

Newsletter “Beyond Canon” – February 2021

Dear Fellows and Friends,

While in many countries the new semester has already started, here in Bavaria it has just come to an end – and probably all of us shared the experience of a very demanding semester, hoping for better times to come soon.

In our January newsletter, we announced the call for a newly established professorship at our university – we are enclosing it again, hoping for many applications!

Apart from that, we have been working feverishly on a new format these last two months, which is to be announced at the end of this newsletter...

1. (Online) Events from April to July

Until recently we were confident about a return to some normality in the course of early summer, but the occurrence of the virus mutations and the sluggish progress of vaccination in most European countries have defeated our optimism.

1.1 “Triodion”-Workshop and Conference “The Liturgy of St James”

The **workshop on the Triodion** (co-funded by the Vielberth Foundation and involving a number of our Fellows) has to be postponed yet another time.

The **conference on the Liturgy of St James** is now planned in two steps:

a) **meeting on-line through Zoom at the envisaged dates, i.e., 25-28 May 2021**, afternoons European time only, for a trailer meeting with brief expositions of sources, problems, methods and a choice of exemplary results (max. 20 min. per topic, including discussion).

and

b) **gathering in Regensburg next year, 6-11 June 2022** to discuss the developed papers, which then would result expeditiously in the conference publication.

We are sorry about the turbulences and the uncertainty; at the same time we are sure that the time for our scholarly exchange will come.

1.2 Fellows’ Brunches via Zoom

Our list of Zoom meetings is still work in progress. Nevertheless, we want to give you a brief update on what to expect these next months, so here is a first overview:

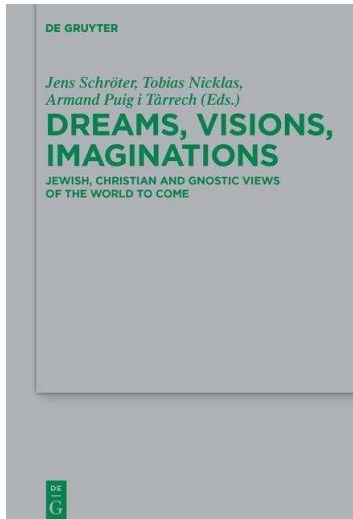
14.04.	10:00 AM CET	Fellows' Brunch	Jan Bremmer
21.04.	12:00 PM CET	Open Talk	Anna Oracz

28.04.	12:00 PM CET	Open Talk	
12.05.	10:00 AM CET	Fellows' Brunch	Mari Mamyán
12.05.	12:00 PM CET	Fellows' Brunch	Michael Stone and Emanuela Timotin
19.05.	10:00 AM CET	Fellows' Brunch	Jens Schröter
25.-28.05.	afternoon	Zoom Conference	The Liturgy of St James
09.06.	10:00 AM CET	Fellows' Brunch	Laura Nasrallah?
16.06.		Zoom-/Hybrid Workshop	Jenseitsreisen (Jens Schröter)
30.06.	12:00 PM CET	Fellows' Brunch	Jim Kelhoffer
07.07.	10:00 AM CET	Fellows' Brunch/Open Talk	Haim Weiss
07.07.	12:00 PM CET	Fellows' Brunch	Emanuela Grypeou
14.07.	10:00 AM CET	Fellows' Brunch/Jerusalem Talks	Eliezer Papo
14.07.	12:00 PM CET	Fellows' Brunch/Jerusalem Talks	Peter Lehnardt

In case you would like to read a paper, please send an e-mail to Stephanie.hallinger@ur.de!

2. Publications related to our project

JENS SCHRÖTER, TOBIAS NICKLAS, ARMAND PUIG I TÀRRECH (ED.S), *Dreams, Visions, Imaginations. Jewish, Christian and Gnostic Views of the World to Come* (Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft, 247), Berlin: De Gruyter 2021.



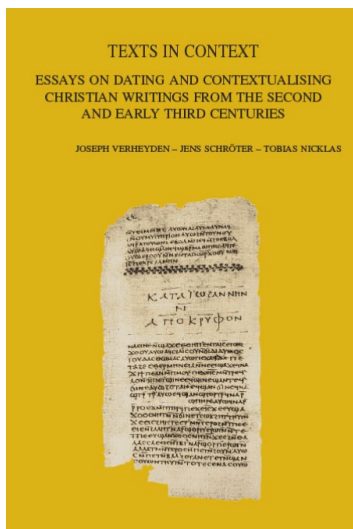
The contributions in this volume are focused on the historical origins, religious provenance, and social function of ancient Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature, including so-called 'Gnostic' writings.

