



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

N E W C O L L E G E

BULLETIN *2018*

WALKING WITH GIANTS

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This year's Bulletin includes lots of news on enhancements of the building, new research projects and successes of staff and students.

In this edition, we interview our alumnus David Nussbaum, who was recently appointed CEO of "The Elders," a group of world leaders committed to promoting peace-building and addressing major causes of human suffering.

There are several new appointments and several departures of long-serving academic staff. Two former members of academic staff passed away last year: Dr Douglas Templeton and Dr Jack Thompson, they are dearly missed by all who knew them. There are more extended tributes to these two colleagues on our website, where you can also keep up-to-date with our news and events.

www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/events/latest-news

I encourage you to let us hear about developments in your career and life.

Professor Larry Hurtado.
Email: l.hurtado@ed.ac.uk

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NEW COLLEGE
NEWS



Building Enhancement



Thanks to the generosity of Dr Robert Funk (former visiting student), New College now has splendid new lighting to illuminate the

building at night. The main entrance is more accessible, and has lighting embedded in the stone flooring of the archway. Above the refurbished gate there is an impressive representation of the burning bush. There is also a new decorative sign at the eastern corner of the building.



New Head of Divinity



Professor Helen Bond (Professor in Christian Origins) will take over from Professor Paul Foster as Head of the School of Divinity in August 2018 for a five-year term. A successful researcher, teacher, and supervisor, she is also

frequently featured in TV programmes on the New Testament and early Christianity.

Women and the World Church



The Centre for the Study of World Christianity, in partnership with the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland, held a day conference (September 2017) on the theme of Women and the World Church. The highlight of the day was the Alexander Duff Lecture given by Professor Kwok Pui-lan on *Women, Mission, and World Christianity*. About 100 participants attended to hear Professor Pui-lan and to engage with thought-provoking presentations on current issues facing Christian women around the world.

Public Theology Conference



Last November, the Centre for Theology and Public Issues (CTPI) sponsored the Futures of Public Theology Conference, which drew over 20 speakers and some 75 other delegates to New College.

Commemorating the legacy of Professor Duncan Forrester in the field of public theology, participants also charted new terrain in the interaction between theology and public issues. For videos of the presentations, visit ctpi.div.ed.ac.uk.

Jewish Studies events at New College



In July 2017, New College hosted the annual conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies (BAJS) under the leadership of Dr Hannah Holtschneider. More than 150 scholars gathered to hear presentations on the theme of *Jews on the Move: Exploring the movement of Jews, objects, texts, and ideas in space and time*.

Follow Jewish Studies activities:
<https://jewishstudies.div.ed.ac.uk>

National Student Survey 2017

In the annual National Student Survey of final-year undergraduate students, the School of Divinity has consistently been among the highest-rated Schools in the University. Last year, students gave Divinity a 100% satisfaction score!

Innovation Initiative Grant

PhD student, Lucy Shouten, was awarded an Innovation Initiative Grant from Edinburgh University to conduct fieldwork on Christian-Muslim engagement in Jordan. The grant will enable her to travel to Jordan and meet with people who are living in the complexity of that society.

Purvis Elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society



Dr Zachary Purvis (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow) was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 2017. Fellowships are awarded to those who have made an original contribution to historical scholarship.

Dr Purvis' contributions include his book, *Theology and the University in Nineteenth-Century Germany*. This book was joint winner of the inaugural Best First Book Prize from the Ecclesiastical History Society last January.

Alison Elliott RSE Secretary



Dr Alison Elliott (former Associate Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues) has been appointed General Secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE). The RSE's aim is to develop a modern enlightenment that will enable Scotland to contribute to addressing the global

challenges facing humanity in the 21st Century. Dr Elliott was elected Fellow in 2008 and she began her three-year term in April 2018.

Emeritus Professor Andrew F. Walls, OBE

Emeritus Professor Andrew F. Walls, OBE, celebrated his 90th birthday on 21st April 2018. Professor Walls was on the staff of New College from 1986 to 1996 as Director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in

the Non-Western World (now the Centre for the Study of World Christianity). Acknowledged the world over as the father of academic studies in World Christianity, he still visits us regularly.

