

NICOLA DENZEY LEWIS

Department of Religious Studies
School of the Arts and Humanities
Claremont Graduate University
831 N. Dartmouth Ave
Claremont, CA 91711

nicola.denzeylewis@cgu.edu
nicoladenzeylewis.com

EDUCATION

- 1998 Ph.D., Princeton University, Department of Religion and Program in the Ancient World. Field: Religions of Late Antiquity
- 1994 M.A., Princeton University, Department of Religion and Program in the Ancient World. Field: Religions of Late Antiquity
- 1991 B.A., *summa cum laude*, University of Toronto, Religious Studies
Field: New Testament and Christian Origins

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2018- Department Chair, Department of Religion, Claremont Graduate University
- 2017- Margo L. Goldsmith Chair in Women's Studies in Religion, Claremont Graduate University
- 2017- Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Religion, Claremont Graduate University
- 2015-2016 Visiting Fellow, Department of Religion, Princeton University
- 2012- Visiting Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Brown University
- 2007-2012 Visiting Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Brown University
- 2006-2009 Lecturer in the Study of Religion, Harvard University
- 2006-2007 Visiting Assistant Professor, Religion, Dartmouth College
- 2002-2006 Visiting Assistant Professor (Religion and History), Bowdoin College
- 1998-2002 Assistant Professor of Religion, Skidmore College
- 1997-1998 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, Bowdoin College
- 1995 Visiting Instructor, Barnard College, Columbia University

HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016-2017 National Endowment for the Humanities Individual Research Fellowship
- 2016 Visiting Distinguished Scholar, Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, University of Erfurt, Aug. 26-Sept. 2
- 2015-2016 Fellowship for Associate Professors, American Council of Learned Societies
- 2014 Visiting Distinguished Scholar, Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, University of Erfurt, June 21-28
- 2011 Shohet Fellowship, International Catacomb Society for research on *Catacomb Religion: Ordinary Christianity in the Age of Constantine* book project
- Visiting Scholar in Residence, American Academy in Rome, May
- 2010 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship for University Teachers (declined)
- Memoria Romana* Research Fellowship, Bochum University and the Max Planck Institute, Germany
- 2009 Derek Bok Award for Teaching Excellence, Harvard University
- Visiting Scholar in Residence, American Academy in Rome
- 2005 Fletcher Family Research Award, Bowdoin College
- 2004-2005 Individual Research Grant, American Academy of Religion
- 2004-2005 Faculty Research Associate, Women's Studies in Religion Program, Harvard Divinity School
- 2002 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship for University Teachers, *Roman Religions in Context*, American Academy in Rome
- 2000-2001 Faculty Development Grant for Educational Technology, Skidmore College
- 2000 Lilly Fellowship for New Project/Course Development (for the Skidmore Dept. of Religion RE103: Introduction to World Religions course)
- 1999-2000 Faculty Development Grant for Educational Technology, Skidmore College
- 1999-2001 Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Fellow in the Humanities, Northwestern University (declined)

- 1998-2000 Lilly Fellow, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning. One of fifteen international scholars invited to a three-year consultation on “Teaching the Bible into the Twenty-First Century”
- 1991-1996 Andrew W. Mellon Doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Cosmology and Fate in Gnosticism and Graeco-Roman Antiquity: Under Pitiless Skies. Leiden: Brill, 2013.

- Reviews: Heidi Marx-Wolf, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2014); Taylor Petrey, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 22/4 (2015): 593; Alasdair Logan, *Journal of Theological Studies* 66/1 (2015).

Introduction to “Gnosticism”: Ancient Voices, Christian Worlds. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

- Translated into Italian as *I Manoscritti di Nag Hammadi. Una biblioteca gnostica del IV secolo.* Trans. Matteo Grosso. Milan: Frecce, 2014.
- Reviews: Daniel Frayer-Griggs, *Reviews in Religion and Theology* (March 2014); Michael A. Williams, *Church History and Religious Culture* 94/1 (2014); Birger Pearson, *Religious Studies Review* (March 2014).

The Bone Gatherers: The Lost Worlds of Early Christian Women. Boston: Beacon Press, 2007.

- Finalist for the American Academy of Religion’s Best First Book in the History of Religions prize
- Selected as one of the top picks of 2008 by the Massachusetts Bible Society
- Reviews: Virginia Burrus, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 16.2 (2008): 261-62; Paul Dilley, *Review of Biblical Literature* 11 (2008); Caroline Schroeder, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2008), <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2008/2008-09-04.html>; Benjamin Bury, *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 16/1 (2009).

The Early Modern Invention of Late Antique Rome. Cambridge University Press (forthcoming, 2019)

Ordinary Christianity: Lived Religion in the Age of Constantine. In progress.

Roman Women in 22 Objects. With Roberta Mazza. In progress.

Edited Book

Beyond the Gnostic Gospels: Studies in Honor of Elaine Pagels. With Lance Jenott, Philippa Townsend, and Eduard Iricinschi. Berlin: Mohr Siebeck, 2013.

