

<p><b>Institution: University of Nottingham</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: 33 Theology and Religious Studies</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>All researchers within the Unit of Assessment are employed within the Department of Theology and Religious Studies (TRS), based within the School of Humanities alongside six other departments (Archaeology, Art History, Classics, History, Music, and Philosophy). The Head of School and School Research Committee have primary responsibility for strategy, planning, budgets and management of all research activities within departments. Within this structure, the Department remains a coherent managed unit in its own right, with responsibility for oversight, development and encouragement of research potential delegated to the Head of Department (<b>Goodchild, Kilby</b>, then <b>Oliver</b> during the REF period), the Departmental Director of Research (<b>Goodchild</b>, with <b>Kilby</b> filling in while he was on leave), and the Director of Postgraduate Studies (<b>Bell</b> and <b>O'Loughlin</b>).</p> <p>The Department currently has around 150 undergraduate students, 15 taught Masters students, 110 distance-learning Masters students, and 30 full-time and 30 part-time research students. Current research activity has strategic focus and coherence centred around historical, philosophical and theological approaches to the Abrahamic traditions and their inter-relations, and an associated commitment to inter-disciplinarity, particularly with philosophy and history. It divides into the following groupings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology, philosophy, politics, culture and science: <b>Bell, Bielik-Robson, Conor Cunningham, Goodchild, Kilby, Alison Milbank, John Milbank, and Oliver</b></li> <li>• Islamic and Jewish studies: <b>Bielik-Robson, Crouch, Deines, Hoover, and Zellentin</b></li> <li>• Biblical studies: <b>Bell, Crouch, Deines, O'Loughlin</b></li> <li>• History of theology: <b>Mary Cunningham, Ford, Knight, and O'Loughlin</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p><i>i. Context</i></p> <p>TRS has received major institutional investment since achieving a 5* performance in RAE 2001 (with 8 FTE researchers), and again since achieving the highest proportion of 4* outputs in RAE 2008 (with 11.25 FTE researchers). It has almost doubled in size (now 15.71 FTE), and since 2011 has been housed in a brand new purpose-built building (the Humanities Building). This investment has enabled an expansion of its range of expertise, significant enhancement of its research groupings, and consequently a fivefold growth in its postgraduate research activity. Since 2011 the University has appointed a new chair in Jewish Studies funded by a development campaign; this post complements the existing lectureship in Rabbinic Studies and provides international research leadership in this area. The Department has also appointed three senior staff members to develop distance-learning Masters programmes to feed into postgraduate research.</p> <p><i>ii. Strategic priorities 2008-13</i></p> <p>TRS has maintained its core strategy described in RAE 2008: it focuses on producing outputs that are world-leading in originality and significance through enabling high quality individual research and publication and encouraging collaborative and interdisciplinary projects and groupings. It seeks to foster a vibrant research community by providing the best possible support for academic staff and research students. These aims have been executed through the following strategic priorities for 2008-13 (which build on and extend those of 2002-7):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To enhance its role as a world-leading centre of excellence in the interaction of theology with European and historical philosophy.</i></li> </ul> <p>Implementation: the Centre of Theology and Philosophy, directed by <b>John Milbank</b> and <b>Conor Cunningham</b>, gathers a network of international researchers concerned with the relationship between theology and philosophy. The Centre has organised major international conferences in Rome ('Grandeur of Reason' 2008), Krakow ('What is Life?' 2011), and Oxford ('The Soul' 2013).</p>
---

## Environment template (REF5)

Each conference attracted 200 or more delegates from the US, Europe, Australasia, South America, India, the Middle East and southern Africa. Selected papers from the conference in 2008 were published with SCM Press, while those from the 2011 conference appeared in the Centre's journal (see below). Each conference has featured a large number of papers delivered by graduate students (over 100 at 'The Soul' in 2013), thus contributing to career development and the future sustainability of the discipline. In 2012, the Centre launched a new print and online journal, *Radical Orthodoxy: Theology, Philosophy, Politics*. The journal complements three new book series with SCM, Eerdmans, and Wipf & Stock. These conferences and publications promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research amongst the finest international scholars. In addition, to further enhance research expertise in the interaction between theology and European and historical philosophy, two new posts have been created within the Department: **Oliver** (philosophical theology) joined the department in 2009, and **Bielik-Robson** (modern Jewish thought and European philosophy) in 2011.

