

NEWCOLLEGE M A G A Z I N E 2 0 2 2



TO ALL AND SUMDRY WHOM THESE PRESENTS DO ON THAY GANCERN #; WE, Sough, some Norrow, Commander of the Next Evaluate Order of the British Empire, one of the Planety's launce i termedia the Law, Datar of Law, Lord Lyon King of Arms, senders o greeting: Whereas considering that under the Programmy the Lyon King of Arms, denders o greeting: Whereas considering that under the Programmy the Lyon King of Arms, denders o greeting: Whereas considering that under the Programmy the Lyon King of Arms, denders o greeting: whereas considering that under the Programmy for the Lyon King of Arms, denders o greeting: whereas considering that and the of the Program of the Lyon King of Arms, denders of and others in that bising made, we are empowered by virtue of the Order Office of Lord Lyon King of Arms toxisis the whole Arms burns and used within this Realm of Schland and the 5 o Readifiers and to alwa Arms to virtue and mill deserving Promy and on books and and So Readifiers that a first of virtue of the and mill deserving for and on books of the the output Court I and and So (Noted and Devices Court and Internation Program of the first of the first of the the output for the of the theory of theory of the theory of the theory of the

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EDITOR'S NOTE



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Welcome to this year's edition of the New College magazine.

Last year, our 175th, was a busy one for us. A year of high-profile events culminating in the outstanding Winter Tales book festival (see page 14) brought together friends of the School from near and far. This year promises to be no less exciting, with a range of new faculty appointments bringing their own dynamism to our community's world class scholarship - including Prof. Rachel Muers, our new Chair of Divinity.

Prospective students often ask what they might do with a degree from the School of Divinity. This year, we are pleased to bring you two interviews with former students on their time on the Mound and careers thereafter: the award-winning journalist Will Lyons (The Wall Street Journal and The Sunday Times), and Dr Joseph Morrow, the current Lord Lyon King of Arms. We hope their stories inspire you.

As ever, we are glad to celebrate all the successes of our alumni community, and are always pleased to hear from former students about developments in their own lives.

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



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www.ed.ac.uk/divinity





COP 26

Last year the School organised a series of initiatives to mark the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. This included an Interfaith Pilgrimage, the Alexandra Duff Lecture, and the creation of two banners, each 22 meters long, that were suspended from the towers of the College. Forty faith and community groups, as well as students and staff contributed patches to the design on the theme of Creation Care.



Principal's Medal

In November 2021, Dr Sara Parvis and Dr Emma Wild-Wood were joint winners of a Principal's Medal – an award that recognises their exceptional efforts in providing pastoral care to students during the pandemic, and in shaping a welcoming community for the School's postgraduate students.

Sam Nwokoro



PhD student Sam Nwokoro won Student Tutor of the Year in the 2021 Edinburgh University Students' Association Awards. The students who nominated Sam praised his ability to create "an extremely open, non-judgmental atmosphere where everyone felt comfortable expressing their opinions."



Helen Bond FRSE

Our Head of School Prof. Helen Bond has been appointed to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh – a significant honour that recognises the broad social impact of her academic work.



Shaw Scholarships

As a result of a generous legacy donated by our former Dean and Principal Rev. Prof. Bill Shaw, we have recently launched two fully-funded PhD scholarships – fees and maintenance – to start in the coming academic year.

Schools Outreach

This year has seen the relaunch of our Schools Outreach Programme coordinated by Dr Linden Bicket. Dr Paul Fuller has been appointed to promote the Edinburgh Buddhist Studies Network within schools. Alongside a team from the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, Dr Hannah Holtschneider has developed Points of Arrival – a teaching resource on immigrants and refugees who came to Scotland to escape poverty, persecution and war.

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Loyalty

Prof. Mona Siddiqui and Dr Nathanael Vette have been awarded a grant by the Issachar Fund for a two-year project on 'Loyalty and Fidelity: Christian and Muslim Perspectives' – an award that will enable international worships and publications exploring these themes. Alongside this, the School has continued to partner with the Issachar Fund and Edinburgh College of Art in awarding the Issachar Fund Art Prize. This year's prize, on the theme of loyalty, was won by Yunji Zhang, a current MSc student at ECA.

