

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

3 – 5 ottobre, 2024

University Residential Centre of Bertinoro

October 3 – 5, 2024



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 2024 | 2024 Annual Meeting

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

CISSR — Centro Italiano di Studi Superiori delle Religioni

c/o Centro Residenziale Universitario di Bertinoro
Via Frangipane, 6 – 47032 Bertinoro (FC), Italia

<http://cissr.net>

CISSR Annual Meeting on Christian Origins

Bertinoro, October 3 – 5, 2024

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

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)

EXPLORATIONS OF PEOPLEHOOD IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

Presiding: Maia Kotrosits, Philip A. Harland

ANDREW DURDIN (Florida State University)

Magians Without Magic: An Ethnographic Reading of Pliny the Elder's "History of Magic"

CAVAN CONCANNON (University of Southern California)

Ethnicity, Groups, and Movement: Making Ethnic Identity across Distance

J. ANDREW DOOLE (University of Innsbruck)

Inventing a Diaspora: The (Non-)Customs of the Christians according to Bardaisan of Edessa

PHILIP A. Harland (York University, Toronto)

Criminalizing Conquered Peoples

Break 11:10 – 11:30

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

DISCUSSIONS ON THE NEW TESTAMENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF RABBINIC JUDAISM

Presiding: Gudrun Holtz, Matthias Morgenstern

GUDRUN HOLTZ (University of Tübingen)

The Interpretation of the Commandment of Deut 6:5 in Romans 8 and Early Rabbinic Sources

MATTHIAS MORGENSTERN (University of Tübingen)

Talmudic Responses to the Golden Rule in the New Testament

FEDERICO DAL BO (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

The Sovereign Messiah of the Law: Daniel Boyarin's Jewish Gospel and its Sabbatarian Undertones

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

ORAL AND WRITTEN SOURCES OF EARLY CHRISTIAN TEXTS

Presiding: Claudio Zamagni

SINCERO MANTELLI (Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Rome)

Contra Esdram mulier potius quam ueritas uicit: The Partial Reception of 3 Esdr. 3, 12 in the Late Antique West and the Case of De singularitate clericorum

MATTEO MARIANI (Liceo scientifico Valeriani, Imola)

The Enochic Azazel in the Background of the Synoptic Tradition: Literary Dependencies and New Perspectives on the Logion of “the Strong Man” (Mk 3:27, Mt 12:29-30, Lk 11:21-23)

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00

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

CONTEXTS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Presiding: John Kloppenborg

HARRY O. MAIER (Vancouver School of Theology – Max Weber Centre, University of Erfurt)

The Social Networks, Patronage, and Correspondence of Cyprian of Carthage and His Rivals: Toward a New Description of Third-Century Christian Conflicts

CHRISTINA GOUSOPOULOS (University of Toronto)

When Networks Fail: Modelling Network Collapse and Decline in Greco-Roman Associations

GUSTAVO B. BARROSO (University of Lisbon)

Can Disease Lead to Persecution? The Case of the Saint Cyprian’s Plague

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

BOOK DISCUSSION 1

Presiding: Luca Arcari

A. ANNESE, F. BERNO, D. TRIPALDI (a cura di), *I codici di Nag Hammadi. Prima traduzione italiana integrale*. Roma: Carocci, 2024

Discussants: EDMONDO LUPIERI (Loyola University, Chicago), PIERLUIGI PIOVANELLI (EPHE - École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris; online)

Respondents: ANDREA ANNESE (University of Bologna), FRANCESCO BERNO (Sapienza University of Rome), DANIELE TRIPALDI (University of Bologna)

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

JEWISH HISTORY AND HELLENISTIC JUDAISM

Presiding: Dario Garribba, Marco Vitelli

GABRIELE BOCCACCINI (University of Michigan; online)

Did Paul Know Enoch Literature? A Reopened Question

MICHAEL DAISE (College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia)
Iudaeorum Romanum: The Jewish Diaspora in Rome and Early Christ-Believing Groups