- *To develop expertise in Judaism, complementary to its strengths in Islam, and to extend expertise in historical theology and church history, Western and Eastern.*

Implementation: **Bielik-Robson** (modern Jewish thought) was appointed to a new chair in 2011, while **Zellent** (Rabbinic studies) replaced Mack, **Crouch** (Hebrew Bible) replaced Ball and **Hoover** (Islamic theology) replaced Goddard. To strengthen particular expertise in historical theology and church history, **O'Loughlin** (historical theology) and **Knight** (modern church history) were appointed to new posts in 2009, while **Mary Cunningham** (Byzantine theology) was appointed to a new 0.7 post in 2008. The appointment of internationally recognised scholars with complementary fields of expertise provides an enhanced density of research activity in the Department's key specialist areas, contributing significantly to the following strategic priority as well.

- *To build up the postgraduate research community, including higher numbers of registrations and successful PhDs, as well as supporting some of these into academic employment.*

Implementation: separate seminars on work in progress have been held for research students in biblical studies and philosophical theology, in addition to the main departmental research seminar. To feed in further registrations for research degrees, Distance Learning MA programmes have been launched in the areas of Church History, Philosophical and Systematic Theology, and Jewish History and Thought, with further programmes planned for Orthodox and Patristic Theology and for Biblical Studies beginning in 2014. Successful MA students are now feeding into the PGR programme. Areas of PGR research and supervision are broadly and evenly spread across the Department's range of expertise. The number of currently registered PGR students is around 60 as compared to 17 at the time of the 2008 RAE. The rate of PhD completions has more than doubled from 2 in 2008/09 and 3 in 2009/10 to 7 in 2011/12, and 7 in 2012/13.

- *To build on success in producing world-leading (4\*) outputs in RAE 2008 by increasing the proportion of wider research which is internationally excellent (3\*).*

Implementation: Plans for future research are discussed twice annually: at an away day in front of all active researchers, and at the Activity and Performance Review meeting with a senior colleague. Researchers have been encouraged to focus their energies on key pieces of research instead of agreeing to all external requests for contributions. In 2012 the Department implemented twice-termly seminars at which a researcher presents their work in progress to colleagues and receives critical feedback. An internal quality audit of all REF outputs has been conducted in March 2012 involving both self-assessment and peer-assessment, enabling suggestions for improvements of those outputs at a draft stage.

- *To maintain a focus on research that engages with other disciplines, including philosophy, literature, science, politics and economics, so as to advance the profile of theology in wider intellectual life.*

Implementation: several active researchers have engaged in distinctive projects over the period, many of which are ongoing and will lead to major future publications. In relation to philosophy

**John Milbank** has delivered the Stanton Lectures in Cambridge entitled *Philosophy: A Theological Critique* (a forthcoming book) and **Goodchild** has published his *On Philosophy as a Spiritual Exercise: A Symposium*. In relation to literature, **Alison Milbank** is working on *God and the Gothic* (forthcoming) and **Bielik-Robson** has published *The Saving Lie: Harold Bloom and Deconstruction*. In relation to music studies, **Bell** has published *Wagner's Parsifal: An Appreciation in the Light of his Theological Journey*. In relation to science, **Conor Cunningham** has published *Darwin's Pious Idea* which formed the basis of his award-winning BBC documentary, 'Did Darwin Kill God?' and **Oliver** is working on *Creation and Teleology* (forthcoming). In relation to politics and economics, **John Milbank** has published *Beyond Secular Order* as well as numerous articles and essays to be collected as a forthcoming book *Geopolitical Theology*, while **Goodchild** has published articles and essays on money to be developed into a forthcoming book *Credit and Faith: On economics and theology*.

iii. *Strategic priorities 2014-19:*

Following this period of expansion, enhancing the intensity of research guides the strategic priorities for 2014-19:

