



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

NEW COLLEGE

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NEW COLLEGE NEWS

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EDITOR'S NOTE



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Welcome to New College, the School of Divinity's annual
magazine. The 2021 issue marks a significant moment in
the School's history. This year, we are celebrating our
175th anniversary.

To mark that celebration, our cover image presents
something instantly recognisable and familiar, but in a new
way: the clock tower complete with clocks. The building's
original plans included working timepieces that would take
pride of place on the Edinburgh cityscape – an aspect of the
design that was never finished. To mark our latest milestone,
we have partnered with clockmakers Smith of Derby to add
working commemorative clocks, which we hope to install as a
key 175 event. We are grateful to alumnus Dr Robert Funk for
his generous support of this project.

The magazine is a window into the life of our School:
please enjoy reading its feature articles and interviews.
Alongside that, it is an invitation to you to join us as we
reflect on our past and present, as well as on the contribution
we aim to make to the academy and wider society for many
years to come.

This is New College.

Dr James Eglinton
Email: James.Eglinton@ed.ac.uk



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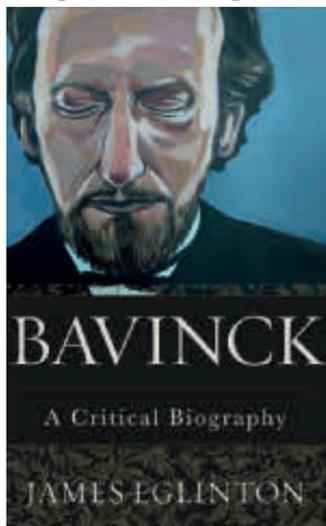
NEW COLLEGE
NEWS



Sir William Darling Memorial Prize

Rachel Frost (MA 2020) was a joint recipient of this year's prize, awarded annually to an individual or group of students who have done the most to enhance the reputation of the University of Edinburgh. She received the prize in recognition of her pioneering work in founding and directing SERVE, a group of student volunteers engaged in social outreach across the city.

Gospel Coalition praise for James Eglinton



Dr James Eglinton's book, *Bavinck: A Critical Biography*, won The Gospel Coalition's History and Biography 2020 book of the year. The US-based judges noted that the book "reflects a combination of readability, rigorous scholarship, and really good timing" and that "If you want to understand the life and world of the man behind Reformed Dogmatics, this book is for you."



Hans M. Barstad (1947–2020)

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Prof. Hans Barstad in August 2020. A great Norwegian scholar of the classical prophets, Barstad took up the chair of Hebrew and Old Testament Studies at New College in 2006, where he remained Professor Emeritus following his retirement. Dr Matthew Novenson, CSCO director, says: "Hans helped to establish Edinburgh as an outstanding centre for Hebrew Bible research. He was also a kind friend and colleague to those of us in other fields."

Worldviews in Religious Education

In summer 2020, Dr Chris Cotter was one of 13 academics who met online in a series of events to share views on 'religion and worldviews' in an ongoing project to reform religious education. These meetings were organised by the Religious Education Council (REC) of England and Wales and resulted in the production of several discussion papers for the REC membership.

New Research on Indigenous Religion(s)

Dr Arkotong Longkumer is part of a core team of international researchers embarking on a new collaborative project, the Governmentality of Indigenous Religion(s) (GOVMAT). An expert in the indigenous peoples of Nagaland, India, Dr Longkumer explains that this "is a multi-national project led by UiT the Arctic University of Norway. Our aim is to explore the influence of indigenous religions in different settings across the world today."



AHRC Grant Success

Dr Naomi Appleton has been awarded a grant by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for a collaborative three-year project, looking at the development of the figure of the Buddha in Asian religious literature from the early Common Era. She will work with Dr Chris Jones (Cambridge) on *Comparative Buddhology in Indian Narrative Literature*, focusing on the period after the emergence of the Mahāyāna.

Deputy Chair for Animal Welfare Committee

Dr David Grumett has been appointed Deputy Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee in the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Committee advises Defra and the devolved administrations of Scotland and Wales on the welfare of farm animals, companion animals and wild animals kept by people. As the Committee's ethicist since 2013, Dr Grumett has contributed to advice on sentience, cattle production, non-stun slaughter and other topics.