60 SECOND INTERVIEW



Dr Suzanna Millar is Chancellor's Fellow in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. She is the author of Genre and Openness in Proverbs 10:1-22:16 (SBL Press, 2020).

Where are you from and how has it shaped you?

I'm from Darlington. It's a friendly place and showed me the value of community.

What kind of student were you?

A very busy one, especially with extra-curricular things. I did a lot of ballet and contemporary dance.

What's the biggest misconception about vour field?

That the Bible doesn't have anything to say in our age. I think its influence on our society was formative, and the issues it raises remain pertinent.

Why did you write a book about Proverbs?

I was fascinated by how much meaning and ambiguity there could be in single-line pithy proverbs.

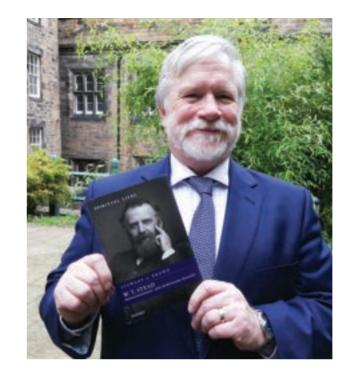
Tell us about someone who has influenced

your career.

My doctoral supervisor, Katharine Dell. She believed in my potential when I didn't see it myself. She trusted me and gave me opportunities.

How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who helps students grow, takes part in scholarly dialogue, and listens to voices that aren't usually heard.



N O T A B L E R E T I R E M E N T S: **S T E W A R T J. B R O W N A N D S U S A N H A R D M A N M O O R E**

This summer marks the retirements of two distinguished members of the New College community. Prof. Stewart J. Brown, Chair of Ecclesiastical History, will step down after more than 34 years of service, as will Prof. Susan Hardman Moore, whose first years at the School – from 1987 to 1992 – were as John Laing Lecturer in the History and Theology of the Reformation. Following a period at King's College London, she returned to Edinburgh in 2000, and was appointed Professor of Early Modern Religion in 2013.

Both Professors have served the school in a variety of leadership roles – Prof. Brown as Head of School, and (for 23 years) as Vice-Convenor of the prestigious Gifford Lectureships Committee; and Prof. Hardman Moore as Principal of New College.

G They have both made a wonderful contribution to the School over

many years. **J**



Head of School Prof. Helen Bond: "They have both made a wonderful contribution to the School over many years. We will miss seeing them on a daily basis, although we are glad that they are keen to continue their association with us. They've both assured me that they won't be strangers. We will hold them to that promise."



WILL LYONS RAISE YOUR GLASSES



New College students follow many different career paths. We caught up with Will Lyons (MA Religious Studies with History, 1999), award-winning wine writer for The Wall Street Journal and The Sunday Times, to talk about his years on the Mound. "What attracted to me to Edinburgh was its wonderful broad course – ethics, theology, comparative religion, and modern history. I came up in 1995 and hadn't really visited before, but had enjoyed history and religious studies at school and wanted to continue studying them." "It's a world class university in a beautiful city but my focus was the course.

"School was fun but not particularly intellectual. Yet I was fortunate to have friends and teachers who genuinely inspired me. Simon Gathercole, now Professor of New Testament at Cambridge was a huge influence.

"At New College, I loved the eclectic mix of students from all walks of life, and from all over the world.

G What attracted to me to Edinburgh was its wonderful broad course – ethics, theology, comparative religion, and modern history. **55**

"Rainy Hall and the library became part of my life. We enjoyed lunch there and believe it or not it was where I learned to send my first email! Compared to other faculties, New College was very diverse. Marcella Althaus Reid was my tutor and New College inspired me to knuckle down and work hard. The library and tutorial discussions gave me an understanding of how humanity ticks. As you go into journalism, that helps.