A Cambridge Companion to Gnosticism. Commissioned by Cambridge University Press, for publication in 2020.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Damasus and the Derelict Relics.” *Early Medieval Europe* 26/4 (2018): 417-39.

“A New Gnosticism: Why Simon Gathercole and Mark Goodacre on the Gospel of Thomas Change the Field.” *Journal of the Study of the New Testament* 36/3 (2014): 240-50.

- Responses to this article: Simon Gathercole, “Thomas Revisited: A Rejoinder to Denzey Lewis, Kloppenborg and Patterson,” *JSNT* 36/3 (2014): 262; “Did Thomas Know the Synoptic Gospels? A Response to Denzey Lewis, Kloppenborg and Patterson,” *JSNT* 36/3 (2014): 282.

“Rethinking the Origins of the Nag Hammadi Library.” (Co-authored with Justine Ariel Blount), *Journal of Biblical Literature* 133 (2014): 399-419.

- Responses to this article by Eva Mroczek, Brent Nongbri, Tony Burke, Dylan Burns, and Paul-Hubert Poirier, *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* (June 2016), along with my rejoinder.

“*Apolutrosis* as Ritual and Sacrament: Determining a Ritual Context for Death in Second-century Valentinianism.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 17/4 (2009): 525-61.

“The Ophite Diagram and other Christian ‘Books of the Dead’.” *ARC* 33 (2005): 89-122.

“‘Enslavement to Fate,’ ‘Cosmic Pessimism’ and other Explorations of the Late Roman Psyche: A Brief History of a Historiographical Trend.” *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 33 3/4 (2005): 277-99.

“Biblical Illusions, Biblical Allusions: Hollywood Blockbusters and Scripture.” *Journal of Religion and Film* 8/1 (2004).

“Genesis Exegetical Traditions in the *Trimorphic Protennoia*.” *Vigiliae Christianae* 55 (2001): 20-44.

“New Testament Scholarship and the Jesus Seminar.” *Journal of Teaching Theology and Religion* 4/1 (2001): 23-26.

“What did the Montanists Read?” *Harvard Theological Review* 94/4 (2001): 427-48.

Chapters in Books

“Religion is Slippery,” for *Religion Is...: Twenty-Four Scholars of Religion Reflect on Method and Theory*, ed. Aaron Hughes and Russell McCutcheon. Forthcoming 2020 with Routledge.

“Food for the Body, the Body as Food: Roman Martyrs and the Paradox of Consumption.” In *Lived Religion in the Ancient Mediterranean World: Approaching Religious Transformations from Archaeology, History, and Classics* ed. V. Gasparini et. Forthcoming with DeGruyter, 2019.

“Engendering Christian Time: Female Saints and Roman Martyrological Calendars.” In *(En)Gendering Time in Antiquity*, ed. L. Maurizio and E. Eidinow. Forthcoming with Oxford University Press, 2019.

“Women in Gnosticism.” In *Patterns of Women’s Ministry and Authority Within Ancient Christianity and Judaism*, ed. Ilaria Ramelli and Joan E. Taylor. Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2020.

“Reconstructing Ordinary Women’s Lives: The Epigraphical Evidence from Late Antique Rome.” In *More than Disciples: An Examination of Women’s Authority in Ancient Christianity, 1st-VIth Centuries*, ed. Aneilya Barnes and Roberta Franchi. Brepols, forthcoming 2020.

“Sex, Suffering, Subversion, and Spectacle: The Feast of Christina of Bolsena.” In *The Narrative Self in Early Christianity*. Edited by Janet Spittler. SBL Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplemental Series, forthcoming 2019.

“Mythological Treatises in the Nag Hammadi Codices.” In *Die Nag-Hammadi-Schriften in der Literatur- und Theologiegeschichte des frühen*, ed. Jens Schröter and Konrad Schwarz. Mohr Siebeck, 2017: 113-132.

“The Early Modern Invention of Late Antique Rome: How Historiography Helped Create the Crypt of the Popes.” In *Creating Religions By Historiography*, ed. Jörg Rüpke and Martin Mulrow. *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 20/1 (2018): 91-109.

“Women and Independent Religious Specialists in Second-Century Rome.” In *Women and Knowledge: Festschrift for Antti Marjanen*, ed. Ulla Tervahauta, Ivan Miroshnikov, and Ismo Dunderberg, 21-38. Brill, 2018.

“Lived Religion Among Second-Century Gnostic Hieratic Specialists.” In *Beyond Duty: Religious Professionals in the Roman Empire*, ed. Georgia Petridou, Jörg Rüpke, and Richard Gordon, 79-102. DeGruyter, 2017.

“Astrology in Early Christianities.” In *Ancient Astronomy in Its Mediterranean and Near Eastern Contexts (300 BC-AD 300)*, ed. Alan Bowen and Francesca Rochberg. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2020.

