

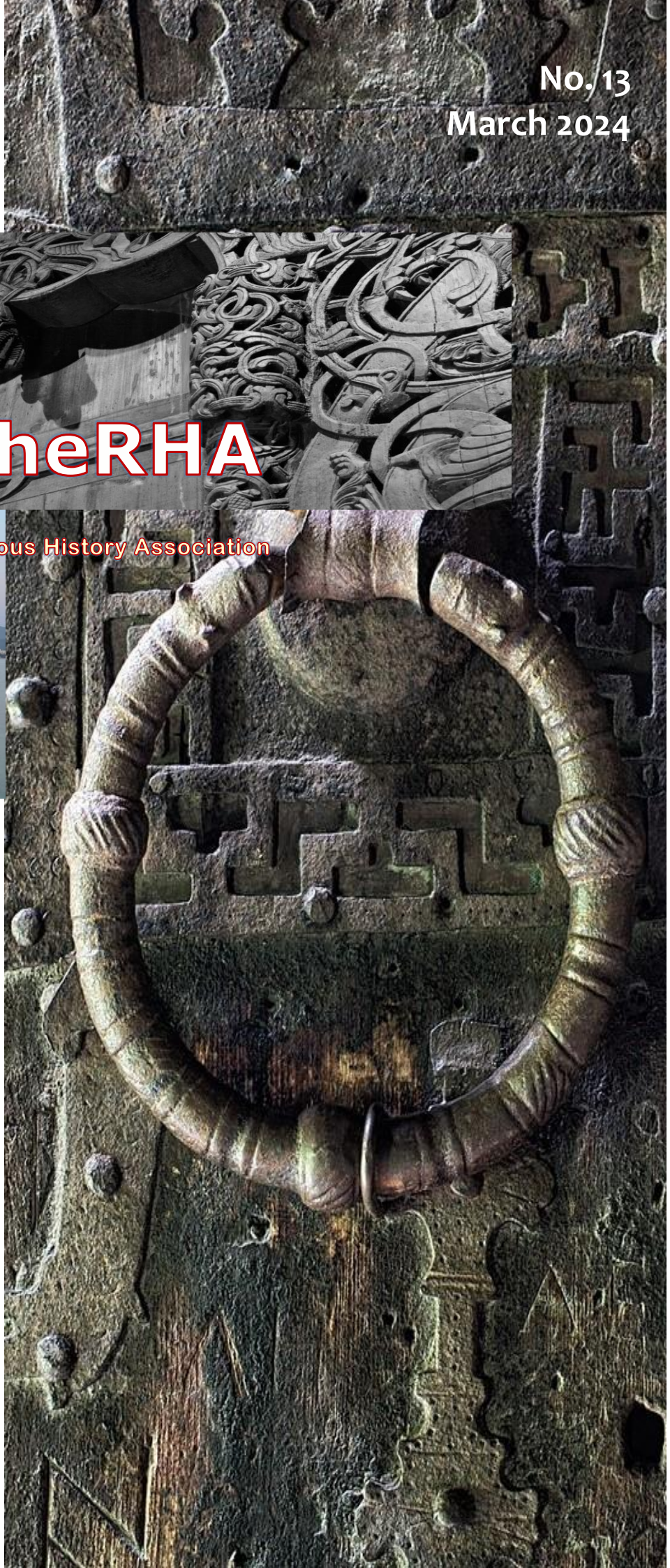
rha

religious history
association

No. 13
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TheRHA

Newsletter of the Religious History Association



CONTENTS

<u>PRESIDENT'S REPORT</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>JOURNAL OF RELIGIOUS HISTORY: EDITORS' REPORTS</u>	<u>4</u>
CORRESPONDENT REPORTS	
<u>NEW ZEALAND</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>VICTORIA</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>QUEENSLAND</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>TASMANIA</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>SYDNEY COLLEGE OF DIVINITY</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>ACT</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA</u>	<u>21</u>

SUBSCRIPTION AND EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

OFFICE BEARERS

The Religious History Association exists for the following objects:

- ◆ to promote and advance the study of religious history in Australia
- ◆ to promote the study of all fields of religious history
- ◆ to encourage research in Australian religious history
- ◆ to publish the *Journal of Religious History*

This Newsletter reports on events during or before 2023 only, to include new and ongoing research projects, postgraduate completions, seminars, workshops, conferences, and other activities in religious history. For publication purposes some entries, including forthcoming events and most book reviews, have been omitted.

Cover images:

Main portal in Hedal stave church.

A stave church is a medieval wooden Christian church building once common in north-western Europe. Portals or parts of them from about 140 stave churches have been preserved. There are roughly three portal types: the simple profile portal, the column portal and the beam portal.

By Edmund Schilvold - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=43679575>

Ryōbu torii

The Japanese torii is a Shinto shrine on the Island of Itsukushima (popularly known as Miyajima), and is in the city of Hatsukaichi in Hiroshima Prefecture in Japan. The torii of Itsukushima Shrine, the site's most recognizable landmark, appears to float in the water. The shrine complex is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Japanese government has designated several buildings and possessions as National Treasures.

By C.R. Haunton - Own work, 2023.

Religious History Association - President's Report for 2023



President's Report for 2023

I should begin by officially thanking three members of the executive who are stepping down this year, two valued voices of experience, namely Shurlee Swain and Glen O'Brien, our sterlingly loyal Vice-President of the Association, and its ex-officio member, Laura Rademaker, who is stepping down after a most successful term as co-editor, helping induct two further co-editors, Miles Pattenden and Sarah Irving-Stonebraker, as well as the reviews editor, Dr Celeste McNamara, and our Social Media Editor, Chris White (a doctoral student at University of Queensland). We need to think about replacements that can help cover both existing and under-represented fields of research activity. I have a particular debt of thanks to Anna Haunton, whose service to the RHA as Editorial Assistant has been instrumental to the continued flourishing, both of the Association, and of the Journal for over sixteen years. It is hard to quantify this debt, but it is so much appreciated. Academic restructuring at the University of Sydney has also led to their imposing on us the need to conclude our long-standing arrangement with what has been their Dept of Studies in Religion, through which Anna has been employed. I remain immensely grateful to Anna for her extended loyalty and service to the RHA, as also to Professor Carole Cusack for being her line manager over many years.

I also want to thank Michael Champion for surviving his first six months as Treasurer, having taken over from Kerrie Handasyde. He has needed great patience to deal with two bureaucracies, the NAB and the University of Sydney, and yet even more for doing so while maintaining senior responsibilities at ACU at a time of its own internal ructions. Surprising as it might seem, updating banking details with the NAB presents its own challenges. As many of you will be aware, the troubles at ACU have led to Miles Pattenden leaving that institution to go back to Oxford, but with a promise to continue his term as co-editor with the Journal, for which I am enormously grateful. This is also a way of extending the process of internationalisation of our Association, that has already been going on over the years. In these troubled times, it is so important to maintain networks of friendship to survive situations of adversity. We also have to be aware of the importance of our own succession planning.

On the issue of service to the RHA, I also acknowledge the continuing role of our correspondents in various States, including the new individuals who have taken over, including Liz Freeman for Tasmania and Kerrie Handasyde, who has taken this role over from Anna Welch as correspondent for Victoria. Their annual collection of publications relating to that enormously wide field of religious history is much appreciated. While we may each know about individual activities in our immediate spheres of interest, it is much harder to get an overview of what is going on in a broader sphere across periods. It is only when the survival of entire fields of research, like religious studies or religious history, is threatened, that the value of such documentation becomes important—not just as information for an individual researcher, but as core evidence of the importance of those fields for administrators of academic research.

