

Newsletter “Beyond Canon_” – December 2020

Dear Fellows and Friends,

Most of us experience an Advent quite different from the usual time before Christmas. At least one thing remains the same: We are sending our heartfelt season’s greetings to you, together with a little review of the year.

As for all of you, this year was quite different from what we expected at its beginning; the COVID situation hit many in academia hard and changed our way of working and living drastically. But amidst all these grim news and experiences, there are still some beams of light: Since we moved our Fellows’ Brunches online, the audience has grown considerably. Many of you are attending our meetings on a regular basis now (and do so, in spite of all connection issues and time differences... sorry for waking you up in the dead of night, US-American and Canadian friends!), friends, who would not have been able to keep in touch otherwise. However, we decided that even in the future we will keep at least some of our events online.

Thank you for every sign of life you sent us these last months – every e-mail and letter, every Zoom/Skype/phone call was deeply appreciated. Our group certainly grew together on a personal level – and this is the one of the things we are most grateful for at the end of this year: knowing that *Beyond Canon_* is not just a consortium, but a network of friends.

1. The year 2020 in numbers

Despite of everything, this is not such a bad statistic after all for a year like this:

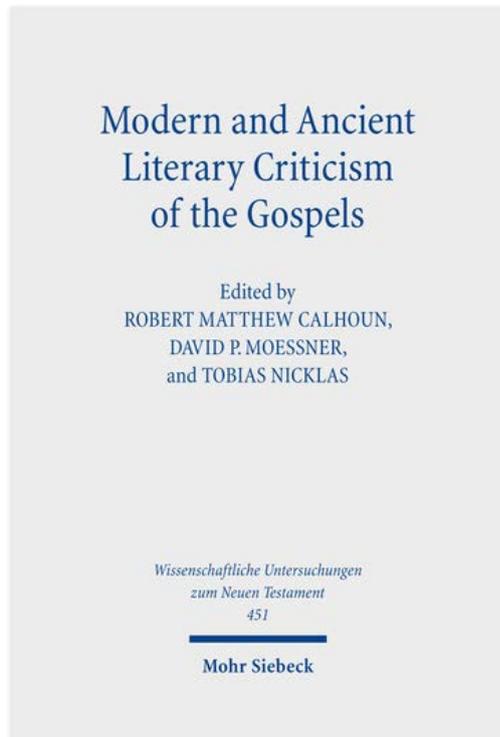
- 20 Fellows visited us in Regensburg, stayed here (some even longer than usually intended), or arrived since March
- 37 papers were read in our Fellows’ Brunches
- 211 newsletter subscriptions
- 263 Facebook fans
- our wonderful “Sharing Myths” conference in February took place, enriching our project through numerous scholars with fascinating projects
- and our publications list has grown considerably!

2. DFG-Eigene Stelle for Predrag Bukovec

Our former fellow Dr. Dr. Predrag Bukovec (currently assistant professor at the University of Linz, Austria) has been granted a three-years-project in Regensburg by the DFG for his research to “The Origins of the Baptizmal Onction”. Our heartfelt congratulation!

3. Publications related to our “Beyond Canon_” project

ROBERT MATTHEW CALHOUN, DAVID P. MOESSNER, AND TOBIAS NICKLAS (ED.S), *Modern and Ancient Literary Criticism of the Gospels. Continuing the Debate on Gospel Genre(s)* (Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 451), Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2020.



The Gospels continue to defy efforts to fix 'generic' boundaries for determining their meanings. This volume discloses new stirrings and sightings of broader, more heuristically promising literary, rhetorical, and cultural registers which intersect in ancient narrative. The contributors seek to build upon or vigorously critique current generic hypotheses (biography, history, tragedy); to introduce recent insights and developments in genre theory; to probe ancient reception of the Gospels as works of literature; and to illuminate the relations between the literary characteristics of the Gospels and methodological advances in narratology, social memory, intertextuality, and performance.

Survey of contents

David P. Moessner/Tobias Nicklas/Robert Matthew Calhoun: Introduction

Part One: The Question of Genre and the Gospels

Richard A. Burridge: *The Gospels and Ancient Biography: 25 Years On, 1993–2018* – Werner H.