Three Minute Thesis Winner

Jessie Fubara-Manuel won the University of Edinburgh's 2020 Three Minute Thesis Competition with her presentation 'Enabled by Faith: Facing the Challenges of Gender, Disability and HIV in Nigeria'. Jessie, and fellow New College doctoral candidate Bertalan Józsa, were among nine finalists in this contest to deliver the best research presentation in just three minutes with just one slide.



Living Gratefully Podcast

In May, Prof. Mona Siddiqui began hosting a new University of Edinburgh series in which well-known guests discuss gratitude, relationships, and public discourse. Guests have included acclaimed Scottish musician and broadcaster Ricky Ross, best-selling crime writer Val McDermid, and former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams.



RSE Young Academy of Scotland

Dr Ulrich Schmiedel has been elected a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Young Academy of Scotland. Competition for membership of the Young Academy is intense and Dr Schmiedel, Lecturer in Theology, Politics and Ethics, deserves our warmest congratulations on this great achievement.

60 SECOND

INTERVIEW



Dr Shadaab Rahemtulla is Lecturer in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. He is the author of Qur'an of the Oppressed (Oxford University Press, 2018).

“As a Muslim, I showed that faith and social liberation are not mutually exclusive.”

Where and when were you born?

I was born in London in 1983, but grew up in Vancouver, Canada.

How did that shape you?

I'm a globe-trotter with a transnational background. My mother was born in India, and my father in Uganda. My spouse is Jordanian-German.

What kind of undergraduate were you?

I was a nerd by day and an activist by night!

Why did you write Qur'an of the Oppressed?

To wed two parts of myself: a Muslim dimension concerned with questions of faith, and an activist dimension concerned with social marginalisation and injustice. As a Muslim, I showed that faith and social liberation are not mutually exclusive.

What drew you to New College?

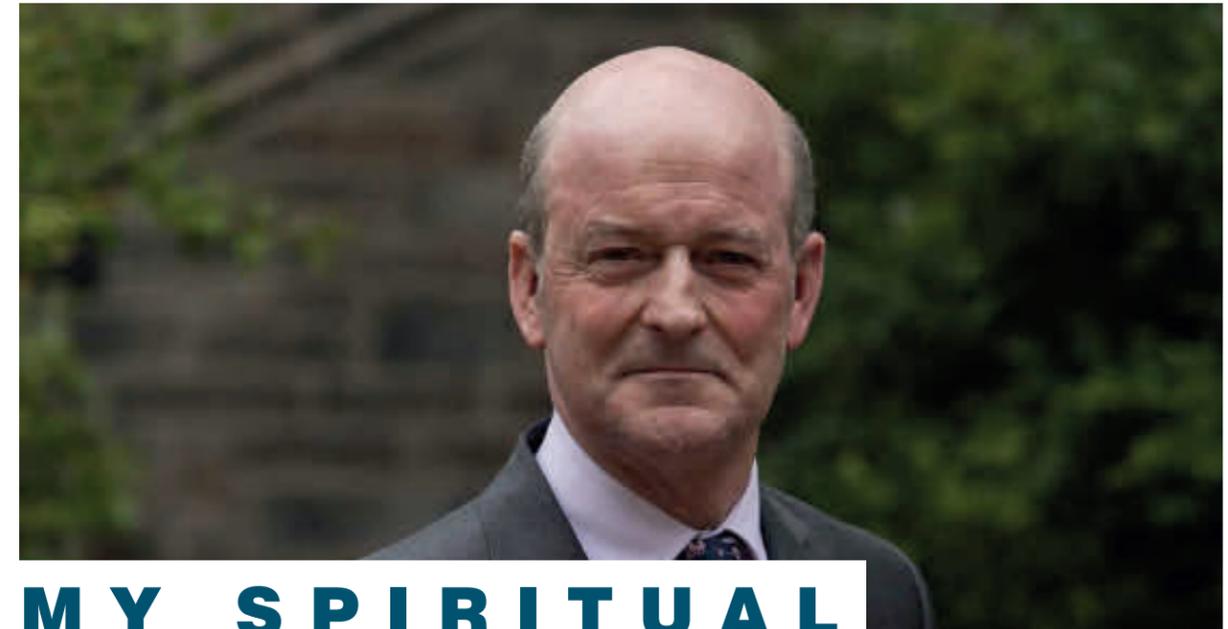
The School has a strong tradition in Liberation Theology. I wanted to build on that while also bringing an Islamic perspective.

