

CISSR – Centro Italiano di Studi Superiori sulle Religioni
Italian Centre for Advanced Studies on Religions

Incontro annuale sulle Origini cristiane
Annual Meeting on Christian Origins

Centro Residenziale Universitario di Bertinoro

21 – 23 settembre, 2023

University Residential Centre of Bertinoro

September 21 – 23, 2023



Il Centro Italiano di Studi Superiori sulle Religioni (CISSR), fondato nel 1999, promuove la ricerca scientifica sulle religioni, soprattutto nell'ambito della storia del cristianesimo e del giudaismo. Il Centro favorisce lo sviluppo degli studi sulle religioni nella formazione universitaria, organizzando convegni scientifici, offrendo supporto per la formazione post-universitaria e promuovendo iniziative culturali sulle religioni.

The Italian Centre for Advanced Studies on Religions (CISSR), founded in 1999, promotes scholarly research on religion, with a special focus on the history of Christianity and Judaism. The Centre fosters the development of religious studies in academia, organizing scientific meetings, providing support for post-graduate studies, and promoting cultural initiatives on the study of religions.

Incontro annuale 2023 | 2023 Annual Meeting

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Organizzazione scientifica | Scientific Organization: M. Rescio, E.R. Urciuoli

Cura editoriale del programma | Program Book Editing: M. Rescio, E.R. Urciuoli, L. Walt

CISSR — Centro Italiano di Studi Superiori delle Religioni

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CISSR Annual Meeting on Christian Origins

Bertinoro, September 21 – 23, 2023

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:00 – 9:10 | Opening of the Meeting (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

Presiding: Mara Rescio, Emiliano R. Urciuoli

9:10 – 11:10 | Joint Session AM 1 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS FORMS AND PRACTICES

Presiding: Adriana Destro, Francesca Sbardella

ANDREW DURDIN (Florida State University)

The Tyranny of Competition in the Study of Ancient Religions

ADRIANA DESTRO (University of Bologna) and MAURO PESCE (University of Bologna)

The Cultural Construction of the Acts of the Apostles

[BOOK DISCUSSION]

MAURIZIO BETTINI, *Roma, città della parola*, Einaudi, Torino, 2022

Discussants: FRANCESCA PRESCENDI (EPHE, Paris; online), CARMINE PISANO (University of Naples Federico II), MAURIZIO BETTINI (University of Siena; online)

Break 11:10 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM 2.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

BOOK DISCUSSION

Presiding: Luca Arcari

HARRY O. MAIER, ANGELA HARKINS, *Experiencing the Shepherd of Hermas*, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2022

Discussants: TONY KEDDIE (University of Texas, Austin; online), MARIA DELL'ISOLA (University of Milan), ANGELA HARKINS (Boston College), HARRY O. MAIER (Vancouver School of Theology)

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM 2.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATION IN THE ROMAN IMPERIAL PERIOD

Presiding: Francesca Prescendi

SABRINA INOWLOCKI (Catholic University of Leuven)

From Tiro to Theodosius: Autography as Religious Practice

AILEEN JENNIFER BECKER (Max-Weber-Kolleg University of Erfurt)
Urban Education for Prospective Christians: How to Use Public Baths in Early Christian Alexandria?

FRANCESCA PRESCENDI (EPHE, Paris) - Online
Relics before Saints: The Conservation and Use of Powerful Remains in Roman Religion

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM 2.C (Captain Room – Rivellino)

FROM THE HISTORY OF EXEGESIS TO RECEPTION HISTORY AND BEYOND

Presiding: Laura Carnevale, Edmondo Lupieri

GENEVIVE DIBLEY (Rockford University)
The Apocalyptic Precedent for the Redemption of the Genius Gentile in Pauline Epistles

EMANUELA VALERIANI (Centre for Advanced Studies “Beyond Canon”, University of Regensburg)
Ezra’s Figure between History and Eschatology