New College Society



Through the initiative of Stephen Dolan (Undergraduate Representative to the University Students Association), the New College Society was formed last September. Stephen expressed a desire to foster a greater

sense of community within New College. The Society has planned a number of events to enhance students' experiences.

Incendiary Texts



To mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation signalled by Martin Luther's famous 95 theses, the New College Library and the main University Library curated an exhibit (10 November 2017 to 11 April 2018) featuring printed texts that played crucial roles in that seismic development. The title of the exhibit, *Incendiary Texts*, alludes to texts that helped to fire the Protestant movement, texts that were sometimes burned by opponents, and texts that could get people burned.

Joint PhD Programme



Chun Ling, the first student in the joint PhD programme linking the University of Edinburgh and the China Graduate School of Theology (CGST, Hong Kong) was awarded his degree in summer 2017 and now directs Theological Education by Extension in CGST. The joint PhD program offers the opportunity to spend the first year in Edinburgh, followed by eighteen months in Hong Kong in CGST. Then, students return to Edinburgh for thesis-submission and the viva examination.

Professor Mona Siddiqui



Professor Mona Siddiqui was awarded £50,000 from the John Templeton Foundation for an international workshop on *Kalam: Reviving Islamic Philosophy*, which took place in New College

(December 2017) to explore major themes of Islamic philosophy, and to establish Edinburgh as the leading centre for the study of Islamic philosophy.

Professor Timothy Lim



Professor Timothy Lim was appointed to the Seymour Gitin Distinguished Professorship at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem. The Albright Institute is the main

research centre of the Levant for the American Schools of Oriental Research, and the Gitin Professorship is their most prestigious fellowship. He will be there between September and December 2018 completing a commentary on the Habakkuk Peshet (a text from Qumran) for the Oxford Commentary on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Dr. Mark Harris



Dr. Mark Harris gave the annual Boyle Lecture (February 2018.) The Boyle Lectures, established in 1692, explore the relationship between Christianity and science. Dr Harris' lecture, *Apocalypses Now: Modern Science and Biblical Miracles*, drew on his

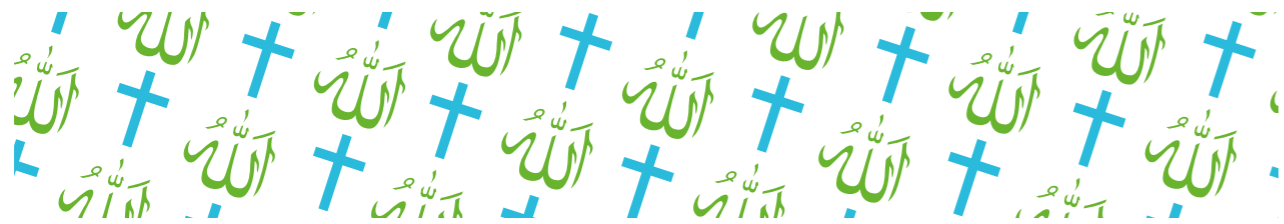
work on naturalism and miracles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

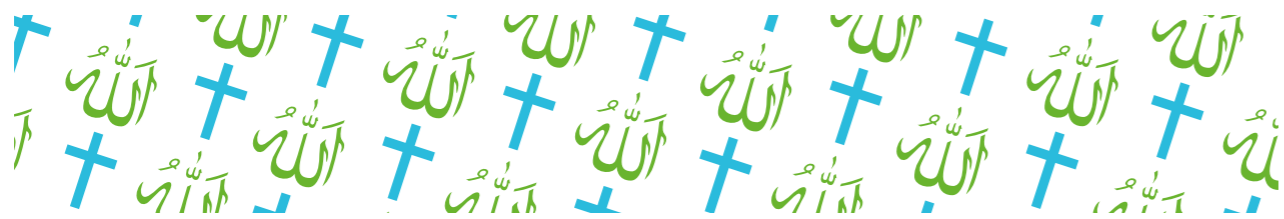
About news and events at the School of Divinity, see www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/news-events

RESEARCH FOCUS

The School of Divinity continues to attract a vibrant research community. From among the many research activities, we note here some recent research developments and awards.



