



Reference Number	019931
Post	Assistant Professor (Research): Sepulchrine Fellow in the History of Catholicism
Department	Theology and Religion
Grade & Salary	Grade 7 (£33,199 - £39,609 per annum)
Term	One Year Fixed Term contract (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020)
Opening Date	15 August 2019
Closing Date	23 September 2019
Working Arrangements	This role is full time but we will consider requests for flexible working arrangements.

Durham University

Durham University is one of the world's top universities with strengths across the Arts and Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. We are home to some of the most talented scholars and researchers from around the world who are tackling global issues and making a difference to people's lives.

The University sits in a beautiful historic city where it shares ownership of a UNESCO World Heritage Site with Durham Cathedral, the greatest Romanesque building in Western Europe. A collegiate University, Durham recruits outstanding students from across the world and offers an unmatched wider student experience.

Less than 3 hours north of London and an hour and a half south of Edinburgh, County Durham is a region steeped in history and natural beauty. The Durham Dales, including the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, are home to breathtaking scenery and attractions. Durham offers an excellent choice of city, suburban and rural residential locations. The University provides a range of benefits including pension and childcare benefits and the University's Relocation Manager can assist with potential schooling requirements.

Durham University seeks to promote and maintain an inclusive and supportive environment for work and study that assists all members of our University community to reach their full potential. Diversity brings strength and we welcome applications from across the international, national and regional communities that we work with and serve.

The Department

Founded in 1832, Durham's Department of Theology and Religion was recently ranked third in the world in the QS World University Subject rankings. We also came top in the country in the last two UK assessments of research (2008 and 2014). We are home to more than 30 academic staff, and a community of over 100 doctoral students.

Teaching and research within the Department is focused on three key areas: Biblical studies, Christian Theology, and the Study of Religion.

Biblical studies covers the New Testament, the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible and ancient Judaism, and includes both close engagement with the biblical texts and broader considerations of their historical, cultural and theological contexts and interpretation. We are one of the few universities to offer the full range of biblical and ancient languages (Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, and Middle Egyptian).

Christian theology covers ethical, philosophical and systematic theology, as well as historical theology and church history. We work within a range of Christian traditions – Catholic, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox Studies are particular strengths – but we aren't confined to any of them: our approach is to let each tradition be itself, but also to bring them all into dialogue.

The study of religion looks at the anthropological, and sociological aspects of religion in the analysis of mainstream traditions and alternative religious movements, and on the practical study of contemporary religion. Specialist staff interests include Mormonism; death, dying and disposal; shamanism; religion and emotion; religion/faith and globalization; contemporary and post-evangelicalism; religion and generational change; pilgrimage; sacred space; myth analysis; and South Asian Christianities.

The department enjoys many cross-departmental and interdisciplinary links around the University, including with the Institute for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, as well as a strong, collaborative relationship with the theological institutions based in and around Durham (e.g. Cranmer Hall).

With its home in Abbey House, right next to Durham Cathedral, a UNESCO world Heritage site, it is a beautiful and immensely exciting place to study and to research in Theology and Religion.

The department is also home to a number of research centres, including the Centre for Catholic Studies (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/ccs/>). The CCS, established in October 2007, is a unique body: a major research and teaching centre explicitly focussed on the study of Catholic Theology and Catholic Studies more widely (including the empirical study of Catholicism, the history of Catholicism, and the cultural impact of Catholicism). One of the core research project areas for the CCS relates to the History of Catholicism, which is engaged with a number of partners across a range of projects, including the biennial Early Modern British and Irish Catholicism conference.

The Role

The Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University, in partnership with the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, invites applications for a 12-month Fellowship in the History of Catholicism (1640–present day).

This fixed-term Fellowship has been made possible by a contribution from the English Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre. The English Community of this Order was founded in the mid-seventeenth century in Liège before coming to England and settling eventually at New Hall in Essex in 1799. The community's historic archive and library was last year deposited in the Special Collections of Durham University and is currently being catalogued. The successful candidate will have access to this largely unexplored archive and library dating back to the Community's foundation. The collection includes spiritual works and ceremonial instructions, financial and management records, as well as biographical writings and some correspondence, all of which cover the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as well as the modern era. Some items relating to the material culture of the Community in Liège also form part of the collection. The Fellowship has been created to facilitate research into any aspect of the Canonesses' archive and/or library, and is not set to a particular chronological period. For example, the successful candidate may choose to focus on the early modern exile period, or the modern period in England.

This is an opportunity for a first-rank researcher. Applications will be considered from candidates whose background lies across a range of disciplines. The Sepulchrine Fellow will conduct research with the aim of producing at least one scholarly output of the highest quality which can be submitted for publication by the end of the term of the Fellowship. The Fellow's research project may be in any field of Catholic history, culture or theology, but will be expected to draw on and engage creatively with the archival/library resources of the English Canonesses.