Tell us about someone who has influenced you.

Malcolm X. His autobiography changed my life. Qur'an of the Oppressed is dedicated to his memory.

How would you like to be remembered?

Naturally, as a decent scholar and committed teacher, but, just as importantly, as a loving father, husband, son, cousin, and friend.



MY SPIRITUAL AND INTELLECTUAL HOME

PROF. DAVID FERGUSSON

This year marks the end of Prof. David Fergusson's twenty-one-year tenure as Professor of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh – the University's oldest chair. In 2021, he will take up the Regius Chair of Divinity at Cambridge University. An outstanding theologian, he has served the School of Divinity, and the wider University of Edinburgh, with distinction.

Serving the University

"The most rewarding part of my work was serving as Principal of New College for a decade. I also enjoyed my time as Acting Head of College in 2009-10, when I oversaw the merger of the Edinburgh College of Art and the University of Edinburgh. It was an exciting and demanding role, although I missed my students and my theological work. I have always felt committed to New College as an integral part of the wider University."

Building a legacy

In his years at the School, Prof. Fergusson has played a key role in strengthening its future: "When I joined,

I hadn't expected to become a fundraiser. That role was a surprising source of encouragement. It introduced me to people who wanted to support the School, and who have become trusted friends. In the past decade, we have raised around £4 million to develop the School's work in the long term."

“I have always felt committed to New College as an integral part of the wider University.”

The New College community wishes him every success in his new post, and thanks him for his many contributions to the life of the School.



RAPID RESPONSE

NEW COLLEGE IN THE PANDEMIC

New ways of teaching

When the national lockdown began in March 2020, all New College activities – teaching, research, and administration – quickly changed location. Our classrooms became virtual, following which

plans were made for a new form of hybrid teaching for the 2020-21 academic year. In challenging circumstances, our courses have been delivered in a mixture of online and in-person classes, which has enabled our students

“It has been impressive to see the positive spirit in which colleagues have embraced the challenges of hybrid teaching.”

to carry on with their degrees wherever they are in the world, and despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Director of Teaching Dr Naomi Appleton notes that, “it has been impressive to see the positive spirit in which colleagues have embraced the challenges of hybrid teaching.

Religion and Public Health



In response to the pandemic, Senior Lecturer Dr Emma Wild-Wood (above) and New College

alumna Prof. Liz Grant, the University’s Professor of Global Health, were awarded an Arts and Humanities Research Council grant to begin a new project – *Belief in the Time of Covid 19* – on the connection between public health and religion in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a setting in which faith communities play a key role in public health.

