

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION INFORMATION

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| POSITION TITLE: | Research Fellow <i>or</i> Senior Research Fellow (Early Christianity) |
| WORK AREA POSITION CODE: | <i>(To be allocated by Human Resources)</i> |
| FUNCTIONAL UNIT: | Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry |
| ORGANISATIONAL UNIT: | Faculty of Theology and Philosophy |
| CAMPUS: | St Patrick's Campus, Melbourne |
| NOMINATED SUPERVISOR (TITLE): | Director, Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry |
| CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: | Academic Level B or C |
| EMPLOYMENT TYPE | Fixed-term (5 years) or Continuing appointment, Full-time A period of probation may be attached to this position. |
| REMUNERATION & BENEFITS: | A range of generous conditions of employment and entitlements are provided to staff some of these include: generous leave conditions; flexible working conditions; comprehensive staff development programs; salary packaging benefits as a rebatable employer; reward and recognition programs. |
| SUPERANNUATION: | The University will contribute an amount equivalent to 17% of your gross annual salary to superannuation. |
| DATE DEVELOPED/ REVIEWED: | June 2016 |

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement:

Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, Australian Catholic University is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good.

Australian Catholic University (ACU) is both a Catholic University and a public institution within the Australian higher education sector. ACU is an inclusive community which welcomes students and staff of all beliefs. The University is committed to a strong Catholic ethos and seeks to foster and promote teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and community engagement in the Christian tradition. As valued members of our community, all staff members are expected to have an understanding of ACU's [Mission](#) and values and to demonstrate an active contribution to them.

The University shares with universities worldwide a commitment to quality in teaching, research and service. It aspires to be a community characterised by free enquiry and academic integrity.

The University chooses to focus on areas of teaching and research that are closely connected with its particular character as a University that is, Catholic, public and national. The focus areas are Theology and Philosophy, Health, Education and, the Common Good and Social Justice.

ACU has over 2,000 staff supporting more than 30,000 students across seven campuses – Adelaide, Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, North Sydney and Strathfield.

The structure to support this complex and national University consists of:

- Provost
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students, Learning and Teaching
- Chief Operating Officer

Each portfolio consists of a number of Schools, Directorates or Institutes;

- Five Associate-Vice-Chancellors or Campus Deans that focus on the University's local presence and development of the University at the local 'campus' level; and
- A Directorate of Identity and Mission that drives both the Identity and the [Mission](#) of the University and includes a number of Institutes and Directorates.

The University pursues performance excellence and offers an environment where staff are valued and rewarded. Staff are expected to demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement and to participate fully in resolving issues to achieve and maintain quality standards relevant to role. Further information about a career with ACU is available at www.acu.edu.au.

THE INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND CRITICAL INQUIRY

The Institute is first and foremost a research organization, which sets its sights on the highest standards of intellectual work, seeking creativity, collaboration and originality as well as rigour and thoroughness in its scholarship at an international level. Established in 2014 to contribute to the University's strategic goal of making ACU Australia's leading institution for religious and philosophical studies, it comprises four research centres: the Centre for Biblical and Early Christian Studies; the Centre for Catholic Thought and Practice; the Centre for Religion, Philosophy and Culture; and, the Centre for Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics.

The Institute is in an exciting growth stage. In the last two years, a number of appointments have been made in the area of Biblical and Early Christian Studies, Philosophy of Religion and Moral Philosophy. A further tranche of appointments is underway in 2016 across all areas of the Institute. In addition, the Institute has

developed strong international partnerships with leading Universities in Europe, the UK and North America. It also has established a series of research seminars each year at ACU's new Rome Campus.

CENTRE FOR BIBLICAL AND EARLY CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Located within the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, the Centre for Biblical and Early Christian Studies builds on a long history of distinguished work by ACU's world-leading New Testament and Early Christianity scholars. A major focus of research in the Centre is the extent to which different strands of Christianity sought to define themselves in relation to Jewish and Greco-Roman religious, philosophical, social and cultural heritages. This includes attention to the reception, appropriation and transformation of Classical and Jewish thought-systems and ways of life. Scholars within the Centre have expertise in Hellenistic Judaism, New Testament Studies, Early Christianity, and Late-Antique and Byzantine Studies.

THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

The Faculty of Theology and Philosophy is the largest Faculty of its kind in Australia. It is comprised of two national schools, the School of Theology and the School of Philosophy, as well as the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry.