- *To maintain a record of internationally excellent research*, the department will deliver research-led teaching and aim to retain and recruit high quality research staff by promoting on merit, offering research leave, encouraging grant capture, facilitating research groupings, and maintaining an international profile and research environment.
- *To increase activity supported by external research income*, the department will encourage and support all research active staff to submit grant applications during this period, as well as seeking formal arrangements for co-institutional funding applications.
- *To enhance the department's contribution to supporting the sustainability of the discipline*, the departmental will encourage engagement with the wider discipline through such activities as participation in networks; refereeing for publishers, journals, and research councils; editorial positions with journals; undertaking leading responsibilities for learned societies; organisation of conferences; and presentation of keynotes.
- *To build a more comprehensive strategy for the maximisation of potential impact*, the department will encourage staff to participate in public engagement activities, including representation in the media; involve themselves in leadership or consultative roles with church and civil society organisations; host conferences with participants from outside academia; write textbooks on emerging subject areas that contribute to the shape of curricula elsewhere; and develop mechanisms for recording evidence of impact.
- *To consolidate the postgraduate research community*, the department will bid for additional studentships through the AHRC Block Grant Partnership 2. The Department benefits from its inclusion in the successful Midlands Three Cities AHRC BGP2 Consortium. Across the consortium, the AHRC funds 205 PhD studentships, accompanied by a Student Development Fund and a Cohort Development Fund, which all institutions in the Consortium match on a one-to-one basis. This delivers 410 studentships for the Consortium for arts and humanities, which will play a major role in the future sustainability of research in our unit: initial indications suggest there will be at least 15 PhD studentships in the discipline of TRS shared solely with the University of Birmingham.

**c. People, including:**

**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

The university staffing strategy aims to recruit and retain high quality researchers and support and develop staff throughout their careers at Nottingham, with strict adherence to equality of opportunities from recruitment to retirement and an emphasis on all dimensions of internationalisation. With half of the current research staff appointed since RAE 2008, the department has sought to recruit outstanding researchers with extensive experience in North American, European or British universities at a variety of levels. Diversity of nationality, age and gender is combined with close integration of approaches to research. Success in improving the diversity of staff has been achieved through the high profile of the department attracting international interest from outstanding researchers; furthermore, all staff employed in 2011 have

received equality and diversity training.

All new staff, at whatever level, are allocated a mentor to assist with all aspects of settling in. Further support comes from professional development and performance review meetings with the HoD or another senior colleague at which training needs, progress on annual goals, and selection of future goals are discussed. Performance exceeding expectations of the level and role is rewarded by additional salary increments, awarded to about 15% of staff. Research grant applications are supported by mentoring within the School, followed by expert advice from the Centre of Advanced Studies' research support officers; finally, applications are reviewed by members of the University's Arts Peer Review College. All research staff also have access to a wide range of central short courses on professional and personal development run by Professional Development. For example, **Kilby** took part in the 12-month Women's Advancement Networking and Development programme prior to becoming HoD. The University has set up a Research-only Staff Group, conducted a benchmarking exercise and has implemented the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers so that it gained the European Commission's 'HR excellence in research' badge in acknowledgement of its alignment with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for their Recruitment.

Concretely, the Department has supported three postdoctoral researchers in developing their careers during the REF period: these are treated on an equal basis with other staff and take a full part in departmental life. Two held Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships: **Mack** has successfully moved on to a Readership at the University of Durham, while **Pabst** has moved on to a lectureship at the University of Kent. **Paddison** held a Nottingham Research Fellowship and moved on to the University of Winchester.

Staff at or near the beginning of their academic careers are supported with a lighter teaching load as well as early opportunities for research leave: this has applied to **Zellent** and **Crouch**. **Crouch** has completed the PGCHE course. **Mary Cunningham** has been integrated more fully into the research culture of the department by moving from a 0.3 teaching contract to a 0.7 research and teaching contract.

All staff have the opportunity to apply to the School Research Committee for one semester's research leave after every three years of teaching or externally-funded research; all staff have successfully done so during the period. Additional research leave supported by the Dean's Fund has been awarded where a strategic case could be made, as in the case of **Goodchild**. Flexibility with timing of research leave to suit research projects has also been possible, as with **Zellent** to facilitate his successful application for an AHRC award.