SANDRA GAMBETTI (College of Staten Island, New York)
The Way to Deal with It: The Roman Institutional Tools Granted to the Jews. The Case of Alexandria's Philo and Beyond

ARIEL LEWIN (University of Basilicata)
The Jews Against the Nabataeans: The Story of Silleus

Break 17:00 – 17:30

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

WOMEN IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Presiding: Maria Dell'Isola, Mario Resta

CHRISTY COBB (University of Denver)
Household Conversion and Agency in the Acts of Philip

NICOLA DENZEY LEWIS (Claremont Graduate University)
Late Antique Christian Virgins: The View from the Catacombs of Rome

TESSA CANELLA (Sapienza University of Rome)
Helena Augusta and the Ancient Models of Female Christian Devotion

MATTIA CHIRIATTI (University of Granada)
Manus Dei: The Theodosian Empresses and Their Iconography

17:00 – 19:30 | Parallel Session PM 2.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

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

Presiding: Luigi Walt

JONATHAN CAHANA-BLUM (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
The Disease of Masculinity? Early Gnosticism on What's Wrong with Men

LAVINIA CERIONI (Aarhus University)
From Sophia to Logos: Theological Shifts in the Tripartite Tractate and Valentinian Theology

MAIA KOTROSITS (Harvard University)
Thinking Ethnicity and Social Mobility in the Cosmic Register: The Gospel of Philip and Origen of Alexandria

PAMELA MULLINS REAVES (Colorado College)
Revelation, Testimony, and Ascent in the Paraphrase of Shem (NHC VII,1) and the First Apocalypse of James (NHC V,3; Cod. Tch. 2)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

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

GOSPEL OF THOMAS, NAG HAMMADI, AND GNOSTICISM

Presiding: Andrea Annese, Francesco Berno

LOUIS PAINCHAUD (Laval University, Canada)

“During Eight Days before Three Days” (EvJud 33:34): Narrative Weft and Allusive Warp in the *Gospel of Judas*

EINAR THOMASSEN (University of Bergen)

Valentinus’ *Letter to Agathopous* Rediscovered (?)

ANDERS KLOSTERGAARD PETERSEN (Aarhus University)

Unravelling the Basic Semiotic System of the Gospel of Truth with a Focus on Its Bearing Concept and Their Afterlife in Subsequent Valentinian Christ Religion

EUGEN STAFIE (Free University of Berlin)

A Multiform Beast: The Theriomorphic Demiurge as the Irrational World Soul in *The Apocryphon of John*

09:00 – 11:00 | Parallel Session AM 1.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

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

Presiding: Michael A. Daise, Dorota M. Hartman, Fabrizio Marcello

FABRIZIO MARCELLO (École Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem)

Feeding Before the End: Luke 12:41–46 in Light of the Zenon Archive

PAOLO COSTA (University of Genoa – Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome)

Luke *iuris studiosus*, between *Lokalkolorit* and the Partings of the Ways

KORBINIAN STEGEMEYER (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

Proven Reality: The Conflict between the Apostles and the Leaders of Jerusalem in Acts 2–5 as Disclosure of Christian Identity

RAFAŁ WĘDZICKI (École Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem)

“To Which God Shall I Pray in Order to Be Saved?”: Paul, Pythoness and Greek Oracular Enquiries

09:00 – 11:00 | Parallel Session AM1.C (Captain Room – Rivellino)

FROM THE HISTORY OF EXEGESIS TO RECEPTION HISTORY AND BEYOND

Presiding: Laura Carnevale, Edmondo Lupieri

ANNA MAMBELLI (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) – Isabella Pignocco (University of Catania) // DAVIDE DAINESE (University of Bologna) – LAURA BIGONI (University of Bologna)

Resilient Septuagint and *uBIQUity*: Interrelated Research Projects on Sacred Texts and their Heritages in the Digital World