MATTIA DI TARANTO (University of Eastern Piedmont)
Jacob Taubes and Pauline Messianism: Reception of New Testament Themes in Contemporary Jewish Thought

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00

15:00 – 17:00 | Parallel Session PM 1.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

THE BIBLE AND CONFLICT

Presiding: James G. Crossley, Sarah E. Rollens

SARA E. ROLLENS (Rhodes College, Memphis)
Review of Jesus: A Life in Class Conflict

JAMES G. CROSSLEY (MF School of Theology, Religion, and Society, Oslo / CenSAMM) - Online
Apocalypticism, Historical Transformation, and Liberation: Trajectories in Scholarship

JILL HICKS-KEETON (University of Oklahoma)
Contesting Jesus: Can the Syrophoenician Woman Win?

J. ANDREW DOOLE (University of Innsbruck)
The Bible in Belfast: Reference to Biblical Figures in the Politics of “post-Conflict” Northern Ireland

15:00 – 17:00 | Parallel Session PM 1.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

JEWISH HISTORY AND HELLENISTIC JUDAISM

Presiding: Dario Garribba, Marco Vitelli

DONATA VIOLANTE (University of Basilicata)
The Inclusion of Judea into the Roman Provincial System (AD 6 - 66): Homologation, Differences, Outcomes

SAMUELE ROCCA (Ariel University, Israel)

Faustina, Gaudentia, Regina and the Others: Jewish Womanhood in the Rome of the Caesars

DARIO GARRIBBA (Pontifical Theological Faculty of Southern Italy, Naples)

Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judaea

MARCO VITELLI (Institute for the History of Christianity, Naples)

Galilee in the Time of Jesus: Was It a Hotbed of Revolutionaries?

15:00 – 17:00 | Parallel Session PM 1.C (Captain Room – Rivellino)

WOMEN IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Presiding: Maria Dell'Isola, Mario Resta

ALIYAH EL MANSY (Philipps University of Marburg)

Ready to Strike Out – Reading New Testament Codes of Behavior in the Context of Papyri

ÁNGEL NARRO (University of Valencia)

How to Create a Heroine? Thecla among Christian and Graeco-Roman Audiences

LAVINIA CERIONI (University of Aarhus)

Women as an Intellectual Category in Origen of Alexandria

CARMELO NICOLÒ BENVENUTO (University of Basilicata)

Saint Catherine through the Lens of Feminism?

Break 17:00 – 17:30

17:30 – 19:30 | Joint Session PM 2 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

EXPLORATIONS OF PEOPLEHOOD IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

Presiding: Maia Kotrosits, Philip A. Harland

NATHANAEL ANDRADE (Binghamton University)

Ethne and Peoplehood in Syria during the Rise of the Christ Movement

KAREN STERN (Brooklyn College)

Jewish Peoplehood through the Senses

MAIA KOTROSITS (University of Waterloo) and PHILIP HARLAND (York University)

From Ethnography to Ethnographic Culture: Imagining Peoplehood Across Antiquity

CAVAN CONCANNON (University of Southern California)

Remembering Ancient Identities and Networks

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

09:00 – 11:15 | Joint Session AM 1 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

CONTEXTS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Presiding: John Kloppenborg

ESTHER GUILLEN (McGill University, Montreal)

Come Together: Synoptic Readings of Discursive Competition in Justin and Matthew

ZEBIA CROOK (Carleton University, Ottawa)

Foundings without Foundation: How the Associations Became Paul's

CHRISTINA GOUSOPOULOS (University of Toronto)

Approaching the Afterlife in Early Christian Inscriptions: A Cognitive Science Approach

HARRY O. MAIER (Vancouver School of Theology)

Ritual and Urban Networking with Ignatius of Antioch

ROBYN F. WALSH (University of Miami) - Online

Helluari Libris: On Stoicism, Distinction, And Early Christianity

Break 11:15 – 11:45

11:45 – 13:15 | Parallel Session AM 2.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