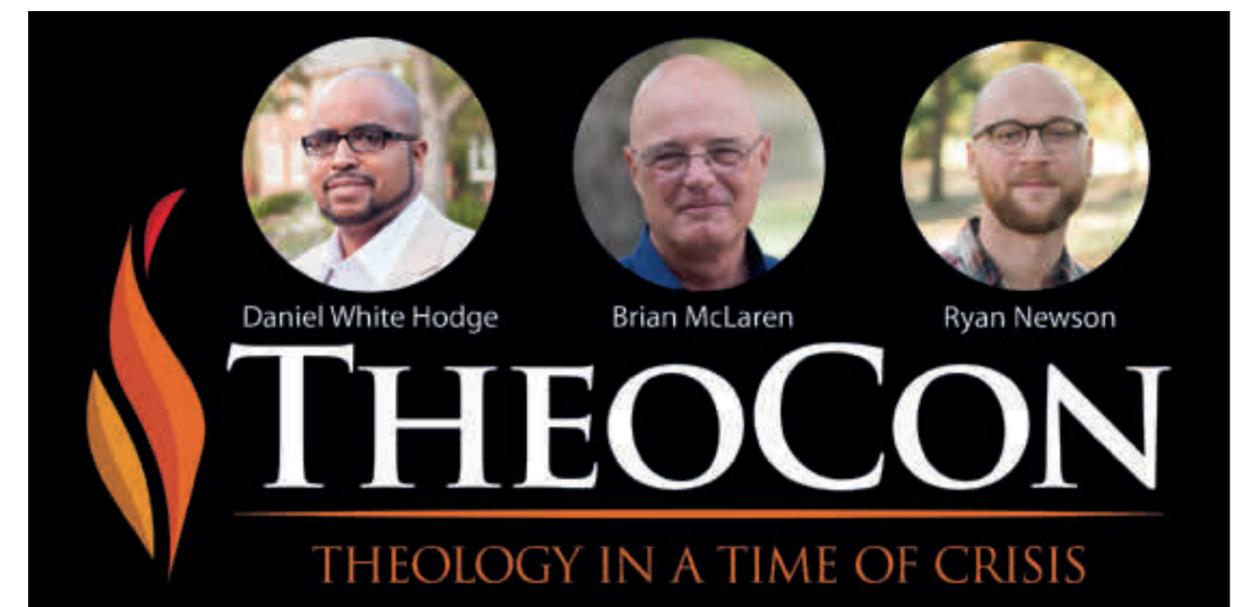
This award has enabled Dr Wild-Wood and Prof. Grant to begin working with a group of scholars led by Rev. Dr Yossa Way at the Anglican University of Congo.

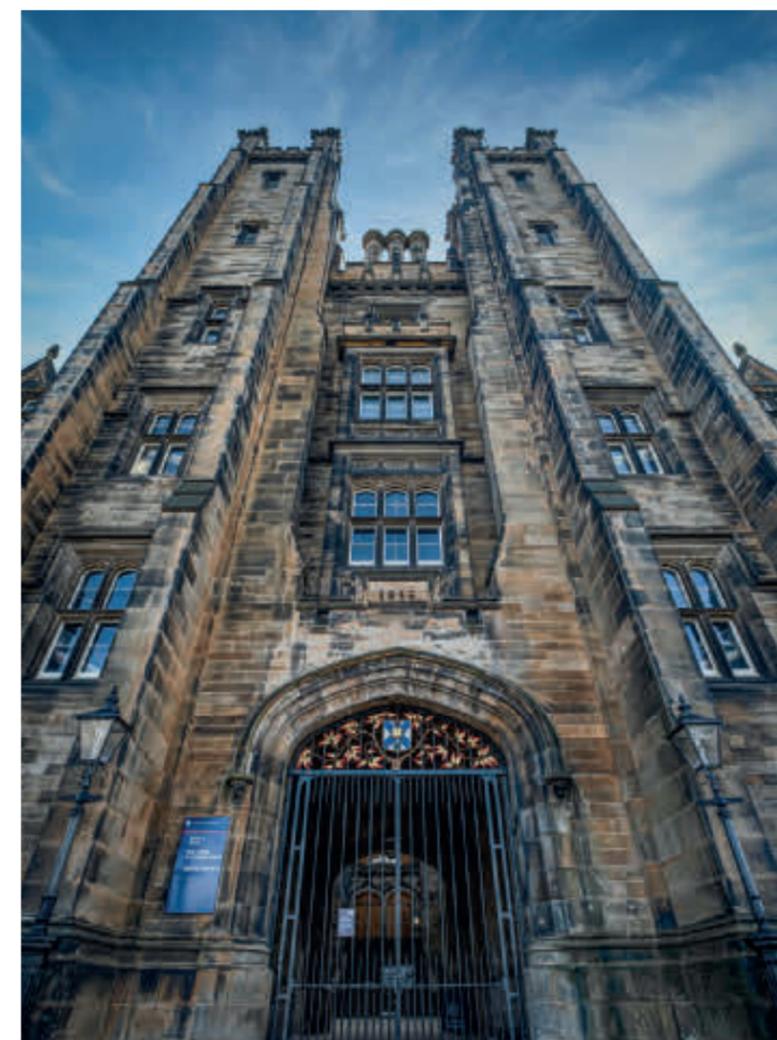
Dr Wild-Wood highlights the importance of their project: “Religious belief and traditional healing practices inform how Congolese people view and respond to disease. Understanding the contextual response to Covid-19 is vital to reducing its spread. The project enables us to co-create public health messages that are trusted

and trustworthy and allow effective, emergency mobilisation of volunteers in faith communities.”

