



MANCHESTER WESLEY RESEARCH CENTRE

Our partners: Asbury Theological Seminary, Asbury University, Boston University School of Theology, Cliff College, International Board of Education (Church of the Nazarene), The John Rylands Research Institute and Library, The Methodist Library at Drew University, Nazarene Theological College, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Point Loma Nazarene University, Religions and Theology at The University of Manchester, Reutlingen School of Theology, Tyndale University, Universidad del Centro Educativo Latinoamericano, Wesley House Cambridge, Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University

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Director: Dr Geordan Hammond Associate Director: Prof David Bundy
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Manchester Wesley Research Centre Postdoctoral Research Fellow Programme (2023)

The Manchester Wesley Research Centre Postdoctoral Fellowship offers opportunities for scholars who have recently completed a doctoral degree (normally, but not exclusively, within the past five years) to conduct advanced research in Manchester, England. The fellowship provides access to the Methodist Archives at the internationally renowned John Rylands Research Institute and Library as well as library and archival resources at the University of Manchester, Nazarene Theological College (NTC), and the MWRC itself.

Purpose

The purpose of the MWRC Postdoctoral Fellow programme is fourfold:

- To provide recent PhD graduates opportunity to continue research in their area of specialisation
- to help postdoctoral fellows gain academic experience in preparation for a longer-term academic appointment
- to make the resources of the MWRC more broadly available
- to further enrich the Centre's community of scholars by providing opportunities for postdoctoral fellows to share the fruits of their research during their residence at the MWRC

Description

The Manchester Wesley Research Centre launched its Postdoctoral Research Fellow programme in 2016. The programme builds on the Centre's successful Visiting Research Fellow programme begun in 2012.

Although similar to the Centre's Visiting Fellows Programme, the MWRC Postdoctoral Fellow Programme is distinguished by the fact that it follows completion of a doctoral degree and has a longer frame (usually six months [in some cases there may be the possibility of extension for a further six months]; minimum of three months). Fellowships can be taken at a mutually agreed period within the Centre's financial year (July–June), though beginning in January is preferred.

The primary aim of the programme is to allow Postdoctoral Fellows time and space to carry out their independent research while also performing various tasks that aid the Centre. The larger aim is to promote research in the Methodist and Wesleyan traditions by allowing scholars to access the Methodist Archives and Research Centre (MARC) at the John Rylands Library in Manchester and the MWRC and NTC libraries.

Postdoctoral Fellows contribute to the work of the MWRC by carrying out tasks under the supervision of the Director with the aim of supporting and furthering the Centre's aims. Normally Postdoctoral Fellows divide their time on a 50/50 basis between their own research and assisting the Centre. Depending on the Fellow's experience and expertise, such tasks might include:

- a) administrative support to the Director and administrative assistants
- b) serving as a research assistant to the Director

- c) helping with MWRC conferences, seminars, and other events
- d) assisting with the development of the MWRC website and other resources
- e) occasional teaching at NTC at the discretion of the module leader in areas that are within the Fellow's range of expertise
- f) working in informal support (possibly with a group that meets regularly) with Manchester-based PhD students, including across the disciplines of study, under the direction of the appropriate supervisors

*The 2023 fellowship will have a particular focus on cataloguing and other work related to the MWRC Library. Prospective applicants who do not meet all of the requirements but are interested in developing skills in library work may be considered and are encouraged to contact the MWRC if they are interested in the fellowship.

Postdoctoral Fellows pursue their research interests within the wide remit of the MWRC, which is to promote and support research on the life and work of John and Charles Wesley, their contemporaries in the 18th century Evangelical Revival, their historical and theological antecedents, their successors in the Wesleyan tradition, and contemporary scholarship in the Wesleyan and Evangelical tradition. This includes areas such as theology, history, biblical studies, education, ethics, literature, mission, philosophy, pastoral studies, practical theology, and social theology.

Terms and Benefits

The applicant will receive:

- Accommodation on campus and a weekly stipend of £60 to assist with travel and living expenses
- Allocation of a dedicated study space in the MWRC Study Centre
- A warm welcome into the life of the Centre and invitations to take part in its and NTC's activities, such as research forums, seminars, and chapel services
- Access to the MARC, University of Manchester, MWRC, and NTC libraries
- Normal research assistance in using these library and archival resources
- Teaching at NTC as opportunities are available

Note on Accommodation and the Stipend: Accommodation will be provided on the NTC campus. If suitable accommodation is available, spouses may accompany the Postdoctoral Fellow, but will need to pay for the accommodation at a discounted rate. It is generally not possible to accommodate children in campus housing. All expenses beyond those covered by the £60 per week stipend are the responsibility of the Fellow. Flexibility on the length of the fellowship and allocation of the stipend is possible. For overseas applicants, a £300 needs-based grant to help cover the cost airfare to and from the UK may be applied for. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the MWRC with any questions about these matters.

Additional Opportunities

- Where desirable, meetings can be arranged with MWRC Fellows in Manchester (see the list of Fellows at: mwrc.ac.uk/current-fellows/)
- Present a paper to the MWRC/NTC Research Seminar, which includes faculty, research students, and invited guests
- Submit an article for publication in *Wesley and Methodist Studies*, a peer-reviewed journal co-sponsored by the MWRC and Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History (see: mwrc.ac.uk/wesley-and-methodist-studies)
- Attendance at various events such as the Methodist Studies Seminars and the MWRC Annual Lecture and Colloquium, depending upon the time of the Postdoctoral Fellow's residency

How to Apply

Applications should consist of a CV, a detailed but concise research proposal specifying proposed methodology, plans for publication or dissemination of the fruit of the research, and names and contact details of two academic references. Applicants should give an indication of their preferred dates for taking up the fellowship. Enquiries about the fellowship should be sent by email to the MWRC Director, Geordan Hammond, at ghammond@nazarene.ac.uk by **31 January 2023**. The Postdoctoral Research Fellow page on the MWRC website can be found at: <http://www.mwrc.ac.uk/post-doctoral-fellows>

Reflections from our first Postdoctoral Fellow [Dr Andrew Kloes](#):

“I am very grateful to NTC and MWRC for the opportunities that I had during the past six months as a postdoctoral research fellow. Manchester was an exciting city to live in and the College’s student and faculty community was a warm and inviting place to be.

I enjoyed pursuing my research interests in the special collections of the John Rylands Library. While working there, Dr Peter Nockles directed me to a copy of John Wesley’s *Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament* that Augustus Montague Toplady thoroughly annotated while he was a student at Trinity College, Dublin. These extensive annotations provide new insights into the public theological debates that Toplady had over ten years later with Wesley as well as those that occurred between Calvinists and Arminians within the eighteenth-century Church of England, more generally. I am currently working on a journal article manuscript based on this previously unstudied source.

Additionally, I believe that I have also grown professionally during my time at the MWRC. I had opportunities to work as a research assistant to Professor Howard Snyder and Dr Geordan Hammond, give several guest lectures, supervise a master’s degree student’s directed study, and perform academic administrative work for the College.

A special highlight for me was organising the summer Methodist Heritage Tour to Gloucester and Bristol. This was a great time shared with PhD students and staff from the college, deepening friendships and learning more about the early Methodist movement by visiting significant historical sites.”