Although it is disputed whether there was a genre of 'apocalyptic literature,' it is obvious that numerous texts from ancient Judaism, early Christianity, and other religious milieus share a specific view of history and the world to come. Many of these writings are presented in form of a heavenly (divine) revelation, mediated through an otherworldly figure (like an angel) to an elected human being who discloses this revelation to his recipients in written form. In different strands of early Judaism, ancient Christianity as well as in Gnosticism, Manichaeism, and Islam, apocalyptic writings played an important role from early on and were produced also in later centuries. One of the most characteristic features of these texts is their specific interpretation of history, based on the knowledge about the upper, divine realm and the world to come.

Against this background the volume deals with a wide range of apocalyptic texts from different periods and various religious backgrounds.

[Publisher's website](#)

Joseph Verheyden, Jens Schröter, Tobias Nicklas (ed.s), *Texts in Context. Essays on Dating and Contextualising Christian Writings from the Second and Early Third Centuries* (Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium, 319), Leuven: Peeters 2021.



The essays collected in this volume contain the proceedings of a colloquium held in Leuven in December 2018. The overall purpose was to study Gnostic and other second- and early third-century Christian texts in search for indications and criteria for

determining their place in the development of early Christian theology. A good deal of attention is given to dating and identifying these often anonymous writings, but other aspects are also addressed. The essays illustrate in various ways that this development was not a uniform process. The many problems involved in studying these texts from such a perspective have brought some scholars to question what should be the main focus: the (presumed) original context or their transmission and use by later generations. The collection includes essays by P. Foster (Ignatius), C.M. Tuckett (1-2 Clement), J.S. Kloppenborg (the Didache and the Apostolic Constitutions), J. Frey (Jewish-Christian gospels, especially the Gospel according to the Hebrews), H. Lundhaug (methodology in studying Gnostic texts), C. Jacobi (Gospel of Philip), K. Schwarz (Gospel of Thomas), F. Watson (Apocryphon of James), J.-D. Dubois (criteria for dating Gnostic texts, applied to the Apocryphon of John), D.M. Burns (Nag Hammadi tractates with philosophical interests), and A. Van den Kerchove (Gospel of Judas).

[Publisher's website](#)

Tobias Nicklas, Studien zum Petrus-evangelium (Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament, 453), Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2021.



Unter den christlichen Apokryphen, die in den vergangenen Jahrzehnten das Interesse der Forschung zum frühen Christentum weckten, spielt das am Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts entdeckte Evangelium nach Petrus eine herausragende Rolle. Der Text wurde häufig vor allem wegen seines angeblichen Doketismus und seines Antijudaismus in den Blick genommen, oft wurde auch die These vertreten, er enthalte eine sehr frühe Quelle zur Passion Jesu. Demgegenüber nehmen die hier gesammelten Beiträge von Tobias Nicklas eine andere Perspektive auf das Petrus-evangelium ein: Sie diskutieren zum Beispiel bisher kaum berücksichtigte Textzeugen des Petrus-evangeliums, entwickeln ein neues Paradigma zur Beschreibung seines Verhältnisses zu den kanonischen Evangelien, vergleichen seine Christologie mit derjenigen antiker Märtyrertexte und bieten differenzierte Überlegungen zu seiner Darstellung von Juden.

[Publisher's website](#)

Ralf Koerrenz, Tobias Nicklas (ed.s), Bildung (Jahrbuch für Biblische Theologie, 35), Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2021.