Theology and Crisis

In May 2020, postdoctoral fellow Dr Tripp Fuller and Lecturer in Science and Theology Dr Sarah Lane Ritchie received a Rapid Response Impact Grant from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, with which they created *TheoCon: Theology in a Time of Crisis* – a series of public-facing online talks by a group of pastors, theologians, and philosophers. “TheoCon,” Dr Fuller says, “addressed our present moment by taking the gifts of the academy to the locked-down public.” The public they reached was worldwide: by the close of 2020, their talks had been viewed over 26,000 times by a global audience.





Joining the University

What did the University gain by merging with an upstart independent college? Professor of Ecclesiastical History Stewart J. Brown notes: "Although theology had been taught at the University since the 16th century, New College went about teaching it in a new way, with a modern curriculum that drew inspiration from continental Europe, and with

an outstanding set of professors. In the 19th century, New College's scholars were always more distinguished than the University's theological faculty."

"The New College dream was never to be independent forever. It was seen as a faculty that would become part of a university. When that happened in the 1930s, it was as part of the University of Edinburgh. New College enriched the Faculty of Divinity. It worked well for the University and New College."

Looking to the Future

For Head of School Prof. Helen Bond, the 175th anniversary provides a fresh opportunity to take stock of that history, whilst also looking forward: "It's a chance for us to showcase to the wider University, to our city, and beyond, who we are in 2021, to show how we have advanced in combining traditional and innovative ways of thinking about different faiths in a modern context."

"For many, New College is our alma mater. It's where we were formed, and where we return as our intellectual home."

"Our 174th year was hard, as it was for everyone, but it reinforced the importance of community. For many, New College is our alma mater. It's where we were formed, and where we return as our intellectual home. I'm excited about our 175 events. They'll be a celebration that shapes our future."

NEW COLLEGE

AT 175

Across its history, New College has meant many things to those who have called it home. When Thomas Chalmers laid its foundation stone in 1846, he saw a new theological college as the beginnings of a bigger plan: it was

to be the first faculty of a large, independent Christian university in the heart of Edinburgh. As such, our School began as a distinctly modern challenger to the ancient university on its doorstep.

The New College story, of course, developed differently. Rather than growing into the Free University

of Edinburgh, it remained an independent theological college until 1932, when it merged with the University of Edinburgh's Faculty of Divinity. The product of that union is a School of Divinity that has flourished within the University of Edinburgh – and that has uniquely represented the University on the Edinburgh skyline – ever since.



THE SAME OLD STORY?

RELIGION AND LITERATURE AT NEW COLLEGE

In 2020, two New College academics, Senior Lecturer in Bible and Literature Dr Alison Jack, and Lecturer in Literature and Religion Dr Linden Bicket (pictured centre), launched the Scottish Network for Religion and Literature – a venture intended to advance new research on the dynamic relationship between religions and literature.

This year, their efforts have led to a new Masters programme in Religion and Literature, which is scheduled to receive its first cohort of students in September 2021.

Twin passions

Theology and literature have been lifelong interests for Dr Jack. “My first degree was in English Literature, before I came to New College for my BD. I was struck by how Biblical Studies and the study of Literature had a shared textuality, and saw a niche to explore in literature and the New Testament. That then led to a PhD on the book of Revelation and James Hogg’s *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*.”