It is important that religious history continue to be represented in a variety of venues and professional associations, including the Australian Historical Association, which held its conference at ACU in July 2023. I am grateful to all those members who continue to be involved in such activities. It is also important for members to continue to be alerted to such prospective events, if it is outside their immediate realm of activity. The success of the public lecture given recently by Prof Miri Rubin (Queen Mary College, University of London) itself marked a parting gift from the recently deceased and much lamented Medieval and Early Modern Program at ACU, whose remarkable team were so brilliantly managed by Prof. Megan Cassidy-Welch, who herself continues to contribute so much to the field of religious history.

I also think it is important that the RHA continue to provide support for postgraduate bursaries for PATS (postgrad training) opportunities relating to religious history. I think these events run well if we have an attractive and distinguished visiting scholar that can help draw postgrads from a range of periods. While we were unable to generate sufficient numbers in April 2023 to mount such an

event relating to theme of questioning vocation in religious history, I think we all need to think about potential themes and opportunities that may be arising. I would also signal the importance of engaging in cross-religious investigations, relating to Judaism and Islam, as well as to other religious traditions. Just by way of example, I mention a remarkable externally funded two year project on the theme about metempsychosis and the future of the soul [Afterlife, Rebirth, and Immortality \(monash.edu\)](http://monash.edu), being organised by Aydogan Kars at Monash, along with his postdoctoral fellow, Dr Ashkan Bahrani. It is a seminar in both hybrid and in-person mode, that brings in internationally significant scholars, whether in person or by zoom. I, myself contributed a paper on reincarnation and Christian tradition, looking in particular at the invention of the word reincarnation in the 19th century and its debt to a key Christian concept. There may be other such events going on around Australia (indeed the globe) that might be relevant to the RHA. Aydogan and his collaborators are themselves doing precious research into interaction between Jewish and Islamic mysticism in the medieval period. All suggestions about parallel events and current research activities are most welcome to be shared.

My continuing thanks to all members of the executive committee, both stepping down and continuing. It is only through combining experience and fresh eyes that we can continue to grow.

Yours faithfully



Professor Constant Mews FAHA, President, RHA

JOURNAL OF RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Editors' Report 2023 – Journal of Religious History

The December 2023 issue includes a special section edited by Chris Mayes, Jo Cruickshank and Michael Thompson featuring articles by Laura Rademaker and Geoff Treloar. The special issue arose from a workshop in 2021 funded by the RHA workshop grant.

We have a number of special issues planned for 2024. Katharine Massam's special issue on "Women, Men and Cardijn's Movements for Social Transformation" will be published early in 2024. We also have an issue edited by John Wolffe on religious archives is planned for December 2024. There is also a proposal for a special issue from Geraldine Vaughan and Claire Cheeraert-Graffeulle on transatlantic anti-Catholicism.

According to the September Wiley metric report, our total citations are up 12% from 2022 and the journal impact factor is steadily increasing (now at 0.3). This score is similar to the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* and a little below *Cultural and Social History* and *Itinerario*.

We are grateful to Celeste McNamara who has continued her excellent work as reviews editor and the reviews are progressing well. We also thank Anna Haunton for outstanding contribution to the journal as editorial assistant.

Associate Professor Sarah Irving-Stonebraker, Dr Miles Pattenden and Dr Laura Rademaker (outgoing), co-editors *Journal of Religious History*

Correspondents' Reports

NEW ZEALAND

At the time of reporting, activities/events in the field of Religious History were unavailable.
Correspondent: Professor Peter Lineham, Massey University

VICTORIA

Current Projects, Awards, Grants and Supervision

Charles Zika (University of Melbourne)

ARC Discovery Grant, Chief Investigator, "Albrecht Dürer's Material World" (2021-2024) individual specialization: Religious objects and the Nuremberg/ Sth German religious environment & material culture

Book project: *The Emotional Economy of the Austrian National Shrine of Mariazell: Liberation, Belonging, Conquest*

Books

Constant Jan Mews & Kathleen Neal (Monash University)

Addressing Injustice in the Medieval Body Politic. [Crossing Boundaries: Turku Medieval and Early Modern Studies](#) series; Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2023.

Journal articles, sections of books, proceedings, book reviews, and encyclopedia entries

Steve Joyce (Monash University)

"Each in the Calling to Which They are Called": Images of Authority in the *De XII abusiuis saeculi*, *Addressing Injustice in the Medieval Body Politic*, ed. by Constant J. Mews and Kathleen B. Neal (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2023), pp. 87-110.

(with Constant J. Mews) 'The *De XII abusiuis saeculi*: Contexts and Textual Traditions', *Addressing Injustice in the Medieval Body Politic*, ed. by Constant J. Mews and Kathleen B. Neal (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2023), pp. 35-70.

'Gildas (fl.5th or 6th century)', *History from Loss: A Global Introduction to Histories written from defeat, colonization, exile, and imprisonment*, ed. by Marnie Hughes-Warrington and Daniel Woolf (London: Routledge, 2023), pp. 29-35.

Petra Kayser (National Gallery of Victoria)

'Wound worship: Devotion to and through the body of Christ', Mariacarla Gadebusch Bondio und Marc Föcking (eds.), *Die ewige Wunde: Beiträge zu einer Kulturgeschichte unheilbarer Wunden in der Vormoderne (The eternal wound: Essays on the cultural history of incurable wounds in the early modern period)*, Wolfenbüttel: Herzog August Bibliothek, 2023), pp. 45-64.

Charles Zika (University of Melbourne)

'The Treasury Image of Mariazell: The Materialisation of Hope, Assurance and Security.' In *Material Culture, Nature and the Emotions, from the Middle Ages to the Anthropocene*, special journal issue edited by Stephanie Trigg and Anna Welch, *Emotions: History*,

Culture, Society, vol. 7.1 (2023), 52–75. Open Access:
https://brill.com/view/journals/ehcs/7/1/article-p52_5.xml

'Objects of devotion and instruments of memorialisation: The Mass of Saint Gregory,' in Edward Wouk and Jennifer Spinks, eds., *Albrecht Dürer's Material World*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2023, pp. 62–73

Charles Zika (with S. Handley) 'The Home,' in Edward Wouk and Jennifer Spinks, eds., *Albrecht Dürer's Material World*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2023, pp. 131–35.

Charles Zika, 'The Visual Transformations of St Anthony Abbot: Protector of the Sick and Victor over Sexual Desire,' in Jennifer Milam and Michael Hill, eds., *Death, Disease and Mystical Experience in Early Modern Art*, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, in press
Review of Adam Potkay, *Hope. A Literary History*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022 in *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*, vol. 7, no. 1 (2023), 185–86. Open Access: https://brill.com/downloadpdf/journals/ehcs/7/1/article-p185_14.pdf

Anna Welch (State Library of Victoria)

'The Renaissance of a Twelfth-century Papal Manuscript Fragment in Medici Florence: A New Reading of Fra Angelico's David,' *Word and Image*, vol. 39, issue 4, pp. 384-401.

'The Dangers of Desire: Medieval Franciscans as Book Owners', *Emotions: History, Culture and Society*, vol. 7 (2023): pp. 30-51.

Material Culture, Nature and the Emotions, from the Middle Ages to the Anthropocene, co-editor with Prof. Stephanie Trigg (University of Melbourne), Special Issue of *Emotions: History, Culture and Society*, vol. 7

Seminar and conference papers, posters and other presentations

Charles Zika (University of Melbourne)

'Christoph Haizmann, the Devil and the Virgin of Mariazell in 1670s Habsburg Austria,' conference paper, 'Unsettling Certainties,' The Fourth Biennial Conference for the History of Emotions, University of Adelaide, 28 Nov–1 Dec 2023.

