

INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

The research strategy of the Institute of Theology aims to offer Doctoral supervision across a wide range of theological disciplines. In addition to the historical and textual bases upon which successful PhD theses are focused, the Institute has expanded its research expertise in the field of missiological and pastoral theology. Students will examine the historical and textual underpinnings of theological areas including theologically-motivated movements and peoples in Christian history, the development of doctrine, strategies and movements of Christian missions, the literature and language of both the Old and New Testaments, and theories of worship and Christian communication.

RESEARCH THEMES

OLD TESTAMENT

Old Testament themes include the study of Kingship in Ancient Israel, Old Testament ethics, and the theology of Deuteronomy. Expertise is available in the area of the Pentateuch and Biblical Theology, and also in Biblical interpretation and hermeneutics.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Areas of research interest relate to 'Everyday theology' or 'Ordinary theology'. Both of these refer to the relationship between theological thinking and people's daily lives, both as individuals and as constituent parts of various social groups.

CHURCH HISTORY

Early Church era: main research interests include church/state relations (inc. persecution), evolution of thought and practice (inc. canon, doctrine, controversies) and key personalities. Reformation era: main research interests include German and Swiss

developments, key personalities and controversies. Irish History: all aspects but particularly Presbyterian, nineteenth-century Connaught and Home rule era.

Modern era: all aspects of World War One (church reaction, chaplaincy, the Irish connection/dilemma and nineteenth-century mission in India and China.

NEW TESTAMENT

New Testament research expertise includes work on the Book of Revelation, with a special interest in textual criticism, papyrology and apocryphal gospels. Reviewing the New Testament texts in their historical context and exploring how an understanding of that context, both the physical context and the conceptual framework, informs our understanding of the original meaning of the text and its interpretation.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Particular research interests include modern theology, including trends, themes, and methodology since the nineteenth century. Specialisms include the work of Emil Brunner, his theological methodology and its relevance for the life and work of the church today; and Karl Barth and Søren Kierkegaard along with the impact of the World Wars on the church and faith in Western Europe. Other areas include Post-Reformation historical theology, particularly in the seventeenth century British and Irish contexts. Specialisms are also available within the field of seventeenth to nineteenth century theology, with a focus on Baptist history and theology.

RESEARCH CENTRES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RESEARCH FORUM

The Queen's Religious Studies Research Forum is an interdisciplinary grouping of scholars from across the University and from its affiliated theological colleges interested in exploring themes and issues relating to religion in culture and society.

It brings together researchers from fields as varied as history, philosophy, theology, literature, science and social science, fostering the sharing of ideas and collaboration on topics of recognised importance in current intellectual discourse. Open to postgraduate students as well as to academic staff, the Forum hosts international symposia and major public

lectures and mounts a regular series of seminars with internal and also external speakers. The Religious Studies Research Forum provides an annual Religious Studies Lecture, with recent guests including Marilynne Robinson, Karen Armstrong and Diarmaid MacCulloch.

CONTACT

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