A growing field

Supported by Prof. Ian Campbell (now Emeritus Professor in Scottish and Victorian Literature), Dr Jack pioneered new courses on the Bible and literature. “The courses were very interdisciplinary. They were popular with outside students, particularly from English Literature.” Students began to write dissertations on religion and literature, following which Dr Bicket – an expert on the writings of George Mackay Brown – joined the School. “It all grew organically over a decade,” Dr Jack says. “The focus remained interdisciplinary, and the New College setting also offered scope to study literature in relation to other religious traditions.”

The fruit of that growth is a new Masters programme that allows

students the opportunity to explore the interface of religion and literature by drawing on a broad range of expertise amongst the New College faculty: Scottish Literature, Christianity, Religious Studies, Science and Religion, Islamic Studies, and Buddhist Studies.

Marilynne Robinson

Dr Jack sees Edinburgh as the ideal location for this growing work. “As a school, we are surrounded by literary culture and history. It’s a stimulating environment for this kind of study.”



When asked to reflect on personal highlights from these years of early growth at New College, Dr Jack points to 2013, when the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Marilynne Robinson – in Edinburgh to give that year’s Croall Lectures – joined her Modern Religious and Ethical Debates in Contemporary Literature class as a guest lecturer. “She was very generous in teaching the class. It was a wonderful privilege!”



ALUMNI UPDATES

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Dr Francesco Arena (PhD 2019)

has published *Prophetic Conflicts in Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Micah: How Post-Exilic Ideologies Created the False (and the True) Prophets* (Mohr Siebeck, 2020).



Dr Swarup Bar (PhD 2017)

has been Associate Professor of Theology at Bishop's College, Kolkata, since 2018. He is Presbyter-in-Charge of St Andrew's

Church, Kolkata, and will publish *The Spirit Shaped Church: A Spirit Ecclesiology in India* (Fortress Press) in 2021.



Dr Samantha Bishop (PhD 2020)

started her business, Paraffle Embroidery, around the same time as her PhD in 2016, and was given an early boost by her animal-themed embroidery kits being featured on Martha Stewart.

Since the craft boom of lockdown, Sammy has moved Paraffle into a studio, created multiple embroidery kits for charities, become a regular on a shopping channel, and even taken on a full-time employee (full disclosure: it's her boyfriend).

Dr Cory Brock (PhD 2018)

has recently published *Orthodox yet Modern: Herman Bavinck's Use of Friedrich Schleiermacher* (Lexham, 2020).

Dr Deborah Casewell (PhD 2015)

has been appointed to a Humboldt Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Bonn, and will publish *Eberhard Jüngel and Existence: Being Before the Cross* with Routledge in 2021.

Dr Cam Clausing (PhD 2021)

has been appointed Lecturer in Applied Theology and Missional Engagement at Christ College, Sydney.

Dr Chris Cotter (MA 2010, MSc 2011)

has been appointed Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Chester and awarded an IASH-CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh.

Prof. Brandon Crowe (PhD 2010)

has been promoted to Professor of New Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. He has also recently published *The Hope of Israel: The Resurrection of Christ in the Acts of the Apostles* (Baker, 2020).

Dr Theodora Hawksley (PhD 2011)

has recently published *Peacebuilding and Catholic Social Teaching* (Notre Dame University Press, 2020).



Dr Jay Thomas Hewitt (PhD 2018)

is Kirby Laing Research Fellow in New Testament at the University of Aberdeen and has recently published *Messiah and Scripture: Paul's "In Christ" Idiom in Its*

Ancient Jewish Context (Mohr Siebeck, 2020).

Isabel Jahnke (MA 2017) has completed an MPhil at the University of Cambridge.

Dr Tore Johnsen (PhD 2020)

has been appointed Associate Professor at VID Specialized University, Tromsø, Norway. A Sami theologian, his thesis explored the theological significance of the indigenous Christianity of his own people, and his current research explores the meaning of 'reconciliation' in the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the Norwegianisation of the Sami people.

Prof. Chris Keith (PhD 2008)

has recently published *The Gospel as Manuscript: An Early History of the Jesus Tradition as Material Artifact* (Oxford University Press, 2020). He has joined the editorial boards of *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* and *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* and is the inaugural editor-in-chief of the T&T Clark Jesus Library.

