



WESLEY HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE

Appointment of a Post-doctoral Research Associate

A Post-doctoral Research Associate is sought for appointment by the Wesley House Trustees/Directors from 15 January 2024. This is a two-year fixed term appointment. Applications are invited from early career Christian ethicists and public or political theologians whose scholarship relates the Christian faith to contemporary social issues and public life. This role is based in Cambridge, England. The post-holder will

- Publish research in Christian social ethics or public or political theology
- Support the development of the Centre for Faith in Public Life
- Play an active role in the worship and community life of Wesley House, Cambridge

The Role

The Post-doctoral Research Associate will work in Cambridge at the [Centre for Faith in Public Life at Wesley House](#), under the supervision of Director Dr Richard A Davis, researching in an existing or emerging programme area of the Centre (currently either Peace Theology or Religion and Democracy) or in Christian Social Ethics more generally.

The Research Associate's time will normally be split 40% on their own research, 40% on the work of the Centre, and 20% administration and supporting the worship, residential, and academic life of the Wesley House community.

The Research Associate will have access to the library resources of Wesley House and the Cambridge Theological Federation's other eleven member institutions as well as of the University of Cambridge.

About the Centre

The Centre for Faith in Public Life at Wesley House, Cambridge supports and promotes the active, informed, and constructive engagement of Christians and churches in public life for furthering 'the welfare of the city', peace, justice, freedom, equality, and the common good. It does this through study, research, publishing, and conversations in the area of faith and public life.

The Centre provides a hub for public theology and Christian social ethical thought within Wesleyan traditions. We are located physically in Cambridge and virtually through its global

network of scholars. The Centre aims to promote the public ministry and mission of churches and the public witness of Christians in their daily lives.

From 2021, the Centre is a member of the [Global Network for Public Theology](#).

Informed by Wesleyan tradition, and inclusively ecumenical in spirit, the Centre offers theological resources and research into contemporary issues facing humanity. Those that are of specific interest to the Centre are these topics of public and political theology:

- the relationship between Christianity and democracy
- the development of Christian peace theology
- decolonial settler theology
- issues of political economy, including poverty and inequality
- the role of the state in public life
- ecology and climate change and technology
- church engagement in public issues

About Wesley House

Wesley House Cambridge, founded in 1921, is an academic institution within the Cambridge Theological Federation. It is an independent trust, founded to be a Christian community of study and prayer in the Wesleyan tradition in the university city of Cambridge. We maintain an open, inclusive ethos in which we encourage mutual respect and open dialogue. We uphold academic freedoms.

Our heritage is Methodist/Wesleyan and our reach is global. Our mission is education that is informed by research and prayer and that issues in professional development for church and community leaders.

We have a small physical footprint in on [Jesus Lane](#) in [Cambridge](#) itself where a small international community of full-time resident students, visiting scholars and resident staff work and pray together. We have more than 50 students on registered degree programmes (mostly MA and PhD) who work remotely from their own settings as leaders, educators and clergy. Our current student body is drawn from Cameroon, China, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe. Many are Methodists but we also welcome students of other denominations wanting to engage with our programmes and ethos.

About The Cambridge Theological Federation

The college is an official house of residence of the University of Cambridge and a founder member of the [Cambridge Theological Federation](#) which has 12 member institutes comprising Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Reformed members, and the following specialist institutes: Cambridge Centre for Christianity worldwide, The Faraday Institute, The Kirby Laing Centre, The Woolf Institute. Through the CTF we offer research and taught degrees in partnership with the [University of Cambridge](#) and [Anglia Ruskin University](#). Wesley House is also one of eleven global hubs of the [General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church](#) that support pan-Methodist working on education, leadership and development across the world

The Staff Team

The postholder would be a member of the core Wesley House academic staff team. Our core staff team includes the Principal, the Vice Principal, the Director of Research and the Chaplain. We are from New Zealand, the USA and Britain. At the moment only the Principal and the Vice Principal are Cambridge-based and other staff work remotely. There is a much wider and international team of academic supervisors and reflective pastoral supervisors with whom we work remotely.

The team and our student body keeps in touch with regular worship (daily in person and termly online); hybrid staff meetings; staff weeks in person and other zoom meetings as required.

Eligibility

Applicants are required to have completed their PhD in Christian social ethics, public/political/eco theology, or closely related discipline within the last 3 years (i.e. awarded in the 2020's).

Applications

The deadline for applications is **21 November 2023 (11:59pm UK time)**.

Please send applications to: ai022@cam.ac.uk

Wesley House is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all sections of society.

Applicants should send the following documents:

- A covering letter (maximum two pages)
- Full academic Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Academic transcripts
- A two-year research and publication plan (maximum 1,000 words)
- A writing sample from the doctoral dissertation or later publication (maximum ten pages or one chapter/article)
- An outline of a short course (4 sessions of two hours each) that you could teach to non-specialist adults (maximum one page)
- Two academic references on letter head, signed and dated

Selection process

Applications for this post will be considered by a selection panel comprising the Director, a Fellow of the Centre, and a representative of the Trustees.

- Applications close: 21 November 2023
- Zoom Interviews for short listed candidates: 27-29 November 2023
- Onsite interview: 7 December 2023
- Appointee advised of result: 8 December 2023
- Proposed start date for appointee: 15 January 2024

Finalists will be invited for an onsite visit and final interview in Cambridge where they will be asked to make a presentation as part of the process. Candidates invited for a first interview should plan to be in Cambridge on 7 December 2023.

Terms of Appointment

1. Post-doctoral Research Associate will be an employee of Wesley House, Cambridge.
2. This is a two-year fixed-term, full-time appointment.
3. The Researcher will be provided with office space furnished with appropriate equipment which will be considered their normal place of work.