"Frank Whaling's lectures on comparative religion were a highlight. His class was like a global journey through religions across the ages. I met Kate, now my wife, during one of his lectures!



"Jolyon Mitchell's media ethics courses were very lively too. But it could be rigorous. Michael Northcott's feedback on my essays was exacting and he certainly helped me develop my style as a writer."

How did Will move from New College to The Sunday Times? "I joined the University Wine Society, and ended up becoming its president. I also started writing for the student newspaper. After graduation, I became a wine merchant before taking a postgrad qualification in journalism in Cardiff. I started at The Scotsman, moved to The Wall Street Journal in London and am now at The Sunday Times."

His advice to those considering a degree in theology or religious studies? "University is a period of reflection and intellectual growth. You can learn skills for the workforce quickly afterwards. But my studies gave me a hinterland of understanding humanity, and that is invaluable." 9



This summer. Rachel Muers will take up the oldest professorial chair at the University of Edinburgh – the Chair of Divinity, established in 1620 as part of a drive to turn what was the Town's College into the University of Edinburgh. An outstanding theologian, Muers will make history as both the first Quaker, and the first woman, to hold the post in its 402 year history. "It's an august line to step into. It feels a bit odd, but I've been doing things that feel a

Muers' engagement with theology began when reading Bonhoeffer's Letters from Prison as a 16 year old. "I thought it was amazing! I was enthusiastic about lots of disciplines, but in theology I found one discipline that contained them all. I fell in love with the richness of the subject in its ability to ask the biggest questions in the company of people who have

questions of societal import, and ask 'what does theology have to say in response?' Society poses profound questions tradition, and they call for theological responses that are both critical and constructive.

When the chair was first created. its incumbent was expected to make students "dispute" once a week - a way of testing out ideas through lively debate rooted in Medieval academic culture. Muers' own approach to teaching drives that tradition forward: "As a teacher, I am persistently interested in trying to help students think about thinkers whose assumptions are different to their own. In my classes, we always ask why someone thought as they did. They had reasons, and it's important we understand them. Theology and Religious Studies are so important because they have the ability to train that kind of intellectual empathy, which is more important than ever in the contemporary world. In theology, we do that all the time."

What excites Muers about coming to Edinburgh? "Apart from that Edinburgh itself is a beautiful city, New College is a theological community with a great reputation. It brings together individual scholars in a community where ideas crossfertilise. It has a strength of tradition, but that tradition also looks outwards - for example, in thinking about Christianity globally, and in theology's responsibilities within the academy and society.

"In my own work, I look at emerging questions of societal import, and ask 'what does theology have to say in response?' Society poses profound questions to the theological tradition, and they call for theological responses that are both critical and constructive.



THE LORD LYON: WORKING BETWEEN WORLDS

"I grew up in Fife, in an Episcopalian family. There wasn't a certificate in religious studies at my high school, but through a supportive teacher I was able to do the Cambridge O-level in religious studies. Growing up, I felt ambivalent about ministry.

"The environment was quite relaxed. Some of my friends from those days have gone on to do remarkable things.

"After New College, I was



"I had imposter syndrome: how could someone from my background be a priest? But I chose to start a degree in theology.

"It wasn't a popular move with my family, who thought I was cut out for medicine, law, or accountancy. I'm very single-minded, though, and I'm still like that.

I have lost none of my enthusiasm!"