“Popular Christianity and Lived Religion in Late Antique Rome: Seeing Magic in the Catacombs.” In *Locating Popular Culture in the Ancient World*, ed. Lucy Grig, 257-76. London: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

“Reinterpreting ‘Pagans’ and ‘Christians’ from Rome’s Late Antique Mortuary Evidence.” In *Pagans and Christians in Fourth-Century Rome*, ed. Michele Salzman and Marianne Saghy, 273-90. London: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

“The Crafting of Memory in Late Roman Mortuary Spaces.” In *Memory in Ancient Rome and Early Christianity*, ed. Karl Galinsky, 263-84. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

“Religious Diversity in the Roman Empire.” Co-authored with Eric Orlin. In *The Blackwell Companion to Religious Diversity*, ed. Kevin Schilbrack. Oxford: Blackwell, forthcoming 2017.

“Gnosticism and Christian Apocrypha: Bridging the Disciplinary Divide.” In *Forbidden Texts on the Western Frontier: the Christian Apocrypha from North American Perspectives: Proceedings from the 2013 York University Christian Apocrypha Symposium*, ed. Tony Burke, 132-44. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2015.

“Living Images of the Divine: Female Theurgists in Late Antiquity.” In *Daughters of Hecate: Women and Magic in the Ancient World*, ed. Kimberly Stratton and Dayna Kalleres, 276-97. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

“The Problem of Bad Baptisms: Unclean Spirits, Exorcism, and the Unseen in Second-Century Christianity.” In *Beyond the Gnostic Gospels: Studies in Honor of Elaine Pagels*, ed. Lance Jenott, Nicola Denzey Lewis, Philippa Townsend and Eduard Iricinschi, 187-203. Berlin: Mohr-Siebeck, 2013.

“Death on the Nile: Egyptian Codices, Gnosticism, and Early Christian Books of the Dead.” In *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature: Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*, ed. April DeConick and Gregory Shaw, 161-80. Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies 85. Leiden: Brill, 2013.

“Roses and Violets for the Ancestors: Gifts to the Dead and Ancient Roman Forms of Social Exchange.” In *The Gift in Antiquity*, ed. Michael Satlow, 122-36. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

“Facing the Beast’: Justin Martyr, Seneca, and the Emotional Life of the Martyr.” In *Stoicism and Early Christianity*, ed. Ismo Dunderberg and Tuomas Rasimus, 43-59. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2011.

“Fate and the Wandering Stars: Determinism in the *Gospel of Judas* and Jewish Apocalyptic Literature.” In *The Codex Judas Papers: Proceedings of the International*

Congress on the Tchacos Codex Held at Rice University, Houston, Texas, March 13-16, 2008, ed. April DeConick, 289-304. Leiden: Brill, 2009.

“The Bible in Film,” and “Nonbiblical Narrative in Film,” co-authored with Patrick Gray. In *Teaching the Bible Through Popular Culture and the Arts*, ed. Patrick Gray and Mark Roncace, 97-174. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Five short teaching pieces in *Teaching the Bible: Practical Strategies for Classroom Instruction*, ed. Mark Roncace and Patrick Gray. New York: Oxford University Press for the Society of Biblical Literature, 2005.

“Bardaisan of Edessa.” In *A Companion to Second-Century^[SEP] Christian “Heretics,”* ed. Antti Marjanen and Petri Luomanen, 159-84. Leiden: Brill, 2005).

“Women and the Bible.” In *The Bible as Literature*, ed. John Gabel, Anthony York and David Citino, 5th edition, 327-58. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

“A New Star on the Horizon: Astral Christologies and Stellar Debates in Early Christian Discourse.” In *Prayer, Magic and the Stars*, ed. Scott Noegel, Brannon Wheeler, and Joel Thomas Walker, 207-21. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003).

“The Limits of Ethnic Categories.” In *A Handbook of Early Christianity: Social Science Approaches*, ed. Anthony Blasi, Paul-André Turcotte, and Jean Duhaime, 489-507. Lanham, MD: Alta Mira Press, 2002).

Book Reviews, Film Reviews, and Encyclopedia Articles

Review of Douglas Boin, *A Social and Cultural History of Late Antiquity* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2017). For *Reading Religion*, at <http://readingreligion.org/books/social-and-cultural-history-late-antiquity>.

Review of Dennis Trout, *Damasus of Rome: The Epigraphic Poetry* (New York: Oxford, 2017). For *Reading Religion*, at <http://readingreligion.org/books/damasus-rome>.

Review of Aude Busine, *Religious Practices and Christianization of the Late Antique City 94th - 7th cent.* (Leiden: Brill, 2016) for *Journal of Roman Studies*, 2017.

Review of Eric C. Smith, *Foucault’s Heterotopia in Christian Catacombs: Constructing Spaces and Symbols in Ancient Rome* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2013) for *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 24/1 (2016): 132.

“Realm of the Dead,” “Cult of the Dead,” and “Cemeteries” for the *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, forthcoming.