The University has a policy of promotion on merit as well as an active strategy for engaging equality and diversity in promotion; there is no quota or limit on the number of promotions. Criteria for promotion are clear and transparent, including evidence of performance in research, teaching and administration. Continuing career development of staff at all levels has been achieved: during the REF period, **Mary Cunningham** has been promoted to Lecturer, **Hoover** and **Conor Cunningham** have been promoted to Associate Professor, and **Bell**, **Deines** and **Kilby** to Professor. There are now eight professors among the 15.71 research staff. Even the most senior researchers may benefit from continuing development: in February 2013 the University launched the Nottingham Research Leaders Programme for senior academics, the core aim of which is to support and advance identified key academics in their strategic research leadership roles through a programme of workshops and one-to-one mentoring.

One of the key contributors to staff research development is attendance and participation in lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences. The Department has recently introduced a programme of workshops where staff present work in progress, followed by a formal response from a colleague, and wider discussion. Alongside these, regular research seminars are the focus of departmental life, with about 12-15 external speakers visiting each academic year, often from universities in other countries. The Department also hosts the biennial Firth Lectures, public lectures delivered by some of the most significant international figures in the field, alongside postgraduate research seminars. During the REF period these lectures were delivered by Eamon Duffy and Terry Eagleton, with Charles Taylor scheduled for the next occasion. An annual lecture on medieval theology delivered by a visiting scholar is also a regular event. Many staff present

papers at the Centre of Theology and Philosophy's major conferences, but also at the smaller conferences based at Nottingham on 'Pope Benedict and Jesus of Nazareth' in 2008, where biblical scholars presented alongside theologians, and 'Christian Social Teaching and the Politics of Money', where religious studies scholars presented alongside Christian ethicists. The Department hosted the British New Testament Society annual conference in 2011, and the Society for the Study of Theology in 2013. The research environment extends beyond the Department at Nottingham: the School of Humanities hosts School research seminars each term, and for more interdisciplinary work, some staff present at workshops and colloquia held elsewhere in the University: for example, **Goodchild** has recently presented in both Politics and French, and Bell in Music. Yet conference participation and presentation further afield has been far more extensive: while the School of Humanities offers a generous annual allowance of £1,000 for expenses for presenting at an overseas conference, and £500 for more local conference attendance, many staff are invited to give keynotes or papers with their expenses paid by other universities, contributing also to the development of their own research leadership.

## ii. Research students

The vitality and sustainability of research at Nottingham is demonstrated exceptionally well by its growth in numbers of PGRs from 17 (only 11 of whom were studying for a PhD) in 2007/08 to around 60 PhD students in 2013/14. Postgraduate students are fully included in the research activities and community of the Department. All full-time doctoral students are provided with their own study space adjacent to the lecturers' offices. Each student has a personal desk, shelving and storage facilities, a networked PC and shared printer.

For PGRs as well as the staff, the regular Departmental research seminars are the focus of departmental life, and holding these in the Staff Club facilitates socialising with speakers and staff after the presentations. Separate seminars on work in progress for staff and research students have also been held in the areas of biblical theology and philosophical theology. There are annual postgraduate conferences in philosophical theology in collaboration with Cambridge, London, and Oxford, and in Catholic theology with Durham, St Mary's Twickenham and Roehampton. Another regular event for PGRs has been the Centre of Theology and Philosophy major international conference, whether held in Rome, Krakow and Oxford: six or more research students presented papers on each occasion, funded by a combination of external donations and departmental funds. Complementing this, the hosting of the British Society for New Testament Studies and the Society for the Study of Theology annual conferences has facilitating interaction with leading researchers as well as postgraduates elsewhere.

The Department has steadily improved its recruitment of research students with registrations of 6 new students in 2010, 11 in 2011, 14 in 2012, and 12 in 2013. Five students held AHRC PhD studentships during the REF period under the old competition, and the Department was subsequently awarded an allocation of 2 PhD studentships and 2 Research Preparation Masters by the AHRC in its Block Grant Postgraduate scheme; it is bidding for a considerable increase for its consortium (which also includes Birmingham) for BGP 2. Research students have also obtained funding from other sources: two have held prestigious ORS awards during the REF period, while another three have held School of Humanities studentships, and an Alan Richardson Studentship has also been awarded to cover full fees for a PhD studentship.

