

A PhD in Religions & Theology – where next?

“The PhD Job Market”

- ... doesn't really exist (as a generic entity)
- ... and neither does “The Masters Job Market”
 - “The Graduate Job Market” is the anomaly

PhDs (& Masters)

- You've already embarked on your career
- Your next step depends on
 - Experiences you bring into your PG programme
 - Opportunities you take during your PG programme
 - How you approach your job search after your PG programme

The Secret to Career Success?



Be Connected



Be Curious

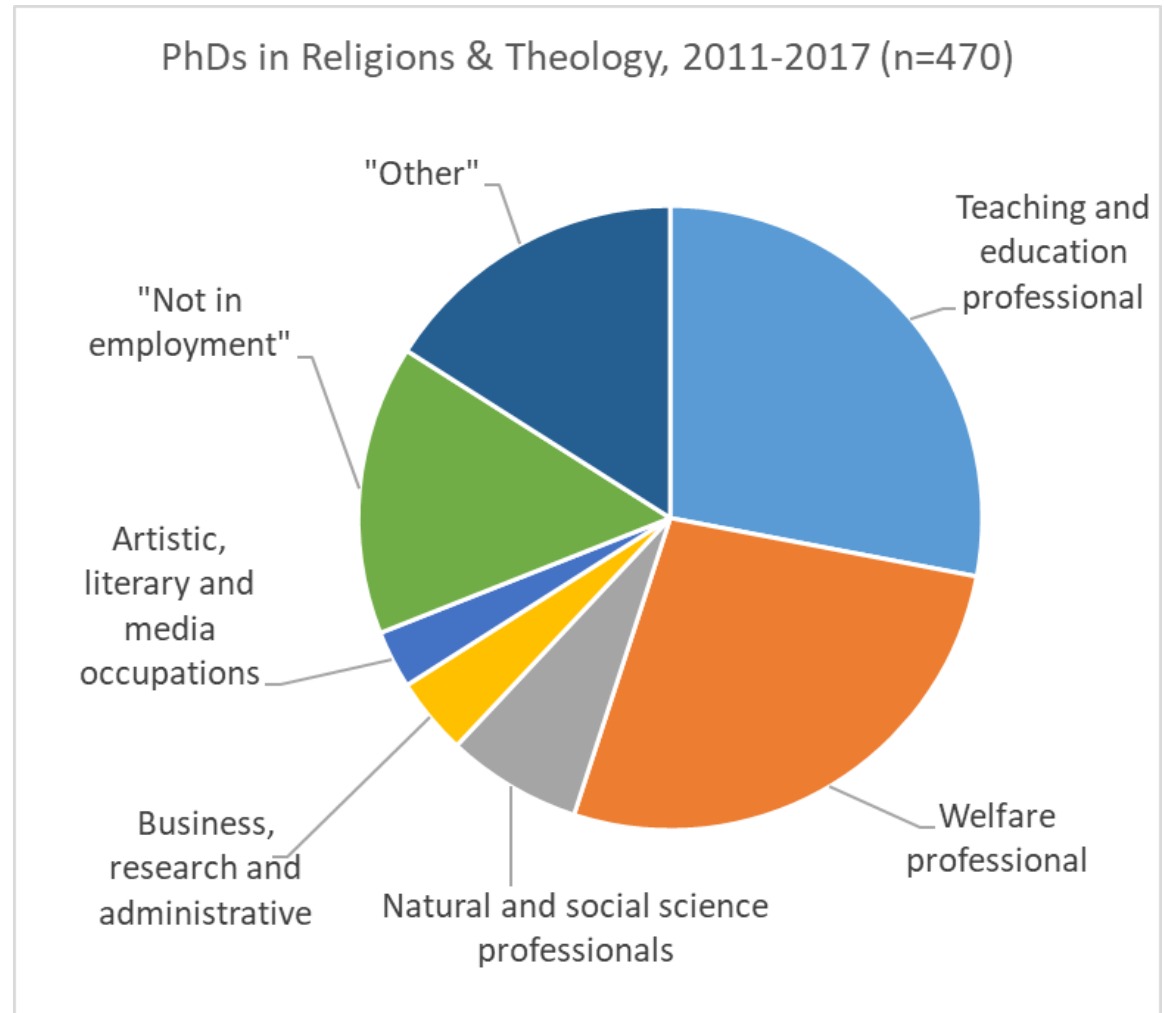


Be Courageous

Notes to previous slide

- From research done with our own graduates. The characteristics which made the difference between those who progressed quickly into “aspirational” careers (not all corporate, includes teaching and independent film maker) and those who struggled were:
 - Being Curious – learning from others (alumni, employers, use your research skills), learning by doing (hone lots of skills in your PhD which could be incredibly useful next – try applying them outside your research if might want non-academic job)
 - Being Connected – being part of the academic community, sharing ideas with friends & fellow students (incredible networks at university – great for finding out about niche jobs)
 - Being Courageous – spotting opportunities, daring to take a chance and having a go.

Where do Religions & Theology PhDs go? The UK picture, 6 months after graduation:



Notes to previous slide

- 28% “Teaching and education professional” – which includes both School and university
- 27% “Welfare professional” - which includes clergy – likely to have been clergy before they started the PhD, and may have been doing one part-time alongside their main job
- 7% “Natural and social science professionals” – probably social science researchers, either in universities, NGOs or other organisations
- 4% “Business, research and administrative” – can include public policy as well as straight business roles
- 3% “Artistic, literary and media occupations” – including authors
- 15% “Not in employment” – the largest group *not* being “unemployed”, but those choosing to do something else (have families, retire – or already retired?)
- The rest is made up of 1 & 2% in a wide range of other occupations inc media, managers & directors, IT, health professionals, sales professionals, housing professionals, public service professionals!

Where do *our* R&T PhDs go?

University of Manchester PhDs in Religions &
Theology, 2011-2016 (n=16)