“Gnosticism,” “Catacombs, Roman,” “Nag Hammadi Library,” “Salvation,” and other brief entries (“Balbina,” “*Dies Natalis*,” “Flavia Domitilla,” “Orans,”) for the *Routledge*

Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions, ed. Eric Orlin, Michael Satlow, Liz Fried and Jennifer Knust. New York: Routledge, 2016.

“Popular Religion and Magic in the Roman World.” In Julia M. O’Brian, ed., *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Bible and Gender Studies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, 66-71.

“Death and Burial in the Roman World.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

“Gnosticism.” In *Oxford Bibliographies Online in Early Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Review of Laura Salah Nasrallah, *Christian Responses to Roman Art and Architecture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010) in *College Art Association Reviews*. Online at <http://www.caareviews.org/reviewers/1466>.

Review of Kathleen E. Corley, *Maranatha: Women’s Funerary Rituals and Christian Origins* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 2010) in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (2012).

Review of Kate Cooper and Julia Hillner, *Religion, Dynasty, and Patronage in Early Christian Rome, 300-900* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007) in *Classical Review* 60 (2010): 251-3.

“Catacombs.” In the *Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Review of Birger Pearson, *Ancient Gnosticism* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 2008) in *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 39:1 (2009): 49.

“Alchemy.” In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009.

“The Shepherd of Hermas.” n *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

Review of Amy-Jill Levine, ed., *A Feminist Companion to Matthew* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2001) in *The Review of Biblical Literature* (2006). Online at <http://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=4313>.

Review of Kathleen E. Corley and Robert L. Webb, eds., *Jesus and Mel Gibson’s The Passion of the Christ* (New York: Continuum, 2004) for the *Review of Biblical Literature*, (2005). Online at <http://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=4438&CodePage=4438>

Review of Carl B. Smith II, *No Longer Jews: The Search for Gnostic Origins* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2004) in *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (2005).

Review of Geza Vermes, *Jesus and the World of Judaism* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press) in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* (2004).

Review of Larry Hurtado, *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Christ in Earliest Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003) in *Studies of Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 32/4 (2003): 522-24.

Review of Philip A. Harland, *Associations, Synagogues, and Congregations: Claiming a Place in Ancient Mediterranean Society* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 2003) in *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 32 (2003): 376-79.

Review of Karen L. King, *What is Gnosticism?* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003), in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2003). Online at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2003/2003-07-26.html>.

Film Review of "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" in *The Journal of Religion and Film* 5/2 (2001). Online at <http://www.unomaha.edu/~wwwjrf/tombraid.htm>.

Review of Paul-Hubert Poirier, ed., *Le Tonnerre, Intellect Parfait* in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 120/4 (2001): 77-8.

"John of Nikiu." In *Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World*, ed. Glen Bowersock, Peter Brown, and Oleg Grabar, 527. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Review of Birger Pearson, ed., *Nag Hammadi Codex VII*, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 118/4 (1998): 589-90.

INVITED LECTURES

"Lost Ancient Christian Documents from Egypt: Facts, Forgeries, Fiction." Trinity University San Antonio. April 8th, 2019.

"Mapping the Sacred Circuit: Damascus and the *Depositio Martyrem*." Center for Late Antiquity, Duke University. Nov. 29th, 2018.

"Of Models and Men: Did Christianity Really 'Rise'?" Centro Italiano di Studio Superiori sulle Religione, Bertinoro, Italy. Conference Closing Keynote. September 30, 2018.

"St. Peter's Bones." University of California, Santa Barbara. April 8th, 2018.

"Hercules and Alcestis in the Via Latina: A Subversive Reading." University of California, Riverside. Feb. 6, 2018.

“Rethinking the Jewish Catacombs.” Annual Klingenstein Lecture. New College of Florida, Sarasota. January 16, 2018.

“Did the Jews of Ancient Rome Have Ritual?” For “Shared Ritual Practices and Divided Historiography: Media, Phenomena, Topoi,” Bildungshaus St. Ursula, Erfurt, Germany, June 14-16, 2017.

“Peter’s Body, Peter’s Grave in Archaeological and Literary Tension.” For “Peter, Popes, and Politics: Expressions of Power in the Late Antique and Early Medieval World,” Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, May 29-31 2017.

“Food for the Body, the Body as Food: A Curious Theme in Early Christian Martyr Narratives.” Invited lecture at the Faculty of Theology, Humboldt University. Berlin, Germany, April 6 2017.

“Food for the Body, the Body as Food: A Curious Theme in Early Christian Martyr Narratives.” For the closing colloquium of the Lived Ancient Religion group, “Leaving the (Disciplinary) Comfort Zone – Lived Ancient Religion AD 1 to 800,” Eisenach, Germany, April 3 2017.

“Reconsidering the Jews of Ancient Rome.” Opening lecture for a colloquium entitled “Beyond the Bible: East/West, No Bible is Best.” Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Sept. 22 2016.