Selection decisions for the offer of places for research are the responsibility of the Director of Postgraduate Research, and are based on a combination of merit and fit with a suitable supervisor. Care is given to follow the University's Equality and Diversity Code, with the result that the research student community has a balance of places of origin, ethnicity, age and gender, with students coming from North America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australasia. Decisions regarding financial support are made on a purely competitive basis by the School of Humanities Postgraduate Committee, following an initial ranking of candidates conducted by a departmental committee.

All research students are allocated a supervisory team containing a minimum of two supervisors. At the commencement of study the student will discuss and agree with the department the most appropriate supervisory arrangement, which could range from a 50%-50% to a 90%-10% division between primary and secondary supervisors. While the primary supervisor provides

subject-specific expertise, and is always the prime point of contact for the student, the secondary supervisor may offer a combination of complementary subject specialisms and general guidance on academic and procedural matters. The primary supervisor remains responsible for ensuring that the student fulfils the requirements of the degree, such as attending supervisory sessions and undertaking compulsory Annual Reviews. Full-time research students are offered a minimum of 10 supervision sessions during an academic year (6 for part-time). All are encouraged to provide frequent samples of written work for comment and assessment. A key part of the monitoring of progress is provided by the confirmation review at the end of the first year of study, followed by annual reviews in subsequent years. Each student is required to produce a writing sample, a thesis outline, bibliography and plan for completion, and for the confirmation review, an interview is conducted in the manner of a viva voce by the reviewer (who is not a supervisor). Supervision records are kept and the entire supervision process is overseen by the Director of Postgraduate Research and Head of Department.

Training needs for research students are provided by a combination of departmental and university-level programmes. Research students who have not previously taken a Research Methods module are encouraged to participate in the Masters module; other relevant modules such as biblical languages are also recommended depending on training needs. In addition, research students are required to take the Arts Researcher Skills Programme run by the Arts Graduate Centre, as well being offered a large number of training sessions run by the Graduate School from Introduction to Research to Preparing for your Viva. Further language courses, such as German, Arabic, or English for Study Purposes are offered by the Language Centre, the Institute for Middle East Studies, and the Centre for English-Language Education.

PGR career development is enhanced by a number of means: many students are offered teaching experience, with monitoring and feedback from module convenors; advanced students are encouraged to offer papers to the departmental seminar; financial support is provided for students to travel to and present papers at academic conferences (and Smith and Miller also received highly competitive BEST scholarships from the University for research travel); students are given guidance on publishing articles; and several students have had the opportunity to make Youtube videos. Some PGRs have been facilitated to initiate and organise their own conferences, with Smith and Riches organising a conference on (and with) François Laruelle, and Malcolm and Talbot organising a conference on (and with) Anthony Thiselton.

The success of these measures is evidenced by eight recent doctoral candidates – Jesson, Malcolm, Ochs, Riches, Russell, Smith, Talbot and Watts – gaining full-time academic employment in universities or theological seminaries in Britain, North America and Australia, with Watts receiving a teaching prize at the University of Nottingham. Some of these have had their theses published with prestigious publishers, including CUP, Mohr Siebeck, and Palgrave Macmillan.

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

##### *i. Investment:*

Research in TRS has been subject to considerable investment during the REF period.

£1.5m was pledged by external donors in a successful development campaign leading to the establishment of the new chair in Jewish Studies, matched by equal investment from the university. The university has also provided investment from its Strategic Development Fund in a further chair and 2.7 lectureships.

£5.4 million of CIF funding was invested in the Humanities Building, completed in 2011, to accommodate the expanded TRS Department alongside others in the School of Humanities. The building was designed as one of the most environmentally-sustainable in the area, rated as BREEAM excellent. It accommodates all research staff and students in TRS, providing facilities for study, consultation, printing and photocopying, and socialising, as well as specialist electronic facilities in the Digital Humanities Centre. All staff have generously sized and furnished offices. There is also a new cafe in a neighbouring building for the use of research staff and students and a Humanities staff common room.