'Jewish Presence and its Material Relics in Dürer's Nuremberg World,' symposium paper, *Albrecht Dürer's Material World*, The Whitworth Study Centre, University of Manchester, 13-14 July 2023

Supervision of Higher Degree Research Completed

Exhibitions

Charles Zika (University of Melbourne)

Co-curating, 'Albrecht Dürer's Material Renaissance', to be held in the Arts West Gallery, The University of Melbourne, 27 July – 29 November 2024 (See: <https://www.duerersmaterialworld.org/exhibition>)

Other activities

Charles Zika (University of Melbourne)

Recorded and written. contributions to exhibition, 'Albrecht Dürer's Material World', held at The Whitworth, The University of Manchester, 30 June 2023 – 10 March 2024

Correspondent: Dr Kerrie Handasyde, *Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity*

QUEENSLAND

Publications

Almond, Philip C. (2023). *Mary Magdalene: a cultural history*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi: 10.1017/9781009221702.

Barnes, Joel (2023). "Evolutionary science in denominational colleges at Australian universities, 1907–2020." *Paedagogica Historica*: 1-19. doi: 10.1080/00309230.2023.2230450.

Brown, Amelia R. and de Jonge, Nile (2023). "Saviour mermaids of the ancient Mediterranean: Thetis and the nereids as patrons of ancient Greek mariners." *The Staying Power of Thetis: Allusion, Interaction, and Reception from Homer to the 21st Century*, 315-338. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Harrison, Peter (2023). "Normativity and the critical functions of genealogy: the case of modern science." *Modern Theology* 39 (4): 682-707. doi: 10.1111/moth.12857.

Harrison, Peter (2023). "Naturalism and the categories "science" and "religion": a response to Josh Reeves." *Zygon* 58 (1): 98-108. doi: 10.1111/zygo.12865.

Spacey, Beth (2023). "Guibert of Nogent, deeds of God through the Franks." *Christian-Muslim relations, primary sources, volume 1: 500-1500*, edited by David Thomas. 311-313. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Walsh, Brendan (2023). "'The Boy of Tocutt' and the Demonic Covenant in Seventeenth-Century New England Demonology." *Preternature: Critical and Historical Studies on the Preternatural*, 12 (2): 107-135. doi: 10.5325/preternature.12.2.0107.

Grants

Bowles, Adam (and Geoff Ginn, Tom Aechtner, Philip Almond, Peter Sperritt, Richard Martin, Ryan Williams). *The Queensland Atlas of Religion* (ARC Linkage Projects, led by the University of Queensland, 2019-2023).

Harrison, Peter (and Ian Hesketh, Tom Aechtner, Joel Barnes). *Science and Religion Exploring the Spectrum: A Global Perspective* (Templeton Religious Trust Grant, led by the University of Birmingham, 2020-2023).

Correspondent: Dr James A. T. Lancaster, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Queensland

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Publications

140 Years of Worship and Service in the Heart of Henley Beach, 1883–2023: 140 Years for the Original Church and 100 Years for the Temple Church (Henley, SA: Henley–Fulham Uniting Church, 2023), 162pp.

Darryl Dyson, 'A history of the Cherry Gardens Methodist/Uniting Church Chapel', *Uniting History SA*, June 2023, pp.6–8.

Rosalind M. Gooden, Ken R. Manley and Stefanie C. Pearce (eds), *Silas Mead (1834–1909) and his Baptist Family: 'Learning, Living and Giving Christ'* (Sydney: Morling Press, 2023), 255pp. [A collection of essays on the life and children of Silas Mead, an influential Baptist minister in nineteenth-century South Australia]

David Houston, 'Charles Duguid "Tjilpi – "Old Man Father" (1894–1996): Aboriginal rights campaigner', *Uniting History SA*, June 2023, pp.1, 4–6.

Lorraine Powers (comp.), *Growing Up – Reaching Out: 40 years, Christ Church Uniting, Wayville, 1983 to 2023* (Wayville, SA: Christ Church Uniting Church, 2023), 47pp.

Bob Rabbitt, Margaret Ward, Kevin Hannagan and Judy Hollings (eds), *160 Years of Faith, Community and Love: Hectorville Catholic Community, 1863–2023* (Hectorville, SA: Hectorville Catholic Community, 2023), 106pp.

Judith Raftery, 'Home Missions: Go and make disciples – even in the Australian bush', *Uniting History SA*, March 2023, pp. 1, 4–6.

Hilary D. Regan (ed), *From Catholic School Rooms to a Radicalised Student Movement: Australian YCS from the 1960 to the 1980s (Cardijn Studies, vol. 4, no 1)* (Brompton. SA: ATF Press, 2023), 112pp. [YCS: Young Christian Students]

John W. Venus, *The Church on the Hill: The First 150 Years of the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, Norton Summit* (Norton Summit, SA: St John's Anglican Church, 2022), 56pp.

Thesis

Alexander Charles Parsons, "Three great forces are at work trying to control events": Australian Anglican views on the League of Nations, Communism and Fascism, 1927–1939', PhD thesis, University of Adelaide, 2023.

South Australian Church History Network

The South Australian Church History Network is a small group of historians from several Christian denominations (currently Anglican, Baptist, Salvation Army, and Uniting Church) who are concerned with the recognition of South Australian religious history within the broader history of South Australia and the religious history of Australia as a whole. It aims to increase awareness of the Christian presence in and contribution to South Australian life and history from 1836, to critically explore the notion of South Australia as a 'Paradise of Dissent', which was distinctive within Australia, and to encourage further research and publication. The SACHN is organising a one-day conference in Adelaide on 4 May 2024 on the theme of 'Paradise of Dissent Revisited (1836–1900)'. This will explore new areas in the religious history of nineteenth-century South Australia and the various ways that churches and individual Christians influenced the colony's social and public life. For further information and offers of papers contact the convenors: Revd Dr Dean Eland, djeland@bigpond.com or Dr Judith Raftery, judith.raftery@gmail.com

Correspondent: Dr David Hilliard, Adelaide

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

New Projects

Bronwen Neil, Amelia Brown, Estelle Strazdins and Ryan Strickler, *Roman mass media and religion from the Flavians to the Theodosians*.

Ongoing Research Project

ARC DP20 project of Eva Anagnostou, Bronwen Neil and Peter Edwell on *Crises of Leadership in the Eastern Roman Empire (250–1000 CE)*. This project ends in 2023. We had our third seminar, entitled *Crisis in Late Antiquity*, at Macquarie on 1-3 June with invited guests from Groningen, ACU, UNSW, ANU and MQ.

Postgraduate Completions

Mark Matic graduated with an MRes, with a thesis entitled: *The Greek of Two Esdras: Signs of Fluency and Formal Education in a Literal Translation*. Supervisor Trevor Evans.

Conference Papers

Trevor Evans – conference presentation “A Kind of Link: Language and Identity in LXX Joshua” at conference *Language and Cultural Identity in Postclassical Greek (SHG23)*, Jesus College, Cambridge, 13–15 September, 2023.

Chris Forbes – conference presentation “Paul’s Scribes and Co-authors” at SSEC conference *Scribes, Scholars and Scripts*. Macquarie University, 6 May, 2023.

Mark Matic – conference presentation “The Parenthetic Nominatives of the Septuagint: Standard Greek or Artefacts of Interference” at conference *Language and Cultural Identity in Postclassical Greek (SHG23)* Jesus College, Cambridge, 13–15 September, 2023.