The appointee will be fully involved in Durham University's Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS), working in close collaboration with the other CCS staff members, associates, and postgraduate community. In addition to the primary research responsibilities of this post, the appointed postholder may be asked to take on the 0.1-0.2 FTE specific administrative role of Assistant Director of the CCS, with responsibility for key aspects of the internal life of the CCS in such ways as: leading on regular liaison with CCS postgraduate student members; organising the annual one-day Postgraduate and Early Career Catholic Theology and Catholic Studies Conference; coordinating and making a lead contribution to the work of the CCS Communications Working Group; leading on organising occasional visits of groups of students in response to requests (typically once, or twice, per year); and other such activities.

As part of the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University, the appointee will be directly responsible to the Head of Department of Theology and Religion, but will work under the immediate direction of Dr James Kelly, who is PI for this project, and with Prof. Paul D. Murray, the CCS Dean-Director.

This post is considered to be independent.

The Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate research excellence in some aspects of the history of Catholicism and spirituality, with the ability to fully engage in the services, citizenship and values of the University.

The University provides a working, research and teaching environment which is inclusive and welcoming and where everyone is treated fairly with dignity and

respect. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate these key principles as part of the assessment process.

Candidates will have recently completed or be concluding their PhD and while they may have limited direct experience of the requirements for the post, they must outline their experience, skills and achievements to date which demonstrate that they meet or that they have the potential to achieve the essential criteria.

Research

Candidates must have capacity for and be progressing towards the independent development of internationally excellent research that produces high-quality outcomes, including some work that is recognised as world class.

The essential research criteria for this post are:

Essential Research Criteria	Grade 7
1. Qualifications	A good first degree and a PhD in an appropriate subject (which may be completed or under examination)
2. Outputs	Evidence of high quality outputs, some of which have the potential to be (or are) world class
3. Personal Research Plan	A personal research plan which supports and enhances the department's research strategy. This will be evidenced in an application mainly by the requested synopsis of the research project to be pursued while holding the fellowship (see below).

The desirable research criteria for this post (for which candidates should provide evidence of some if not all criteria) are:

Desirable Research Criteria	Grade 7
A. Income generation	Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to develop successful research project proposals
B. Research Leadership Candidates may choose to include information about research group leadership, mentoring of	Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to contribute to the leadership of research groups and the mentoring of early career researchers

research colleagues, invitations to and engagement with external events, and/or involvement with international networks or projects.	
C. Research impact	Experiences, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to evidence research impact beyond the institution

Services, Citizenship and Values

This post is focused on research but candidates may be required to actively engage in the administrative requirements of the Department, notably related to their research, and/or the research and research environment of the department.

Candidates must positively contribute to fostering a collegial environment; as well as demonstrating their commitment to equality diversity and inclusion.

The essential services, citizenship and values criteria for this role are:

Essential Services, Citizenship and Values Criteria	Grade 7
1. Collegial Contribution Candidates may choose to evidence departmental or university committee roles, mentoring activity, engagement with widening participation and membership, involvement with equality and diversity initiatives or engagement with external bodies.	Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to participate in the collegial/administrative activities of an academic department notably related to their research and/or the research and research environment of the department

2. Communication	Candidates must have excellent oral and written communication skills with the ability to engage with a range of students and colleagues across a variety of forums
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The desirable services, citizenship and values criteria for this role are:

Desirable Services, Citizenship and Values Criteria	Grade 7
D. Leadership	Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate (experience of or) the potential to engage in the administrative functioning of the candidate's academic department and/or discipline including any leadership or other responsibilities in an academic/research context

How to Apply

For informal enquiries please contact Dr James Kelly (james.kelly3@durham.ac.uk).

All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

We prefer to receive applications online via the Durham University Vacancies Site. <https://www.dur.ac.uk/jobs/>

Applications are particularly welcome from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in the University.

What to Submit

All applicants are asked to submit:

- A CV and covering letter which details your experience, strengths and potential in the requirements set out above;
- A 1000–1500-word proposal for a one-year research project focussed on the archive and/or library of the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre.

Referees

You should provide details of 3 academic/research referees and the details of your current line manager so that we may seek an employment reference (if they are not listed as an academic referee). Please note:

- We shall seek the academic/research references during the application process. Academic/research referees should not (if possible) include your PhD supervisor(s) and a majority should be from a University other than your own. We would ask that you alert your academic/research referees to this

application as soon as possible so that we can quickly obtain references. If you do not wish (some or all) of your referees to be approached during the recruitment process; you must clearly indicate this to us at the time of your application.

- We will seek a reference from your current line-manager if we make you an offer of employment (albeit you may have also nominated your line manager as an academic referee). Please clearly indicate which referee is your current line-manager and please let us know if we should only approach them once an offer has been made.

Next Steps

All applications will be considered.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to the University and will have the opportunity to meet with key members of the Department. The assessment for the post will include a research presentation and interview.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted as soon as possible and it is anticipated that the interviews will take place 15 October 2019.