Research income from Research Councils and the Leverhulme Trust: two Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships have been held in the department during the period, and **Zellentin** has received an award under the AHRC Fellowship Scheme. Recent staff development has focused on increasing grant capture, and many more research grant applications are now being submitted;

## Environment template (REF5)

as a result, **Hoover** was awarded a one year Leverhulme Fellowship for 2013-14.

The Deichmann Foundation provided full economic costing for a further sabbatical semester for **Deines** and a further £30k for travel and research costs over 3 years, part of which was used for PhD travel costs etc.; it has subsequently provided another £30k for a project on 'The Interaction of Jewish and Christian Literature in the Hellenistic-Roman Era'.

The University has invested other funds: £41k to support the Bibledex project of Youtube videos (with another £7k donated externally), and a further £6k to support a conference on Christian Social Teaching and the Politics of Money run by Pabst.

Funding to support research travel and conference participation consists in an annual allowance of £500 for each individual, as well as a possible additional £1000 for an overseas conference where a paper is presented.

*ii. Infrastructure and facilities*

As one of the largest universities in the UK, there are a full range of support services within the institution, ranging from the dedicated intranet portal, Information Services, Graduate School, Research and Graduate Services, International Office, to Professional Development that runs over 140 short courses annually.

The Hallward Library (for arts and social sciences) contains over 1.2 million printed books, 660,000 e-books, subscribes to 10,500 print and electronic journals, and 250 full-text and bibliographic databases. It subscribes to Early English Books Online and Patrologia Latina.

There has been major investment in the new Centre for Advanced Studies (in arts and social sciences), also housed in a new building, which provides leadership on grand challenges and strategic themes, promoting interdisciplinary research clusters across units. It provides mentoring and support for research grant applications, hosts visiting and early career fellowships, and maintains an interdisciplinary programme of lectures. This is increasingly used by the department: CAS staff have led a staff development workshop purely for the department on research grant applications, and they provide support and mentoring on these in their draft stages.

Overall, strategic investment and the distribution of resources for supporting research is maintained by the University Research and Knowledge Transfer Board in accordance with the University Strategic Plan. At School level, performance is monitored against key performance indicators and strategic planning takes place within the Academic and Financial Strategy Framework.

**e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

The Department seeks to contribute to the wider discipline and beyond at both national and international levels. Researchers in the Department have been intensively involved in *research collaborations*: The Department hosts the Centre of Theology and Philosophy directed by **John Milbank** and **Conor Cunningham**, the institutional home for the Radical Orthodoxy movement, as a network of leading international scholars. The Centre has a dedicated website which publishes research papers by staff and disseminates information on conferences, publications and research funding opportunities; it has received an average of 4,500 hits per month during 2013. The Centre has a subscriber list of 617 researchers from across the world. Since 2008 the Centre has organised five international conferences (details below), each attracting between 150 and 220 delegates from around the world. Beyond this, **Conor Cunningham** spent 2012-13 working full-time with a team on science and religion at the Princeton Centre for Theological Inquiry, as well as being involved in the 'Life in Death' project, Castel Gondolfo, Italy. Other individuals are involved in a variety of initiatives: **Mary Cunningham** is involved in two collaborative translation projects: 'Evergetis' and 'Syropoulos', as well as co-authorship with Leslie Brubaker (Birmingham); **Deines** participates in Corpus Judaeo-Hellenisticum Novi Testamenti (with researchers from Germany, Switzerland, UK & US), and leads the Deichmann Program for the Study of Early Jewish and Christian Literature of the Hellenistic-Roman Era (Ben Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel); **Goodchild** was a Fellow of the Rethinking Capitalism Initiative, University of California Santa Cruz, as well as a participant into two AHRC-funded research networks, 'Spinoza' and 'New Thinking on Living with Dying'; **Knight** was the British participant in a network of 35 international scholars examining 'The Dynamics of Religious Reform in Northern Europe, 1780-1920' at the University of Leuven; **Alison Milbank** continues to work with Andrew Davison on mission and ecclesiology; **O'Loughlin** is part of a group within the Society for Liturgical Studies examining the claim, 'lex

*orandi, lex credendi.*

Nottingham researchers serve the discipline through *subject associations*: **Crouch** is on the committees of the Society for Old Testament Study and the Palestine Exploration Fund, chairs the 'Bible and Empire' program unit at SBL (from 2009), as well as the steering committee for the 'Prophetic Texts and their Ancient Contexts' program unit (from 2010), and co-chairs the 'Israel in the Ancient Near East' research group at the European Association of Biblical Studies; **Mary Cunningham** is the administrator for the Orthodox Theological Research Forum; **Hoover** was on the Interim Steering Group, Association for Islamic Studies, 2011-12, as well as the Steering Committee, Middle Eastern Christianity Consultation, American Academy of Religion, 2009-11. **Kilby** is the President of the Catholic Theological Association.