In the recent ERA 2015 assessment the University was ranked at above world standard (ERA score of 4) in the Religion and Religious Studies and the Philosophy Fields of Research, and at world standard (ERA score of 3) in the Applied Ethics Field of Research, placing it among the very best universities in Australia in these fields. The Faculty offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses and higher degree research studies across six campuses and is a leader in the flexible delivery of teaching.

POSITION DETAILS

MODES OF KNOWING AND THE ORDERING OF KNOWLEDGE IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

While successful candidates will be encouraged to pursue self-directed research in any area of Early Christian Studies, the positions will also contribute to a major five-year project entitled 'Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity.' The project investigates 'modes of knowing' constructed by Greek, Latin and Syriac Christians c.100-700 CE and the theological claims supporting those epistemologies. It relates them to contemporary philosophical, medical and rhetorical discourses, social practices (asceticism, pilgrimage, liturgies), imperial and institutional power structures, and the material world of early Christianity (relics, sacred texts). It also asks how this construction of Christian epistemologies through cultural and intellectual appropriations might inform modern theological reflection on Christian traditions and theological engagement with modernity.

The project is led by Prof. Lewis Ayres (Durham/ACU), with Dr Michael Champion (ACU), Dr Matthew Crawford (ACU), Dr Jane Heath (Durham) and Dr Andrew Radde-Gallwitz (Notre Dame) as other Chief Investigators. In addition, a number of other scholars from Australia, Europe, the UK, and the USA will provide advice and contribute to the project's publications. Key components of the project are annual symposia at ACU's Rome Campus, arranged panels of papers at international scholarly conferences, and various publications including a series of edited volumes, monographs, and journal articles.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Research Fellow and/or Senior Research Fellow will conduct high-level research as a member of the team investigating *Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity*. They will pursue their own research within and beyond the project, leading to high-quality publications. Within the project, they will explore Early Christian modes of knowing in relation to at least one of: a) contemporary philosophical, medical and rhetorical discourses; b) social practices (e.g. asceticism, pilgrimage, liturgies); c) imperial and institutional power structures; or d) the material world of early Christianity (e.g. relics, sacred texts). Their research may be related to any period of early Christianity from c.100-700 CE. Through individual and collaborative research and publications, and participating in Centre and Institute activities, the Research

Fellow or Senior Research Fellow will help to enhance the national and international research profile of the Centre for Biblical and Early Christian Studies and the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful applicant will:

1. Conduct high-quality research related to Early Christianity generally and the 'Modes of Knowing' project specifically;
2. Produce high-quality publications as sole author and in collaboration with other researchers in top international peer-reviewed outlets;
3. Contribute actively to the collegial life of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, including leading research seminars;
4. Prepare and submit research grant applications and actively identify and seek funding from external bodies in consultation with other researchers within and outside of the Institute;
5. Manage the Project website and blog (Level B);
6. Perform other duties as required appropriate to the level of appointment.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA (REQUIRED SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE)

Essential:

1. A PhD related to early Christianity or late antique studies (including Theology, Philosophy, Classics, History or cognate disciplines).
2. Expertise in at least one of the following areas: ancient grammar, rhetoric, medicine, philosophy, institutional practices, liturgy, material culture, Christian theology.
3. Ability to work with primary texts in at least one of Greek, Latin or Syriac.
4. A track record of scholarly publications of an excellent international standard (Level B). A sustained track record of scholarly publications of an excellent international standard and evidence of a contribution to the discipline (Level C).
5. Ability to work effectively both individually and collegially as part of a collaborative research team.
6. Commitment to equity and diversity principles, including understanding of cultural diversity and ethical practice, equal employment opportunity and workplace health and safety.
7. Awareness of the University's Mission and Catholic ethos, including the capacity to demonstrate an understanding of how this role serves the Mission.

Desirable:

1. Interdisciplinary expertise across Theology, History, Classics or Philosophy.
2. Ability to work in multiple ancient languages, such as Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Old Church Slavonic, and Christian Arabic.
3. Success in attracting competitive grant funding
4. Experience in supervising HDR students and/or in university teaching
5. Experience in public engagement activities and in communicating research to a wide public audience.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACADEMIC LEVELS (MSALs)

Level B

A Level B research academic will normally have experience in research or scholarly activities that have resulted in high quality peer reviewed publications. A Level B research academic will carry out independent and/or team research and undertake professional activities appropriate to their discipline. A Level B academic may supervise postgraduate research students or projects and be involved in research training.

Level C

A Level C research academic will make a significant contribution to the discipline at an international level. A Level C academic will normally play a major role or provide a significant degree of leadership in research and/or professional activities relevant to the organisational unit and/or the discipline. A Level C academic will normally undertake supervision of postgraduate research students and be involved in research training.