CHRISTIAN - MUSLIM STUDIES NETWORK



Dr Joshua Ralston (Lecturer in Muslim-Christian Relations) is principal investigator for a new project, The Global Network of Christian-Muslim Studies, funded by a \$425,000 grant from the Luce Fund for Theological Education. Professor Mona Siddiqui is co-investigator, together with an international collection of scholars. Based in the School of Divinity, the aim is for this global network to be a platform for interdisciplinary research on the theological, social, and political implications of Christian-Muslim encounters, providing expertise both for the

academic and public spheres. The Network aims to explore both the historic flashpoints and the mutually constructive influence of Christianity and Islam on society.

To further enhance discourse in the public sphere, the Network will establish a forum for continuing education with local religious leaders, many of whom often find themselves on the front lines of interfaith engagement. The first initiative is a continuing education course for Christian clergy and lay leaders, which launched from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. In August 2017. Future courses will be held at Candler School of Theology,

Emory University in Atlanta, in Rome, and in Edinburgh.

The launch of this Global Network reflects an institutional commitment to Christian-Muslim Studies at the University of Edinburgh, which admitted the first PhD students to its newly created Christian-Muslim Relations programme in autumn of 2016.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the Network's ongoing projects, media presence, and public lectures, see: <http://christianmuslim.div.ed.ac.uk/>

Philip Leverhulme Prize



Dr Naomi Appleton (Senior Lecturer in Asian Religions) was awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize. This highly competitive award is in recognition of Dr Appleton's outstanding body of published research on Buddhist texts.

“ I plan to use the majority of the funds in the creation of an online searchable database of Jataka stories in the texts and art of South Asia. Jataka stories are tales of the past lives of the Buddha, a hugely influential genre in Buddhist history and culture, and a key area of my research. ”

British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship

Dr Arkotong Longkumer (Lecturer in Religious Studies) won a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship (2017-2018) for his project: *Fractured Landscape: Hindutva, Nation and Identity in Northeast India*. “Hindutva” (Hinduness) is the broader term for Hindu nationalism, which emerged in 19th century India when there were various movements questioning European dominance.

Dr Longkumer's project focuses on the northeast of India (Eastern Himalayas), where there is a diversity of religious traditions. He asks if the ideological movement of Hindutva is viable when it clashes with multiple religious and national positions. He aims to publish a book later this year.



WALKING WITH GIANTS

DAVID NUSSBAUM



Our alumnus, David Nussbaum (MTh 1981), was appointed Chief Executive

of The Elders in October 2016. Founded by Nelson Mandela, The Elders is an independent group of global leaders committed to causes of peace, justice and human rights.

Announcing David's appointment, Kofi Annan (Chair of the Elders) described him as "a real leader in international development." David agreed to an interview about his new post.

Tell us about your role at the Elders.

The Elders are independent global leaders, who offer their collective influence to advocate for peace and help address major causes of human suffering. The first Chair was Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and the current Chair, who is my boss, is former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan. Most Elders are former Presidents, Prime Ministers or Foreign Ministers from all around the world. A year ago, I joined as Chief Executive to run the Secretariat, which supports The Elders' work.

I primarily relate with three key groups of people in the organisation: The Elders themselves, the members of the Advisory Council who are our main funders, and the staff team. I also deal with external bodies: government ministers, think tanks,

business people, civil society leaders and the media. A significant part of my role is to manage the network of relationships and all this entails. My 15 years in finance and manufacturing after New College also helps in that.

I lead the staff of the Secretariat in supporting the work of The Elders, and in suggesting what work they might do – though in the end, it's their decision. Achieving consensus with a group of strongly opinionated people, who are used to getting their own way, and who don't always agree with each other, is just one of the challenges of this role.

What attracted you to that role?

This role is unique – I don't think there's another organisation quite like The Elders, and that attracted me. It builds on my previous roles as Financial Director of Oxfam, as CEO of Transparency International, and as CEO of WWF-UK – all of which moves were informed by my Christian faith. I'm motivated by learning, and this role takes me into new territory. Conflict and peace have long been a personal interest, but I've never had to engage directly with these issues in my job before.

Tell us about your time at New College?

New College provided a community of scholars to engage with, and teachers to guide my research. My thesis was on: *Augustine, Scripture and Power* examining how Augustine used scripture, how he used power, and how his use of scripture changed as he became more powerful. I'm not a fan of

Augustine's later theology, and as the late David Wright commented on one of my early pieces, it was "certainly not guilty of a pro-Augustine bias".

