

Fern Elsdon-Baker is the principal investigator for the Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum project and the leader of the Science and Religion in Society research group at Newman University.

She previously worked for the British Council firstly as Head of the Darwin Now Project. Darwin Now was a large-scale multi-million pound global initiative running in 50 countries worldwide, which celebrated the life and work of Charles Darwin, as part of the international celebrations of the Darwin anniversaries in 2009. She then became Director of the Belief in Dialogue Programme - a portfolio of inter-cultural dialogue projects, exploring how people in the UK and internationally can live peacefully with diversity and difference in an increasingly pluralistic world, which included projects exploring the relationship between science, culture and modernity.

Her research is predominantly philosophical, historical and sociological in approach. She focuses on: the communication of evolutionary science; theories of inheritance from 1800 to present; the role of 'science' or 'worldviews' as identity markers and in public space 'clash narratives', or prejudice formation; and the perceptions of evolutionary theory within faith communities.

She is also currently serving as recorder for the History of Science section and on general committee for the British Science Association.