“Rethinking, Again, the Origins of the Nag Hammadi Codices.” Symposium entitled “Fragments of an Unbelievable Past,” at the University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway, Sept. 15th 2016.

“The Materiality of the Tomb.” Lecture for the Workshop on the Materiality of Divine Agency. **Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, University of Erfurt, Sept. 8th 2016.**

“Catacomb Religion: Uncovering Ordinary Christianity in the Centuries Before and After Constantine.” Symposium entitled *Christianity Underground: Death, Ritual, and the Catacombs of Rome*, at the Wolfe Institute, Brooklyn College, May 5th 2016.

“(En)Gendering Christian Time: Female Saints and Roman Martyrological Calendars.” *Engendering Time in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Bates College, April 29th-May 1st 2016.

“The Nag Hammadi Mythological Treatises.” Keynote lecture for the Nag Hammadi Codices: Seventieth Anniversary, at Humboldt University, Oct. 8th 2015.

“Selling Souls: Early Christians (and their Neighbors) as Religious Entrepreneurs.” For the Annual Ranieri Colloquium at New York University, March 28 2015.

“Lived Religion in the City of the Dead: Fourth-Century Christianity in the Roman Catacombs.” For the Lived Religion in Antiquity (LAR) Project at the Max-Weber Kolleg, University of Erfurt, June 25 2014.

“Lived Religion in the City of the Dead: Fourth-Century Christianity in the Roman Catacombs.” The Ohio State Lecturer-at-Large Series. Ohio State University, October 24, 2013.

“The Mummy, the Book, and the Tomb: Rereading Early Egyptian Christianity Through Its Artifacts.” The Annual Lora Bryning Redford Lecture in Archaeology. University of Puget Sound, March 1, 2012.

“The Mummy, the Book, and the Tomb: Rereading Early Egyptian Christianity Through Its Artifacts.” Department of Near Eastern Studies and Classics, University of Washington, Seattle, February 29, 2012.

“Codex II and Egyptian Christian Books of the Dead: Rethinking the Provenance of the Nag Hammadi Codices.” Department of Religion, Princeton University, November 2011.

“Modesty’s Priestesses: Meaning and Gender in Early Christian Art.” 2010 Annual McMartin Lecture. Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, January 2010.

“Hercules, Histrionics, and a Dead Husband: Reading Cubiculum N in Rome’s Via Latina Catacombs.” University of Texas, Austin, February 2009.

Guided tour of Rome’s *necropoleis* as Site Specialist for the Colloquium on Mediterranean Culture and Religion under the aegis of the University of Texas, Austin. Rome, July 2009.

“Modesty’s Priestesses: Meaning and Gender in the *Orans* of Early Christian Art.” Colloquium on the Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean. Brown University, September 2009.

“Women of Faith, Women of Power: Women’s Sacred Space in Late Ancient Rome.” Massachusetts Bible Society. Boston, June 2008.

“Death and the Maidens: Rediscovering Lost Women in Rome’s Ancient Underground.” University of New Hampshire, March 2007.

“Rome’s Via Latina as Memory Theater.” University of New Hampshire, March 2007.

“Death on the Nile: Christian ‘Books of the Dead’ and Burial Practices in Late Antique Egypt.” Ohio State University, May 2005.

“Women’s Religion in the Via Latina Catacombs.” Kraft-Hiatt Lecture. Brandeis University, April 2005.

“Death and the Maidens: Finding Lost Women in Rome’s Ancient Underground.”
Lecture for the benefactors of Harvard’s Women’s Studies in Religion Program. Denver,
April 2005.

“The Ophite Diagram and Ancient Cosmologies.” Philadelphia Seminar on Christian
Origins. University of Pennsylvania, March 2005.

“*Mundus Muliebris*: A Devotee of Ceres and Her Daughter in the Via Latina Catacombs.”
Princeton University, March 2005.

“Uncovering Women’s Lives in Antiquity: The Catacomb Evidence.” Harvard Divinity
School, March 2005.

“Death and the Maidens: Using the Catacombs of Rome as a Source for Women’s
History.” Episcopal Divinity School. Cambridge, February 2005.

“Women of Faith, Women of Power: Women’s Sacred Space in Late Ancient Rome.”
Plenary presentation for the benefactors of Harvard’s Women’s Studies in Religion
Program. Harvard University, January 2005.

“Christ, the Dark Star: Astrology in Early Christianity, 150-500 CE.” Skidmore College,
April 2000.

“Dismembering the Saints: Relics and Recollection in the Early Middle Ages” (Lecture
Series). Bowdoin College Art Museum, October and November 1997.

SELECTED PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

“Magic in the Catacombs.” For *Material Culture in Late Antiquity*. SBL Annual Meeting,
Boston, 2017.

“Inventing Judaism: Rethinking Rome’s Jewish Catacombs in Light of Early Modern
Christianity.” For *Religion Underground*. SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio, 2016.

