10).

Gethin developed his work on Buddhist meditation and psychology, teaching graduate classes on Abhidharma as Visiting Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies at UC Berkeley (2008), and again as Visiting Professor, International Institute for Buddhist Studies, Tokyo (2013), collaborating in a dialogue with the 14th Dalai Lama and 8 other academics from the fields of neuroscience, psychology, and philosophy on Attention, Memory and Mind (Dharamsala, India, 2009), and securing Leverhulme funding (Abhidharma: the Buddhist model of the mind, 2011–12).

The cluster has continued to seek ways of developing a scholarly resource consisting of a digital edition of the Pali Text Society's printed edition of the Pali canon. Relevant issues were explored in some of Gethin's outputs in the period and outlined in his invited contribution to a conference celebrating the thousandth anniversary of the printing of the Chinese Buddhist canon in Korea (Daegu, 2011).

The potential for the Bristol cluster in Buddhist studies to advance its contribution to research in these areas has been enhanced by two developments towards the end of the assessment period: the appointment of Greene (2013) to replace Kieschnick, and the successful application for a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship (Kourilsky). Greene, whose doctoral dissertation 'Meditation, Repentance, and Visionary Experience in Early Medieval Chinese Buddhism' (Berkeley, 2012), was awarded the prestigious Stanley Weinstein Dissertation Prize for 2010–12, brings to the department expertise in early Chinese Buddhist meditation and the transmission of Indian Buddhist literature to China; he will also develop interdisciplinary links with colleagues working on China across the Faculty, while his interest in visions in Chinese meditation as well as Chinese medieval preaching complements the work of Muessig and research areas within the Faculty's Centre for Medieval Studies. Working with Gethin, Kourilsky will focus on an important but neglected Southeast Asian Pali Buddhist monastic manual (*Maṅgalatthadīpanī*). The project intersects with the work of Langer on Buddhist ritual and preaching in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia, and the wider departmental interest on sermons and preaching in a variety of eras, religious traditions and cultures (Balsarak, Greene, Lyons, Muessig).

### (3) Interdisciplinarity and complementarity

In order to develop our two clusters we have sought to exploit the possibilities for interdisciplinarity and complementarity in such areas as the methodologies of textual and literary studies in biblical, Christian and Buddhist studies; parallels between Christian and Buddhist religious practice in the past and present; the philosophy of religion in Europe and India; the Christian theology of religions. This has been achieved by fostering internal and external networks of intellectual exchange. The fortnightly Religion and Theology Research Seminar brings together staff, PGRs and PGTs, as well as members of the Faculty and the wider University. Each year at least one of our research seminars is dedicated to one speaker from Buddhist Studies and one from Christianity and Culture addressing a theme in a comparative manner, and one seminar normally features a member from another Department working on religion. The School Research Seminar, which meets once a term, involves one of the School's five subject areas leading themed presentations with staff from other subject areas. Interdisciplinarity and complementarity extend beyond the subject and School to the Faculty. Research clusters have evolved from Faculty-wide research days where members from all departments exchange ideas and methodologies on given themes. This has resulted in the development of a Faculty-wide 'Religion Cluster' spearheaded by the department and attracting 25 members from beyond the Department and School to half-day conferences and reading groups.

These activities have vitalized research firmly situated in one of the two main research areas of the department as well as fostering research that spans more than one area. The departmental seminar has acted as the initial forum for specific outputs (D'Costa's 'What does the Catholic

Church Teach about Mission to the Jewish People?’ enhanced by Kessler’s invited ‘A Jewish Response to Gavin D’Costa’). A School seminar on preaching involving staff from Religion and Theology, Classics and Ancient History, and English resulted in a volume of essays, co-edited by staff from two of these subject areas (Lyons and Sandwell), *Delivering the Word: Preaching and Exegesis in the Western Christian Tradition* (2012). This has fed into a current AHRC-grant application for a project on comparative preaching techniques in Buddhism and Christianity, involving several departmental staff as well as staff from across the Faculty [see below].

The strategy of juxtaposing different areas of religious studies has inspired several current doctoral research projects: Rondolino (hagiography in medieval Europe and Tibet), Bolanakis (meditation and prayer in Theravada Buddhism and the Orthodox Christian tradition of hesychasm), Herdman (pilgrimage in Christianity and Buddhism); Perera (Christian engagement with the bodhi-sattva ideal in Mahayana Buddhism). It has also facilitated an international conference in Bristol (‘Women and Religion: Doctrinal, Historical and Social Perspectives’ (November 2010), organised by PGRs spanning the department’s research interests).