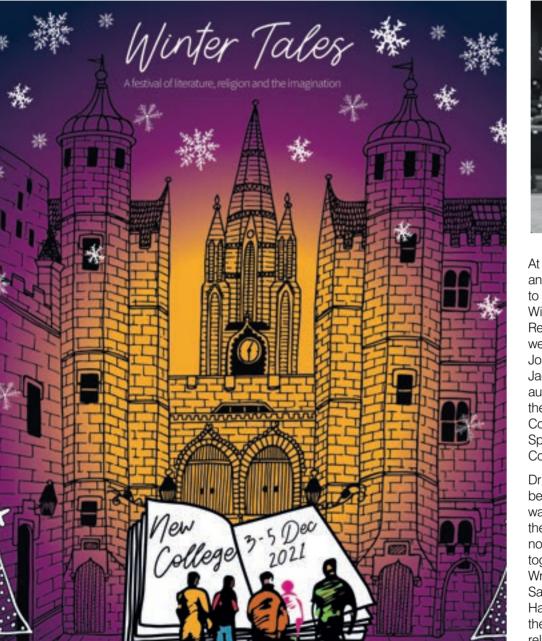
"Coming to New College was quite an experience. I had worked as a parcel boy in a town in Fife. There was a lot of great thinking on theology and society in Edinburgh. That caught my imagination. In the late 1970s, New College was primarily young, male, and focused on vocational training for ministry. I used to arrive in the quad on a motorbike and park behind John Knox. ordained in Dundee Cathedral. I spent 9 years in a working class congregation there. The church was between two 15 storey tower blocks in a disheartened community. It was a great time. We formed a community centre.

"I learned to look at theology in a different way, from the experience of people in the community.

"At the same time, I was studying law part-time. I qualified, and ended up working in mental health law, before going to the bar as an advocate. Those steps were all shaped by the rigour of my theological training. J.B. Torrance's teaching on grace and law was a formative influence on my thinking on mental health law as restorative and therapeutic. Working between the church and the law was exhilirating.

"New College now is a very open place. The staff and students come from all over the world. It's a diverse and equal place for anyone to come and study."

WINTER TALES



G Winter Tales was an exciting innovation for the School of Divinity, bringing novelists, poets and storytellers together with readers of all ages.



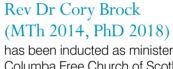
At the end last year, our 175th anniversary celebrations came to a close with the inaugural Winter Tales festival of Literature, Religion, and the Imagination - a weekend-long event led by Prof. Jolyon Mitchell and Dr Alison Jack that saw a stellar cast of authors address audiences in the Assembly Hall, including the Costa Book Award winner Francis Spufford, Marina Warner, and New College alumnus Miles Jupp.

Dr Jack hopes that the event will be the first of many. "Winter Tales was an exciting innovation for the School of Divinity, bringing novelists, poets and storytellers together with readers of all ages. Writers such as Val McDermid, Sally Magnusson and Robert Harris held us spellbound as they spoke about the complex relationship between religion and literature in their novels. Plans for the New College Festival of Books and Belief this November are well underway, building on the success of Winter Tales. I'm looking forward to it already!"



Rev Dr Sarah Agnew (PhD 2017)

recently published Whisper on My Palm: Poems in a Time of Grief. Illness, and a Global Pandemic.



Edinburgh.



Dr Richard Brash (PhD 2020)

is Lecturer in Systematic Theology at Christ Bible Seminary, in Nagoya, Japan. He recently published Knowing Me, Knowing God: Six Theological Keys to Scripture (Downers Grove: IVP, 2021)

DrYusuf Celik (PhD, 2020) is currently Data Science Fellow

has been inducted as minister at St Columba Free Church of Scotland,



in the Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School

Dr Zachary Cole (PhD 2016)

is Associate Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, in Orlando, Florida. Before this, he taught for several years at Union Theological College in Belfast.

Dr Elizabeth Corsar (MA 2013, MTh 2014, PhD 2019)

is Tutor in Biblical Studies at St Padarn's Institute, in Cardiff.

Dr Chris Cotter

(MA 2010, MSc 2011)

has been appointed Staff Tutor in Sociology and Religious Studies at The Open University.

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Dr Jessie Fubara-Manuel (PhD 2021)

has been awarded a three-year research grant by the Templeton Foundation, administered at the Nagle Institute at Calvin University, in Grand Rapids. Michigan.

Dr Whitney Gamble-Smith (PhD 2014)

is Director of Interdisciplinary Studies at The Master's University.



Prof. Mark A. Garcia (PhD 2004)

has been appointed Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia.

Dr Jay Thomas Hewitt (PhD 2018)

is now Lecturer in New Testament at the University of Aberdeen.