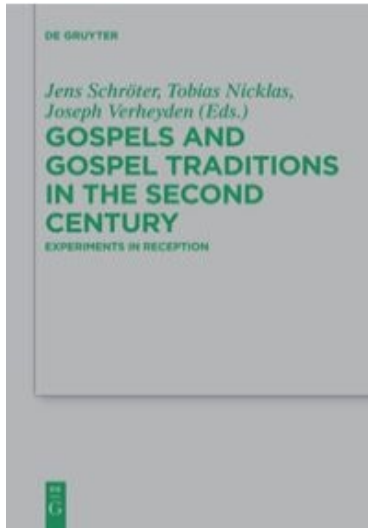


In diesem Jahrbuch bieten Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler unterschiedlicher Provenienz (von der „klassischen“ Exegese bis zu Sozialwissenschaften) ihre Lesungen von biblischen Texten und Motivkonstellationen unter dem Vorzeichen von Lernen als Reflexion von Gottesbeziehung, Weltbeziehung und Selbstbeziehung. Sowohl auf der Gegenstandsebene als auch auf der Rezeptionsebene entsteht so ein spezieller Durchgang durch exemplarische Konstellationen der biblischen Überlieferung von Genesis bis Apokalypse. Der Band stellt somit einen Versuch dar, die Lebenswirklichkeit und Lebensbedeutsamkeit der biblischen Überlieferung zu thematisieren. Die Relevanz der biblischen Texte bewährt sich gerade darin, dass sie in das Lernen als Leitfaden des eigenen Lebens übersetzt werden können. Dass die biblischen Texte selbst dabei unterschiedliche, plurale Orientierungsmuster für das eigene Lernen anbieten, ist und bleibt eine große Stärke der Mehrdeutigkeit, solange im Blick behalten wird, dass es sich immer um eine zugleich umgrenzte und fokussierte Vielfalt, keineswegs jedoch um eine autoreligiöse Beliebigkeit des „anything goes“ handelt.

[Publisher's website](#)

Now available as paperback:

Jens Schröter, Tobias Nicklas, and Joseph Verheyden in collaboration with Katharina Simunovic (ed.s), *Gospels and Gospel Traditions in the Second Century. Experiments in Reception* (Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft, 235), Berlin: De Gruyter 2020.



The second century CE has often been described as a kind of dark period with regard to our knowledge of how the earliest Christian writings (the gospels and Paul's letters) were transmitted and gradually came to be accepted as authoritative and then, later on, as

"canonical". At the same time a number of other Christian texts, of various genres, saw the light. Some of these seem to be familiar with the gospels, or perhaps rather with gospel traditions identical or similar to those that found their way into the NT gospels. The volume focuses on representative texts and authors of the time in order to see how they have struggled to find a way to work with the NT gospels and/or the traditions behind these, while at the same time giving a place also to other extra-canonical traditions.

It studies in a comparative way the reception of identifiably "canonical" and of extra-canonical traditions in the second century. It aims at discovering patterns or strategies of reception within the at first sight often rather chaotic way some of these ancient authors have cited or used these traditions. And it will look for explanations of why it took such a while before authors got used to cite gospel texts (more or less) accurately.

[Publisher's website](#)

3. Appointments and Awards

Our Junior Fellow Benedek Oswald Kruchió, PhD has been awarded a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's College, Cambridge, for four years, starting this autumn.

After many other prizes (among others Armin-Schmitt-Prize for Biblical Textual Research, Cardinal-Innitzer-Förderungspreis, Roland-Atefie-Prize of the Austrian Academy of Sciences), our former Junior Fellow DDr. Predrag Bukovec receives the Alexander-Böhlig-Prize 2021 for his PhD dissertation "Mahl und Mähler: Die frühchristliche Eucharistie" (in print at Mohr Siebeck in the series WUNT). DDr. Predrag Bukovec, who most recently obtained an Eigene Stelle from the DFG, which he will allocate at the Chair of Liturgical Studies of our Faculty and in cooperation with our Centre, pursues a habilitation project at the University of Regensburg on "The Origins of Baptismal Anointing". In 2020, he was a Fellow of the Centre for Advanced Studies "Beyond Canon_" and is currently Assistant Professor at the Institute for Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology at the Catholic Private University Linz.

4. Language courses

Last year, our group offered Coptic and Classical Armenian classes to our fellows offline – now we decided to switch to the online format due to the circumstances caused by the global pandemic.

Earlier this month, we started a course in Sahidic Coptic with our fellow Alin Suciu – with an enormous response from outside our group as we announced that we are offering the remaining places to scholars in need of Coptic skills for free.

This autumn, however, we continue our language course series with another highlight: it is our pleasure to announce that George Kiraz will teach Syriac online from September 28 onwards. In case you are interested, please enroll in our list of participants by writing an e-mail to our coordinator stephanie.hallinger@ur.de. Participation is of course free for all friends and fellows of “Beyond Canon_”!

5. Social Media

The Bavarian State Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts launched a new website to attract top researchers from all over the world. Our project has been picked as one of the “model projects” in Bavaria and Dr. Tanja Wagensohn (Communications & Marketing, Universität Regensburg) managed to place [a wonderful feature describing “Beyond Canon_”](#) there – involving even our “most junior fellows” Sofia, Paula, and Korbinian... enjoy reading! 😊

Our [Facebook site “Beyond Canon_”](#) recently reached the important mark of 300 followers. a reason to celebrate! We would like to thank our student assistant Simon Heimerl, who tirelessly shares events, updates and interesting facts.

Apart from that, we are happy to announce the upcoming release of our podcast, produced by our colleagues Marko Jovanović, David Merkt, and Charlotte von Schelling. As soon as the first episodes are online, we will inform you – via newsletter, via website and of course on Facebook!

Best wishes,

Your “Beyond Canon_” team

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