**Future plans**

The research plans for the next five years are to sustain and further develop the established research environment in Christianity and Culture and Buddhist studies through the continued professional development of staff, strategic recruitment, the continued development of international relationships and collaboration, engaging with interdisciplinary research projects. Building on this momentum several projects are underway to take forward our research strategy. Two AHRC Standard Grant Applications have recently been submitted. The first proposes to bring together the comparative methodology and themes in the Christianity and Culture and Buddhist Studies clusters under the title ‘Preaching in Buddhism and Christianity: Transformational Pedagogies in Pre-Modern and Present-Day Asia and Europe.’ (PI Muessig, CIs Langer, Greene and Sandwell (Classics and Ancient History)). The second will consider the role of Buddhist ideas in Asian society focusing on Burma and Sri Lanka under the title ‘The Political face of engaged Buddhism: from Sarvodaya to Aung San Suu Kyi’ (PI Langer, CI Saha (Historical Studies)). A further Marie Curie Fellowship application has been submitted which proposes to research the sermon composition, literacy and authorship in female religious communities in the early fifteenth-century Low Countries. Lyons (PI) has submitted an application to the Leverhulme Trust for a three-year project on the creation and life of the first Deaf Church in Britain (Scripture, dissent and Deaf space: St Saviour’s, Oxford Street).

**c. People:**

**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

Although small relative to similar subject groups in other HEIs and other subject areas in the Faculty of Arts, the sustainability of theology and religious studies has been ensured by the University’s policy of ‘establishment’ numbers for staff in each subject area. The establishment figure of 9 has meant that despite the economic pressures on the sector during the REF period, the department has been able to sustain and further develop key areas of research in Christian history and thought and Buddhist studies by making a new appointment in early modern Christianity (Balsarak) and replacing positions in East Asian Religions and Philosophy of Religion following the departure of Kieschnick (to Stanford) and Crisp (to Fuller Theological Seminary) in 2011. In making appointments in the Philosophy of Religion (Leech) and East Asian Religions (Greene), we have sought to appoint the very best scholars available, and also to be mindful of opportunities to strengthen existing research clusters and interests in the department and across the School and Faculty.

These appointments were made in accordance with the University’s equal opportunities recruiting policy from a wide pool of national and international applicants. As a member of Universities UK, one of the key signatories to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, the University of Bristol is committed to working towards the associated principles. An action plan has been created to direct the University’s work in the area of research staff support over the next few years. All committees for permanent appointments are chaired by the Dean or (for professional appointments) a PVC or the VC; these managers regularly receive diversity and equality training. All members of hiring committees must undergo training before they may participate. Bristol’s policy is to treat fixed-term staff on equal footing with permanent. Post-doctoral fellows and temporary staff are assigned mentors and given full access to training possibilities.

Early career researchers receive particular attention. In accordance with University policies, newly-appointed staff follow a three-year programme of structured mentoring on all aspects of their duties. They are given a reduced teaching load, and administrative duties are light at first. Members of staff become Senior Lecturers by progression rather than promotion after eight years (sometimes less). This policy requires continual mentoring and monitoring, with the stress on ambitious but attainable goals in all aspects of the job. All research-active staff normally have one research day a week during term, and one full year of research leave in five (Faculty policy). All staff have an annual staff-review and an annual research review meeting and benefit from the range of support in applying for research grants offered across the Faculty and University, as well as an extensive range of research-relevant training opportunities through Staff Development, including IT training, workshops on academic writing, grant writing and leading research teams, alongside information sessions on research initiatives and funding opportunities. Those who conduct Staff Review receive training in the process, with particular emphasis on equality and diversity issues.

The department has an excellent record in supporting early career researchers further their careers. During the REF period the department has been host to four postdoctoral fellows who have gone on to further appointments: Ladwig (AHRC Research Assistant 2007–10) to the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology, Halle; Ozawa (2009–11) to Otani University, Kyoto; Kardas (British Academy Visiting Scholar 2011–12), to the University of Zagreb; Sebastian (2011–12) to Associate Professor of Philosophy, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. Greene was appointed as a fixed term Teaching Fellow (2012) and then as a permanent research-active Lecturer (2013). A successful application to the Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship scheme has brought an early career researcher in Buddhist studies (Kourilsky) to the department from Paris for 2 years from October 2013. Promotions during the assessment period include Crisp and Kieschnick to Reader, and Gethin and Muessig to Professor.