Dr Fergus J. King (BD 1989)

recently published *Epicureanism and the Gospel of John: A Study of their Compatibility* (Mohr Siebeck, 2020).

Dr Andrew Kloes (PhD 2016)

won the Dale W. Brown Book Award for *The German Awakening: Protestant Renewal After the*

Enlightenment, 1815-1848 (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Yannick Lambert (MA 2015)

completed his MA in Religious Studies at New College. He went on to specialise in Indian Religions at Oxford University, and now works as a journalist in his native Luxembourg, covering politics, EU policy, the environment, and tech and finance for the English-language newspaper Luxembourg Times.



Dr Joanna Leidenhag (PhD 2019)

is Lecturer in Science-Engaged Theology at the University of St Andrews.

Dr Bruce Pass (PhD 2018)

has published two new books: *The Heart of Dogmatics: Christology and Christocentrism in Herman Bavinck* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2020) and *On Theology: Herman Bavinck's Academic Orations* (Brill, 2020).

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Chester Reynolds
(MA 2019)

is a civil servant working in project delivery and benefits evaluation of broadband programmes for Building Digital UK, part of the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, after being successful on the Direct Appointment Scheme.



David Shuker (MA 2011) & Victoria Wallworth (MA 2011)

David completed postgraduate degrees in patristics at Cambridge and psychology at Glasgow and joined the civil service in 2015 as a Brexit-related policy adviser for the Treasury. These days he works on fisheries policy at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – which still involves Brexit, but this time with fish. He lives in Hertford with his other half, Victoria. She is the Policy, Projects and Course Manager at National Historic Ships UK, a government funded advisory body on all things maritime heritage.



Dr Clement Wen
(PhD 2019)

is Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at China Evangelical Seminary, Taiwan. He has recently published An 'Open-Ended Distinctiveness': The Contemporary Relevance of Wolfhart Pannenberg's Participatory Ecclesiology and Ecumenism for World Christianity (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2021).

Dr Lydia Schumacher
(PhD 2009)

is Reader in Historical and Philosophical Theology at King's College London. She has recently published Early Franciscan Theology: Doctrines and Debates (De Gruyter, 2020).



Maggie Shaw née Thomson
(BD 2001)

moved to Cheshire after graduating and married in 2010. She set up the micropublishing firm www.eregendal.com in 2018 to publish in the genres of Christian Mysticism and Visionary Fiction and has published four books plus music so far. Her latest book, The Eagle and The Butterfly (by herself) was published in October 2020.

Dr Nathaniel Gray Sutanto
(PhD 2018)

has been appointed Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary, Washington DC. He has also recently published God and Knowledge: Herman Bavinck's Theological Epistemology (Bloomsbury, 2020).

Dr Sydney Tooth
(PhD 2020)

has been appointed as Lecturer in New Testament and Greek at Oak Hill College, London.

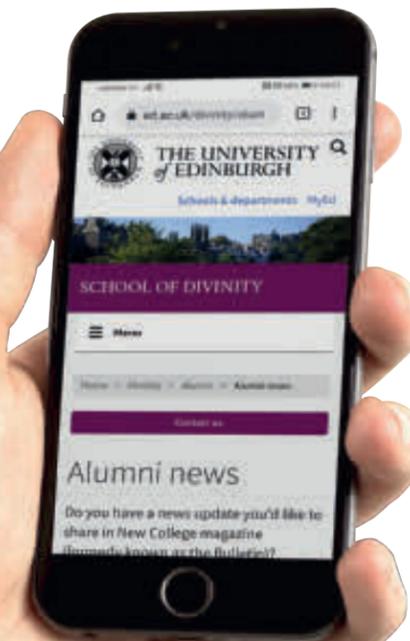


Dr Corey Williams
(PhD 2016)

has been appointed Chair of Religious Studies Programmes at Leiden University, where he is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Global Christianity. He also co-edited a book with Afe Adogame and Olufunke Adeboye, Fighting in God's Name: Religion and Conflict in Local-Global Perspectives, published by Lexington Books in November 2020.



