**Stephen Christopher, PhD, (Co-PI)** is a Visiting Fellow at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto. He completed a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Copenhagen (2022-24) and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellowship at Kyoto University (2019). An anthropologist of religion, he studies how politics impact minority religions through two main research agendas. One line of research considers the impact of India’s affirmative action policies on tribal religion, especially via religious conversion and ritual practice that have established an intersectional identity of “tribal Dalits”. Another line of research considers how Tibetan statelessness has shaped the commodification of Vajrayana Buddhism across Asia, advancing the theorization of the corporate form of religiosity. He is completing a monograph about Japanese patronage of Tibetans that examines the “value” of refugees and spiritual strategies of refugee resilience.

Dr. Christopher joined the DRH as an editor in 2018 and has thrice earned the top editor award out of 38 editors. He spearheaded two targeted data projects; co-published with current project team member Dr. Noseworthy a recent *JAAR* article on DRH data; presented DRH data at several international conferences; and recruited over 220 entries into the database (17 percent of the DRH’s total volume). With a background in digital methods and citizen science, professional history in Asia (over 12 years in South-, East-, and Southeast Asia), and an existing research network, he will bring considerable experience to recruit 200 NRP experts.

**Suzanne Newcombe, PhD, (Co-PI)** is a senior lecturer in religious studies at The Open University and the honorary director of Inform. Dr. Newcombe’s research expertise lies in the sociology and social history of religion, specifically the modern history of yoga and new religious movements, and focuses on the interfaces between religion, health and healing. Publications include two volumes co-edited with Dr. Karen O’Brien-Kop, the *Routledge Handbook of Yoga and Meditation Studies* (2020) and a forthcoming volume in the Proceedings of the British Academy Series, *Religion, Spirituality and Public Health: Competing and Complementary Epistemes*, soon to be published open access with Liverpool University Press. Dr. Newcombe has also published extensively about minoritized religions, millenarianism, and the importance of empirical data about new religiosities.

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**Sarah Charles, PhD,** is a visiting scholar at Coventry University’s Centre for Trust, Peace, and Social Relations, where she also completed her Templeton Religion Trust-funded doctoral degree on the psychobiology of ritual social bonding. Her research seeks to understand the psycho-biosocial mechanisms underlying social bonding and other well-being benefits that occur when taking part in group activities. Her work has involved placebo-controlled RCTs, experimental work in controlled conditions, and large multi-national field studies applied to research on ritual participants’ social bonding, pain perception, affective state, and quality of life across multiple religious and secular rituals; these have included Christian Mass and Sunday Assembly, Hatha Yoga, and Brazilian Umbada. Upon completing her PhD, she has worked on projects helping to understand the potential well-being outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic for families of children with neurogenetic disorders (hosted at King’s College London) and how group membership, especially group-type diversity, leads to changes in well-being outcomes over time (hosted at Nottingham Trent University). In these roles, she has helped create a measurement for testing social bonding and routinely tests hypotheses regarding well-being. Dr. Charles is also the media officer for the International Association for the Psychology of Religion; this role’s responsibilities include editing the IAPR Newsletter which provides her access to a large, international network of psychologists of religion, including those who study NRMs. Dr. Charles will help ensure that the outcomes of this project are disseminated widely.

**Sarah Harvey, PhD,** is the senior research officer at Inform and involved with the organization for more than twenty years. Alongside Dr. Suzanne Newcombe, she works to fulfill Inform’s central aim to curate and publicly disseminate data about new and minority religions. Dr. Harvey maintains Inform’s database of more than 5,000 different religious movements and associated organizations. She trains staff and interns and is responsible for answering enquiries to Inform and sharing data through lectures and research publications. She helps manage Inform’s commissioned research projects and has had an integral role in qualitative data gathering and analysis on projects like that of Culham St Gabriel’s Trust, “Understanding the Experiences and Brain Processes of Spirit Mediums” (King’s College 2019-21). Dr. Harvey directly managed projects for the Department for Education in 2017 and 2020.

Dr. Harvey’s expertise is in new religious movements with particular focus on gender, abuse, health, healing, and millenarianism. Her dissertation research, completed at the University of Kent, explored the lived ethical meanings of women’s engagement with the natural birth movement. She has published on topics of paganism, prophecy, gender and millenarianism, counselling in new religions, “cult rhetoric”, Religious Education (RE), and more, with forthcoming publications on health and healing in new religions, abuse in new religions, and spiritualism. From 2022-2024, she is a research associate at the University of Kent for the AHRC-funded project, *Abuse in Religious Contexts*, leading the research stream “Abuse in Minority Religions”, and is analyzing more than 200 Inform entries on new religions with claims of abuse. Her work will culminate in a monograph, under contract with Routledge Focus.

**William B. Noseworthy, PhD,** is a social historian with expertise in the relationship between minority religions and the state. He has extensive experience creating cross-disciplinary research platforms like the Database of Religious History, for which he serves as Managing Editor, and significant data management experience through his current employment at Cornell University Library. His primary research in Southeast Asia has focused on social cohesion and identity formation among religious minorities in Cambodia and Vietnam. Several of these minority groups can be classified as “New Religious Movements”, and thus his research addresses the themes central to this grant proposal. Dr. Noseworthy’s scholarly work has resulted in a co- edited, Department of Education-funded World History textbook used by thousands of students every semester and a co-authored trilingual dictionary of Vietnamese, English, and Cham languages. He has also led cross-disciplinary research teams that have published scholarly articles in both Vietnamese and English.

Dr. Noseworthy’s role at the Database of Religious History began as a Southeast Asia Regional Editor in 2018. He received a sub-grant to develop the “Religious Text Poll” in 2020, and he organized a cross-disciplinary workshop to develop the Religious Text Poll from the combined knowledge of historians, anthropologists, philosophers, religious studies scholars, art historians, and scholars of digital humanities. As of this writing, the Religious Text Poll has more than 260 entries, and his collaborative efforts earned him a promotion to Managing Editor in 2021. Dr. Noseworthy will assist with guiding the development of the NRP for this project to help ensure the target number of recruited entries, especially from Southeast Asia, within the stipulated time frame.

In his role at Cornell University Library’s Acquisitions and Metadata Services, Dr. Noseworthy collaborates with the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA), an organizational network coordinating libraries in Europe, North America, and Asia. He also currently chairs the committee revising Cambodian script romanization guidelines for the Library of Congress. While overseeing acquisitions and metadata for the largest Vietnamese language collection in the North Atlantic, he works closely with various stakeholders in Vietnam (including VinUniversity and Fulbright University Vietnam) and will marshal his extensive network in Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia to ensure data recruitment for this project.

**Dr. Edward Slingerland** is Distinguished University Scholar and Professor of Philosophy at the University of British Columbia and founding Director of the Database of Religious History (DRH). He will be leading the effort to create the New Religiosity Poll and will work closely with the project team to help design the New Religiosity Poll and maximize its integration with the existing Group poll. He will also supervise the DRH Managing Director, Project Manager, and Technical Developer based at UBC.