

Dr Simon Smith

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Simon has been working for the Subject Centre since its inception in January 2000, and has been Director since August 2009. He is responsible for the leadership and strategic direction of the Centre. He also acts a Lead for the Higher Education Academy's Educational for Sustainable Development project (www.heacademy.ac.uk/esd).

Simon has taught Early Indian Religions, Religion in Modern Britain, Buddhism, New Religious Movements, and Religion and Social Theory in the Department of Theology and Religious at the University of Leeds; and has also taught on a postgraduate programme in New Religious Movements at Selly Oak Colleges (now part of the University of Birmingham), where he was employed in the Centre for the Study of New Religious Movements. Simon has published in the fields of Buddhism, Hinduism, New Religious Movements, and Social Theory. His latest publication (co-edited with Dr Darlene Bird) is ***Theology and Religious Studies in Higher Education: Global Perspectives*** (Continuum, 2009). He is the original editor of the Internet Theologian, and Internet for Religious Studies for JISC Intute, and has recently written articles in the areas of Ethics, Education for Sustainable Development, Cultural and Religious Diversity, Enterprise, and Employability.

Simon studied Religious Studies (BA (Hons) 1988-1991) and Interfaith Studies (MA 1991-1992) at the University of Wales, Lampeter; and was awarded a PhD for his thesis entitled 'Buddhism and the Postmodern: The Nature of Identity and Tradition in Contemporary Society' by the University of Leeds in 1997.