“Lived Religion Among Second-Century Gnostic Hieratics.” For the Oxford Patristics
Conference. Oxford University. August 7-10, 2015.

“The Early Modern Invention of Late Antique Rome: The Crypt of the Popes.” For
Creating Religion By Historiography. University of Erfurt. June 10-12, 2015.

“Lived Religion Among Second-Century Gnostic Hieratics.” For *Beyond Duty: Interacting
with Religious Professionals and Appropriating Tradition in the Imperial Era*. University of
Erfurt. January 12-14, 2015.

“I Cannot Be Other Than What I Am.” For *Rethinking Conversion in Greco-Roman Antiquity*. Joint session of the Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions and the Graeco-Roman Religions sections. Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego. November 2014.

“The Myth of Conversion: Christian Adherence, Group, and Religious Identity in Second-Century Rome.” For *Shared Lives, Different Religions? The Roman Empire in the First Two Centuries*. Joint session of the Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions and the Graeco-Roman Religions sections. Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Baltimore. November 2013.

“Nag Hammadi, Gnosticism, Apocrypha: Bridging Disciplinary Divides.” *York Christian Apocrypha Symposium*. York University, Toronto, Sept. 28, 2013.

“Two Books on the Gospel of Thomas: Mark Goodacre, *Thomas and the Gospels: The Case for Thomas’s Familiarity with the Synoptics* (Eerdmans, 2012) and Simon Gathercole, *The Composition of the Gospel of Thomas: Original Language and Influences* (SBL Monographs Series, 2012).” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Chicago. November 2012.

“Reinterpreting ‘Pagans’ and ‘Christians’ from Rome’s Late Antique Mortuary Evidence.” *“Pagans” and “Christians” in Late Antique Rome: Interpreting the Evidence*. Accademia dell’Ungaria, Rome, Sept. 23, 2012.

“Popular Christianity and Lived Religion in Late Antique Rome.” *Locating Popular Culture in the Ancient World*. University of Edinburgh, July 5, 2012.

“Death on the Nile: Egyptian Christianity, Codicology, and the Christian ‘Book of the Dead’ as Cultural Commodity.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. San Francisco, November 2011.

“Gnosticism without Heresiarchs: Rebuilding Early Christianity without Categories.” *Erasure History: Pedagogical Askesis in Historiography*. University of Toronto, November 11, 2011.

“The Crafting of Memory in Late Roman Mortuary Spaces.” *Memoria Romana/Roman Memory Conference*. University of Texas, Austin, April 2010.

“Roses and Violets for the Ancestors: Gifts to the Dead and Ancient Roman Forms of Social Exchange.” *The Gift in Antiquity*. Brown University, May 2010.

“Valentinian Exegesis, Community, and the Problem of Spiritual Gifts.” Biannual Meeting of the International Society of Literature, Culture, and Society. St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University, September 2010.

“Seeing Women’s Ways: Women, Wealth and Self-Representation in Late Antique [1] Commemorative Spaces.” *Ways of Religious Seeing in Late Antiquity*. University of Kentucky, March 2008.

“Fate and the Wandering Stars: Debates on Determinism in the Gospel of Judas and Other Early Christian Texts.” *The Gospel of Judas in International Perspective*. Rice University, March 2008.

“Ceres, Persephone, and a Late Roman Woman’s Rites of Passage in the Via Latina Catacombs.” *Rites of Passage of the Life Cycle in Antiquity*. Getty Villa in Malibu, California, April 2007.

“Crafting Memory in the Catacombs.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego, November 2007.

“Rome’s Hypogeum of the Via Latina as a Memory Theatre.” *History and Historiography in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*. University of British Columbia, October 2006.

“Missing *Martyria*, Derelict Relics, and the Case of the Vanishing Holy Woman in Late Antique Rome.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Philadelphia, November 2005.

“The Catacombs as *mundus muliebris*: Ceres, Proserpina, Mothers, and Daughters in Via Latina.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Philadelphia, November 2005.

“Death on the Nile: Christian ‘Books of the Dead’ and Burial Practices in Late Antique Egypt.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 2004.

“Death and Dying in Late Ancient Rome: The Case of the Catacombs.” *The Variationes Lectionorum* Classical Studies Colloquium at the University of Mississippi, October 2004.

“Matrons, Memory, and the Politics of the Visual in Third-century Catacomb Art.” Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society. Loyola University, Chicago, May 2004.

“Roman Christian Demonological Ascent Formulae in their Mortuary Context.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Atlanta, November 2003.

“Third-century Women Bishops?: Reading the Visual Evidence from Rome’s Cappella Graeca.” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Patristic Studies. Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 2003.

“Where Were the ‘Heretics’ Buried?: The Curious Case of Rome’s Cappella Graeca.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. Toronto, November 2002.

“Genesis Exegetical Traditions in the *Trimorphic Protennoia*.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. Toronto, November 2002.