Mark Matic – conference presentation “Plural forms of *γαῖα* in the Manuscripts of the Septuagint: Archaisms or Signs of Sound Change”. DHA HDR/ECR Research Showcase, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. 16 – 20 October, 2023.

Bronwen Neil – conference panel “Mass Media and Roman Religion”. Jan 31 – 3 Feb. 2023. ASCS conference, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ.

Bronwen Neil – conference keynote, 3-4 Feb 2023, “The Letters of Maximus the Confessor: An Overview”, keynote, University of Belgrade, 3rd Conference on *Maximus the Confessor: The Letters* (online).

Bronwen Neil – “Revisiting Questions of Gender in Byzantine Society”. Conference of the Harvard History of Emotions Group on *Emotions, Gender and History* in Raifina, Greece. 11 March (online).

Bronwen Neil – ‘Shipwrecks in and outside of the Byzantine church’, AABS conference, *Byzantium, Empire of the Sea*. University of Queensland, 3-6 June 2023.

Bronwen Neil – conference paper, “Men Teaching Women: Writing to Women in Late Antiquity” at ERC CONNEC “*Brides of Christ*” conference, 8-10 June, 2023, Royal Holloway University of London, London.

Bronwen Neil – conference keynote, “Reception of Gelasius’s Two Swords Theory in Medieval Europe” keynote *Politics and Religion: A von Humboldt Kolleg* organised by Deakin University at Trinity College Melbourne, University of Divinity, 5-7 December 2023.

Alanna Nobbs – keynote speaker, 26 – 28 September, 2023, “What has the Past to offer the Future? Macquarie’s Contribution to New Testament and early Christianity in the Context of Australian Scholarship and Beyond” at The Fellowship for Biblical Studies Conference, ACU, North Sydney.

Samuel Wessels – conference presentation “The Pluperfect in Old Greek Kingdoms” at conference *Language and Cultural Identity in Postclassical Greek (SHG23)* Jesus College, Cambridge, 13–15 September, 2023.

Kyeongyoon Woo – Conference presentation, “Sense-Perception and Cognitive Progress in Plato and John Philoponus,” at the Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society Conference in Singapore (Trinity Theological College) on 7th – 9th, September, 2023.

Seminars

Bronwen Neil - Newcastle Department of Historical, Cultural and Critical Inquiry a seminar on: 'Visionary Dreams in the Letters of Julian I: How to Become a (Non-Christian) Emperor' (20 October 2023).

Book Reviews / Conference Reports

Neil, B. – Review of R. McKitterick et al. (trans), *The Codex Carolinus*, TTH 77, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2021 for *Early Medieval Europe* 31.1 (2023).

Neil, B. – Review of R. Price and F. Montinaro (trans.) *The Acts of the Council of Constantinople*, TTH, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2022 for *Early Medieval Europe* 31.2 (2023).

Neil, B. – Books reviewed: Michael Lipka (2022), *Epiphanies and Dreams in Greek Polytheism. Textual Genres and 'Reality' from Homer to Heliodorus*, Berlin: De Gruyter; and Jens Schröter, Tobias Nicklas and Armand Puig i Tàrrach (eds.) (2021), *Dreams, Visions, Imaginations. Jewish, Christian and Gnostic Views of the World to Come*, Berlin: De Gruyter. For ARYS. Antigüedad: Religiones y Sociedades 21 (2023) online.

Ian Tregenza – review of JAMES C. UNGUREANU: *Science, Religion, and the Protestant Tradition: Retracing the Origins of Conflict*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019; pp. x + 358, *Journal of Religious History*, published online 23 May 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9809.12977>

Other Activities

Publications

Evans, T. V. – (2022). The Grammarian Cannot Wait: Thackeray, Muraoka, and the Analysis of Septuagint Syntax. *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Period*, 2023(4–5), 558–581. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15700631-bja10056>

Evans, T. V. – (2023). Verbs of sexual intercourse in the Greek Pentateuch: a lexical analysis. *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0075426923000617>

Neil, B. – 'Congregational Exegesis and Visions in the Shepherd of Hermas'. In E. Klein and M. De Cock (eds), *Exploring the literary contexts of patristic exegesis*, CUA Studies in Early Christianity, Washington DC: CUA Press, 2023, 17-35.

Neil, B. – 'Episcopal and Imperial Power in Late Antique Italy'. In J. Wijnendaele (ed.), *Late Roman Italy*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh university Press, 2023, 339-355.

Neil, B. – 'Status Anxiety and the Animal Kingdom in Byzantine Dreambooks'. In S. Mehrbrey and H. Steurer (eds) *Animal Dreams in Aesthetic Media: Comparative Perspectives*. Leiden and Munich: Brill and Fink, 2023, 35-54.

Neil, B. – 'New and Old Letter Types in the Corpus of Julian the Apostate (361-363)'. Special issue of *Fruhmittelaltlicher Studien*, ed. M. Gruenbart, 2023.

Plant, I. – 'Brasidas and Thucydides: Hero and His Historian', *Dialogues d'Histoire Ancienne* 49.2 (2023), 11-36

Grants

Bronwen Neil (MQ), Amelia Brown (UQ), Estelle Strazdins (ANU), and Ryan Strickler (Newcastle U)

ARC Discovery Project DP240100112

Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass Media and the Cult of Emperors

Contemporary leaders understand the power of an image to influence public opinion, but are they following a path well-trodden by Roman emperors? This project aims to illuminate the role that mass media and images played in securing and sustaining imperial power during the Later

Roman empire from the Flavians to the Theodosians (69-450 CE). The comparison of coins, statues and monuments will shed new light on the dynamic ways that popular media were used to mediate between emperors, their officials, provincial elites and the wider populace, and show how leaders used mass media in the Roman world. Social and cultural benefits include a better understanding of the ways that leaders today handle such media to influence public opinion.

\$230,368

Activities

- **Bronwen Neil** elected head of Religion section, Australian Academy of Humanities.
- **Bronwen Neil** continued as vice-president of the International Association for Patristic Studies.

Prizes

Kyeongyoon Woo. Patricia Geidans Prize (Macquarie University, Awarded in May 2023)
"The Mystagogia of Maximus the Confessor through the Self-Efficacy Theory" for the best thesis in the MRes Program in the Broad Area of Early Christian and Jewish Studies.

Correspondent: Dr Sybil Wong, *Macquarie University, Department of Ancient History and Archaeology*

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Publications

Freeman, Elizabeth, "not as history, but...": The Cistercian Abbot Aelred of Rievaulx (1110-1167), A Writer of History in Many Genres", *Medievalista* 34 (Julho – Dezembro 2023), pp. 345-370.

Miles, Graeme, "Psellos on Achieving 'Likeness to God' and Being in the Image of God", in *Later Platonists and their Heirs among Christians, Jews, and Muslims*, ed. Eva Anagnostu and Ken Parry (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2023), pp. 232-243.

Miles, Graeme, "Michael Psellos on Dialectic and Allegory", *Ancient Greek Dialectic and its Reception*, ed. Melina G. Mouzala (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023), pp. 457-468.

Freeman, Elizabeth, "Medieval Cistercian Nuns and Reform of and within Monastic Life", *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 57 (2022), pp. 309-328.

Freeman, Elizabeth, "The Vita and Visions of Sophia, an Otherwise Unknown Cistercian Nun from Fourteenth Century Germany", *Magistra: A Journal of Women's Spirituality in History* 28 (Winter 2022), pp. 5-39.

Freeman, Elizabeth, "English Cistercian Nuns and Administrative Documents. The Cartulary of Nun Cotham Priory (Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries)", *Analecta Cisterciensia* 72 (2022), pp. 181-224.