I also came to Edinburgh to work voluntarily in a small Baptist church in the Craigmillar estate. The estate was, at that time, regarded as one of the worst areas of urban deprivation in Western Europe. I rented a council flat there, and learned what life really was like in that community. I'm glad I still have some friends who grew up there. During that time, I became a prison visitor at Saughton jail, and regularly went to see Joe, the prisoner allocated to me. I kept in touch with him throughout his life after release, until – as he had asked – I spoke at his funeral.

Perhaps most significantly, I met my wife towards the end of my MTh year: she had come as a member of a small team of volunteers to work in the Craigmillar church for a year. We married less than two years later, now over 34 years ago, and have four adult children.

“This role is unique – I don't think there's another organisation quite like The Elders, and that attracted me.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the work of the Elders, see <https://www.theelders.org/>



A L U M N I N E W S

Margaret Forrester
(BD 1964)



In 2017, Rev Dr Margaret Forrester was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by the University in appreciation for her pioneering work advancing women's rights in the Church of Scotland.

David Kibble
(BD 1972)



David chaired a Jewish/Christian/Muslim group who organised a tri-faith event in Leeds (summer 2016) aimed at saying 'no' to violence in the name of faith. He now chairs a team of Jewish, Muslim and Christian students in Leeds working to promote inter-faith understanding.

John Rollefson
(exchange student 1969-70)
Now a retired Lutheran minister

living in San Luis Obispo (California), John's commentaries on the Revised Common Lectionary, *Postils for Preaching*, have recently been published (Wipf and Stock).

Sebastian Moll
(PhD 2009)

Sebastian has recently been appointed Director of the Akademie für pastorale Führungskräfte (Pastoral Leadership Academy) in Bingen am Rhein (Germany). A Spanish translation of his PhD thesis on the second-century figure Marcion has now been published (Ediciones Sigueme, Salamanca, Spain).

Ephraim Mbabazi
(MTh 1997)
Ephraim lectures in Cavendish University, and is an associate

clergy in All Saints Church (Anglican) in Kisero, Uganda. He is Founder Director of Peace Education Trust (PET) Uganda and the Peace Education Institute (PEI), which supports the education of orphans and vulnerable children in south-western Uganda. He is also Branch Vice Chairperson of the Uganda Red Cross Society in Kisero.

Matthew D. Kim
(PhD 2006)

Matthew is Associate Professor of Preaching and Ministry in Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (USA), and has a recent book published: *Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People Who Hear Our Sermons*. (Baker Academic, 2017).

Will Rutherford
(PhD 2008)

Will now teaches at Great Hearts Monte Vista North (San Antonio, Texas), and the school will be celebrating the first cohort of high school graduates in summer 2018.

Joey Mahon
(MA Theology 2015)



With his combined interests in Theology and Law, Joey spent August and September 2017

working in the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine). He wrote reports on women's rights in Palestine for the United Nations, prepared presentations for conventions and assisted with witness statements from female victims of abuse.

Ken Stewart
(PhD 1992)

Ken continues as Professor of Theological Studies in Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, Georgia). His latest publication is *In Search of Ancient Roots: The Christian Past and the Evangelical Identity Crisis* (SPCK & InterVarsity Press, 2017).

John Love
(BD 1955)

Now retired after a short spell pastoring in Adelaide and then a career in the South Australian Archives, John has fond memories of New College and his teachers: John Bailey, Tom Torrance, Jamie Stewart, Matthew Black, Mickey Porteous, Jake Burleigh, Willy Tindale.

Andrew Dahlburg
(BD Hons 1988)

Based in Oahu (Hawaii), Andrew has worked with homeless veterans for twenty-eight years, and manages a programme employing sixty staff serving homeless veterans in Hawaii and Guam.

Richard Steele
(MTh 1997)

After serving as Rector of Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, Richard

took up the post of Mission Team Leader for the Lincoln Diocese of the Church of England in July 2016.

Reverend Susan Brown
(BD 1981)



Elected the next Moderator of the Church of Scotland (May 2018), Susan is minister of Dornoch Cathedral in the Highlands. She received wide attention for presiding at the marriage of Madonna and Guy Ritchie, and baptising their son, Rocco. She becomes Moderator fifty years after the first woman was ordained in the Church of Scotland.