Job Description

Responsible to: The Director of the Centre for Faith in Public Life at Wesley House, Cambridge

Other key contacts:

- The Principal, staff and Fellows of Wesley House
- Members of the Committees of Wesley House and Reference Groups of Centres
- Supervisors of Wesley House research students
- Members of college including students, staff, sabbatical visitors, and those engaging in other kinds of learning
- Cambridge Theological Federation colleagues (library, IT, and administration)
- Colleagues in Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities concerned with the admission of research students and their progress
- Other centres, institutes, and partners in the UK and beyond

Key Responsibilities

1. Publish research in Christian social ethics or public/political/eco theology (40%)

A key part of this role is to conduct quality research in Christian social ethics or public/political/eco theology for presentation at academic conferences and publication in peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters or books based on an agreed plan of work.

2. Support the development of the Centre of Faith in Public Life (40%)

This part of the role supports the work and development of the Centre for Faith in Public Life working closely with the Director, and may include:

- a. Organizing events such as conferences and seminars
- b. Coordinating the Reference Group
- c. Updating the Centre website
- d. Coordinating the Centre's short courses
- e. Teaching Centre short courses
- f. Writing funding applications
- g. Making social media posts
- h. Supervising or supporting students in the Centre
- i. Developing partnerships that enhance the work and reach of the Centre

3. Play an active role in the worship and community life of Wesley House, Cambridge (20%)

This part of the role supports the common academic, worshipping, and residential life of Wesley House, through such activities as:

- a. Attending and participating in worship, including Cambridge Theological Federation worship

- b. Attending Thursday night community dinners
- c. Attending and sometimes presenting in Wesley House seminars (Research Seminars, PhD Skills Seminars, World Parish Webinars, and Methodist Theology and Spirituality sessions)
- d. Attend staff weeks in college three times each year
- e. Help promote the wider work of the college
- f. Accompanying or leading student field trips and pilgrimages
- g. Supporting the work of the College's journal *Holiness*
- h. Conducting reviews for the Cambridge Theological Federation

Remuneration and Conditions

- The salary for this post will be within the range £32,000-£35,000 per annum.
- Other benefits include National Insurance contributions and pension provision.
- 8% contribution to NEST (National Employment Savings Trust)
- Funding will be provided to support research and conference attendance.
- No accommodation is provided with this post, but the postholder may be able to rent accommodation at Wesley House subject to availability.

Hours and place of work

- This is a full-time role with 40 working hours a week, normally across Monday to Friday located at Wesley House Cambridge.
- Whilst the normal place of work will be Cambridge some travel to partner institutions and training venues in the UK and abroad may be required.
- Time in lieu will be offered for weekend or Bank Holiday working.
- Holiday entitlement is 25 days per annum together with bank holidays.
- This is a fixed term appointment for two years, though it may be extended if the post-holder secures grant funding to cover the costs of the post.

Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PhD, DPhil (or equivalent terminal research degree) in Christian Social Ethics, public theology, political theology, or ecotheology (awarded in last 3 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Masters qualification in an appropriate subject in the humanities or social sciences
Experience and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge beyond one's research in the wide fields of theology and ethics ○ Excellent formal presentation skills in academic and church settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experience in using Zoom, Zotero, WordPress, Moodle ○ Tutoring or teaching in higher education ○ Evidence of administrative abilities ○ Evidence of securing funding to support research ○ Experience of community living and leadership ○ Ecumenical and intercultural experience
Special qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commitment to the Wesley House ethos and ways of working ○ Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication and presentation skills ○ Ability to work collaboratively and flexibly ○ Ability to develop relationships cross culturally ○ Commitment to working with diverse theological and ecumenical positions ○ Ability to meet deadlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of the Methodist/Wesleyan traditions ○ Experience in preaching and leading worship ○ Relevant networks within the UK and beyond
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligible to work in the UK (Wesley House can sponsor a work visa if necessary) ○ For ordained ministers, the appropriate permission to serve ○ Willingness to travel nationally and internationally. 	

Wesley House Ethos

Founded in 1921 to train British Methodist ministers within the world-class [University of Cambridge](#), today Wesley House is a globally significant resource for leadership and scholarship in the Wesleyan tradition.

Our mission as a higher educational institution is to

1. Curate learning communities that pray, confer, research, learn and share their work and life as part of the body of Christ.
1. Build global capacity for resourcing leadership and scholarship through partnership working.
2. Create and disseminate research and offer teaching and other educational opportunities shaped by that research in three areas of focus:
 - a. Global Wesleyan Theology,
 - b. Leadership and Ministry Development,
 - c. Faith in Public Life

Our community: We are a community of intersecting communities. Some of us live in Cambridge and study and worship together regularly in person. Some of us live in other places around the world and visit Cambridge periodically. Some of us meet only online for worship and study. Some meet in other places in the world for study intensives and short courses. We share the physical site in Cambridge with the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies and the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology. We and they are all part of the Cambridge Theological Federation which has 12 members.

Our ethos is shaped by our Wesleyan heritage and our global and ecumenical context:

In our activities and the running of our facilities we seek to hold in creative tension....

- Prayerfulness and critical questioning
- Our Wesleyan roots and open engagement with others
- Academic rigour and practical effectiveness
- Institutional memory and prophetic vision
- Freedom to think and respect for difference
- The local and the global
- Responsiveness to needs and careful stewardship of resources
- Support for learning and encouragement of independent work
- The concerns and interests of the various overlapping communities that form Wesley House

We seek to nurture working, worshipping, residential and learning communities and partnerships that invite:

- fairness and respect
- open communication
- depth of engagement
- realism and creativity
- kindness and generosity
- mutual support and accountability
- naming and learning from our mistakes

All staff and members of college are required to abide by the college ethos.