



## 2018 Annual ANZATS Member Report

1. Name of Member Institution	Theology Programme, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago
2. Member's Institutional Category	Category A
3. Name of Member submitting the Report	Associate Professor Christopher Holmes
4. I give ANZATS permission to post this report on its website:	Yes

5. Please specify any major initiatives, especially in the following areas:

(a) **Research**

Our *Centre for Theology and Public Issues* [CTPI] remains quite active. Research highlights include the work of one of the Fellows of the Centre, namely Dr Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko, "*Tatala le Ta'ui a le Atua: Rolling Out the Fine Mat of Scripture. Church Responses to Gender Violence in Samoa.*" [A New Zealand Institute for Pacific Research Project funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade]. Moreover, Professor David Tombs, the director of the CTPI, received international attention recently in response to his work of Jesus as a victim of sexual abuse. See 'When Did We See You Naked?' (featured on [CNN.com](http://CNN.com) in March 2018).

In addition, Dr. Lynne Taylor, the Jack Somerville Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at Otago, was awarded the 2018 Flinders University Vice Chancellors Prize for Doctoral Thesis Excellence. Her thesis is entitled: "Redeeming Authenticity: An Empirical Study on the Conversion to Christianity of Previously Unchurched Australians."

(b) **Major Publications**

Our academic staff is very research active, and a steady stream of PhD students have completed their theses in the past year.

Three books have been appeared, namely:

*Architecture and Theology: The Art of Place* (Baylor University Press) by Murray Rae

*The Lord is Good: Seeking the God of the Psalter* (IVP Academic, 2018) by Christopher Holmes

*Outsider Designations and Boundary Construction in the New Testament: Early Christian Communities and the Formation of Group Identity* (Cambridge University Press) by Paul Trebilco

Several journal articles have appeared. Highlights include:

Kate Marcar:

"In the days of Noah: Urzeit/Endzeit correspondence and the flood tradition in 1 Peter 3-4," *New Testament Studies*, 63/4 (2017): 550-566

Derek Woodard-Lehmann:



“Reason After Revelation: Karl Barth on Divine Word and Human Words” in *Modern Theology* 33:1 (January 2017), 92-115

Christopher Holmes:

“Architectonics Matter: Some Advantages of Treating the Unicity of God in Advance of the Trinity of Persons, in Dialogue with Thomas Aquinas,” *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 19, no. 2 (2017): 130–43

“Revisiting the God/World Distinction,” *Modern Theology* 34, no. 2 (2018): 159–76.

Several book chapters have also appeared. Highlights include:

David Tombs:

“Abandonment, Rape, and Second Abandonment: Hannah Baker in 13 Reasons Why and the Royal Concubines in 2 Samuel 15-20,” in Caroline Blyth, Emily Colgan and Katherine Edwards (eds.) *Gender Violence, Rape Culture, and Religion: Biblical Perspectives*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018, pp. 117-41; “Under the Surface: Archibald Baxter’s Religious Faith” in Geoff Troughton (ed.), *Saints and Stirrers: Christianity, Conflict and Peacebuilding in New Zealand, 1814-45*. Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2017, pp. 122-43; “Lived Religion and the Intolerance of the Cross” in Ruard Ganzevoort and Srdjan Sremac (eds.) *Lived Religion and Politics of (In)tolerance*. Palgrave Studies in Lived Religion and Societal Changes. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp. 63-83; ‘A Public Theology of Reconciliation’ in Sebastian Kim and Katie Day (eds.) *Companion to Public Theology*, Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017, pp. 119-49.

Christopher Holmes:

“The Atonement and the Holy Spirit,” in *The T&T Clark Companion to the Atonement*, ed. Adam J. Johnson, 77–93. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017.

Derek Woodard-Lehmann:

“Saying ‘Yes’ to Israel’s ‘No’: Barth’s Dialectical Supersessionism and the Witness of Carnal Israel” in *Karl Barth: Post-Holocaust Theologian?* ed. George Hunsinger, 67-84 (London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2018).

### (c) Learning and Teaching

We remain strongly committed to distance theological education. We are the only University provider of Theology in New Zealand, and are working hard, via our blended learning model, to serve our distance students, many of whom are studying part-time and involved in ministry or ministry training of some sort.

### (d) Conferences held

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

### (e) Significant Staff Appointments

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

### (f) Significant Achievements

Dr. Lynne Taylor (PhD Flinders) joined the staff in February 2017. Lynne is the Jack Somerville lecturer in Pastoral Theology. This is a permanent 0.4 position, funded by the Presbyterian Church. She recently published "Toward Relational Authenticity: The Experience of Atonement in Christian Conversion Today." *Colloquium* 49, no. 1 (May 2017): 31-47.

### (g) Other

The Division of the Humanities is being restructured into Schools. Accordingly, the Theology programme will be housed in a new School of Arts. Thankfully, this does not have any impact upon our students, but it does mean quite a bit for the internal workings of the Theology programme.