Douglas Ezzy (*University of Tasmania*), **Rebecca Banham,** and **Lori G. Beaman,** "Religious Anti-Discrimination Legislation and the Negotiation of Difference in Victoria, Australia", *Religion, State & Society* 50: 1 (2022), pp. 22-39.

Conference Presentations

Freeman, Elizabeth, "Medieval Cistercian Manuscripts in Australia: Digitised and Non-Digitised", conference paper presented at International Medieval Congress (conference organised by University of Leeds), July 2023.

Correspondent: Dr Elizabeth Freeman, *University of Tasmania, Medieval and European Studies*

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

School of Humanities and Languages, Arts, Design & Architecture, UNSW Sydney

Dr Andrew Beattie

'The Catholic Church and the internment of Nazis in occupied Germany', UNSW Sydney History seminar, 27 June 2023

'Legacies of resistance and silence. The German churches, the Nazi past, and the occupied present, 1945-1949', German Studies Association of Australia conference, University of Sydney, 30 November 2023

Dr Gregory Evon, Recent Works

Salvaging Buddhism to Save Confucianism in Chosŏn Korea (1392–1910) (Cambria Press, 2023): <https://www.cambriapress.com/pub.cfm?bid=902>

'Korea II: 936-1392', in Silk J; Bowring R; Eltschinger V (ed.), *Brill's Encyclopedia of Buddhism. Volume Four History: Part Two: Central and East Asia*, (Brill: Leiden and Boston, 2023), pp. 314 - 330, <https://brill.com/edcollbook/title/64905>

'Script Apartheid and Literary Production in Pre-modern Korea: Framing Pollock's Cosmopolitan and Vernacular in East Asia', in King R (ed.), *Cosmopolitan and Vernacular in the World of Wen 文: Reading Sheldon Pollock from the Sinographic Cosmopolis* (Brill: Leiden and Boston, 2023), pp. 349 - 377, <https://brill.com/display/title/36107>

'In the Vortex of Intellectual Change: Buddhist–Confucian Tensions in Memorializing Kim Sisŭp', in Glomb V; Löwensteinová M (ed.), *The Lives and Legacy of Kim Sisŭp (1435–1493)* (Brill: Leiden & Boston, 2023), pp. 74 - 87, <https://brill.com/edcollbook/title/62481>

'A Chronology of Key Biographical Events and Writings', in Glomb V; Löwensteinová M (ed.), *The Lives and Legacy of Kim Sisŭp (1435–1493): Dissent and Creativity in Chosŏn Korea*, (Brill: Leiden & Boston, 2023), pp. 21 - 33, <https://brill.com/edcollbook/title/62481>

'Han Yongun, Fukuzawa Yukichi, and Questions of Nationalism and Colonialism', in Kim HI; Park JY (ed.), *New Perspectives in Modern Korean Buddhism: Institution, Gender, and Secular Society* (SUNY Press: Albany, 2022), pp. 211 - 232, <https://sunypress.edu/Books/N/New-Perspectives-in-Modern-Korean-Buddhism#>

'Buddhism and Statecraft in Korea: The Long View', in Balkwill S; Benn JA (ed.), *Buddhist Statecraft in East Asia* (Brill: Leiden and Boston, 2022), pp. 119 - 139, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/9789004510227>

Dr Jan Láníček

'The Role of Family Networks in Holocaust Rescue: The case of Australia', Australasian Association for European History Conference, Australian National Conference, June 2023

Correspondent: Dr Jan Láníček, *University of New South Wales (UNSW), School of Humanities and Languages*

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY STUDIES IN RELIGION

Introduction

2023 has been a year of changes for Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. The new position we have in the School of Humanities is in flux, and became more so when the School Head, Professor Keith Dobney (Archaeology) resigned his position before his term as Head had expired, and took early retirement, returning to the United Kingdom. Keith Dobney had been a

strong supporter of Religion and worked closely with Dr Chris Hartney, who in 2023 took on the role of Chair of Discipline for the first time, to cement Religion's status within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).

The year ended with the disappointing news that the Dean of FASS, Professor Lisa Adkins, had decided in light of future staff retirements and small student numbers that Religion should be reduced from a Major to a Minor (involving the closure of the Honours programme as well). Staff and students, who made strong representations against this move, are concerned for the future and worry that the curriculum review work Religion engaged in during 2023 may come to nothing. However, the change from Major to Minor will not be implemented until 2027.

Other changes are also occurring; the Journal of Religious History, which has been closely involved with Studies in Religion since 2004, when Carole Cusack became the Review Editor during the Editorship of Nick Doumanis (now University of Illinois, US) and Nick Eckstein (University of Sydney), through her eight year term as Editor with Christopher Hartney, and after 2015 when their term expired, will move to Melbourne University of Divinity in January 2024, ending twenty years' association. Anna Haunton, Editor of TheRHA newsletter and Assistant Editor of Journal of Religious History, has decided to move on too, and it is important that she is commended for her excellent work over the past sixteen years.

Staff and Honorary Associate Conference Papers, Panels and Public Lectures¹

Joseph Azize, "Maronite Identity in Australia and the Expansion," 6th International Congress of Maronite Bishops of the Global Expansion, 26 September 2023.

Joseph Azize, "Translating the Maronite Liturgy from Syriac into English: First Principles," 6th International Congress of Maronite Bishops of the Global Expansion, 27 September 2023.

Joseph Azize, "Gurdjieff, Ritual, and the Sacred Dances," "On Rituals, Rites, and Ceremonies: The Power of Performance". The Inaugural Alana Bowden Memorial Symposium, School of Humanities and School of Art, Communication and English, 27 October 2023.

Doru Costache, "Creation's Natural Mortality and the 'Fall': Patristic Perspectives." Conference "The Fall in Science and Theology," New Zealand Christians in Science, Auckland, 27-28 October 2023 (in person).

Doru Costache, "Engaging Science Theologically: Lessons from John Chrysostom's Apophatic Stances." ANZATS Conference "Context and Tradition," 3-5 July 2023 (online).

Doru Costache, "Chrysostom's Apophatic Approach to God's Nature, Providential Activity, and Creation." Actualités Chrysostomiennes 2023. Sources Chrétiennes, Lyon, 21 June 2023 (online).

Doru Costache, "Who Knows Better? The Crisis of Knowing in Athanasius' *Against the Gentiles*." Workshop "The Many Faces of Crisis," Macquarie University, Department of History and Archaeology, 1-3 June 2023 (in person).

Doru Costache, "Towards a Scientifically Engaged Theology: Traditionally Anchored Methodological Considerations." The second conference of the International Orthodox Theological Association, "Mission and the Orthodox Church." Volos, Greece, 11-15 January 2023 (in person).

Doru Costache, "Orthodox Christianity and the Cosmic Setting of Human Experience, Including the Discussion of a Recent Article on David Bohm's Cosmology." Research seminar of the Research Centre for Astronomy, Astrophysics and Astrophotonics, Macquarie University. 5 May 2023 (in person).

¹ Where a publication or presentation has a date other than 2023, it is because appeared too late to be included in, or was accidentally omitted from, the 2021 report on Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney, published in *TheRHA* in early 2022.