An important contribution to the publication of research in the discipline is made through *editorial positions*: **Conor Cunningham** is editor for book series with SCM, Eerdmans, and Wipf & Stock; **Deines** is biblical editor for *Evangelisches Lexikon für Theologie und Gemeinde* and book series editor for Deichmann Studies in Jewish and Christian Literature of the Hellenistic-Roman Era, Negev Press; **Ford** is Reviews Editor, *The Seventeenth Century*; **Goodchild** is joint series editor of New Slant, Duke University Press; **Hoover** is Reviews Editor, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*; **John Milbank** is co-editor of the book series Illuminations, Blackwell; **O'Loughlin** is editor-in-chief of *Studia Traditionis Theologiae*, Brepols, and Director of *Studia Traditionis Instrumenta*, Brepols, as well as Joint Series Editor, *Scriptores Latini Hiberniae*, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, and executive editor for Latin and theology of the *Journal of Celtic Studies*. Altogether, members of staff are on the editorial boards of 20 journals.

There has been an extensive contribution through *external examination of doctorates*: Members of staff have examined doctorates at over 30 other institutions, mainly UK universities but also the Institut Catholique de Paris, Trinity College Dublin, and the universities of Pretoria, Uppsala, and Virginia.

Many Nottingham researchers have been highly active in *conference organisation*: **Bell** and **Deines** organised the British New Testament Society annual conference 2011, Nottingham; **Mary Cunningham** organised the Orthodox Theological Research Forum annual conference on Christos Yannaras (Sept 2013, Oxford), **Conor Cunningham** organised the Centre of Theology and Philosophy conferences 'The Grandeur of Reason' (September 2008, Rome) and 'What is Life?' (June 2011, Krakow), while **Oliver** organised 'The Soul' (June 2013, Oxford); **Deines** co-organised the Third International CJH-Symposium, May 2009, Leipzig; **Kilby, Oliver** and **O'Loughlin** organised a conference on the work of Fergus Kerr, June 2010, Nottingham; **Pabst** organised the Centre of Theology and Philosophy conference 'Christian Social Teaching and the Politics of Money', June 2009, Nottingham; **Paddison** and **Pabst** organised the Centre of Theology and Philosophy conference 'Pope Benedict and Jesus of Nazareth', June 2008, Nottingham; **Zellentin** organised 'The Qur'an and Late Antiquity', January 2013, Nottingham; **Bielik-Robson** organised 'Critical Theory and Judaism', May 2013. Two doctoral students, Malcolm and Talbot, organised a conference on the work of Anthony Thiselton in June 2012.

Scholarly expertise is offered in *refereeing*: **Goodchild, Kilby, Alison Milbank, Oliver** and **O'Loughlin** review research proposals for the AHRC, and **Deines** for the Israel Science Foundation; members of staff have reviewed over 48 book manuscripts and proposals for various leading academic publishers, as well as refereeing articles for over 32 journals.

Recognition for research is granted through *scholarly awards and fellowships*: **Conor Cunningham** has received a full-time fellowship at the Princeton Centre for Theological Inquiry for 2012-13; **Goodchild** was appointed FRSA; **Alison Milbank** is a Fellow of the Contextual Theology Centre; **O'Loughlin** received a DD from Bangor University, 2010; **Hoover** received a one year Leverhulme Fellowship and **Zellentin** an AHRC Research Fellowship.

Nottingham researchers offer leadership to the discipline through a very extensive list of *invited keynotes and lectures*: excluding invited conference papers, research seminars and panels, researchers have delivered over 70 keynote papers and invited lectures, including **John Milbank** delivering the Stanton Lectures at Cambridge.