Dr Samuel Hildebrandt (PhD 2016)

is Lecturer in Biblical Studies at Nazarene Theological College, in Manchester. He recently co-edited From Words to Meaning: Studies on Old Testament Language and Theology for David J. Reimer (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2021), a festschrift for our former Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Bible. Dr David Reimer.

Prof Joshua Hordern (PhD 2009)

has been promoted to Professor of Christian Ethics at the University of Oxford, and has recently published Compassion in Healthcare: Pilgrimage, Practice, and Civic Life (Oxford University Press, 2020)

Dr Tore Johnsen (PhD, 2021)

has published Sámi Nature-Centred Christianity in the European Arctic: Indigenous Theology beyond Hierarchical Worldmaking (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022).

Dr Jeremy Kidwell (PhD 2014)

is Associate Professor of Theological Ethics at the University of Birmingham.

Dr David Kirkpatrick (PhD 2015)

is Assistant Professor of Religion at James Madison University, before which he was the Timothy Gannon Postdoctoral Fellow in American Religious History at Florida State University.

Caleb Kobosh (MTh 2019)

is now a PhD student at Vanderbilt University

Dr Joanna Leidenhag (PhD 2019)

has been appointed Lecturer in Theology and Liberal Arts at the University of Leeds.



Wing Li (MA 2016) is now in the final year of the MDiv

at Princeton Theological Seminary.



Alison Merrit Smith (MA 2010)

is an arts project manager in Berlin. She produces the REAL/ SYMBOL podcast

Dr Russell Newton (MA 2011, MTh 2014, PhD 2018)

our former Hope Trust postdoctoral fellow, is now Lecturer in Church History at the Faith Mission Bible College, Edinburgh. He recently co-edited The Clergy in Early Modern Scotland (Boydell and Brewer, 2021).



Rev Dr Andrew Ong (PhD 2020)

is Pastor of Discipleship at Christ Church, in Berkeley, California.

Morgan Petersen (MSc 2018)

is now studying for a PhD in microbiology and immunology at the University of Toronto.

Dr Prasad Phillips (PhD 2018)

is Deputy Executive Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life.

Dr Zachary Purvis

formerly a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at New College, is now Lecturer in Scottish Church History at Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

Christian Richards (MA 2016)

is a Full Stack UX Designer with The Weir Group PLC.

Dr Sarah Lane Ritchie (MSc 2014, PhD 2017)

our former Lecturer in Science and Theology, is now Program Officer (Philosophy and Theology) at the John Templeton Foundation.

Emmanuel Kwame Tettey is a Research Fellow at the

Ghana.

Dr Dieter Roth

(PhD 2009)

Zack Seals

(MTh 2020)

is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Boston College.

is studying for a PhD in Reformation History at the University of Geneva.

Dr Matthew Sharp (MTh 2016, PhD 2020)

has been appointed Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at the University of St Andrews His first book. Divination and Philosophy in the Letters of Paul, will be published this year by Edinburgh University Press.

Dr Karl Shuve

(PhD 2010)

is Associate Professor of Ancient and Medieval Christianity at the University of Virginia.



Theology, in Akropong-Akuapem,



Paulo Won (MTh 2016)

is Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Seminário Teológico Servo de Cristo in São Paolo, Brazil, His most recent book is E Deus falou na língua dos homens (Thomas Nelson Brazil, 2020). Videos on his YouTube channel Didaskalia have been viewed over 1 million times



Rev Dr Jaime Wright (PhD 2020)

has been ordained a priest in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

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NEW STAFF



Dr Caleb Froelich is a Postdoctoral Research Associate for the Understanding the Spiritual through the Creative Arts project, where he is conducting research on the Fringe Festival. His doctorate was taken at the University of St Andrews.