#### ii. Research students

The department currently has over 40 registered research students. During the assessment period 16.5 PhDs, 1 MLitt, and 12 MPhils have been awarded. During this period 7 AHRC PhD studentships were held by Religion and Theology students: 5 were allocated from the AHRC Block Grant, 1 from the Buddhist Death Rituals project, and 1 was awarded from the previous AHRC scheme. Three further PhD students have been fully funded: 1 by the British Inter-University China Centre; and 2 by the University of Bristol Postgraduate Research Scholarships. Other research students have received bursaries: 3 from charities; 3 from the Faculty's Read-Tuckwell Fund; one received the Quentin Skinner Postgraduate Bursary, and one the Eric and Betty Spencer Award. In addition, the Faculty of Arts has awarded bursaries of £2,000 p.a. to some of our postgraduates.

PGRs have a supervisor and receive further support and advice from the Head of Subject. They participate in an annual review process that allows the supervisor, Head of Subject, and Graduate Dean to monitor progress. PGRs intending to submit a doctoral dissertation complete an upgrade process within one year of first registering; this involves the submission of 6–12,000 words, a bibliography and full plan, which are reviewed by two members of staff. Postgraduate students attend the department's and School's research seminars, the annual postgraduate conference, and other relevant seminars and conferences within the Faculty.

All PGRs are expected to present papers at the annual postgraduate conference organised by staff and PGR students from the department with financial support from Bristol and 6 partner institutions (Cardiff, Exeter, Gloucestershire, Redcliffe College, Roehampton and Trinity College Bristol). This receives financial support from both BIRTHA (§ d) and the University's Alumni fund. In recent years this has become an international and interdisciplinary event. The 18th conference with the theme of the Afterlife took place in March 2013 with over 130 registered participants and 51 papers presented by PG students and early career academics from a variety of academic departments and disciplines from 19 institutions in the UK, France, Germany, Hungary, and Spain. We believe this to be the largest specifically PG oriented conference in the UK. Our students also frequently present at national and international conferences, often with the financial support of the Alumni fund and the Graduate School of Arts and Humanities (GSAH).

To encourage research students to interact critically with the work of other students and that of staff all PGRs and staff are expected to attend the fortnightly research seminars. Staff also organise 2 PGR reading groups, one in reading Pali and Sanskrit texts in the original languages, the

other in Christian history and thought. Postgraduates also play an active role in the research seminars and annual postgraduate conference of the Centre for Medieval Studies (now co-directed by Muessig).

PGRs acquire teacher training in a specially designed unit offered by the Graduate School of Education. In the department, we arrange additional informal training opportunities (e.g. observing teaching, conducting a tutorial, marking some student work and comparing results with the tutor's marking, preparing teaching materials). The department has a published protocol about how teaching is assigned to PGRs and the process is overseen by the Head of Subject, with a view to fairness and transparency. In addition the University runs practical skills courses open to PGRs; the GSAH and Careers Service offers practical advice in the preparation of CVs and interview techniques.

During the assessment period 2 of our PhD students received the University of Bristol Outstanding Dissertation Prize for the best doctoral dissertation in the Faculty of Arts: Corbari, 'Dominican Preachers and Popular Devotion in Late Medieval Italy' (2008), and Sanderson, 'Sin and Gender in Late Medieval Theological Sources' (2010). Seven of our PhD graduates (Collins, Engelmaier, Fuller, Pound, Rondolino, Tee, Tollerton) gained posts in HEIs in the UK, US and Australia during the REF period; five of our PhD graduates have published academic monographs.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

Religion and Theology has facilitated its research aspirations during the present assessment period with a large AHRC grant of £395,806, three Leverhulme Research Fellowships (LRF), one AHRC Research Scheme grant, one British Academy Visiting Scholar award. A further AHRC Research Scheme grant overlapped with the period (07–08). This amounts to a 73% increase in research income compared with RAE 2008. A recent success not included in these figures is a successful Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship application (2013–15) for £200k.