- Doru Costache**, “The Whole and the Person: The Destiny of the Self in the Infinite Universe.” ISCAST-NZCIS Conversations series “Hardwired? Human Consciousness and Christian Belief.” 20 April 2023 (online).
- Doru Costache**, “Reporting on the activity of the “Cosmology” group of the project “Science and Orthodoxy around the World” (2020-2023), which I co-chaired with Alexei Nesteruk. Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens, 16-17 January 2023 (in person).
- Doru Costache**, “Review of *Natural Theology in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition*.” Philosophy of Religion Group, the second conference of the International Orthodox Theological Association, “Mission and the Orthodox Church.” Volos, Greece, 11-15 January 2023 (in person).
- Doru Costache**, “Orthodox Responses to the COVID Pandemic.” Panel “Church and the Pandemic,” the second conference of the International Orthodox Theological Association, “Mission and the Orthodox Church.” Volos, Greece, 11-15 January 2023 (in person).
- Carole M. Cusack**, “Framing New Religious Movements: New Perspectives and Challenges”, University of Turin, 24 May 2023. Keynote: “Studying New Religious Movements (NRMs) in the Twenty-First Century: Methodological Toolkits, Mixed Methods Approaches, and an Increasing Variety of Groups and Trends” (online).
- Carole M. Cusack**, “New and Minority Religions, Crises, and Resilience: Overcoming Inner and External Obstacles”, CESNUR Conference, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, 20-23 June 2023. Paper: “Gurdjieff, Esotericism and Creativity: Movements, Music, Literature, and Cultural Environments” (in person).
- Carole M. Cusack**, “Western Esotericism and Practice”, European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE) Conference, University of Malmo, Sweden, 26-28 June 2023. Paper: “Barry Long: Australia’s (Almost) Unknown Tantric Guru” (in person).
- Carole M. Cusack**, European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR) Conference, Vilnius, Lithuania, 4-8 September 2023. Panel: “Minority Religions,” with Erica Baffelli, Alexander van der Haven, Titus Hjelm, Rosalind Hackett, and Cristiana Facchini (in person).
- Carole M. Cusack**, Australian Celtic Conference, University of Sydney, 25-27 September 2023. Paper: “The Hamefarin: Invented Rituals, History, and Cultural Links Between Scotland and New Zealand” (in person).
- Carole M. Cusack**, Australian Early Medieval Association (AEMA) Conference, University of Sydney, 28-30 September 2023. Paper: “Wulfila, the Gothic Bible, and the Mission to the Goths: Rethinking the ‘Apostle to the Goths’ in Light of Homoian Theology, Conversion as a Strategy of Empire, and Fourth- Century Social and Cultural Transformations” (in person).
- Carole M. Cusack**, Katherine Mansfield 100, New Zealand (KM100NZ) Festival, 17-19 November 2023. Paper: “G. I. Gurdjieff and Katherine Mansfield: A Spiritual Encounter” (online).
- Carole M. Cusack**, Australian Association for the Study of Religion, University of Notre-Dame, Australia, 30 November – 2 December 2023. Paper: “Reclaiming ‘Cult’: The Transformative Effect of Ex-Member Memoirs on the Study of New Religions” (in person).
- Carole M. Cusack and Ray Radford**, ‘Discourse! What’s Happening. Down Under?’ *The Religious Studies Project*, 29 May 2023.
<https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/discourse-may-2023/>.
- Carole M. Cusack, Sasha Sagan, and Greg Epstein**, ‘The Transformation’, *Strange Customs Podcast* (March 2023). At: <https://www.sashasagan.com/podcast>.
- Carole M. Cusack and Sara Jolena Wolcott**, ‘The Shift from “Paganism” to Christianity in Northern Europe: A Conversation with Prof. Carole Cusack’, *The ReMembering and ReEnchanting Podcast: Episode 29* (5 August 2023).

<https://www.sequoiasamanvaya.com/the-shift-from-paganism-to-christianity-in-northern-europe-a-conversation-with-prof-carole-cusack>.

Iain Gardner, "Locating Mani in the Geography and Society of Early Sasanian Mesopotamia," 9th Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Society, 30 May to 3 June 2023, Yerevan, Armenia.

Christopher Hartney, "On Alana," "On Rituals, Rites, and Ceremonies: The Power of Performance". The Inaugural Alana Bowden Memorial Symposium, School of Humanities and School of Art, Communication and English, 27 October 2023.

Brikha H. S. Nasoraia, 'Mandaean Religion and Cultural Identity', public lecture, presented at Casula Community Centre, NSW, Australia, 2 July 2023.

Brikha H. S. Nasoraia, 'The Parental Rights in Religious and Social Education of Children', public presentation at the largest multifaith parents' assembly in NSW, hosted by the Parental Rights Committee Australia (PRCA), held at Marana Auditorium Hurstville (16 Macmahon St., Hurstville NSW) 24 June 2023.

Brikha H. S. Nasoraia, 'Spirituality within a Multi-cultural Society: *Encountering the Mystical in Contemporary Art*', public lecture, presented at the Regent Park Community Hub, Australia, 3 June 2023.

Brikha H. S. Nasoraia, 'Australian Refugee and Migrant Young Non-Christian Students: Their Search for Better Education, Identity, Meaning and Spirituality', a paper presented to the 4th ANU Religion Conference 2023, on *Religion in Modern Education: Conflict, Policy, and Practice*, 13 – 15 April 2023, held at the Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia.

Brikha H. S. Nasoraia, 'Transcendent: Soul and Consciousness in Contemporary Art', public lecture presented at Casula Community Centre, NSW, Australia, 3 March 2023.

Brikha H. S. Nasoraia, '**Spiritual Fabric**'. *Art Exhibition exploring Spirituality in Multi-cultural Australian Contemporary Art*. Exhibited at Regent Park Community Hub, Regents Park, NSW, Australia, 3-4 June 2023.

Student Conference Papers, Panels and Public Lectures

Rachel Ciano, "The practice of and protest against clerical families in Tudor England," Society for Reformation Studies Annual Conference, Cambridge University, April 2023.

Rachel Ciano, "Mary in History and Mission," Rome Scholars and Leaders Network Annual Conference, Rome, June 2023.

Rachel Ciano, "From priesthood to pastorate: the Reformation's renewal of the image of God," Evangelical Theological Society Annual Conference, 14-16 November 2023 (San Antonio, TX).

Ray Radford, "He's Not the Messiah, He's a very Bogan Jesus," Australian Association for the Study of Religion (AASR), 30 November – 1 December 2023.

Ray Radford, "'Keep Hope Alive': Preparing for White Christian Nationalism. A Conversation with Bradley Onishi, *The Religious Studies Project*, 17 April 2023.
<https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/keep-hope-alive-preparing-for-white-christian-nationalism/>

Ray Radford and Carole Cusack, 'Discourse! What's Happening Down Under?' *The Religious Studies Project*, 29 May 2023.
<https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/discourse-may-2023/>.

Tilak Groger, "That's not Biblical! A proposal for the expansion of what is considered to be 'Biblical' in light of scriptural productions from within modernity," Fellowship for Biblical Studies National Conference, Australian Catholic University, 26-28 September 2023.

Staff and Honorary Associate Publications

Joseph Azize, "P.D. Ouspensky's First Revision of *Tertium Organum*," *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 14, Issue 1, 2023. At: <https://www.pdcnet.org/collection-anonymous/browse?fp=asrr&fq=asrr>.

Carole M. Cusack, 'David Graeber and David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity* (2021) and "Big History": General Theories, Particular Facts, and Revisiting Evidence', *Journal of the British Association for the Study of Religion (JBASR)*, Vol. 24, 2023, pp. 94-99.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Sports: Quasi-Religious, Para-Religious, or Religious?' *Journal of the Korean Association for New Religions (JKANR)*, Vol. 49, 2023, pp. 61-77.

Carole M. Cusack, "Culture, Heritage and Tourism: The Border Abbeys of Scotland", *Sydney Society for Scottish History Journal*, Vol. XXI, 2023, pp. 69-82.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Danza esotérica y transformación espiritual: Los Movimientos de Gurdjieff', in Irene López Arnaiz and Raquel López Fernández (eds), *Coreografiar lo invisible: Danza, arte y esoterismo en los albores del siglo XX*, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Sans Soleil Ediciones, 2023, pp. 295-318.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Editor's Introduction', *Journal of Daeseon Thought and the Religions of East Asia*, Vol. 3, No. 1 2023, pp. 9-10.
https://www.jdre.org/archive/list_article?volume=3&issue=1.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Introduction,' *Fieldwork in Religion*, Vol. 18, No. 2, 2023, pp. 155-157.

Carole M. Cusack and Rachelle Scott, 'Introduction,' *Fieldwork in Religion*, Vol. 18, No. 1, 2023, pp. 5-7.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Editor's Introduction', *Journal of Daeseon Thought and the Religions of East Asia*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2023, pp. 9-10.
https://www.jdre.org/archive/list_article?volume=2&issue=1.

Jason BeDuhn, Paul Dilley and Iain Gardner (eds), *The Medinet Madi Library of Manichaean Codices at 90. Papers from the Symposium at the Chester Beatty Library, 18-19 October 2019*, Leiden and Boston, Brill 2022, 2023.

Iain Gardner, "The Heidelberg Magical Archive: A Discussion of its Origins, Context and Purpose," in Jay Johnston and Iain Gardner (eds), *Drawing Spirit: The Role of Images and Design in the Magical Practice of Late Antiquity*, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 45-72.

Iain Gardner, "An Archive of Coptic Handbooks and Exemplars for the Making of Amulets and the Enacting of Ritual Power from the Tenth Century (P. Heid. Inv. Kopt. 680–683 and 685–686)," in Jay Johnston and Iain Gardner (eds), *Drawing Spirit: The Role of Images and Design in the Magical Practice of Late Antiquity*, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 73-134.

Christopher Hartney, "Canonising the White Saints of Freedom," in Akil N. Awan and James R. Lewis (eds), *Radicalisation: A Global and Comparative Perspective*, London, Hurst Publishing 2023, pp. 105-120.

Christopher Hartney (with Zoe Alderton), *The Field, Its Paths: A Student's Guide to the Study of Religion*, 8th edition, Sydney, Way of the Scholar Press, 2023.

Jay Johnston and Iain Gardner (eds), *Drawing Spirit: The Role of Images and Design in the Magical Practice of Late Antiquity*, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2023.

Jay Johnson, "Image Play: On Angels and Insects," in Jay Johnston and Iain Gardner (eds), *Drawing Spirit: The Role of Images and Design in the Magical Practice of Late Antiquity*, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 185-208.

Jay Johnston, "Magical Images: An Esoteric Aesthetics of Engagement," in Jay Johnston and Iain Gardner (eds), *Drawing Spirit: The Role of Images and Design in the Magical Practice of Late Antiquity*, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 7-28.

Jay Johnston, "Subtle Bodies and Ecology: Intersubjectivity, Alterity and New Materialism," in Yudit Kornberg Greenberg and George Pati (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and the Body*, London and New York: Routledge.

Ruth Barcan and Jay Johnston, "Birds as buddies: the politics of sentimentality in the Birds in backyards (Australia) Facebook site," *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies*, 2023. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10304312.2023.2234106>.

Brikha H. S. Nasoraia, "Mana and Dualism in the Mandaean Tripartite System: with special reference to the esoteric text, *Diwan-Qadaha-Rba-D-Dmuth-Kušta*," in Erica D. D. Hunter (ed.), *Festschrift for Rifaat Y. Ebied in Honour of his Contributions to Semitic Studies: Presented for his 85th Birthday, 29th June 2023*, Piscataway, NJ, 2023, pp. 249-276.

Garry W. Trompf, *Violence and Religious Change in the Pacific Islands*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023.

Garry W. Trompf, "Comte's Classification of the Sciences," in Birger Hjørland and Claudio Gnoli (eds), *ISKO Encyclopedia of Knowledge Organization (IEKO)*, Copenhagen, International Society for Knowledge Organization. At: <https://isico.org/cyclo/comte>.

Garry W. Trompf, "Auguste Comte's Classification of the Sciences," *Knowledge Organization*, Vol. 50, No. 2, 2023, pp. 128-152.

Garry W. Trompf, "An Agenda for the Study of the Jesus Letter," *Iran and the Caucasus*, Vol. 27, Nos 4-5, 2023, Special Issue in Honour of James R. Russell, pp. 374-384.

Garry W. Trompf, "History, Myth and Legend: Review article of S. Fink and R. Rollinger (eds), *Conceptualizing Past, Present and Future*; L. Audley-Miller and B. Dignas (eds), *Wandering Myths*; and H. Haarmann, *The Hero Cult: A Spectacle of World History that Changed Civilization*", *Ancient West and East*, Vol. 22, pp. 302-304.

Student Publications

Rachel Ciano and Ian Maddock, *10 Dead Gals You Should Know: Leaving an Enduring Legacy*, Christian Focus Publications, 2023.

Felix Parker, "Pattern and Form: Pareidolia as a Substratum to Creativity and Belief," *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 14, No. 1, 2023.

Mo A. Quirk, "From *Banib* to Bunyip: Tracking Bricolage and Knowledge Systems in Colonized Aboriginal Spirituality," *Folklore*, Vol. 134, Issue 1, 2023, pp. 111-129.

Raymond Radford, "'This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land': Contested History, Place and Myth", *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 14, No. 1, 2023.

Raymond Radford, "Isolation, Social Distancing, and the End Times: Reactions to a 21st Century Pandemic", *International Journal for the Studies of New Religions*, Vol. 12, No. 2, 2021.

Staff and Honorary Associate Distinctions

Doru Costache became Chair of the Sydney College of Divinity's Theology Research Network from 2023 onwards.

Doru Costache was a Finalist of the 2023 ANZATS Inaugural Established Scholar Book Prize for *Humankind and the Cosmos* (Brill, 2021).

Doru Costache was recipient of the Selby Old Fellowship in Religious History of the Orthodox Christian Faith at the University of Sydney Library (2023-2024).

Doru Costache was recipient of a grant from the Australian Research Theology Foundation, Inc. on behalf of ISCAST, for project "Developing the ISCAST Journal: *Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology*" (2023-2024).

Doru Costache was Co-chair of the international expert group "Cosmology," Project Science and Orthodoxy around the World/SOW II. Institute of Historical Research at National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens. 2020-2023. <https://inters.org/websites/project-sow>

Doru Costache was from June-August 2023 a Member of the Independent External Review Panel for the evaluation of the Course Review Working Group's input to the Australian College of Theology's following suite of courses: Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, Master of Theology, Advanced Diploma of Ministry, Advanced Diploma of Theology, Diploma of Ministry, Diploma of Theology, Diploma of Theology/Diploma of Ministry (Combined), Undergraduate Certificate of Ministry, Undergraduate Certificate of Theology.

Doru Costache was invited to nominate titles (including the reasons for nomination) for the 2023 Iris Book Award, an annual book prize in science, religion, nature, and technology (<https://crh.indiana.edu/projects/religion-science-technology/iris-book-award.html>).

Doru Costache was coordinator of Sydney College of Divinity's Theology Research Network seminar series "Religiously Human in a Techno-Scientific World: Theological, Missional, and Pastoral Perspectives" (organised together with ISCAST); 2022-2024 (five seminars this year).

Doru Costache was Co-convenor (with Nicola Hoggard Creegan) of the "Faith & Science" stream of ANZATS 2023 Conference "Context and Tradition," 3-5 July 2023.

Doru Costache was Co-editor of the ISCAST Journal: *Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology*
<https://journal.iscast.org/>.

Carole M. Cusack became a Member of the Editorial Board, *Advances in Religious Studies* (Bloomsbury Book Series), 2023 onwards.

Jay Johnston was elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Student Distinctions

Rachel Ciano was appointed to the executive committee of the Evangelical History Association.

Rachel Ciano received a US\$1,000 grant from the Templeton Foundation as an Emerging Scholar to attend the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Conference, 14-16 November 2023 in San Antonio, TX.

Studies in Religion Research Seminars 2023

28 February:

Prof Iain Gardner (University of Sydney), "An archive of Coptic magical handbooks and exemplars for the making of amulets: Popular ritual practice and the Christian community of tenth century Egypt."

21 March:

Gregory Uzelac (University of Sydney), "The Superflat Divine: Unlocking Religious Myth Through Contemporary Art."

4 April:

Dr Breann Fallon (Sydney Jewish Museum): "Religion and Research In Museums: From AI to ARC Grants."

17 April:

Prof. Massimo Introvigne (CESNUR, Turin), "New Religious Movements and Anti-Cultism in Taiwan and the Tai Ji Men Case."

2 May:

Colin Stoodley (PhD candidate), "The factors that determine the viability of a new church in its first five years."

29 August:

Rev. Dr Doru Costache (Sydney College of Divinity/ University of Sydney): "Considerations about the 'Codex Angus', A Byzantine Manuscript in the University of Sydney Library."

27 October:

"On Rituals, Rites, and Ceremonies: The Power of Performance". The Inaugural Alana Bowden Memorial Symposium, School of Humanities and School of Art, Communication and English.

Student Prize Winners in Religion, 2021 (Awarded 2022)²

- **Tabitha Caitlin Wilson** received the G. S. Caird Prize (Junior).
- **Sarah Lewis** received the John Cooper Memorial Prize (Undergraduate).
- **Freya Dastoor** received the Rachel McKibbin Prize (Honours).

Religion Honours and Postgraduate Graduations, 2021

- **Laura Dyason**, 'Leaving the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church: The Experiences of Multi-Generational Adults Exiting a Closed Religious Community' (PhD).
- **Michael Whiting**, 'Religious imagination and place-making for the Church of England in Canberra, 1911-1960' (PhD).
- **Dario Pizzuto**, 'The Same Old Story? Examining Religio-Spatial Changes in Tibet and Xinjiang and Contextualising the Within Broader Transformations Occurring in China' (Honours Class I)

Correspondent: Professor Carole M. Cusack, *Studies in Religion, University of Sydney*

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

In 2023, the University closed the research program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, with 4 associated job losses. This will affect ACU's ability to contribute to research and research training in these fields, although significant expertise remains. A highlight for this program was a research training event for HDR students across Australia and New Zealand held in November 2023, associated with the visit of **Professor Miri Rubin** (Queen Mary) and the Australia and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

² The Student Prize Winners list in the 2022 Studies in Religion report published in *TheRHA* early in 2023 was incorrect. It recorded the winners from 2022 who were to receive their prizes in the 2023 ceremony. As the winners from 2021 who received their prizes at the 2022 ceremony have been nowhere acknowledged, I have recorded them this year.

Team research includes projects on 'Flourishing in Early Christianity', which held international seminars on Spaces and Communal Flourishing, Creativity under Constraint, and Resurrection, Transformation, and the 'Ends' of Life in the Face of Death. The Religious Mobilities Project held a successful seminar 'Crossroads of Communication' in Rome in October, and hosted **Professor Fiona Griffiths**, Professor of History and Chair, Department of Religious Studies at Stanford who gave a public lecture on 'Priests' Wives in Medieval Europe – Excavating a Forgotten History of Women'. A collaboration also in Rome with Harvard's Human Flourishing Program, Boston College's Lonergan Institute, and the Institute for the Study of Religion at Baylor brought together historians, philosophers, psychologists, and theologians, educational leaders and curriculum designers around the theme 'Makarios: Character and Virtue in the Christian Tradition'.

Key publications in religious history in 2023 include **Megan Cassidy-Welch's** *Crusades and Violence* and a 912pp edited collection with CUP, *The Intellectual World of Late Antique Christianity: Reshaping Classical Traditions*, the capstone output of the 5-year project *Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity*, which concluded in 2022.

Correspondent: Dr Michael Champion, ACU, Institute for Religion & Critical Inquiry Research

SYDNEY COLLEGE OF DIVINITY

Catholic Institute of Sydney and the University of Notre Dame Australia

At the time of reporting, activities/events in the field of Religious History were unavailable.

Correspondent: Robert Andrews, Sydney College of Divinity

UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

and

University of Divinity's Saint Athanasius Coptic Theological College

At the time of reporting, activities/events in the field of Religious History were unavailable.

Correspondent: Associate Professor Glen O'Brien, Eva Burrows College, University of Divinity

ACT

Publications

Michael Gladwin, 'Howard Mowll and the First World War', in Erin Mollenhauer (ed.), *Howard and Dorothy Mowll: Global Anglican Pioneers*. Oxford: Latimer Trust, 2023.

Michael Gladwin, 'Reading Anzac Religion and the Sacred: The Bible as a Central Text and Artefact of Australian Soldiers' Experience of the First World War', *Journal of Religious History*, vol. 47, no. 2 (June 2023): 196–221.

Completions

Mikey Lynch, MTh dissertation (history). 'Faithful Flexibility: The Evolution of Ministry Roles in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, 1883–1913.'
Awarded First Class Honours.

Rebecca Hilton, PhD (history). 'Australian Baptist women: 1882–1945: "Writing with their lives.'

Peter McDonald, *Independent Scholar*

'The Papacy and the English Religious, 1205-1352', *Parergon*, 40.1 (2023), 19-49. This paper (available on Project Muse at <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/62/article/905413>) explores how the administrative centralisation of the first four Avignon popes in assertion of their plenitudo potestatis worked, or failed to work, in their engagement with the religious orders in England.

Peter McDonald, 'Peterborough Abbey and Warmington Church: A Sequel', *Northamptonshire Past and Present*, 76 (2023), 9-12, is a brief note on an appropriation dispute which also provides sidelights on the appointments and activities of several canon lawyers.

Correspondent: Dr Michael Gladwin, *St Mark's National Theological Centre, School of Theology, Charles Sturt University, Canberra*

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Campbell Markham finished his PhD, with a thesis entitled 'Marie Durant (1711-1776): French Protestant prisoner and letter writer: A recovery of her thought.'

Wal Slaven, at Murdoch University, was awarded a PhD with the topic 'A History of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Western Australia'.

Cameron Jeffrey, at UWA, completed an MPhil, with a thesis entitled 'Erasmus' Christian Philosophy: Feeling Reason and Religion in Preaching and Pedagogy'.

Yasmin Haskell (UWA), on a stint at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, gave public lectures on early modern Jesuit education at the Colleges of Bryn Mawr, William and Mary, Harvard, Princeton, the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton) and Accademia Vivarium Novum (Frascati). She also gave the Peter Craigie Memorial Lecture in Religion at the University of Calgary on April 14.

Kirk Essary (UWA) completed his book, *The Renaissance of Feeling: Erasmus and Emotion*, which is due out with Bloomsbury in early 2024.

Correspondent: Dr Kirk Essary, *The University of Western Australia, Perth*

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Wishing you all every success, refreshed enthusiasm and new achievements for this coming year. With warmest thanks to our authors, members and correspondents who continue to report on new and ongoing research and other scholarly activity in the field of Religious History.

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