

Name and position today and a short background

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Bibliography – Short CV

Overview: Born and brought up in Enfield, North London, I attended Church of England primary and secondary schools, completed a degree in theology at King's College London and a PGCE at Cambridge University, and then taught religious education in secondary schools for seven years. Further study at the London Institute of Education led to the awards of MA and PhD. Before taking up my present post I lectured the Institute of Education and Roehampton Institute. I was the founding chair of the Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education, a member of the writing group that drew up the non-statutory National Framework for Religious Education, and a former coordinator of the Centre for Theology, Religions and Culture at King's College London.

Qualifications: PhD (Education), Institute of Education, London University, 1995; MA Religious Education (Distinction), Institute of Education, London University, 1988 - 1980-81; PGCE (Secondary) Religious Education, Institute of Education, Cambridge University, 1979; BD (Hons.) King's College London, 1979

Previous Appointments: 1995-2006 Senior Lecturer in Religious and Theological Education, King's College London; 1991-95 Senior Lecturer in Religious Education & Whiteland's Foundation Tutor, Roehampton Institute; 1988-91 Lecturer in Religious Education, Institute of Education, London University; 1986-88 Head of Religious Education, John Mason School, Abingdon; 1984-86 Head of Religious Education, St Augustine's Anglican & Roman Catholic Upper School, Oxford; 1981-84 Head of Religious Education & Head of Year, Cowley St. John C. of E. Upper School, Oxford

Highlights: Founder and inaugural Chair, Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education (UK); Professional Council for Religious Education (UK); QCA Religious Education Advisory Group; Non-Statutory Framework for Religious Education Writing Group; Bishop's Inspector of Theological Colleges and Courses (Church of England); Theological Advisor, Jerusalem Trust; Editorial Boards of seven international refereed journals; Various keynote papers at international conferences (Australia, Finland, Germany, India, Latvia etc.); Doctoral supervision (c.30 students, all successful or in progress); Media: BBC 1, BBC News 24, Iraqi Television Network, BBC Radio 4, New Statesman, Guardian etc. Research and interest fields – and Current projects

Research and interest fields

My research focuses on the development of public religious literacy through education in schools and faith communities. It explores ways of enabling citizens of democratic states and members of faith communities to respond intelligently to contested beliefs about the nature of ultimate reality and the fundamental meaning and purpose of life. I focus on four inter-related areas of professional practice: public policy at the interface of religion and education; religious education in schools; cross-curricular spiritual education; the pedagogy of learning at the macro-level of discrete world-views. My research is primarily theoretical, employing a distinctive interdisciplinary methodology that combines philosophy, theology and educational theory. It seeks to expose and critique the philosophical, theological and ideological assumptions underlying current theory and practice, and draws on the insights of critical realism, Trinitarian theology, critical hermeneutics and variation theory to develop innovative alternatives.

Keywords to characterize the research profile

- Religious Education
- Theological Education

- Critical Realism
- Hermeneutics
- Epistemology
- Ontology
- Spirituality.

Current projects

Promoting Religious Literacy in Further Education Colleges (with AFAN, 'All Faiths and None' = <http://www.afan.uk.net/>)

The Pedagogy of Critical Religious Education (with University of Helsinki, = Dr Elina Wright (nee Hella), Post-Doctoral Researcher University of Helsinki and Visiting Research Fellow King's College London)

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1 Books

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- Wright, A. (forthcoming) *Christianity and Critical Realism: Truth, Ambiguity and Theological Literacy*
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2. Book chapters

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