William Kuster
(MTh 2007)

After the MTh in Biblical Studies, William now lives in Zuni, New Mexico, on a Native American Reservation, where he serves as a Middle School teacher of Bible and Social Studies at a small Christian school.



Professor Jane Dawson



In the summer of 2017, Professor Jane Dawson retired, after twenty-six years at New College. Impressively productive as a researcher, she published many essays and several books, including her highly regarded recent biography, *John Knox*. Her success and dedication to teaching were recognised in major teaching awards: the

Chancellor's Award for Teaching, University of Edinburgh (2005), and the National Award for History Teaching in Higher Education (2006). She is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Professor Michael Northcott



of Heidelberg.

Michael Northcott left the School of Divinity in December 2017 and has since taken up a post at the University

His many articles and monographs have established him internationally in theology and the environment.

Dr David Reimer



After 20 years of service at New College, he has joined the team at the Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh.

Dr David Reimer (Senior Lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament) resigned his post at the end of 2017.



Several new academics joined us over the 2017-2018 academic year. They reflect a variety of subjects, and the appeal of New College as a base for teaching and research.

Dr Christopher Cotter



Dr Christopher Cotter joined New College in September 2017 as Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow. For the next three years, he will be working on a project entitled *A Comparative Study of Unbelief in Northern Ireland and Scotland*.

movements in the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries.

Dr Simon Burton



Dr Simon Burton was recently appointed John Laing Senior Lecturer in Reformation History. His current projects includes a book on theological method and reform

Dr Mikael Leidenhag (Research Fellow in Theology and Science) gained a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Theology and Science. His project focuses on the relationship between natural teleology and Christian eschatology.

Dr Mikael Leidenhag



Director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide. Her research interests focus on religious encounter in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Christian conversion and the growth of mission-initiated denominations during the colonial era.