The infrastructure to support research at Bristol is very extensive:

**Library facilities.** With 1.4 million volumes Bristol's Arts and Social Science Library is the largest in SW England. Its subscriptions to electronic journal consortia, databases and other online resources is particularly extensive. In Indian religions the collection includes Conze's scholarly library (purchased in the 80s), and was enhanced recently (2011) by the successful bid for the Clay Sanskrit Library series. In addition to the annual book budget, the department has benefited from extra funds (in 2012 an additional £5k for Religion and Theology) and Library Purchasing Advisory Group Fund for special purchases (£35,000 in 2012 for the electronic Acta Sanctorum and the Patrologia Latina). The department houses a small Buddhist studies graduate library of 600 catalogued volumes for use by PGs. Staff and students also have authorised access to specialist collections at Trinity and Bristol Baptist Colleges, and Downside Abbey.

**BIRTHA.** The Faculty's Bristol Institute for Research in the Humanities and Arts (BIRTHA) supports research centres and individuals, funding visiting lectureships, conferences and workshops and assists in the administration of the Faculty Conference, Publication and Research fund (staff can apply for up to £1800 p.a.). Research in theology and religious studies has been enhanced by Muessig's directorship (2011–) of BIRTHA, which has put her at the strategic hub of the Faculty's research activities. BIRTHA funding has supported the conference 'Great Mystics Address the Contemporary World' (2010), a BIRTHA Postgraduate conference (Women and Religion, 2010), as well as the department's annual Joint Conference in Theology and Religious Studies in 2012 and 2013.

**Graduate School of Arts and Humanities.** Opened in 2009, the GSAH brings together in one place training and administrative support for PGRs. Housed in its own building, it has become the centre of postgraduate life in the Faculty. It has also provided financial aid to some of our PGRs allowing them to attend conferences and make research trips.

**Support for grant application.** This is provided by the Faculty's two Research Development Managers whose role is to publicise new initiatives and possibilities in funding. Further support is provided by in-house peer review of applications (the Research Excellence Advisory Panel); the Faculty Finance Team advises on costings, while staff in the University's Research and Enterprise Development unit advise on developing impact, knowledge exchange and knowledge transfer. The support of RED has been crucial in the department's gaining 1 AHRC, and 3 Leverhulme and 1 Marie Curie fellowship.

**Institute for Advanced Studies.** Colleagues are active in the workshop programme series funded by this University institute (including co-ordinating workshop series) as well as drawing on funding for the visiting scholars through the Benjamin Meaker scheme. In 2010 the department co-hosted (with Historical Studies) Bernard McGinn (Chicago School of Divinity) as Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor. Over 4 weeks Professor McGinn gave 4 public lectures, and 3 master classes directed to PGRs on the subject of mysticism. During the REF period, one colleague has also been successful in receiving University Research Fellowships for a period of one year administered by the Institute for Advanced Studies.

**Faculty Research Director's Fund.** In 2013 Langer and Leech successfully bid for University funding to establish a new Faculty research cluster ('Religion, Culture and the Imagination') to foster long term interdisciplinary collaboration between Bristol academics working on aspects of religion in whatever discipline. A digital platform and list (with currently over 40 staff and PGRs) has been set up to facilitate activities, including half-day conferences, reading groups, and public engagement activities.

**Other lecture series.** The department continues to host the annual lecture series of the Bristol Society for the Arts of Asia, which staff and students of the University attend free of charge. The department has close links with the Bristol Theological Society, and together with the University's Multi-faith Chaplaincy organizes the annual Anne Spencer Memorial Lecture.

#### e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

##### Collaboration

- D'Costa collaborated with colleagues at Southern Methodist University (Texas), Blackfriars Oxford, Sarum College, and Fuller Seminary (USA) on the now three volume project 'Religion in the University', with two further volumes forthcoming. With colleagues from the departments of Law and Sociology at Bristol he co-organised two conferences on multiculturalism and multi-religious identity, one (2010) resulting in a jointly edited volume (*Religion in a Liberal State*, CUP, 2013). He is collaborating with colleagues from Leuven University, Free University of Amsterdam, Boston College (USA), and Union Theological Seminary (New York) in an ongoing research project on 'dual belonging'.
- Gethin, following his participation in Mind and Life XVIII, A Dialogue between Buddhism and the Sciences on Attention, Memory and Mind with the 14th Dalai Lama (2009), has been an active Fellow of the Mind and Life Institute, an international charitable organization committed to promoting the interdisciplinary study of the mind by bringing together psychologists, neuroscientists, scholars of religion.
- Langer's recent work on 'Feeding humans and non-humans' in Buddhism has led to collaboration with Hitch (Oxford) in connection with her project 'Food for the gods: the role of belief in Greek myth and ritual'.
- Leech is involved in an ongoing collaboration with colleagues at Cambridge and Aberystwyth on 'Revisioning Cambridge Platonism'; he also has an ongoing close collaboration with Visala (Notre Dame) on the cognitive science of religion.
- Lyons has co-organised with Crossley (Sheffield) a new annual conference, The Bible, Critical Theory, and Reception, held in Sheffield (2011), Leeds (2012) and Chester (2013).
- Muessig (since 2010) has been participating in a major international collaborative project in biblical reception, serving as editor of the medieval and Reformation section for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (De Gruyter).