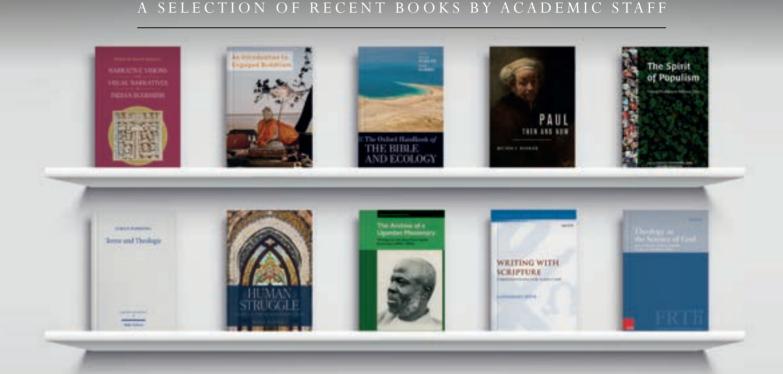


Dr Paul Fuller is Teaching Fellow in Buddhist Studies. An Edinburgh graduate (MA 1995), he has previously taught at universities in Asia, Australia, and the United Kingdom.



Prof Rachel Muers is Chair of Divinity. A graduate of Cambridge University, she was most recently Professor of Theology at the University of Leeds.

READING MATTERS



Joshua Ralston and Ulrich Schmiedel (eds), The Spirit *Naomi Appleton (ed)*, Narrative Visions and Visual Narratives in Indian Buddhism (Sheffield: Equinox, 2022). of Populism: Political Theologies in Polarized Times (Leiden: Brill, 2021).

Helen Bond and Joan Taylor, Women Remembered: Jesus' Female Disciples (London: Hodder, 2022).

Alexander Chow and Easten Law (eds), Ecclesial Diversity in Chinese Christianity (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021).

Paul Fuller, An Introduction to Engaged Buddhism (London: Bloomsbury, 2021).

Mark Harris and Hilary Marlow (eds), The Oxford Handbook of the Bible and Ecology (Oxford: Oxford) University Press, 2022).

Matthew Novenson, Paul, Then and Now (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022).

Matthew Novenson and Barry Matlock (eds), The Oxford Handbook of Pauline Studies (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).



Dr Salam Rassi

is Lecturer in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. He joins having completed a British Academy Fellowship at the University of Oxford.



Dr Bethany Sollereder is Lecturer in Science and Religion. She was previously Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Science and Religion at the University of Oxford.



Dr Ximian (Simeon) Xu

is the Kenneth and Isabel Morrison Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Theology and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Intelligence, working jointly between the School of Divinity and the Edinburgh Futures Institute. He holds three degrees from Edinburgh (MDiv 2013, MTh 2017, PhD 2020).

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Ulrich Schmiedel, Terror und Theologie (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2021).

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

Emma Wild-Wood (ed and tr), with George Mpanga, The Archive of a Ugandan Missionary: Writings by and about Revd Apolo Kivebulaya (1890s-1950s) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Nathanael Vette, Writing with Scripture: Scripturalized Narrative in the Gospel of Mark (London: T&T Clark, 2022).

Ximian Xu, Theology as the Science of God: Herman Bavinck's Wetenschappelijke Theology for the Modern World (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2022).

ATTRACTING THE BRIGHTEST

AND BEST

On average around 50% of Divinity postgraduate students are awarded some level of scholarship funding, all based on academic merit. This year, three of our students were successful in being awarded Arts and Humanities Research Council studentships by the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities – one of the most prestigious awards available.



Agana-Nsiire Agana

Agna-Nsiire's research deals with the impact of social media on young urban Christians in Ghana. Before this, he completed the MTh in World Christianity at New College.





An intellectual historian and political theorist, Jaan is working on the intellectual history of modern Jihadi-Salafism.



Marissa Clarke

Marissa is a researcher and practitioner of contemporary yoga. Her doctoral studies focus on the lived religious experiences of yoga practitioners, in order to rethink the phenomena of neo-liberal yoga brands.

Thank you for your support

We are grateful to alumni and friends who support our scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, and to all whose donations support the scholarship funds set up in memory of Larry Hurtado, Lloyd John Ogilvie, and John McIntyre. Donations can be made at www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/support-us or by contacting the Head of School.

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