Dr Emma Wild-Wood

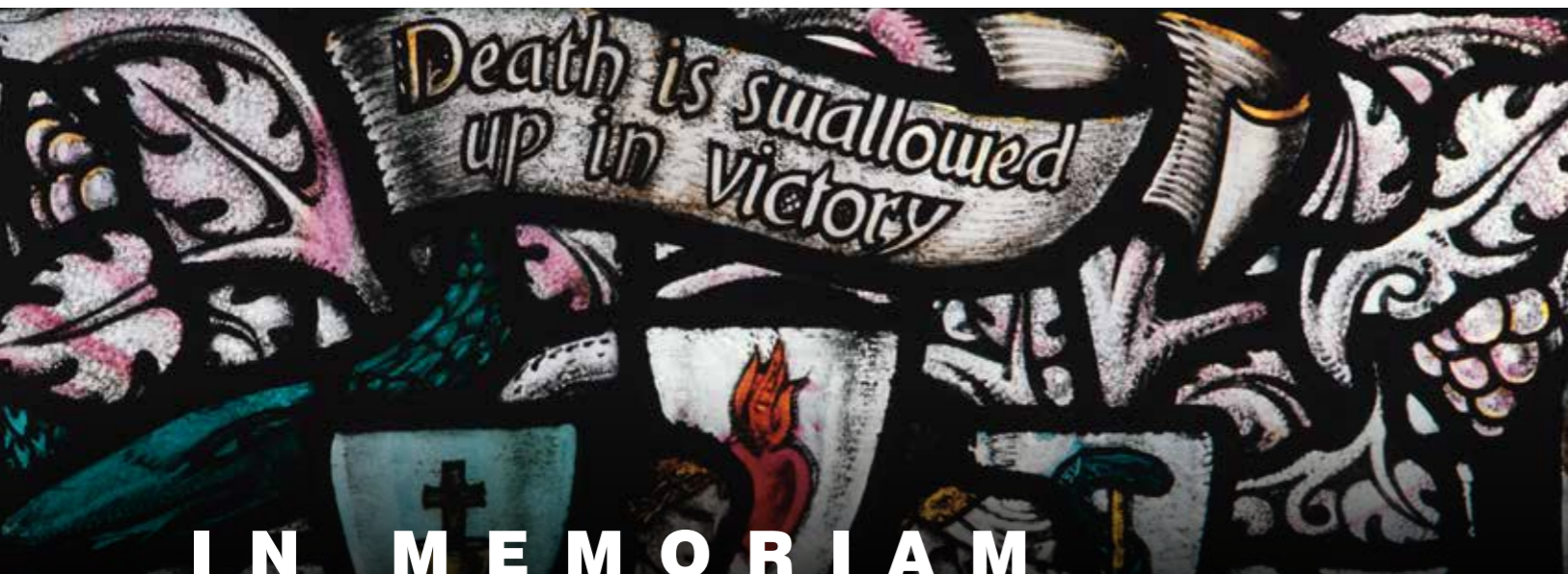


Dr Emma Wild-Wood comes to New College from Cambridge, where she has been the

Dr Abdul Rahman Mustafa



Dr Abdul Rahman Mustafa is the inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow at the newly formed Christian Muslim Studies Network. He currently, works in an international team of scholars to produce the first English translation of the six major canonical works of hadith (the body of sayings ascribed to Muhammad in Sunni Islam.)



I N M E M O R I A M

Many former students will remember appreciatively these two colleagues. For each, a fuller tribute appears on the School of Divinity web site.



Douglas Templeton
(1935-2017)

After a Cambridge Classics degree, Douglas served for two years with the Black Watch, before taking a BD in Glasgow. He then studied at Jena (in the former East Germany), Göttingen, and spent three semesters at Tübingen. His Glasgow PhD thesis focussed on the Kerygma as understood

by Rudolf Bultmann and C.H. Dodd. He worked for a time as assistant to Bill Christman in the parish of Richmond Craigmillar in Edinburgh; and then, in 1968, he was appointed to teach New Testament at New College. In May 1969, he was one of those who led the Disassembly – the alternative General Assembly – in the undercroft of St George's West,

which did not endear him to the Dean of Divinity.

Douglas's lectures were always unpredictable, but very animated. Sometimes he would be lying on the desk at the front of the lecture room as students came in, and he would leap up at the beginning of the class, taking up where he had left off the previous day. Challenging and elusive, he seemed to be very at home in the world and mindset of Paul, keenly aware of his rhetorical strategies and, of course, his sense of humour. One of his doctoral graduates remembers that he could be an intimidating supervisor, but was also kind and encouraging. Central European graduates, from behind the then Iron Curtain, deeply appreciated how they were made part of a family, with friendly hospitality and meticulous supervision.

Dr T. Jack Thompson
(1943-2017)

Dr T. Jack Thompson, Director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World from 2005 to 2008 and Senior Lecturer in the History of World Christianity died on 10 August 2017. Although he was recognised as a historian of Christian missions in Africa, primarily Malawi, his contribution to the wider academic study of African religions was notable.



He first went to Malawi in 1970 under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. After his retirement, and in recognition of his long devotion to education in Malawi, he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Livingstonia and was made honorary chief of the Ngoni people among whom he had worked.

One of Jack's most important academic contributions was his research, on missionary photography, which resulted

in his 2012 publication, *Light on Darkness? Missionary Photography of Africa in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*. Jack unveiled the hidden ways that outsiders, including academics, use their research data to drive home pre-conceived conclusions.

Jack was also a key figure working with community and government leaders in forging

the Scotland-Malawi Partnership, a 'national civil society network' whose aim is to coordinate, support and represent people-to-people links between the two countries.

He will be missed, especially by those of us who knew him best and who are deeply indebted to him for his collegiality, guidance and immense contribution.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

We wish to thank those who have offered financial support this past year. Contributions have been received from alumni, congregations and other friends of New College.

A number of funds recently established continue to flourish.

These funds are awarded to an increasing numbers of students, including church candidates and overseas postgraduate applicants.

In view of student fees and living costs, this financial support is vital to our work.

Anyone wishing to contribute is invited to write to Professor David Fergusson, Principal of New

College. Another option is to include Divinity scholarships in your will.

You can also donate to one of our funds online: www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/support

READING MATTERS

LATEST BOOKS BY ACADEMIC STAFF

Our academic staff continue to produce noteworthy publications. Here are some recent books.