##### Editorial positions and learned societies

- Balsarak is on the editorial board of the Peter Martyr Library Publication Committee.
- Crisp and D'Costa's collaboration on two edited volumes led to an established series with Continuum (Religion in the University).
- Gethin is co-editor of the *Journal of the Pali Text Society* and the President of the Pali Text Society (since 2003).
- Muessig is on several editorial boards (e.g. Troubadour Italian Studies and Vita evangelica, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies). Since 2003, Muessig and Ferzoco (Research Fellow in

Medieval Religious Culture) have been the co-editors of *Studies in Medieval Religion and Culture* (Routledge) which has so far overseen the production of 12 volumes; they continue to moderate the list [medieval-religion@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:medieval-religion@jiscmail.ac.uk) ('Scholarly discussions of medieval religious culture').

- Lyons is co-editor with Andrew Mein (Cambridge) and Claudia Camp (Texas Christian University) of *Scriptural Traces: Critical Perspectives on the Reception and Influence of the Bible* and is on the editorial boards of *Bible and Critical Theory* and *Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception*.

#### **Refereeing academic publications and research proposals**

- Campbell has reviewed for Oneworld and the *Australian Religion Studies Review*; D'Costa for several journals (including *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Modern Theology*), and publishers (OUP, CUP, Catholic University Press of America); Gethin for *BSOAS*, *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*, *Buddhist Studies Review*, OUP and CUP. Greene for *Journal of Chinese Religions* and *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, Leech for *Religious Studies*; Muessig for *Speculum* and *Catholic Historical Review*, *Mediaeval Studies* and the *Journal for Medieval History*; and University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Gethin, Langer and Muessig reviewed grant applications for the AHRC and/or the SSHRC (Canada). D'Costa and Muessig assessed applications for the European Science Foundation.

#### **Advising on promotion and appointments**

- During the REF period staff provided assessments of scholarship in connection with promotions or appointments both nationally and internationally. D'Costa reviewed scholarship for the Catholic University of America, Boston College, Exeter and Nottingham (in connection with tenure, promotion, and the appointment of chairs). Gethin reviewed scholarship for Amherst, Berkeley, Brown, Cornell, and Munich in connection with tenure, promotion, and appointments. Muessig reviewed scholarship for Boston College and Brown for promotion and tenure.

#### **Examining PhDs**

- Balsarak examined at the London School of Theology; D'Costa at the Universities of Cambridge, Durham, Exeter, Nottingham and Oxford; Gethin at the Universities of Cambridge, Queensland and Sunderland; Lyons at the Universities of Sheffield and Bangor; Muessig at the University of Birmingham.

#### **Other significant contributions to the research base**

- Balsarak was invited to conferences that celebrated the 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth (International Congress for Calvin Research, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa; International Conference on the Anniversary of John Calvin's 500th birthday, Putten, Netherlands).
- Campbell gave one of two keynote addresses at the Third University of Birmingham Biblical Studies Postgraduate Day Conference in 2013.
- Since 2008 D'Costa's work on the theology of religions has been the subject of five doctoral dissertations in Europe and the US, and five conferences (Leuven, Nijmegen, The Hague, and two at Tilburg). His work has been discussed in academic journals and books including *The Heythrop Journal* (2008); *Modern Theology* (2009); *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2010); *Irish Theological Quarterly* (2010); Hughes, *Saving Wisdom: Theology in the Christian University* (2011).
- Gethin was Numata Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies (Berkeley, 2008); Visiting Professor, International Institute for Buddhist Studies (Tokyo, 2013).
- Langer participated in 'Continental Shifts: Ritual and Memory', one of a series of debates on the themes of the Edinburgh Festival 2011.
- Muessig was invited by the University of Stockholm and the Society of Swedish Medieval Academics Abroad to join a panel of experts to advise on the sermons of a medieval Swedish preacher (Vienna, 2011). Brill's medieval studies editor invited her to produce a volume on Catherine of Siena for the Companion to the Christian Tradition series.