Kelber: *On »Mastering the Genre«* – Michal Beth Dinkler: *What Is a Genre? Contemporary Genre Theory and the Gospels* – Elizabeth E. Shively: *A Critique of Richard Burridge's Genre Theory: From a One-Dimensional to a Multi-Dimensional Approach to Gospel Genre* – Carl Johan Berglund: *The Genre(s) of the Gospels: Expectations from the Second Century* – Sandra Huebenthal: *What's Form Got to Do with It? Preliminaries on the Impact of Social Memory Theory for the Study of Biblical Intertextuality*

Part Two: Mark as Narrative in the Light of Ancient and Modern Criticism

Cilliers Breytenbach: *The Gospel According to Mark: The Yardstick for Comparing the Gospels with Ancient Texts* – Margaret M. Mitchell: *Mark, the Long-Form Pauline εὐαγγέλιον* – Stefan Alkier: *Das Markusevangelium als Tragikomödie lesen* – David P. Moessner: *Mark's Mysterious 'Beginning' (1:1–3) as the Hermeneutical Code to Mark's 'Messianic Secret'* – C. Clifton Black: *The Kijé Effect: Revenants in the Markan Passion Narrative* – Justin Marc Smith: *Famous (or Not So Famous) Last Words: Last and Dying Words in Greco-Roman Biography and Mark 15:34 Revisited* – Geert Van Oyen: *Actio According to Quintilian (Institutio oratoria 11.3) and the Performance of the Gospel of Mark*

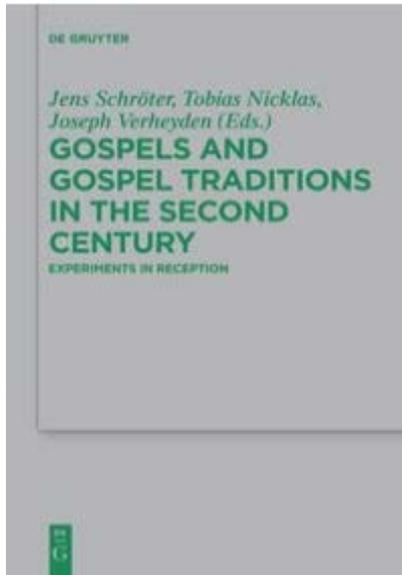
Part Three: The Growth of the Gospel Tradition in Early Christian Literary Culture

R. Alan Culpepper: *The Foundations of Matthean Ethics* – Wolfgang Grünstäudl: *Continuity and Discontinuity in Luke's Gospel: Luke 9:51 and the Pre-Jerusalem Phase as a Test Case* – John A. Darr: *Reading Luke-Acts as Scriptural History and Philosophical Biography: A Pragmatic Approach to Lukan Intertextuality and Genre* – Thomas R. Hatina: *Intertextual Transformations of Jesus: John as Mnemomyth* – Paul N. Anderson: *Revelation and Rhetoric in John 9:1–10:21: Two Dialogical Modes Operative within the Johannine Narrative* – Tobias Nicklas: *Second-Century Gospels as »Re-Enactments« of Earlier Writings: Examples from the Gospel of Peter.*

[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](#)

4. New Book Series

Our dear friend David Eastman asked me to forward this exciting news about a new book series to you:

Penn State University Press is accepting proposals for a series that focuses on Christianity in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, including the later reception (artistic, liturgical, literary, archaeological, political, etc.) of figures, debates and issues from this period. The series focuses on the broad theme of "inventing"—i.e., how early Christianity developed and how it was perceived to have developed in its multiple forms and cultural interactions. Please consult [the series web site](#), and feel free to [address any inquiries to David Eastman](#).

5. Job offers for two PhD students in Glasgow

Our friend Garrick Allen (Glasgow) is looking for two excellent PhD students to work on the TiNT project on 4-year funded positions starting in October 2021. If you have any students who are working in this area, please do encourage them to apply and feel free to share the link below with any interested parties or post it to any social media.

<https://www.findaphd.com/phds/project/titles-of-the-new-testament-a-new-approach-to-manuscripts-and-the-history-of-interpretation-tint/?p128271>

The deadline for application is 1 March 2021. Should you have any further questions, please write to Garrick.Allen@glasgow.ac.uk

6. *Beyond Canon_* Summer School

Again, we would like to remind you of the Call for Application for our Summer School in Rome:

If the situation allows it, our 2021 Summer School will take place in Rome at the KNIR (Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut Rome). It will explore the stupendous importance of extra-canonical traditions and the complex interplay between texts, rituals, and material culture in the formation and development of the Christian memorial landscape in late antique Rome. It shall investigate the literary heritage of extra-canonical writings, trace their influence in archaeology, iconography, and art, and explore how they reverberate even in the Roman liturgy, which, on its surface, appears extremely biblical. Although the primary focus will be on Late Antiquity, the long-term reception history in later periods with their magnificent rituals, art, and architecture will not be neglected.

We shall spend ca. half of the time in the classroom and half of the time on-site, visiting the monuments. Lectures by the instructors, common reading of extracts from key sources, and contributions by the participants will alternate with and be informed by visits to outstanding monuments, some of which are not regularly open to the wider public. Instruction language will be English.

For more details on participation and registration, please [visit our website](#).

We wish you and your families a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year 2020. Please take care and stay healthy!

Best wishes,

Your “Beyond Canon_” team

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