

Olivia Stewart Lester

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Education

Yale University, Doctor of Philosophy, New Testament (2017)

Dissertation Title: *Prophets and Their Rivals: Interpretation, Gender, and Economics in Revelation and Sibylline Oracles 4–5*

Yale Divinity School, Master of Sacred Theology, New Testament (2011)

Thesis: *Paul's Writings on Women and Spirit-Inspired Speech*

Yale Divinity School, Master of Divinity, Magna Cum Laude (2010)

Southeastern University, Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies and Music, Summa Cum Laude (2007)

Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, Loyola University Chicago (2018–present)

John Fell Postdoctoral Researcher, The Bible and the Humanities Project, Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oriel College, University of Oxford (2017–2018)

Visiting Scholar, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (2017–2018)

Lecturer, Elementary New Testament Greek, Yale Divinity School (Summer 2017)

Instructor, Elementary New Testament Greek, Yale Divinity School (2016–2017)

Publications

Monograph

Prophetic Rivalry, Gender, and Economics: A Study in Revelation and Sibylline Oracles 4–5, WUNT II (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2018).

Journal Articles

“Both Jewish and Christian: The Production and Reception of the Sibylline Oracles,” *Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum* (under review).

“Revealed History as Prophetic Rivalry: John’s Apocalypse, the Sibylline Oracles, and the Prophecy of Apollo,” *Early Christianity* 10.4 (2019): 461–80.

Contributions to Edited Volumes

“Nanea,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception Online*, ed. Constance M. Furey et al (Berlin: De Gruyter; under review)

“The Sibylline Oracles: A Case Study in Ancient and Modern Anti-Judaism,” in *Protestant Bible Scholarship: Antisemitism, Philosemitism and Anti-Judaism*, ed. Arjen Bakker, René Bloch, Yael Fisch, Paula Fredriksen, and Hindy Najman (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming)

“Views of the World to Come in the Jewish-Christian Sibylline Oracles,” in *Dreams, Visions, Imaginations: Jewish, Christian, and Gnostic Views of the World to Come*, ed. Tobias Nicklas and Jens Schröter, BZNW (Berlin: De Gruyter, forthcoming).

“The Four Kingdoms Motif and Sibylline Temporality in Sibylline Oracles 4,” *The Eras of Empires: Four Kingdoms Motifs in Ancient Historiographies*, ed. Andrew Perrin and Loren Stuckenbruck, Themes in Biblical Narrative (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming).

“Sibylline Oracles 4–5,” *T & T Clark Companion to Second Temple Judaism*, ed. Daniel M. Gurtner and Loren T. Stuckenbruck (New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2019).

“Jezebel: A Study in Prophecy, Divine Violence, and Gender,” *New Perspectives on the Book of Revelation*, ed. