

Newsletter

No. 15 | September 2025

ReligiousHistoryAssociation@gmail.com

Welcome!

Welcome to our 2025 Newsletter! We have been waiting for our new website to be fully operational before sending out the newsletter. Please check out our [new website](#) and be sure to join or renew your subscription.

In this newsletter we have reports from our president, journal editors and correspondents. We also announce the Bruce Mansfield Prize winner for 2024. And we introduce our journal's new reviews editor. Read on!

President's Message | Professor Megan Cassidy-Welch



It is my pleasure to write this short report for the newsletter, the first since I was appointed President of the association last year. Many thanks to both our immediate Past President, Professor Constant Mews, for all his work steering the association in the last several years, and to the RHA committee for their work and support for religious history and the association.

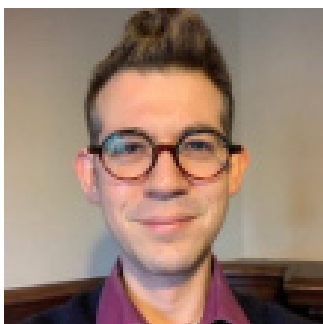
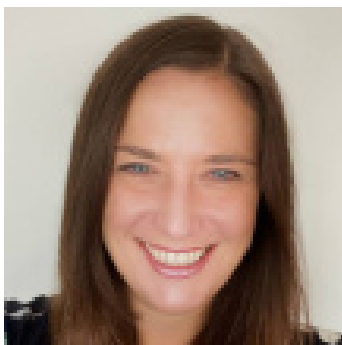
Our newsletter outlines some of the wonderful work being done in religious history throughout Australia and beyond. The RHA committee has prioritised refreshing the outward facing aspects of the Association recently, especially the website. Professor Paul Watt has been managing the transition of materials from the old site to the new

one and, with a couple of small glitches to be ironed out, the [new website](#) is up and running. We hope that this is also a first step to increasing the visibility of the RHA and its work. This refreshed website presence comes with updates to our social media profile, and an updated logo and colour, all in progress.

We have introduced a conference bursary scheme with members of the association able to apply for up to AUD\$1000 each round (one per year) to support the costs of presenting their work on religious history at an academic conference. Details are on the new website. We hope that this investment in research support will both lift the profile and membership of the Association and help to advance religious history research more generally.

Looking to the next 12 months, I hope that the increased visibility of the Association and its work through the updated web presence and conference bursary scheme will help to promote and advance religious history research around Australia and beyond. We are seeking to partner with cognate associations and societies on activities such as seminars and talks in the coming year, as well as maintain a presence at conferences. At a time when humanities research and teaching is worryingly reduced in academic departments in Australia and further afield, it is critical that peak bodies such as the Religious History Association continue to provide opportunities for scholars to engage with others, support emerging researchers, and advocate confidently for the fundamental importance of our fields of research and teaching in the wider world.

Editors' Report Journal of Religious History | Dr Celeste McNamara and Dr Miles Pattenden



The Journal continues to attract a good number of submissions. However, we continue to desk reject the overwhelming majority. The worrying trend of submissions coming

primarily from scholars in emerging locations, whose submitted work is not up to publishable standards, continues.

We are in reasonable shape for the next few issues in spite of this. Issue 49.3 has 5 original articles ready to go. Issue 49.4 (December) was intended to be a special issue, but due to the poor quality of several of the submitted articles, it will instead have a special section devoted to the theme of anti-Catholicism. We are awaiting articles on two other special issues slated for next year – one on ‘Escape to and from Medieval Monasteries’, and another on ‘Anti-Protestantisms’. We currently have four manuscripts in revision and four serious potential articles in initial consideration. Depending on the quality of the special issue submissions, this might be sufficient for 2026 but ideally we would have more in the pipeline, and need to consider how we might encourage more established scholars to submit work to the journal.

Finally, we are working on a forum on the past and future of religious history for the journal’s fiftieth volume. We invited a number of eminent scholars to submit short pieces considering the evolution and/or state of the field. We have about a dozen scholars who have agreed to contribute a piece by the end of January.

In terms of book reviews, we have 37 reviews expected in the coming months (including one review article), approximately 75 that were completed this year, and about 25 outstanding reviews which Paul Watt is chasing up (some of which are very overdue, and thus may never come in). There are also about 15 titles for which we are seeking reviewers at the moment. We remain in a good position to publish 15–20 reviews per issue.

New Reviews Editor for Journal of Religious History | Dr Joshua Rushton



We are delighted to announce the appointment of [Dr Joshua Rushton](#) as the new Review editor. Joshua is a social and cultural historian of early modern religious life with a focus on Catholicism, Italy and global environments. Josh is currently Lecturer in Early Modern History at the University of Manchester. Josh was recently awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship for his new project ‘Catholic Renewal and Environmental Change in the Early Modern World’ which he will carry out at the University of Manchester.

Bruce Mansfield Prize Winner for 2024: Congratulations to Dr Brendan Röder!



Each year the RHA awards the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article published in the *Journal of Religious History*. For 2024, the award goes to [Dr Brendan Röder](#), from LMU Munich, for his article, ‘Skin Colour and Priesthood. Debating Bodily Differences in Early Modern Catholicism’, *JRH* 48/2 (2024): 135–152. The article’s abstract is below:

‘Can people of different skin colours become Catholic priests? What may seem self-evident from today’s perspective, Catholic theologians and canon lawyers controversially debated in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. While most authors agreed that colour per se was not a problematic factor, an increasing number argued that non-white individuals should not serve as priests in white communities because of the negative reactions they would provoke there. This article argues that by taking this “perspectivist view” the Catholic Church could claim universality and flexibility in its admission policy whereas, in fact, it incorporated and reinforced anti-Blackness. The article analyses the hitherto unexplored history of this debate, situates it within broader thinking about bodily differences in an increasingly global Catholic world and shows how it intersected with practical issues surrounding the establishment of an indigenous clergy throughout the Catholic empires and missionary zones.’

Publications and Activities Reports

Sydney | Professor Carole M. Cusack

In 2024, Studies in Religion has had some very high moments and some difficult times. Professor Jay Johnston resigned her 0.5 position and Professor Iain Gardner signalled that he would retire when his ARC grant ended and leave entitlements were used up in 2025. Dr Christopher Hartney continued as Chair of Discipline and was fully engaged with all administrative and managerial processes at both the level of the School of Humanities and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Professor Carole Cusack had Semester 1 on leave and Semester 2 on a Fellowship at Harvard University’s Center for the Study of World Religions (CSWR), working on a project to hold a large conference on G. I. Gurdjieff that engaged both scholars and practitioners. The CSWR partnered

with the Gurdjieff Society of Massachusetts and this event was held on 4–5 December 2024.

The most exciting development of 2024 was the residencies of the first two Robert K. Bassingthwaite Fellows, Dr Zsuzsanna Gulácsi (Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff) and Dr Alexandra Grieser (Assistant Professor, Trinity College Dublin). Dr Gulácsi's five-week residency included three public lectures (one on the Art and Archaeology of Silk Road Religions), and 'Manichaean Artifacts at Dunhuang and the 'Book Cemeteries' of Buddhist archaeological sites in Medieval East Central Asia'. Dr Gulácsi is a long-time collaborator with Professor Gardner. Dr Grieser's three-month residency (1 March – 30 May) included research seminars and public lectures on her research into esoteric and spiritual dance forms. Dr Grieser is a long-term collaborator with Professor Jay Johnston. The Religion research event of Semester 1 was held on 23 April and featured both Bassingthwaite Fellows: Dr Gulácsi spoke on 'Jesus as a Manichaean Guiding Bodhisattva: Three religions and their curious presence in a 9th century Chinese silk painting from Dunhuang', and Dr Grieser spoke on "'In the Beginning there was Movement": Rethinking Religion and Dance from an Aesthetics of Religion Perspective'. A reception was held in the Vere Gordon Childe Centre Boardroom, Madsen Building.

Carole Cusack also continued as sole Editor of *Literature & Aesthetics*, journal of the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics, three issues in 2024), sole Editor of *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review* (PDC, USA, two issues in 2024), sole Editor of *Journal of Daesoon Thought and the Religions of East Asia* (Daejin University, Korea, two issues in 2024), Acting Editor of *Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies* (Wuhan University, China, one issue in 2024), Review Editor of *International Journal of New Religions* (Equinox, Bernadette Rigal-Cellard Editor, two issues in 2024), and Editorial Group member of *Sydney Society of Scottish History Journal* (one issue in 2024). Dr Raymond Radford, a recent PhD graduate in Studies in Religion, taught in Semesters 1 and 2, and won accolades as constructor and manager of Canvas sites, unit coordinator, and curriculum developer. Religion was fortunate to have him and other sessional teachers including Dr Katja Strehle (Western Sydney University) and Greg Uzelac to deliver its programme in 2024.

Staff and Honorary Associate Conference Papers, Panels and Public Lectures

Note: Where a publication or presentation has a date other than 2024, it is because appeared too late to be included in, or was accidentally omitted from, the 2023 report on Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney, published in *TheRHA* in early 2024.

Zoe Alderton, 'Enchanted Girlhood: "no explanations, only invocations of myth', Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR),

Charles Sturt University (St Mark's Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Joseph Azize, 'Gurdjieff: Alchemy, The Emerald Tablet, Contemplation, and Movements', The Legacy and Teachings of G. I. Gurdjieff, Harvard University, 5–6 December 2024.

Joseph Azize, 'Purgatory: An Approach through Syriac Typology', Eschatology in the Third Millennium Conference, University of Notre Dame, Australia (UNDA), 2024.

Doru Costache, 'Human Perfection Between Deification in Christ and Technological Enhancement', ISCAST's COSAC 2024: Humanity 2.0? God, Technology, and the Future of Being Human. New College at the University of New South Wales, 29 November – 1 December 2024. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxsUkkwN2ic>

Doru Costache, 'Communicating Theologically Interpreted Scientific Information to Christian Congregations: Patristic and Neopatristic Lessons', ANZATS Conference "Connection and Community," Faith & Science stream, 30 June – 3 July 2024. Uniting College for Leadership and Theology, Adelaide (delivered online). Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fojOiBN6zA>.

Doru Costache, 'Thinking of Transdisciplinarity', Talk given for the Romanian celebration of *The Charter of Transdisciplinarity: The 30th Anniversary*, 7 November 2024. Audio recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8EttGs8ACE&t=134s>

Doru Costache, 'Bridging Theology, the Humanities, and the Hard Sciences through Transdisciplinarity: Personal Reflections', Talk given for the global event *The Charter of Transdisciplinarity: The 30th Anniversary*. Event organised online by The National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH, Mexico), Complexa Transdisciplinarity (Transcomplexa, Mexico), The International Center for Transdisciplinary Research and Studies (CIRET, France), UNESCO Transdisciplinary Chair at the University of Florence (CTU, Italy), and The Transdisciplinary Training Unit (Unitransd, Brasil), 6 November 2024. Audio available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpPFy1lVZwQ&t=134s>

Doru Costache, 'An Eastern Orthodox Perspective on the Christology of the Assyrian Church of the East', Talk given for the Nisibis Symposium 2024, held under the auspices of the Assyrian Church of the East (ACOE), Diocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon. Western Sydney University, Campbelltown NSW, 2 November 2024. Audio recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPOQsMXz5Jk>

Doru Costache, Invited to respond to a Q&A session about faith & science/science-engaged theology, hosted by The Very Rev'd Dr Antonios Kaldas within his course unit "Natural Theology: Knowing God through His World" (T7209/T9209). St Cyril's Coptic Orthodox Theological College. 22 October 2024 (online).

Doru Costache, 'Introducing Science-Engaged Theology', A talk for the research seminar of the Sydney College of Divinity's Graduate Research School. 10 September 2024 (online). Available at <https://tinyurl.com/fhmvr9bk>

Doru Costache, Respondent to Hermina Nedelescu's talk, 'Uncovering the "Invisible" Universe of the Brain at the Crossing of Neuroscience, Art, and Theology'. Sydney College of Divinity's Theology Research Network-ISCAST seminar series "Religiously Human in a Techno- Scientific World." 31 May 2024 (online).

Doru Costache, 'The Qur'an and its Community'. Guest lecture for Christopher Hartney's RLST1002 Sacred Texts: Story, Morality, Worldview. Studies in Religion in the School of Humanities at the University of Sydney. 30 April 2024.

Doru Costache, Guest speaker for the Mentoring Program of New Zealand Christians in Science (<https://www.nzcis.org/what-we-do/>), at the invitation of Nicola Hoggard Creegan, coordinator. 15 April 2024 (online).

Doru Costache, 'The New Testament'. Guest lecture for Christopher Hartney's RLST1002 Sacred Texts: Story, Morality, Worldview. Studies in Religion in the School of Humanities at the University of Sydney. 9 April 2024.

Doru Costache, 'The Torah, The Tanakh'. Guest lecture for Christopher Hartney's RLST1002 Sacred Texts: Story, Morality, Worldview. Studies in Religion in the School of Humanities at the University of Sydney. 19 March 2024.

Doru Costache, 'Origen and Evagrius' *On Prayer*'. Guest lecture for Anthony St Shenouda's H7292/8192 The Art of Prayer. St Cyril's Coptic Orthodox Theological College. Semester 1, 2024 (prerecorded video).

Carole M. Cusack, 'Colonialism, Medievalism, and Sacred Spaces/Places: Gothic Revival Church Architecture in Australia', Invited Talk, Sydney Medieval and Renaissance Group, 10 April 2024.

Carole M. Cusack, "Medieval Divorce: Consanguinity, Papal Dispensations, and Property," Invited Lecture, Plantagenet Society of Australia, Turramurra Uniting Church, 20 July 2024.

Carole M. Cusack, "Esoteric Dance as Ritual: Rudolf Steiner's Eurythmy and G. I. Gurdjieff's Movements," Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, 30 September 2024.

Carole M. Cusack, "Revisiting Anne Hamilton-Byrne: New Evidence for Studying Australia's Most Notorious 'Cult'," Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, 17 October 2024.

Carole M. Cusack, “Shinto: A Religion of Japan,” for PhD coursework ‘Religion and the Arts’, Dallas International University, 21 October 2024.

Carole M. Cusack, “Shinto Motifs in Hayao Miyazaki’s *Spirited Away*,” for PhD coursework ‘Religion and the Arts’, Dallas International University, 28 October 2024.

Carole M. Cusack, The Legacy and Teachings of G. I. Gurdjieff, Harvard University, 5-6 December. Keynote: ‘G. I. Gurdjieff, the Work, and the Academic Study of Religion and Esotericism’.

Carole M. Cusack, Esotericism and Global Visual Culture, University of Tokyo, 5–6 October. Paper: ‘Esoteric Symbols in Two East Asian New Religions: The *Tenchi Kakitsuke* in Konkokyo and the *Yeongbu* in Donghak’.

Carole M. Cusack, Daesoon Thought and the Religions of East Asia Conference, Daesoon Academy of Sciences, 25 June. Paper: ‘Nineteenth Century Chinese Temples in Australia: History, Religion and Heritagisation’.

Carole M. Cusack, The Contribution of Minority Religions to Society, CESNUR Conference, Universite Bordeaux Montaigne, 12-15 June. Paper: ‘The Gurdjieff Work and Literary Cultural Production’.

Christopher Hartney, “From Caodaist Refugee Ontologies to How We ‘Place’ Collective Shamanic Astral Travel,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Elisha McIntyre, “Is It My Place? Exploring an independent researcher's place in the study of Mormon investment in Place,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28-29 November 2024.

Maurice Quirk, “Where did the Mothman come from? Psychogeography and the development of an urban legend,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Geraldine Smith and Christopher Hartney, ‘When Your Lucifer is My Satan: The Jesus Christians in Court and How Legal Processes Remain Deaf to Interreligious Conflict’, Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Tara Smith, “‘Fede Imperialis’: The Role and Power of Prayer in Warhammer 40,000,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Daniel Tower, “Mapping Mesopotamia: The political legacy of colonial maps of Iraqi ethnoreligious communities,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Student Conference Papers, Panels and Public Lectures

Minh Ha Bui, “Buddhist Tourism in Vietnam,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Minh Ha Bui, ‘Buddhism in Vietnam and Thich Nhat Hanh’s Legacy, guest lecture, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, 26 March 2024.

Gabriel Jessop-Smith, “The Ideology of the Katiba Macina: Local Complexities and Global Jihad in Contemporary West Africa,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Dario Pizzuto, “No Middle Ground: Challenges to Religious Centrality in Lhasa's Urban Fabric,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Kenny Selamatan, “Critique of Religious Reason: Becoming Acrobats with Peter Sloterdijk,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Gregory Uzelac, “The Language of the Slaves: De-Judeazing Exodus in Hollywoodian Egypt,” Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Suvarna Variyar, ‘Imagined Places and Conflicting Communities: Twenty-Two Years of the Babri Masjid Affair’, Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Jessica Wilson, ‘The Development of Premillennial Violence in Australia: A Subgroup Interconnectivity Model Designed to Assist in Assessing Ongoing Risks to the Social Continuum’, Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Liz Wong, ‘Love in the Second Dimension’, Conference Presentation, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* (AASR), Charles Sturt University (St Mark’s Canberra Campus), 28–29 November 2024.

Staff and Honorary Associate Publications

Zoe Alderton, “‘Nothing Tastes as Good as Skinny Feels’: Kate Moss and the Role of the ‘Extraordinary Body’ in Cult Formation,” *International Journal for the Study of New Religions*, Vol. 12, No. 1, 2021, pp. 157–184.

Joseph Azize, ‘Gurdjieff: Ritual Movements and Prayer’, *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 1, 2024, pp. 52–78.

Joseph Azize, *J. G. Bennett: Witness to Death and Resurrection* (Rhinebeck, NY: Red Elixir, 2024).

Joseph Azize, ‘The Foundation Period of the Maronite Church’, *Religions*, Vol. 15, 2024.

Joseph Azize and Steven Sutcliffe, “‘Only this Will Bring Results’: Practising Gurdjieff’s Exercises in a Search Culture,” in *Intentional Transformative Experiences*, ed. Sarah Perez, Bastiaan van Rijn, and Jens Schleiter (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024), pp. 97–120.

Doru Costache, “Athanasius on Deacons and the Diaconate,” in Bart J. Koet, Edwina Murphy, and Esko Ryökäs (eds), *Deacons and Diakonia in Late Antiquity: The Third Century Onwards* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2024), pp. 64–77.

Doru Costache, “Abraham, the Contemplation of Nature and Divine Vision in Clement of Alexandria,” in Nichifor Tănase, Marius Portaru and Daniel Lemeni (eds), *Knowing God in Light: Theophany and Language* (LIT Verlag, 2024), pp. 127–144.

Doru Costache, ‘Pomii paradisului: Perspective patristice’, in Ciprian Costin Apintiliesei and Constantin Pogor (eds), *Teologia ortodoxă românească în diaspora: Misiune și creativitate* (București: Basilica, 2024), pp. 207–232.

Doru Costache, Guest editor of a special issue of *De Medio Aevo*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (2024), *Scientific Interests and Technological Innovation in Byzantium: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. <https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/DMAE/issue/view/4544>

Doru Costache, ‘Astral Iconography and the Byzantine Study of the Heavens,’ *De Medio Aevo*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (2024), pp. 321–351, <https://doi.org/10.5209/dmae.96568>.

Doru Costache, ‘Editorial: Scientific Interests and Technological Innovation in Byzantium: Interdisciplinary Perspectives,’ *De Medio Aevo*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (2024), pp. 255–260, <https://doi.org/10.5209/dmae.97634>.

Doru Costache, ‘Transitions in Patristic Cosmology: From Cosmophobia to Universe-(Re)Making,’ *Religions*, Vol. 15 (2024), <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/15/6/728>.

Doru Costache and Richard de Grijs, ‘The Cosmology of David Bohm: Scientific and Theological Significance,’ *Theology and Science*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (2024), pp. 204–220.

Doru Costache and Geraint F. Lewis. *A New Copernican Turn: Contemporary Cosmology, the Self, and Orthodox Science-Engaged Theology* (London and New York: Routledge, 2024). ISBN 9781032863498.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Nineteenth Century Chinese Temples in Australia: History, Religion and Heritagisation', *Journal of Daesoon Thought and the Religions of East Asia* (JDTREA), Vol. 4, No. 1, 2024, pp. 121–146. At: <https://accesson.kr/jdtrea/>.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Invented Religions and the Law: The Significance of Colanders, Hoods, and Pirate Costumes for Members of Jediism and the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster', in Margo Kitts (ed.), *Violence, Conspiracies, and New Religions: A Tribute to the Work of James R. Lewis*, Equinox, 2024, pp. 129–148.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Wulfila, the Gothic Bible, and the Mission to the Goths: Rethinking the 'Apostle to the Goths' in Terms of Homoian Theology, Conversion as a Strategy of Empire, and Fourth Century Social and Cultural Transformations', *Religions*, Vol. 15, 2024. At: <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/15/10/1177>.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Portraying Charisma: The Representation of G. I. Gurdjieff in Fiction', *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 1, 2024, pp. 79–100.

Carole M. Cusack, "'Druids Down Under": Australian Druidry as Adaptation and Innovation', in Ethan Doyle White and Jonathan Woolley (eds), *Modern Religious Druidry: Studies in Paganism, Celtic Identity, and Nature Spirituality*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2024, pp. 191–211.

Carole M. Cusack, 'How Do Pagans Use Fiction and Film?' in Suzanne Owen and Angela Puca (eds), *Pagan Religions in Five Minutes*, Equinox, 2024, pp. 207–209.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Social Capital, Religion, and Community: The Value of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Tertiary Education in the Twenty-First Century', in Marzia Coltri and Enea Franza (eds), *The Importance of the Humanities in Higher Education: Conference Proceeding Papers*, UniversItalia, 2024, pp. 25–51.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Revisiting Anne Hamilton-Byrne: New Evidence for Studying Australia's Most Notorious "Cult"', *The Journal of CESNUR*, Vol. 9, Issue 1, 2025, pp. 3–15.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Stoddard Martin, the 'Babalon Working', and the Study of Scientology: Recognising a Scholarly Pioneer', *Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies*, Vol. 2, Issue 2, 2024, pp. 209–224.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Acting Editor's Introduction', *Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2024, pp. vi–vii.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Editor's Introduction', *Journal of Daesoon Thought and the Religions of East Asia*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 2024, pp. 9-10.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Special Editor's Introduction: "G. I. Gurdjieff and the Work Tradition"', *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 1, 2024, pp. 1-2.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Editor's Introduction', *Journal of Daesoon Thought and the Religions of East Asia*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2024, pp. 9-10.

Carole M. Cusack, 'Introduction', *Literature & Aesthetics*, Vol. 34, No. 3, 2024, p. i.

Yvette Debergue, "Richard III and Deformity on Film 1911-2016," *Literature & Aesthetics*, Vol. 34, No. 3, 2024, pp. 167-179.

Richard de Grijs and Doru Costache, "The Cosmology of David Bohm: Scientific and Theological Significance," *Theology and Science*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (2024), pp. 204-220.

Christopher Hartney, *How Heaven Works: The Collective Shamanic Journeys of Phạm Công Tắc and the Syncretic Afterworld of Caodaism* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2024).

Christopher Hartney, "Processes of radicalization onscreen: How we canonize the white saints of freedom." In Akil N. Awan and James R. Lewis (eds.), *Radicalisation: A Global and Comparative Perspective* (United Kingdom: Hurst and Company, 2024), pp. 105-120.

Christopher Hartney, "Integrating Sound Pedagogical Accretions in the Multi-Year Undergraduate Teaching of Religion and Violence," *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2024, pp. 111-116.

Tara Smith, "Drowning in the Pacific: Climate Change, the Apocalypse and the Future of Australia," *Literature & Aesthetics*, Vol. 34, No. 3, 2024, pp. 84-96.

Garry W. Trompf, "The Shadow of Islam in the Enlightenment Discourse of Oriental Despotism: Research Directions from Nicolas-Antoine Boulanger," *Journal of the Contemporary Study of Islam* [special issue on *Islam and the Discourse of Enlightenment*] Vol. 4, No. 1 (2024), pp. 44-53.

Garry W. Trompf, "Peacebuilding – A Perennial Project," *Australian Academy of Humanities Newsletter* (3 June 2024), pp. 1-3.

Garry W. Trompf (Special Editor), *Patristics: Essays from Australia*. Special issue of *Religions*, Vol. 15, 2024.

Student Publications

Natasha Bourne, "Psychological Tools, Rene Girard and Studying Moral Panics: Accounting for the Satanic Panic in 1970s–1980s America," *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2024, pp. 151–150.

Gabriel Jessop-Smith, "The Ideology of Amadou Koufa," *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2024, pp. 167-181.

Gabriel Jessop-Smith, "The Reciprocal Bond of Violence: Christian-Muslim Conflict at the Haram al-Sharīf 1095–1187," *Literature & Aesthetics*, Vol. 34, No. 3, 2024, pp. 198–207.

Felix Parker, "Who Is Mine Adversary? The Construction and Cosmological Role of Satan and Satanism in American Vernacular Christianity," *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2024, pp. 117–166.

Dario Pizzuto, "Putin's Russia: Commitment to Religious Ideals and Worldviews or Religion as Political Pragmatism?" *Literature & Aesthetics*, Vol. 34, No. 3, 2024, pp. 111–125.

Dario Pizzuto, "'His Life is Like a Folklore Legend': MF DOOM as Both a Consumer and Producer of Occultural Reenchantment," *International Journal for the Study of New Religions*, Vol. 12, No. 2, 2021, pp. 211–233,

Dario Pizzuto, 'Deconstructing Katzian Contextualism: The Uncanny and the Path to Pure Consciousness', *Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2024, pp. 143–164.

Kallista Samlal, "From Swords to Pens: Journalism Taking Place as a New Form of Colonialism," *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2024, pp. 182–195.

Kenny Selamatan, "The Ontology of Violence in Katsuhiro Otomo's Akira," *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2024, pp. 196–126.

Tilak Sinha-Gröger, 'The Mountain Meadows Massacre Site: A Tragic Heritage Site for All America', *Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2024, pp. 120–142.

Staff and Honorary Associate Distinctions

Doru Costache became a Member of New Zealand Christians in Science, 2024.

Doru Costache received the Kerkyasharian Kayikian Fund for Armenian Studies scholarship (September 2024 - September 2025) for the project 'Armenian Archaeoastronomy and the Development of Zodiacal Imagery in Byzantium'.

Doru Costache was the recipient of a grant from the Australian Research Theology Foundation, Inc. on behalf of ISCAST, for the project 'Expanding the Reach of the

ISCAST Journal' (2024-2025).

Doru Costache participated as a researcher in the Project AP17460: C-14 'Dating of a Parchment Byzantine Gospel Lectionary', supported by a grant from Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). Project leader: Julie Sommerfeldt (2023-2024).

Doru Costache was recipient of the Selby Old Fellowship in the Religious History of the Orthodox Christian Faith at the University of Sydney Library (2023–2025)

Doru Costache was co-convenor (with Nicola Hoggard Creegan) of the "Faith & Science" stream of ANZATS 2024 Conference "Connection and Community," 1–3 July 2024.

Garry W. Trompf was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board, *Caspian: International Journal of Caspian Sea, Caucasus and Transoxeania Studies* (Iran), in 2024.

Garry W. Trompf was appointed International Consultant on the Sociology of Morality, Institute of Sociology, Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski Jana Pawła II (Poland) in 2024.

Garry W. Trompf was appointed Patron and Convenor, Conference and Lectures, Gilgamesh Statue and Gardens 25th Anniversary Festivities in 2024 (for October–November 2025).

Student Distinctions

Minh Ha Bui was awarded funds from the University of Sydney Postgraduate Research Support Scheme and also was awarded the John Anthony Gilbert (Humanities) Research Grant.

Studies in Religion Research Seminars 2024

5 March. Alexandra Grieser (Trinity College Dublin): ' "Spiritual Bodies": An Aesthetics of Religion Approach to Studying Neo-Spiritualities through Dance'

9 April. Argyris Giantsis (University of Sydney, Masters student): 'Augustinian Influence on Isidore of Seville's Thoughts about Demonology and Magic'

16 April. Zsuzsanna Gulacsi (Northern Arizona University): 'Manichaeans Artifacts and their Preservation at Buddhist Archaeological Sites of Turfan and Dunhuang'

Student Prize Winners in Religion, 2023 (Awarded 2024)

Tilak Sinha-Gröger received the G. S. Caird Prize III (Senior).

Kenny Selamatan received the G. S. Caird Prize II (Junior).

Kenny Selamatan received the School of Humanities Research Support Grant

Dario Pizzuto received the Rachel McKibbin Prize (Honours).

Religion Honours and Postgraduate Graduations, 2024

Raymond Radford (PhD), 'What Will Become of Us? The Great Replacement, History, Narrative, and Religion'

Max Herford (PhD), 'English Ecclesiastical Gothic: A Reassessment'

Jenefer Marquis, (Doctor of Arts), 'Country, Kin & Kith: Coming Home to Culture Through Art'

Maurice A. Quirk (PhD), 'Encountering the Wilderness: Myth, Liminal Space and the Numinous in North American Cryptozoology'

Suvarna Variyar (PhD), 'Death is a Woman: A Mahabharatan Framework for Postcolonial Hindu Feminism'

New Zealand | Dr Peter Lineham

There have been no specific conferences to highlight this year, but here are some new publications and theses to note:

Boland, April Angela. "Religion and State Ritual: Political Theatre and Public Lament in Secular Aotearoa New Zealand." *Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington*, 2023.

This thesis examines how the ostensibly 'secular' Aotearoa New Zealand state engages with, and relies on, religious motifs at times of public lament

Bowron, Hugh M. "A Quiet Beginning: How the Oxford Movement Discretely Infiltrated Its Way into the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin [two parts]." (October 2024)

<https://historyanglican.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/A-Quiet-Beginning-Part-1-Bowron.pdf>.

Both available from the <https://historyanglicannz> website. The papers explore the interest of Bishop Nevill and Revd Bryan King, followed by the ministry of the Revd Vincent Bryan King.

Brown, David Otterson. *Turton: H. Hanson Turton, Missionary, Magistrate, Man of Many Parts*. 2v, Australia/Nelson: Copy Press for the Author, 2024.

Vol 1 (398p) covers: Preface, Background Stories, Early Life, Missionary, Bibliography, Page Index. Vol 2 (492p) covers 8 chapters (Missionary, Magistrate, Native Affairs, Retirement, family, a Conclusion & 3 Appendices. These are mainly transcribed items (letter, document, reference - MS & published) to Turton & his career that the author has found over some 10 years of researching

Bulbulia, Joseph A., Don E. Davis, Kenneth G. Rice, Chris G. Sibley, and Geoffrey Troughton. "The Causal Effects of Religious Service Attendance on Prosocial Behaviours in New Zealand: A National Longitudinal Study." *Archive for the Psychology of Religion/Archiv für Religionspsychologie* 46, no. 3 (November 2024): 244-67.

We investigate the causal effects of religious service attendance on prosocial behaviours using longitudinal data from a nationally representative sample of 33,198 New Zealanders collected between 2018 and 2021.

Carpenter, Samuel D. "The CMS Mission at Paihia, Pēwhairangi: An Analysis of Gospel and Culture in a Revolutionary Age." *Anglican Journal of Theology in Aotearoa and Oceania* 3, no. 1 (Autumn 2024): 7-29.

[The Selwyn Lecture, 2022]: The Paihia mission settlement was a site of revolutionary change as Māori and missionaries forged a new culture at the intersection of British and indigenous worlds.

Carpenter, Samuel D. "A Historical–Contextual Analysis of the Use of “Tapu”, “Utu” and “Muru” in the Māori New Testament and Book of Common Prayer." *Religions* 15, no. 9 (2024): 1109–29 1109. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15091109>.

How the translation process in Niu Tirenī (New Zealand/Aotearoa) in the 1830s contextualized or indigenized Christian concepts of the sacred/holy (tapu), the price (utu) paid by Christ for the sin of the world, and God’s forgiveness (muru) due to that sacrifice (utu).

Carter, Patricia A. "The Influence of Evangelical Theology on the Lifestyle of Wives of Early Missionaries to New Zealand, with Particular Reference to Marianne Williams (1793–1879)." *Anglican journal of theology in Aotearoa and Oceania* 3, no. 1 (2024): 124–33.

Revisits the author's 1997 essay in which she explores the life of missionary wife Marianne Williams in the years immediately following her arrival in New Zealand.

Coffin, Nicole. "Reflections on Māori Religious Movements in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries." *Anglican Journal of Theology in Aotearoa and Oceania* 3, no. 1

(Autumn 2024): 81-90.

This article examines the independent Māori religious movements of Ringatū, Rua Kēnana, and Rātana within the context of Christianity's history in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Drake, Lyndon. "The Māori and Ancient near Eastern Pantheons in the Context of Genesis 1 in Te Reo Māori." *Religions* 15, no. 8 (2024): 984.

The recent test translation of Te Paipera Tapu (the Bible in the Māori language) has aroused considerable debate for its use in Genesis 1 of the names of atua Māori (Māori divine beings). I discuss the Hebrew text of Genesis 1 in its ancient literary context, making proposals about the use of the names of atua Māori in translations.

Drury, Abdullah. *A History of Christchurch Muslims: Integration and Harmony*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2025.

The first Muslim settlers arrived within 15 years of the proclamation of the colony and many have been living quietly in this country and contributing to society ever since. About the Christchurch Mosque communities before the 2019 shootings.

Elder, Chris. *Interesting Times: Some New Zealanders in Republican China*. Wellington: Te Herenga Waka University of Wellington Press, 2024.

Between 1912 and 1949, some New Zealanders were drawn to China by missionary zeal or humanitarian concern, while others had more practical goals. The subjects of this book include the YWCA secretary Agnes Moncrieff and the missionaries Alice Cook, Annie James, George Shepherd, Kathleen Hall and Graham Milne.

Fuimaono, Eugene. "'Not My God'—Challenging the Usage of 'Te Atua' as Māori Terminology for the God of Christianity." *Religions* 15, no. 8 (2024): 941.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15080941>.

This paper explores the disqualification of 'Te Atua' as a Māori term for God through historical analysis and Māori scholarly perspectives

Galbraith, Deane. "Nephilim in Aotearoa New Zealand: Reading Māori Narratives of Tāwhaki with Gen 6:1–4's Ancient Divine Heroes." *Religions* 15, no. 5 (2024): 568.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15050568>.

This article adopts a hermeneutical strategy to counter monotheistic misreadings of the Bible, and their racist effects, by reading Māori stories of the

ancient divine hero Tāwhaki alongside the ancient divine heroes who feature in Gen 6:1–4's account of the Nephilim.

Ge, Hanyang. "Religion and Refugee Resettlement in New Zealand: Humanitarianism, Muslims, and the Secular State." Doctor of Philosophy, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, 2024. 10.26686/wgtn.26360230.

This thesis examines the encounter between Muslim refugees and the New Zealand state. It argues that the New Zealand state engages with Muslim refugees through an inconsistent secularism. I show how resettlement actors perceive and frame Islam, including replacing religion by ethnicity, subsuming religion within concerns for social cohesion, critiquing religion as a disruption, and praising religion as a public good.

Godfrey, Michael "Brain Explosion or Act of Grace? Samuel Nevill and the Redemption of Frederick Platts." *Anglican Historical Society Posting*, no. March 2024. (March 2024 2024): 11.

Nevill's interaction with Frederick Platts, erstwhile vicar of Port Chalmers, erstwhile bane of bishops across two Australian ecclesiastical provinces.

Havea, Jione, ed. *Pacific Well-Being: (Is)Lands, Theologies, Worldviews*, Intersectionality and Theology Series. Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2024.

This book makes space for Pasifika contributions to academic conversations on critical topics and for influencing the conversations to account for, and thus reflect, Pasifika ways and modes. The contributors were located at the time of writing in Pasifika--Aotearoa, Fiji, Kioa, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu. There is one New Zealand focused chapter, by Paul Reynolds on Takatapu.

Hawkes, Annabel, and Lynne Taylor. "Presence and Personhood: Investigating Christian Chaplaincy Care in Two Residential Dementia Units." *Religions* 15, no. 6 (2024): 704. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15060704>.

This paper takes a case study approach and considers how the notion of personhood impacted the motivations and practice of two chaplains working in Aotearoa New Zealand residential dementia care settings.

Hilliard, David. *Anglo-Catholicism in Australia and New Zealand: A Short History*. Occasional Papers Published by the Anglo-Catholic History Society. London: Anglo-Catholic History Society, 2024.

Anglo-Catholicism took root in parts of Australia, especially country areas and in particular in Queensland, although repressed in the diocese of Sydney. In New Zealand its effect was less profound. The book deals with the pioneers,

who largely came from England, and with the growth of religious orders in the Antipodes, then with more recent developments, including the effect of the ordination of women.

Holmes, Martin George. "Purgatory and Prayers for the Dead? New Zealand Anglican Responses to Death during the First World War." *Anglican Historical Society*. (2024): 14. <https://historyanglican.nz/research-resources/>.

This paper argues that the First World War represented a watershed in New Zealand Anglican theology. Evangelical Calvinism had deep roots in New Zealand Anglicanism, but in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Anglo-Catholicism became increasingly influential. The First World War accelerated this trend. Many Anglicans discarded their Protestant heritage by encouraging prayers for the departed and suggesting that one could earn salvation through dying for the Allied cause.

Kolia, Brian Fiu and Michael Mawson (ed.) *Unsettling Theologies: Memory Identity and Place*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.

This work incorporates a range of significant papers raising issues in the decolonisation of religion in various former British colonies including New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific, raising significant issues of biblical translation, theology, education and portrayal of the “native”.

Light, Rowan. "Ano Te Mahara E Reka, How Sweet the Memory: The Changing Remembrance of Bishop Jean-Baptiste François Pompallier in the Twentieth Century*." *Journal of Religious History* 48, no. 1 (March 2024): 55-75. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9809.13017>.

In 2001, Catholic pilgrims, led by Māori priest Henare Tate, travelled to France to exhume the remains of Jean-Baptiste François Pompallier (1821–1872), the first Catholic Bishop of Aotearoa New Zealand. The interment – 131 years after Pompallier's death – marked the end of an extraordinary renovation of the Bishop as a historical figure, and a curious phase in Catholic Māori religious thinking.

Lineham, Peter, ed. *Weteriana Methodism: Bicentennial Reflections from Aotearoa New Zealand*, Wesley Historical Society (NZ) Proceedings, vol. 112. Wellington: Philip Garside Publishing, 2024.

The book re-examines the Wesleyan mission's impact in Aotearoa New Zealand from 1819 onwards, centering on indigenous voices and perspectives. Edited by Peter Lineham, and published in association with the Wesley Historical Society (NZ), it illuminates the complexities of Māori engagement with Christianity, with

chapters on the global context by Roshan Allpress; on the pioneer missionaries Samuel and Catherine Leigh by Glen O'Brien; on indigenous evangelism by Gary Clover; on Wesleyan women missionaries by Susan Thompson; on post-Treaty trends by Geoffrey Troughton; on Māori experiences of Mission at the original site of Kaeo by Rowan Tautari; and on later Māori Methodism by Peter Lineham.

Longhurst, Christopher Evan. "Christian-Māoriesque – a Transcultural Pictorial Artform." *Journal of New Zealand Studies* n.s.37 (2024): 100-21.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.26686/jnzs.iNS37.9527>.

This exploration develops the field of intercultural aesthetics by exploring the use of Māori motifs used by non-Māori artists, and looking at the use of those motifs in the context of Christian art. It surveys a selection of paintings that blend Māori and Christian motifs, and critically evaluates their interculturality. It then looks at how intercultural artworks of religious subject matter can create an instance of pictorial transculturality.

Mackenzie, Isaac. "A Humanitarian Treaty: The Role of Christians in the Formation of Te Tiriti O Waitangi." *Anglican Journal of Theology in Aotearoa and Oceania* 3, no. 1 (Autumn 2024): 70-80.

In response to recent debates about the Treaty of Waitangi, this essay explores the humanitarian concerns of the Church Missionary Society – both on the ground in New Zealand, and in Britain – to protect Māori from unlawful British colonisation.

MacPherson, Geoffrey. *The Inspiration of Scripture: Dr James Macgregor's Views*. Auckland: Grace Theological College, 2024.

This study expounds and defends nineteenth century Presbyterian theologian James MacGregor's high view of the Bible as inerrant and inspired.

McKenna, U., L. J. Francis, and A. Village. "Contrasting Approaches to Managing the Debate on Same-Sex Blessing and Same-Sex Marriage in New Zealand and Australia: Applying Insights from Jungian Psychological Type Theory." *Journal of Anglican Studies* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1740355324000093>.

This paper arises from commissioned research by the Church of England of the impact of the debate on same-sex blessing and same-sex marriage within other Anglican Churches.

Manchester, Anne. *Peace Is Her Song: The Life and Legacy of Hymnwriter Shirley Erena Murray*. Wellington: Philip Garside Publishing, 2024.

The hymns by this New Zealand composer have gained wide recognition, because of their themes of peace, social justice, inclusivity and ecology.

Postcolonialism and Religions, 93-107. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024. Moon, Paul. "A Dissenter in the Ranks: Barzillai Quaife's Mission to New Zealand." *Journal of Religious History* 48, 4, no. December (2024): 442-55. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9809.13087>.

The arrival of the Congregationalist minister Barzillai Quaife in New Zealand in 1840 reveals substantial divisions between Anglicans and Dissenting sects, resulting in a level of antipathy that (ironically) exceeded that which existed between Protestants and Catholics in the country at this time

Nichols, Mark, ed. *Strengthening the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand*, New Vision New Zealand, vol. 5. Auckland: New Zealand Christian Network, 2024.

This volume is based on papers from the 2023 Congress organised by the New Zealand Christian Network, and has papers, from less to more academic on current and historical issues.

Lachy Paterson and Angela Wanhalla (ed.) *Raupanga: Ngā Pito Kōrero O Te Pakanga Tuarua Nō Te Hau Kāinga*, Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2024.

This is a Māori language work on Māori during the second world war with a number of sections on church involvement.

Raissi, Hussain. "Exploring Senses of Belonging: A Multidimensional Study of Muslim Immigrant Youth in New Zealand." 2024. <https://hdl.handle.net/10523/43377>.

This thesis examines how Muslim immigrant youth establish their sense of belonging to the Muslim community and wider New Zealand society.

Reese, Alistair. "Three Voices at Waitangi: A Sacred Public Square." *Anglican Journal of Theology in Aotearoa and Oceania* 3, no. 1 (Autumn 2024): 57–69.

This essay argues that there were three representative voices at the Treaty of Waitangi table: the British Crown, Rangatira Māori, and the Church. Each of the three voices operated within an assumption that the occasion, the document and the place was sacred. I argue, however, that in order to be reconciled by the treaty, we need to further reconcile the treaty with its context. This paper proposes that viewing the treaty as a theological document helps to reconcile the treaty to its context, add depth to the national conversation, and enhance the treaty's original reconciliatory intentions.

Richards, Michaela. "Restoring Taranaki Maunga: 'Religion' and Conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand." Doctor of Philosophy, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of

Wellington, 2024. 10.26686/wgtn.26860153.

This thesis analyses the relationships between religion and conservation in contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand. I argue that spiritual and religious dynamics are profoundly influential for conservation.

Simon, Hemopereki. "Genealogical Violence: Mormon (Mis)Appropriation of Māori Cultural Memory through Falsification of Whakapapa." *Genealogy*, Special Issue on De Colonial Interventions to Genealogy (2024).

The study examines how members of the historically white possessive and supremacist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the United States (mis)appropriated Māori genealogy, known as whakapapa. The Mormon use of whakapapa to promote Mormon cultural memory and narratives perpetuates settler/invasor colonialism and white supremacy, as this paper shows.

Stanley, Brian. "Whatever Happened to Missionary Enthusiasm? The Transformation of Protestant Globalism since the Late Nineteenth Century." *Anglican Journal of Theology in Aotearoa and Oceania* 3, no. 1 (Autumn 2024): 30-48.

This essay comprises the revised text of Professor Stanley's Selwyn Lecture 2023, delivered at St John's College, Auckland, on 20 November 2023. The waning of enthusiasm for foreign missions is one of the most striking transformations observable among Anglophone Protestants since Bishop Selwyn's day. "Overseas missions" no longer seem appropriate or necessary in an ostensibly (but only nominally) postcolonial world, in which indigenous churches in non-European contexts have grown when much of the former Western Christendom has declined.

Steele, John. "Arthur Purchas: His "Selwyn" Churches." *Anglican Historical Society*. (2024). Available at AHS website: [A.G.-Purchas-his-Selwyn-Churches-Steele.pdf](#)

A circulated article on the background to Purchas as an architect, and a brief account of each of his eleven churches, with some assessment, including both the Auckland churches and also St Peter's Akaroa.

Tairea, Arama. "Kia Vai Rai Auraka Kia Tauī'la - Let It Remain, Let It Change: Negotiations of Religion among Cook Island Māori in New Zealand." Master of Arts, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, 2024.

This thesis examines how Cook Island Māori in contemporary New Zealand negotiate religion.

Taylor, Steve. "Ordinary-Time Festivals: An Application of Wisdom Ecclesiology." *Theology Today* 81, no. 4 (2025): 380-92. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00405736231172696>.

This article explores the possibility of ordinary-time festivals as a way to embody ecclesiology. They enable a theological, formed way of joining hands with God's ongoing work in creation during ordinary time.

Tilson, Kate. "“Entanglement” as a Concept in Recent Research on Christian Missions in the South Pacific and Africa." *History Compass* 22, no. 7 (2024): e12815.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12815>.
<https://compass.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/hic3.12815>.

This article provides a short overview of ‘entanglement’ in recent histories of mission, examining what distinguishes it from earlier conceptualisations of cross-cultural encounters. This article locates the emergence of the term in the social sciences and global histories of empire, and explores its current influence in studies of Christian evangelism in imperial and colonial contexts. This article shows the strengths of recent works on entanglement, while indicating some new research avenues for scholars of mission. The discussion primarily focuses on research on Africa and the South Pacific.

Toy, Michael J., and Michaela M. Richards. "Coming to a Head: Digital Contestations over Sacred Sites in Aotearoa New Zealand." *Religions* 15, no. 12 (2024): 1483.
<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/15/12/1483>.

One of the most riveting dimensions of religion is blooming via an indigenous Māori renaissance, which is displayed in a struggle over narratives, language, and tikanga (protocol) around sacred sites. In this article, we explore the discourse in an online news article’s comment section debating tikanga around nudity on the summit of Taranaki Mountain, a place widely regarded as sacred to Māori.

Vogel, Stuart. *Rich Treasure in Alien Soil: Chinese Churches and Poll Tax in New Zealand 1865–1960*. Chinese Tenths Trust, 2025.

This work explores the early Chinese, the work of evangelists among them (most famously Alexander Don), and their communities, which have a variety of denominations, Presbyterian (in Dunedin and Auckland), Anglican and Baptist in Wellington, with some striking features.

Wanhalla, Angela, Sarah Christie, Lachy Paterson, Ross Webb, and Erica Newman. *Te Hau Kāinga: The Māori Home Front during the Second World War*. Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2024.

Chapter 7: Māori, Churches and Faith (pp. 158-186) is relevant to this bibliography.

Wyatt, Philippa. "British Humanitarians and the Founding of New Zealand." Doctor of Philosophy, Massey University, 2024. <https://mro.massey.ac.nz/handle/10179/72025>.

This thesis reconsiders the intentions of the British humanitarians who sought to implement a 'new system' of 'humane colonisation' inaugurated by the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. It follows the historiographical marginalization of humanitarianism during a period of intense historical revision in the 1970s and 1980s

South Australia | Dr David Hilliard

Books

Brian J. Chalmers, *Methodist Revivalism and Social Reform in the Paradise of Dissent, 1838–1939* (North Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2024), pp. 393.

Anne Ford, *St Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, Unley, SA, 1924 to 2024* (Unley SA: Anne Ford, 2024), pp. 97.

David Hilliard, *Anglo-Catholicism in Australia and New Zealand: a short history* (Anglo-Catholic History Society UK, 2024), pp. 119.

David Hilliard, *One faith, many voices: essays on South Australian church history* (Black Forest SA: Uniting Church SA Historical Society, 2024), pp.1 96.

Paul Slattery, *Once the heart of Georgetown: the history of the church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1872–2024* (Jamestown SA, 2024), pp. 35.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Community, *A Celebration of Faith, Mission and Fraternity* (Newton SA: St Francis of Assisi Catholic Community, 2024), pp.328. [A record, in English and Italian, of the 70-year ministry of the Capuchin friars in a predominantly Italian parish in Adelaide.]

Michael Yelton, Michael, *Thomas Henry Lyon: architect and aesthete – his life and work* (Durham UK: Sacristy Press, 2023), pp.362. [Yelton was a significant English architect and an Anglo-Catholic who, through personal connections, designed St George's, Goodwood (1903), and the reredos of St Peter's Cathedral in Adelaide (1904).]

Articles

Rosalind Mary Gooden, 'Reclaiming voices: we sent women first', *Religions* [Special issue: *Reclaiming voices: women's contribution to Baptist history*] 15: 10, (2024).

David Hilliard, 'Crossing the Tiber: Australian Anglican clerical converts to Rome from the 1840s to the 2000s', *Journal of the Australian Catholic Historical Society*, 45 (2024), 70–85.

David Hilliard, 'The history of Port Adelaide Congregational/Uniting Church', *Uniting Church: History and Heritage*, 6: 3 (2024), 4–9.

Josephine Laffin, 'The limits and legacy of Vatican II's teaching on priesthood: the bishops' responses to clerical sexual abuse in Australia', in Catherine E. Clifford, Kristen M. Colberg, Massimo Faggioli and Edward P. Hahnenberg (eds), *The legacy and limits of Vatican II in an age of crisis* (Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2025), pp.109–28.

John Walker, 'Prosecuting business, maintaining piety and preaching the gospel: Baptist businesspeople in colonial South Australia', *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*, 51 (2024), 8–23.

Theses

Brenton Griffin, "'They pretend to have remarkable revelations": the reception and representation of Mormonism in Australia and New Zealand, 1840 to present', PhD thesis, Flinders University, 2024.

Timothy Philip Hender, 'Theology in community – establishing an inclusive theological model for an early twentieth-century Anglo-Catholic parish' (MPhil thesis, University of Divinity, 2024). [A study of St George's Anglican Church, Goodwood, Adelaide]

South Australian Church History Network

The South Australian Church History Network, formed in 2023, is a group of historians from several Christian denominations – Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Salvation Army, and Uniting Church. It seeks to encourage the study of the history of Christianity in South Australia and to promote awareness of its contribution to the state's history. On 4 May 2024, during South Australia's annual History Festival, the Network held a one-day conference in Adelaide on the theme of 'Paradise of Dissent Revisited (1836–1900)'. Ninety-five registrants from many different churches and history groups participated and some twenty papers were presented, exploring a wide range of topics relating to the religious history of South Australia in the nineteenth century. It is planned to hold conferences annually. The next will be a half-day conference on 17 May 2025 on the South Australian churches and welfare, 1995–2025. This will explore the government's legislative and funding changes since the 1990s, the formal responses of church-based welfare organisations and their implications for church involvement in the field of social welfare.

For further information contact the convenors: Revd Dr Dean Eland, djeland@bigpond.com or Dr Judith Raftery, judith.raftery@gmail.com

Macquarie University | Dr Sybil Wong

New and Ongoing Research Projects

ARC Discovery Project, CIs Michael Hanaghan & Stephen Carlson, ACU; Bronwen Neil, Macquarie; PI Andy Cain, University of Colorado. *Translation and Transformation in Late Antiquity* (2025-2028). This project offers the first holistic assessment of translation in Late Antiquity, a critically important cultural transformation on par with the introduction of the printing press. It will explore who translated texts, when and why, when the norms for modern European literary analysis were set. It aims to uncover how new translations communicated and shaped knowledge while developing distinct social, political, and cultural groups.

Postgraduate Completions

Charles Tomás Thorne graduated with a PhD, with a thesis entitled: 'A terminological appraisal of the bilingual polysemic nature paradigm conceptualised by Justinian I: approaches from jurisprudence, philosophy and theology.' Supervisor Paul McKechnie

Conference Papers / Seminars

Kyeongyoon Woo, "*Theoria* and Tranquility in Seneca and Gregory the Great," was given at the XIX International Conference on Patristic Studies 5–9 August 2024 (Oxford University, UK). The presentation was a part of the Early Christianity and Human Flourishing Workshops organized by the Human Flourishing Program-Harvard University; Institute of Studies of Religion-Baylor University; Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry-ACU.

Zellman-Rohrer, Michael, "Zōdiēl and His Colleagues: Angels, Demons, and Zodiac Signs in Early Syriac Magic," Freie Universität Berlin, 3 October 2024

Zellman-Rohrer, Michael, "Abraham in Late Ancient Magic: Reception and Invention on Biblical Themes," Universität Münster, 12 July 2024

Zellman-Rohrer, Michael, "Prescription and Performance: Inscription and Accompanying Ritual in Byzantine Textual Amulets," University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium, 10 May 2024

Book Reviews and Conference Reports

Neil, B. Review of K. De Temmerman, J. Van Pelt, K. Staat (eds) *Constructing Saints in Greek and Latin Hagiography. Heroes and Heroines in Late Antique and Medieval Narrative*, Fabulae 2. Brepols, 2023. In *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* 137.3 (2024).

Zellman-Rohrer, Michael, Review of T. Nowitzki, *Antike Ritualmagie: Die Rituale der ägyptischen Zauberpapyri im Kontext spätantiker Magie*(Stuttgart, 2021), in *Gnomon* 96 (2024), 518–524

Other Activities

Publications

Mellas, A. and B. Neil (eds) *The Cambridge Companion to the Byzantine Church*. Cambridge Core (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming). Submitted Nov 2024. 30 chapters plus Introduction.

Neil, B. 2024. Ordering and imparting knowledge for the sake of the church: Gregory the Great. In *The Intellectual World of Late Antiquity*, eds. L. Ayres, M. Crawford and M. Champion (Cambridge University Press), 690–704.

Neil, B. and D. Casey, 2024. Practices of Religious and Social Constructions of Gender. In *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Sexuality in Byzantium*, eds. M. Meyer and C. Messis (Routledge) 96–113.

Neil, B. 2024. Dream interpretation in a context of social disruption: Julian's vision of two trees

Neil, B. Patristics / Peace, peacemakers. In P. Gemeinhardt (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin, De Gruyter, 2024).

Rosbrooke, C. and B. Neil (eds), *Bloomsbury Cultural History of Solitude – The Middle Ages*. Series editor: Julian Stern. (Bloomsbury Press, forthcoming). Submitted Nov 2024. 8 chapters plus Introduction.

Tregenza, I. 'Religion, pluralism, and the Australian State after same-sex marriage', *Journal of Church and State*, 66, 3, 162–174.

Zellman-Rohrer, Michael, "Headaches, Fevers, and Psalms: Notes on a Coptic Amulet from Oxyrhynchus," *Journal of Coptic Studies* 26 (2024), 227–246.

Zellman-Rohrer, Michael, "A Dedication to Artemis Anaitis and Men Tiamou," with D. Martínez-Chico, *Epigraphica Anatolica* 55 (2022) [2024], 155–157.

Zellman-Rohrer, Michael, *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, vol. 69, with J.-M. Carbon, A. Chaniotis, T. Corsten, N. Papazarkadas, P. Paschidis, and E. Stavrianopoulou (Leiden: Brill, 2024)

Scholarship

Kyeongyoon Woo The Macquarie/Tyndale Travelling Scholarship 2024 (Tyndale House, Cambridge, UK)

Appointments

B. Neil, Head of Section, Religion, Australian Academy of Humanities (Nov 2023–2026).

B. Neil, ARC College of Experts (Nov 2023–2026).

Tasmania | Dr Elizabeth Freeman

Ezzy, Douglas, “Education, religion, and LGBTQ+ in Australia”, *Journal of Beliefs & Values*, 45: 4 (2024), pp.588–602.

Ezzy, Douglas, Fielder, Bronwyn, and McLeay, Angus, “LGBTQ+ Christians in Australia”, *Social compass*, 71: 2 (2024), pp. 326–346.

Ezzy, Douglas, Halafoff, Anna, Barton, Greg, and Banham, Rebecca (eds.), *Religious Diversity in Australia: Living Well with Difference* (London: Bloomsbury, 2024).

Fielder, Bronwyn, and Ezzy, Douglas, “Religious freedom for whom? How conservative Christianity erodes the religious freedom of those it seeks to discriminate against”, *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 59: 1 (2024), pp. 93–108.

Fielder, Bronwyn, Ezzy, Douglas, and Dwyer, Angela, “Educators’ hands are tied: The impact of heteronormative and cisnormative discourses on students in faith-based schools in Australia”, *Journal of Sociology*, 60: 2 (2024), pp. 458–474.

Freeman, Elizabeth, “Cistercian Women’s Communities as Custodians of ‘Outdated’ Twelfth-Century Cistercian Liturgical Manuscripts”, *American Benedictine Review* 75: 3 (2024), pp. 255–284.

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Victoria | Associate Professor Kerrie Handasyde

Books

Mews, Constant (Monash University)

Handasyde, Kerrie, Stephen Burns and Katharine Massam, eds. *Feminist Theologies: A Companion*. London: SCM Press, 2024.

Handasyde, Kerrie, and S. Winter, eds. *Seeing Christ in Australia, since 1850*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.

Mews, Constant J and Anti Ijäs (eds), *Salome and the Kin of Jesus: The writings of Maurice of Kirkham and Herbert of Bosham* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2024)

Articles

Mews, Constant J. ‘Implementing the Guidonian Revolution: John of Affligem and the Cause of Reform 1030–1100’, *Viator* 55 (2024), 311–41.

Mews, Constant J. ‘God as Male–Female: Priscillian, Prophecy, and the Witness of Irenaeus and Marius Victorinus’, *Religions* 15.9 (2024), 1144

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Mews, Constant J. “Dionysius, *theologia* and Thomas’s final *Summa*”, in Florian Wöller / Ueli Zahnd (eds.): *Dominican Culture, Dominican Theology* (Archa Verbi. Subsidia 24), Münster: Aschendorff 2024.

Zika, C., ‘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, forthcoming 2025

Zika, C., ‘Imagining Magic’, in Charlotte-Rose Millar, ed., *A Cultural History of Magic in the Early Modern Age*, London: Bloomsbury (in press, forthcoming 2025)

Zika, C. ‘Images of Demons, 1300–1700’, in Kathryn Edwards, ed., *A Companion to Demons and the Devil*, Leiden & Boston: Brill (in press, forthcoming 2025)

Chapters

Handasyde, Kerrie. 'Vocation: Listening, Persistence and Hard Work within the Church'. In *Feminist Theologies: A Companion*, edited by Kerrie Handasyde, Stephen Burns, and Katharine Massam. London: SCM Press, 2024.

Handasyde, Kerrie. 'Christ as Lost Innocent: Lost Faith, Fickle Providence, and the Land's Sacrificial Demands'. In *Seeing Christ in Australia, since 1850*. Edited by Kerrie Handasyde and Sean Winter. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.

Reports

Burritt, Amanda (University of Melbourne) and **Kerrie Handasyde** (University of Divinity)

Burritt, Amanda, and Kerrie Handasyde. 'Literature Review of themes in Religion and Worldviews Education that could inform curriculum development and pedagogy in Victorian schools', 2024. Report supplied to the MultiFaith Education Collaboration associated with the Faith Communities Council of Victoria on behalf of the Worldviews Literacy Lab, Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne. Project team: Larissa McLean Davies, Kerrie Handasyde, Amanda Burritt, Natasha Ziebell, Mahtab Janfada, and Michele Herrington.

Research Projects

Kovesi, Catherine (University of Melbourne)

How to Buy a Unicorn: the sacralisation, de-sacralisation and re-sacralisation of one-horned animals from the early modern to the present.

Zika, Charles (University of Melbourne)

ARC Discovery Grant, Chief Investigator, "Albrecht Dürer's Material World" (20212025)
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

Conference Papers

Zika, Charles (University of Melbourne)

'Natalie Zemon Davies and Religious Studies', in Round Table on 'Natalie Zemon Davies and her Impact', Early Modern Circle Seminar, University of Melbourne, 21 October 2024.

‘Confronting Jews in Dürer’s Nuremberg world’, at an International Workshop, ‘Albrecht Dürer’s Material World’, University of Melbourne, 14–16 August 2024

‘The Funeral Procession of the Virgin Mary: materialised narratives of Jewish violence, Christian hostility and healing in Albrecht Dürer’s Nuremberg,’ at the conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern History (ANZAMEMS), University of Christchurch, 8 February 2024.

Handasyde, Kerrie. ‘Land of Sarah: Feminist Biblical Geography’, Australian Association for the Study of Religion Conference, Canberra, November 2024

Handasyde, Kerrie. ‘Missionary Heroes and How We Tell the Story’, Australian and New Zealand Association for Theological Studies Conference, Adelaide, July 2024.

Exhibitions Curated

Zika, Charles (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 (<https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/about/arts-west-gallery/past-exhibitions/albrecht-durers-material-renaissance>)

Other

Zika, Charles (University of Melbourne)

Approx twenty 80-word labels and two 200-word theme panels (mostly on religious images and themes) written for exhibition, ‘Albrecht Dürer’s Material Renaissance’, held at Arts West Gallery, The University of Melbourne (see above) – as well as one recording for the virtual exhibition (Opening Feb 2025) and four study tours/ talks (two as part of Melbourne Rare Books Week, one of which was held at the National Gallery of Victoria).

Co-editing of related collection of 16 essays and Introduction: The Material and Emotional Worlds of Albrecht Dürer’s Nuremberg, to be submitted in March 2025 and to be published by Amsterdam University Press (substantial religious issues content).