RE-DATING EARLY CHRISTIAN TEXTS

Presiding: Claudio Gianotto

[BOOK DISCUSSION]

MARKUS VINZENT, *Resetting the Origins of Christianity: A New Theory of Sources and Beginnings*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2023

Discussants: JAN HEILMANN (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich), WILLIAM ARNAL (University of Regina), HEIDI WENDT (McGill University, Montreal), JOHN KLOPPENBORG (University of Toronto), MARKUS VINZENT (King's College London)

11:45 – 13:15 | Parallel Session AM2.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

RE-EXPLORING THE APOCRYPHAL CONTINENT: TEXTS, PARATEXTS, AND CONTEXTS

Presiding: Luigi Walt

MARI MAMYAN (Centre for Advanced Studies "Beyond Canon", University of Regensburg)

"He neither ate nor drunk...": Making Sense of a Common Motif in the Acts of Thomas and the Armenian Infancy Gospel

MICHAEL SOMMER (Goethe University Frankfurt)

The Apocalypse of Sophonias and its World: Thoughts on the Chances and Limits of Archaeological Sources for the Studies of Apocrypha

LUIGI WALT (University of Naples “L'Orientale”)

Fwd: Sixth Ezra – On Liminal Devices, Apocryphicity, and a Curious Case of Paperback Religion

11:45 – 13:15 | Parallel Session AM2.C (Captain Room – Rivellino)

LUKE AND ACTS IN THEIR HISTORICAL, ANTHROPOLOGICAL, AND LITERARY CONTEXT

Presiding: Dorota Hartman, Mauro Pesce

WOLFGANG GRÜNSTÄUDL (University of Münster)

The Function of Parables in the Context of Luke’s Eschatological Discourses

DOROTA HARTMAN (University of Naples “L'Orientale”)

“Take your bill, sit down quickly and write...” (Luke 16:6): The Parable of the Dishonest Manager, the Papyri and the Lucan Special Material

MICHAEL A. DAISE (College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia)

Hellenists and Hebrews: A Review of the Status Quaestionis

Lunch Break 13:15 – 15:15

15:15 – 17:15 | Parallel Session PM 1.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

MARK AND THE OTHER GOSPELS

Presiding: Mara Rescio

ERIN ROBERTS (University of South Carolina)

Moonstruck: Aspects of Matthean Cosmobiology

ROBYN F. WALSH (University of Miami) - Online

Mark and Messianic Wonder: Enigmatic Heroes and Revisiting the Messianic Secret

NICOLA REGGIANI (University of Parma / University of Udine)

Healing the Incurables: Jesus’ Miracles and the Ancient Medical Idea of ἀθεράπευτος

MARA RESCIO (CISSR, Bertinoro / Adjunct Fellow, “Beyond Canon” Centre, University of Regensburg)

Who Were the Blind that Jesus Healed? Re-reading the Synoptic Miracle Stories in light of Greek Documentary Papyri

15:15 – 17:15 | Parallel Session PM 1.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

GOSPEL OF THOMAS, NAG HAMMADI, AND GNOSTICISM

Presiding: Andrea Annese, Francesco Berno

STEPHEN J. PATTERSON (Willamette University, Salem, Oregon)

The World is the Body: Variations on a Cosmological Theme in the Gospel of Thomas

PAMELA MULLINS REAVES (Colorado College)

The Path of Revelation in *First Apocalypse of James* (NHC V,3; Cod. Tch. 2)

EDUARD IRICINSCHI (Sapienza University of Rome)

“No value in this ritual washing” (CMC, 80.20): Baptism Criticism in the Cologne Mani Codex and Sethian Writings

GAETANO SPAMPINATO (University of Fribourg)
Books of Madness, Rituals of Abomination: The Polemical Use of Gnostic Texts in the
Panarion and the Depiction of Heretical Practices

Break 17:15 – 17:45

17:45 – 19:00 | Joint Session PM 2 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

LECTIO MAGISTRALIS

Presiding: Luigi Walt

BRENT NONGBRI (MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Oslo)
Early Christianity and the Development of the Codex

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9:00 – 11:00 | Joint Session AM 1 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

ISSUES OF METHOD: NEW 'SECULAR' APPROACHES TO EARLY CHRISTIAN RESEARCH

Presiding: Roberto Alciati, Emiliano R. Urciuoli

BLOSSOM STEFANIW (MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Oslo)
Trafficking the Fathers: How Patristic Manuscripts Entered European Archives

ANTONIO LUCCI (University of Turin)
Asceticism and Monasticism: Different Media for Different Practices?