GIOVANNI HERMANIN DE REICHENFELD (Sapienza University of Rome)
Quotation Culture and Computational Analysis in Early and Late Antique Christian Biblical
Exegesis: Methodological Challenges and the Case Studies of Origen of Alexandria

GIULIO MARIOTTI (Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose “Romano Guardini”, Trento – Istituto di
Scienze Religiose “Centro Studi Teologici”, Bolzano)
The “Domesticated Apostle”: The Invention of Anti-Jewish Paul

Break 11:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM2.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

BOOK DISCUSSION 2

Presiding: Luca Arcari

EBERHARD BONS, DANIELA SCIALABBA (eds.) in collaboration with ANNA MAMBELLI, *Historical and
Theological Lexicon of the Septuagint* (HTLS), 4 vols. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020–

Discussants: ROBERTO NICOLAI (Sapienza University of Rome), EMANUELE CASTELLI
(University of Messina)

Respondents: EBERHARD BONS (Université de Strasbourg; online), ANNA MAMBELLI (University
of Modena and Reggio Emilia), DANIELA SCIALABBA (Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome)

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM2.A (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

PAPYROLOGY AND EARLY CHRIST GROUPS

Presiding: Peter Arzt-Grabner, Marco Stroppa

CAMILLA RECALCATI (UCL Catholic University of Louvain – Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
The LXX Translators and their Villages: Jewish Presence in the Third-Century Fayum

THOMAS WAYMENT (Brigham Young University, Provo, USA)
A Christian Hymn in an Unpublished Fourth Century Papyrus

MARCO STROPPA (Istituto Papirologico “Girolamo Vitelli”, University of Florence)
New Fragments from PSI 6 and 7: The *Protevangelium Iacobi* again and a New Exemplar of the
De Pascha by Meliton

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00

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

BEFORE AND AFTER REIMARUS: DISCOURSE AND PRACTICE ABOUT JESUS IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD – NEW PERSPECTIVES & METHODOLOGIES

Presiding: Miriam Benfatto, Cristiana Facchini

CRISTIANA FACCHINI (University of Bologna)
The Historical Jesus and Biblical Exegesis in the Seventeenth Century: Spinoza & Simon

MARGHERITA PEPOLI (Sapienza University of Rome – EPHE, Paris)
Christ through Kabbalah: An Enquiry through the Hebrew-to-Latin Translations and the Writings of Cardinal Egidio Antonini da Viterbo

ULRICH GROETSCH (University of North Alabama)
Crows like a Cock but Was not a Cock! Early Modern Savants Puzzle over a Biblical Enigma

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

MARK AND THE OTHER GOSPELS

Presiding: Mara Rescio

AMIEL DRIMBE (University of Bucharest)
The Lion in Wilderness

GIOVANNI IBBA (Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose della Toscana, Florence)
From Enochic Tradition to the Impure Spirits in Mark

STEPHAN HÜLLER (Independent Research, Canada)
Ad Fontes: New Images and the Exoneration of Morton Smith

MARA RESCIO (CISSR, Bertinoro / Adjunct Fellow, “Beyond Canon” Centre, University of Regensburg)
Sin, Divine Punishment, and Disease: Some Insights from Documentary Papyri

15:00 – 17:00 | Parallel Session PM1.C (Captain Room – Rivellino)

RE-DATING EARLY CHRISTIAN TEXTS

Presiding: Claudio Gianotto

KIMBERLY STRATTON (Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada)
Reconsidering the *Didache* as Evidence for First-Century ‘Christian’ Identity

MARKUS VINZENT (King’s College, London – Max Weber Centre, University of Erfurt)
The Two Pauline Letter Collections: What Are They (Content, Redactional Profiles) and when to Date the Letters?

RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATION IN THE ROMAN IMPERIAL PERIOD

Presiding: Francesca Prescendi

GIULIA PEDRUCCI (University of Verona)
The Transformation of the Greek Pythia in Relation to Divination and Female Sexuality by Church Fathers

DANIEL ULLUCCI (Stonehill College, Easton, MA)
The Role of Christian Practices in Roman Status Culture—Interests of the Early Majority

Break 17:00 – 17:30

17:30 – 18:45 | Joint Session PM 2 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

LECTIO MAGISTRALIS

Presiding: **Daniele Tripaldi**

CATHERINE HEZSER (SOAS - School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)
The Significance of Law in Rabbinic Judaism and Ancient Christianity

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

METHODOLOGIES OF JESUS RESEARCH: THE TRANSMISSIONS OF WORDS

Presiding: **Mauro Pesce**

STEPHEN J. PATTERSON (Willamette University, Salem, Oregon)
Three Source Fragments in Thomas

LUIGI WALT (University of Naples “L’Orientale”)
In Praise of Parallels: An Inventory (and a Few Remarks) against Exceptionalism in the Study of Paul and the Jesus Tradition

[Book Discussion]

SANTIAGO GUIJARRO, *La memoria vivente di Gesù. Dinamiche della trasmissione orale*. Brescia: Morcelliana, 2024.

Discussant: CLAUDIO GIANOTTO (University of Turin)

Respondent: SANTIAGO GUIJARRO (Pontifical University of Salamanca; online)

9:00 – 11:00 | Parallel Session AM 1.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)

THE BIBLE AND CONFLICT

Presiding: **Emiliano R. Urciuoli**

LEE GWANGSOO (University of St Andrews, Scotland; online)
Jewish Davidic Messianism and Jesus’s Kingship and Sonship in John 10

ANDREA DI LENARDO (University of Udine – Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)
Food Norms in the Conflict of the Early Church

JILL HICKS-KEETON (University of Southern California)
“For Such a Time as This”: Christian Scripturalization of Esther in National Social Conflicts over Slavery and Women’s Rights in the Nineteenth-Century U.S.

ROBERTA MAZZA (University of Bologna)
Papyri for the People: The Use and Abuse of Ancient Biblical Manuscripts in Contemporary America

Break 11:00 – 11:30

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

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

Presiding: Luca Arcari, Daniele Tripaldi

Discussion around:

L. PAINCHAUD, E. LUPIERI (eds.), *“Who is Sitting on Which Beast?” Interpretative Issues in the Book of Revelation*. Turnhout: Brepols 2024

Discussants: NATHAN BETZ (University of Regensburg), DARIO GARRIBBA (Theological Faculty of the Southern Italy "S. Luigi", Naples), ELISA MANZO (University of Cantabria), DANIELE MINISINI (Sapienza University of Rome)

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

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS FORMS AND PRACTICES

Presiding: Adriana Destro, Francesca Sbardella

MARIANA DOBREVA-HOLDER (University of Toronto)
Ancient Folk Rituals: Survival and Transformation

CATERINA FRATESI (University of Bologna)
Sacred Objects and Objects of Affection in a Psychiatric Residence: An Ethnographic Analysis

LEONARDO ROSSI (University of Florence)
“Her Enduring Presence”: The Role of Memory Objects and Devotional Sites in the Formation and Preservation of Gemma Galgani’s Cult

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00

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

ISSUES OF METHOD: NEW ‘SECULAR’ APPROACHES TO EARLY CHRISTIAN RESEARCH

Presiding: William Arnal, Eduard Iricinschi

HAL TAUSSIG (Union Theological Seminary, New York)
Mythmaking, Politics, and the Rise and Fall of the Christian Myth

KATHRYN LOFTON (Yale University)
America: A Mythic Problem in the Study of Religion

PHILIPPA TOWNSEND (University of Edinburgh)
Myth and History in the Story of Manichaean Origins

EDUARD IRICINSCHI (Fulbright Scholar at Princeton University)
The Search for an Imperfect Method in the Study of Religion: Redescription in Burton L. Mack and Jonathan Z. Smith