**Postgraduate Conveners’ Report – 2015-16**

Soon after our nomination as PG conveners we developed a fourfold strategy to build on the achievements of our predecessors:

We firstly set to continue **organising an annual postgraduate conference**. This took place in Durham on 21-22 April 2016 on 'Christian Hope: Embodying the Resurrection in the World Today'. Nine participants, seven of whom delivered paper presentations, attended the conference. Based on their feedback, we know that the participants found the post-paper discussions particularly helpful for the further development of their research. The conference's main address by Prof. Robert Song and the response by Prof. Gerard Loughlin on sexual ethics were open to all Durham students, which attracted several more and was well received and as a result increased the awareness and the positive image of the SSCE.

We secondly decided **hold an event for postgraduate at the SSCE conference in September 2016**. We will be hosting a social reception and a postgraduate discussion during this conference as part of our ongoing efforts to build a collegial spirit among the SSCE postgraduate community. The postgraduate session was also shifted to the middle of the conference in order to raise the level of postgraduate participation.

Thirdly, we decided to **introduce** **targeted e-mail communication quarterly**, containing information about conferences, work opportunities, and career options for PhD students. We maintained our presence on Facebook and Twitter. We will have sent four newsletters in our years serving as PG conveners and features interviews with leading academics as well as members of the SSCE Postgraduate community. The response has been very positive and the newsletter is circulated further through KLICE to its own postgraduate community.

Fourthly, we looked to **work together with the SSCE committee to strengthen networking and interaction between postgraduates, and postgraduates and members of the SSCE**, including through our regular communication. However, our interaction with the SSCE committee has been limited and we hope that our successors will be able to work more closely with the committee to ensure that there is more interaction between PG and other members of the SSCE. We recommend that PG conveners are drawn in more directly in conversations, including being invited to the half-yearly meeting, and that members of the committee also take some initiative to support the PG.

Our thanks first go to Anna Westin and David Robinson for being very good examples to follow. We were also particularly appreciative of the support that they gave us at the beginning of our term. We are thankful to the SSCE committee for giving us the opportunity to serve as PG conveners, and to David Clough and Jeremy Kidwell in assisting us in our task.

We decided to jointly resign from our positions in order to focus on our research and other activities. We have identified our successors and these will be introduced shortly.

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