STAY IN TOUCH



Share your news with us at www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/alumni/alumni-news or use the contact details on the back of this magazine. Why not join our online networks:

 New College Alumni on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/8766402

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A place for University of Edinburgh people
www.platform-one.ed.ac.uk

READING MATTERS

A SELECTION OF RECENT BOOKS BY ACADEMIC STAFF



Eve-Marie Becker, Helen K. Bond, Catrin H. Williams (eds), *John's Transformation of Mark* (London: T&T Clark/Bloomsbury, 2021).

Helen K. Bond and Edward Adams (eds), *The Bible on Television* (London: T&T Clark/Bloomsbury, 2020).

Alexander Chow and Emma Wild-Wood (eds), *Ecumenism and Independency in World Christianity: Historical Studies in Honour of Brian Stanley* (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

Christopher R. Cotter, *The Critical Study of Non-Religion: Discourse, Identification and Locality* (London: Bloomsbury, 2020).

Tripp Fuller, *Divine Self-Investment: Studies in Open and Relational Theology* (Grasmere: SacraSage Press, 2020).

Arkotong Longkumer, *The Greater India Experiment: Hindutva and the Northeast* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020).

Jolyon Mitchell and Joshua Rey, *Wars & Religion: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021).

Matthew V. Novenson (ed.), *Monotheism and Christianity in Greco-Roman Antiquity* (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

Mona Siddiqui, *Human Struggle: Christian and Muslim Perspectives* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Claire Wanless, *Individualized Religion: Practitioners and Their Communities* (London: Bloomsbury, 2020).

NEW STAFF



Dr Nathan Hood

Hope Trust Postdoctoral Fellow in Church History. Dr Hood's research is the role of emotion in early modern Scottish piety. His previous degrees were all taken at the University of Edinburgh: MA (2016), MTh (2017), and PhD (2020).



Dr Laura Mair

New College alumna Dr Mair (PhD 2017) has been appointed to a Teaching Fellowship, to train and support Postgraduate Tutors and evaluate tutorial provision within the School, during the 2020-21 academic year.



Dr Claire Wanless

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow. Dr Wanless' research focuses on ethnographic study of Quaker involvement in climate change activism in Edinburgh and London.



Dr Nathaniel Vette

Postdoctoral Fellow working with Prof. Mona Siddiqui on the Issachar Fund sponsored project, 'Gratitude: Christian and Muslim Perspectives.' He is a New College alumnus (PhD 2020).



MAKING LOCAL HISTORY

For perhaps the first time in New College history, three brothers are taking degrees concurrently: Edinburgh natives Stephen (MA 2018; MTh 2019; PhD, 2nd year), Nicholas (MA, 4th year), and Chris (MA, 1st year) Dolan. Stephen says: "Our oldest brother is at Cambridge, but we have a few more years to convince our youngest brother to join us here!"

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

NEW COLLEGE 175TH PROGRAMME

We are still finalising dates and details for some speakers and events (*), and some further changes may still be inevitable in the present climate. Full programme, with additional details as they are confirmed, available at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/news-events/new-college-175/programme>

All events until Easter (at least) will be available for online participation through Zoom. If you would like to be added to an email list to receive updates about the 175 celebrations, please contact: NewCollege175@ed.ac.uk

TIMETABLE 2021

January	14: Opening Service 25: DIY Virtual Burns Night (with instructions, and speakers from the New College community) 28: Holocaust Memorial Event
February	* Launch of New College Past, Present and Future exhibition 6: New College Past and Present day event 18: Lisa Isherwood, on the changing face of Theology/Queer Theology
March	8: International Women's Day
April	* Preaching Today 2021 conference 22: Mary McAleese (former President of Ireland), Children, religion and the earth they will inherit
May	* Alumni/ae lunch at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
June	3: Commemorative breakfast in Rainy Hall 5-6: Alumni/ae and friends weekend celebration
September	6-8: Religious Studies 50th anniversary conference (alongside British Association for the Study of Religions 2021) 9: Future of Theology and Religious Studies conference
October	15: Twenty years after 9/11 conference
December	3: Christmas lunch and carol service 4-5: Winter Tales... A Festival of Literature, Religion and the Imagination

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