“Early Christians on Ecstasy: Emotional Control as Spiritual *Paideia*.” Annual Canadian Congress of Learned Societies, Canadian Society of Biblical Studies. Quebec City, May 2001.

“A New Star in the Heavens: Astral Cosmologies and Stellar Debates in Early Christianity.” *Prayer, Magic and the Stars*. University of Washington at Seattle, March 2001.

“‘Under a Pitiless Sky’?: Re-Examining Perceptions of Astral Determinism in Second-Century Gnostic Sources.” International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Helsinki, July 1999.

“‘The Utterance of My Name’: Sound, Salvation, and the Release from Astral Determinism in the *Trimorphic Protennoia*.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. Orlando, November 1998.

“Pagan Women and Christian Opinion: Constructing Female ‘Divine Men’ in Pagan Neoplatonist Circles.” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies. Ottawa, May 1998.

“‘I Return to the Place From Which I Came’: Gnostic Christian ‘Books of the Dead’ in their Ritual Context.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. New Orleans, November 1996.

SELECTED PANEL PRESENTATIONS AND RESPONSES (BY INVITATION):

Panelist, “Feminism is for Everyone: Strategizing Pedagogy and Practice.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, 2016.

Presenter and Respondent, Moskow Workshop on Jews in the Late Antique Mediterranean, Brown University, May 10-12, 2015.

Respondent for colloquium on “Marcion as Religious Entrepreneur,” convened by Markus Vinzent and Mattias Klinghardt. University of Erfurt. June 26, 2014.

Panel Respondent, *Healing and Funerary Ritual in Text and Practice*. Joint session of the Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions and the Graeco-Roman Religions sections. Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Baltimore. November 21, 2013.

Panel Respondent for special book session featuring my book, *Introduction to “Gnosticism”?: Ancient Voices, Christian Worlds* (Oxford, 2013). Gnosticism and Nag

Hammadi Section. Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Baltimore. November 2013.

Panelist, “Memory and Forgetting in Antiquity.” Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins. Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. San Francisco, November 2011.

Panelist, “Thirty Years of Elaine Pagels’ *The Gnostic Gospels*” (along with Harold Attridge and Luke Timothy Johnson). Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Boston, November 2009.

Panel respondent, “Teaching New Testament.” Best Practices in Teaching Workshop, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Washington, DC, November 2006.

Panel respondent, “Gnosticism and the Arts.” Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Session. Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio, November 2004.

Panel chair, “Pilgrimage and Ritual Space.” Annual Meeting of the Eastern International Region of the AAR. Ithaca College, March 2001.

Panel chair, “Theory on Restored, Renewed, and Displaced Ritual Performances.” Annual Meeting of the Eastern International Region of the AAR. Ithaca College, March 2001.

Panelist, “Gender and Technology in the Classroom.” SBL Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession Annual Breakfast Meeting. Nashville, November 2000.

Panel respondent, “Surprised by Technology: The Impact of Technology on Scholarship of Religion.” Special Topics Forum sponsored by the New Technologies Task Force and the Committee on Teaching and Learning, American Academy of Religion. Boston, November 1999.

Panel Respondent, *In the Company of Strangers*, by Stephen Wilson. Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Biblical Literature. Ottawa, May 1998.

Panel Respondent, “The Representation of Violence and the Violence of Representation.” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies. Montreal, June 1994.

MEDIA AND INTERNET

2018 Featured Scholar, “Jesus: His Story.” A six-part series. Produced by Nutopia, London, UK for History Channel/A & A. Airdate: Easter 2019.

“(Still) Rethinking the Origin of the Nag Hammadi Codices.” For *Marginalia* (The Los Angeles Review of Books online forum). Posted July 2018.
<https://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/still-rethinking-the-origins-of-the-nag->

[hammadi-codices/](#). This article was shared over 182 times and received over 6,300 times, making it “viral” in the blogosphere.

- 2017 Featured Scholar, “Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, Fiction.” A six-part series. Produced by Nutopia, London, UK for CNN. Airdate: Easter 2017. Featured prominently in episodes on the apostle Thomas and Peter (filmed on location)
- Featured Scholar, “The Jesus Strand.” A two-hour television special. Produced by This Is Just A Test, Los Angeles, for the History Channel. Airdate: Easter 2017.
- 2016 Interviewed on Mary Magdalene by Mary Hynes for their show Tapestry, CBC Radio Canada, Producer Rosie Fernandez. Airdate June 2016.
- Featured Scholar, “A History of Hell.” National Geographic Channel. Directed by Julian Jones. Airdate May 15, 2016.
- Guest blogger for the Bulletin for the Study of Religion Blog: “If I Only Knew Then...Tenured Scholars on Professionalization.” Online at <http://bulletin.equinoxpub.com/2016/02/if-i-only-knew-then-tenured-scholars-on-professionalization-nicola-denzey-lewis/>
- 2014 Featured Scholar, “Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, Fiction.” A six-part series. Produced by Nutopia, London, UK for CNN. Airdate: Easter 2015. Included live news interviews on CNN and NBC. Featured prominently in episode on Mary Magdalene.
- Featured Scholar, The *Bible Odyssey* website (bibleodyssey.org), a venture of the Society for Biblical Literature made possible with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- 2013 Featured Scholar on Aeon Byte Gnostic Radio. Forty minute interview highlighting my new book, *Introduction to “Gnosticism”: Ancient Voices, Christian Worlds*.
- 2010 Featured Scholar, “The Real Story of Christmas” and “The Real Story of Halloween.” Produced by Workaholic Productions (US) for the History Channel. Airdates: October and December 2010-2014.
- 2009 Featured Scholar, “The Rise of Christianity.” Part 8 of an 8 part series, “Rome Unwrapped” (USA Title: “When Rome Ruled”), produced by Atlantic Productions (UK) for the National Geographic Channel. Airdate: September 2010.
- 2008- Advisory Board Member, *Bible Odyssey*. An NEH-funded initiative spearheaded by the Society of Biblical Literature.