ROBERTO ALCIATI (University of Florence)
Why Monasticism is Natural and Asceticism is Not: A Provocative Re-Reading of Some
Ancient Sources

LUCA PELLARIN (Max-Weber-Kolleg, University of Erfurt / University of Graz) and EMILIANO R.
URCIUOLI (University of Bologna)
An Atheist Theologian, a Gay Rights Activist, and a Thing Called Asceticism: Franz. C.
Overbeck Reader of Edward Carpenter

Break 11:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM 2.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

METHODOLOGIES OF JESUS RESEARCH: THE TRANSMISSIONS OF WORDS

Presiding: Clare K. Rothschild, Mauro Pesce

CLARE K. ROTHSCHILD (Lewis University, USA – Stellenbosch University, South Africa) - Online
De Stella Magorum: The Night of the Comet and the Births of John and Jesus Revisited

MAURO PESCE (University of Bologna)
The Anonymity of the Sayings of Jesus

Respondent: JOHN S. KLOPPENBORG (University of Toronto)

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM 2.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES IN HELLENISTIC-ROMAN JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY (2ND CENTURY BCE – 4TH CENTURY CE)

Presiding: Luca Arcari, Daniele Tripaldi

WOLFGANG GRÜNSTÄUDL (University of Münster)

Innovation: A Useful Analytical Category Regarding the History of Exegesis?

NICOLE DENZEY LEWIS (Claremont University)

Early Christian Ethnopolitical Entrepreneurs: Tertullian, Irenaeus, and the Dynamics of Groupness

Daniele Minisini (University of Naples Federico II)

Enoch through Moses or Enoch against Moses? The First Five Chapters of the Book of the Watchers between Literary Allusions and Authority Conferring Strategies

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM 2.C (Captain Room – Rivellino)

BEFORE REIMARUS: DISCOURSE AND PRACTICE ABOUT JESUS IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

Presiding: Cristiana Facchini

[Book Discussion]

MIRIAM BENFATTO, *Gesù frainteso. La polemica ebraica anticristiana nel Sefer ḥizzuq emunah di Yiṣḥaq ben Avraham Troqi (c. 1533-1594)*, Viella, Roma, 2022

Discussants: GUIDO BARTOLUCCI (University of Bologna), DANIEL BARBU (CNRS, Paris; online)

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00

15:00 – 17:15 | Joint Session PM 1.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

PAPYROLOGY AND EARLY CHRIST GROUPS

Presiding: Peter Arzt-Grabner, Marco Stroppa

LAJOS BERKES (Humboldt University of Berlin) & GABRIEL NOCCHI MACEDO (CEDOPAL Liège) - Online
The First Papyrus Fragment of the Infancy Gospel of Thomas

GREGORY P. FEWSTER (MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion, and Society, Oslo)

Reading Ancient Letter Collections, between Document and Literature: Insights from the Papyri

THOMAS WAYMENT (Brigham Young University, Provo, USA)

In Search of the “Beloved Physician” (Col. 4:14)

FABRIZIO MARCELLO (École Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem)

The ‘Proscribed’ Christ: A Re-evaluation of Gal 3:1 in the Light of προγράμματα from Greco-Roman Egypt

PETER ARZT-GRABNER (University of Salzburg)

Secondary Greetings and Paul’s Letter to the Galatians: Gal 6:10 as Supposed Epistolary Cliché and Its Papyrological Evidence