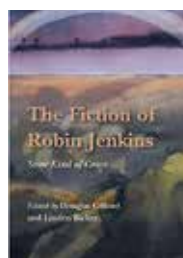


George Mackay Brown and the Scottish Catholic Imagination

Dr Linden Bicket
(Edinburgh University Press, 2017)

Dr. Bicket's monograph is the first history of Scottish Catholic fiction, revealing that Brown's imagination extended beyond

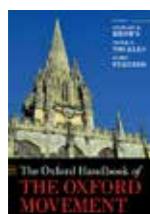
Orkney and ultimately embraced a universal human experience.



The Fiction of Robin Jenkins: Some Kind of Grace

Dr Bicket co-editor
(with Professor Douglas Gifford)
(Brill, 2017)

This essay collection is the first ever volume of essays dedicated to Robin Jenkins (1912-2005.)

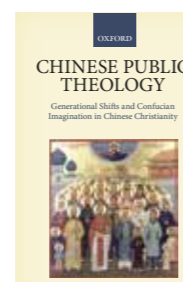


The Oxford Handbook of the Oxford Movement

Professor Stewart J. Brown co-edited (with Peter Nockles, and James Pereiro)
(Oxford: Oxford University Press)

The Handbook provides a comprehensive exploration of a great renewal movement in Christian history, which has profoundly

influenced not only the world Anglican Communion, but other Church traditions.

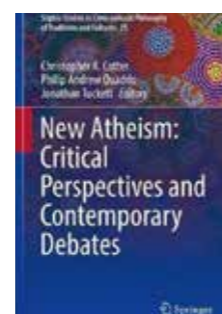


Chinese Public Theology: Generational Shifts and Confucian Imagination in Chinese Christianity

Dr Alex Chow
(Oxford University Press, 2018)

Dr. Chow's new book shows that Christians in mainland China have been constructing a more

intentional public theology to engage the Chinese state and society, since the end of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76).

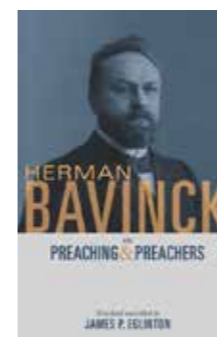


New Atheism: Critical Perspectives and Contemporary Debates

Dr Chris Cotter
(Springer, 2017)

Dr. Cotter's book features an up-to-date overview of current research on 'New Atheism', a foreword from Stephen

Bullivant (co-editor of The Oxford Handbook of Atheism), and eleven chapters with extensive bibliographies that will be important to both a general audience and to those conducting research in this area.



Herman Bavinck On Preachers & Preaching

Dr James Eglinton

His recent book provides an English translation of Herman Bavinck's key texts on preaching and preachers: it covers the theological ethics of speech, the place of preaching in liturgy, Bavinck's critique of North

American preaching, and Bavinck's only published sermon. The book also has an original introductory essay on Bavinck's biography as a preacher.

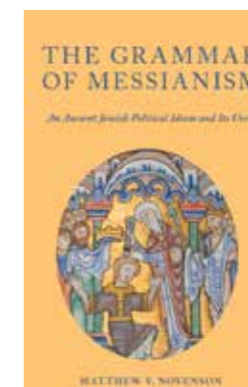


Issues in Science and Theology: Are we special? Human Uniqueness in Science and Theology

Dr Michael Fuller co-edited
(Springer, 2017)

This book brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines to explore the title's question. Contributors

cover a wide variety of issues, including what makes humans distinct from other animals, the possibilities of artificial life and artificial intelligence, the likelihood of life on other planets, and the role of religious behaviour.



The Grammar of Messianism: An Ancient Jewish Political Idiom and Its Users

Dr Matthew Novenson
(Oxford University Press, 2017)

His book offers a revisionist account of messianism in antiquity, an unconventional appeal to both Jewish and Christian evidence as mutually informative, a novel

research program for the classic texts, and a detailed discussion of some little understood and newly published ancient texts.

Ancient Jewish Monotheism and Early Jesus-Devotion

Professor Emeritus Larry Hurtado

Baylor University Press

A collection of thirty-two of his essays on the topics in the book-title.

Texts and Artefacts: Selected Essays on Textual Criticism and Early Christian Manuscripts

Professor Emeritus Larry Hurtado
Bloomsbury T&T Clark

A dozen more essays.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

New College
Mound Place
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH1 2LX

T: 0131 650 8959

E: Divinity@ed.ac.uk

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www.ed.ac.uk/divinity