- 2004 Director of the Flagship Virtual Teaching and Learning Center for the American Academy of Religion and Editor of the Teaching and Learning Center.
- 2001 Winner of the Norman E. Wagner Prize for Teaching and Technology, Canadian Society of Biblical Studies.
- 1998 Rel232: Women's Spirituality (Bowdoin College) - on-line syllabus chosen by the 1998 National Social Science Scout Report as an outstanding exemplar for the use of digital technology in teaching.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2019 External evaluator, National Endowment for the Humanities
 Jury Chair, Shohet Fellowships, International Catacomb Society
- 2019-2021 Chair, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting Program Committee.
- 2018 Member, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting Program Committee.
 External evaluator for European Excellence Cluster funding applications for Belgium and Austria
 Juror, Best First Article on Late Antiquity, for the North American Patristics Society/Journal of Early Christian Studies
- 2017 Program Committee Chair, Gnosticism and Nag Hammadi Section, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2016 Contributor to the SBL "Religion in the Public Schools" initiative by composing an extensive lesson plan for US AP History students on the topic "Women and Authority in Early Christianity."
- 2015 External evaluator for M.A. Thesis, Central European University, Budapest. May, 2015.
- 2014 Evaluator for Religious Studies NEH Grant proposals, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington DC.
 Evaluator for Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
- 2014 Director of an UTRA (undergraduate teaching and research award) summer fellowship (10 weeks).

Nominated to serve three years on the Society of Biblical Literature's Annual Meeting Program Committee.

2010-13 Program Committee Chair, Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions. Responsible for setting the program, selecting the papers, writing the Call for Papers and University liaison for a major conference, "Religion in Pieces," held at Brown University, April 27-29, 2012.

Program Committee, Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions. Responsibilities include setting the program and selecting the papers for the American Philological Association Annual Meeting and the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting.

Steering Committee, Consultation on Roman Memory, Society of Biblical Literature.

2010-11 Senior Thesis Advisor for two honors theses. Department of Religious Studies, Brown University. The theses were awarded first and second place in the Bishop-McVickar Prize for Excellence in Religious Studies.

2003-11 Chair of the Steering Committee, Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Section of the Society of Biblical Literature.

2001-06 Vice President of the Canadian Society for Patristic Studies.

Teaching and Learning Committee, American Academy of Religion.

2000 Vice President, Eastern International Region, American Academy of Religion (elected).

ADVISORY BOARDS

Gnosis: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Gnostic Origins
International Catacomb Society
Journal of Early Christian Studies
Bible Odyssey, Society for Biblical Literature
Journal of American Academy of Religion: Reading Religion
Redescribing Early Christianity (Book Series, Penn State Press)
Gorgias Press

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

Yale University Press
Columbia University Press
Oxford University Press

Routledge
University of Toronto Press
Houghton Mifflin Press
Wilfrid Laurier University Press
Journal of Early Christian Studies
Journal of Religion
Studies in Religion/ Sciences Religieuses
Religion and Theology
Journal of Religion and Popular Culture
Wabash Journal for Teaching Theology and Religion
Journal of the American Academy of Religion
Hesperia
Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism

SELECTED COURSES TAUGHT

Religions of the Roman Empire and Late Antiquity:
Ordinary Christianity and Lived Religion in Late Antiquity
New Testament and Christian Origins
Roman Death
Gnosticism and Occult Traditions in Late Antiquity
The Making of Christianity
Catacomb Religion
Women, Religion, and Spirituality
Late Antique Asceticism

Comparative Studies of Religion:
The Bible and Social Media
The End of the World: Apocalypticism
Judaism and Christianity: A Conflictual History
Theory and Method in the Study of Religion
Introduction to Women's Studies in Religion

LANGUAGES

Reading and Translation competency: French, German, Italian, Greek, Latin,
Coptic
Conversational competency: French, Italian, some German

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Academy of Religion
Society of Biblical Literature
Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions
North American Patristics Society

International Catacomb Society