

# Looking Back

*Reformation & Renaissance Review* is an interdisciplinary journal with expansive aims and scope. The journal publishes papers on all aspects of religious thought, life, theology and culture, from the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries. Despite this inclusivity, many successful submissions remain confined to traditional subjects, rather than exploring new forms of interdisciplinary study.

*R&RR* now faces the challenge of negotiating new modes of interdisciplinary enquiry, forged by 21st century research cultures.



## 'Old' interdisciplinary study

- Ecclesiastical history
- Historical theology
- Translation
- Spirituality
- Politics of religion

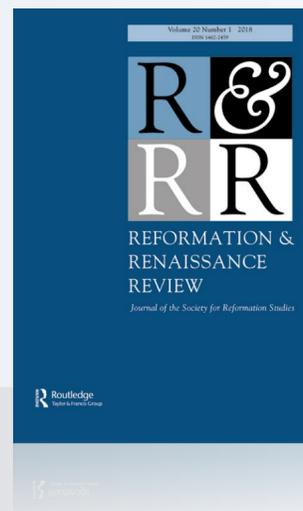
## 'New' interdisciplinary study

- History of material and visual culture
- History of the book and life writing
- Gender history
- Cultural history
- Global history



The Stern Review underlined the 'essential role of interdisciplinary research in addressing complex problems and research questions posed by global social, economic, ecological and political challenges'

REF 2021 promises that each "sub-panel will have at least one appointed member to oversee and participate in the assessment of interdisciplinary research"



# Attracting Interdisciplinary Submissions

David Manning

Deputy Editor of *Reformation & Renaissance Review*

*R&RR*'s Editors conducted a **SWOT analysis** to crystallise their thinking, develop a strategy, and identify opportunities to encourage more 'new' interdisciplinary submissions.

### STRENGTHS

- Official journal of the Society for Reformation Studies
- Strong international presence, both in its contributors and editorial board
- At the forefront of 'old' interdisciplinary study

### WEAKNESSES

- Hesitant to engage with newer modes of interdisciplinary study
- Just 3 of 34 editorial board members currently have expertise in these new approaches

### OPPORTUNITIES

- 'Old' and 'new' modes of interdisciplinary study can be accommodated in exciting, constructive ways

### THREATS

- Within the disciplines of Divinity, History, and Literature, the paradigms of 'Reformation' and 'Renaissance' continue to be challenged by a more expansive sense of the 'early modern' and socio-cultural trends in interdisciplinary enquiry that study the religion of the past as 'lived experience'



# Looking Forwards



Initiate discussions with stake holders about setting out a clear strategy on engaging with 'new' interdisciplinary study.



Monitor the interdisciplinary scope of submissions over the next four years.



Achieve 25% of successful submissions within the 'new' interdisciplinary approaches, and achieve a corresponding shift in expertise on the editorial board.



Use the discussions and evidence collated over the previous five years to build a strategic action plan for continuing to publish 'new' modes of interdisciplinary research.

# Case Study

The Society for Reformation Studies hosted a conference on 'Gender and Sexuality in the Reformation' in 2014 which attracted high numbers of academics working within 'new' models of interdisciplinary study.

*R&RR* published a special issue the following year, championing high-quality submissions in this subject area from many of the conference speakers.

**100%**  
of authors featured in special issue also presented papers at the conference



**891** downloads of Busfield article – **R&RR's most popular paper ever!**

**170** downloads of Apetrei article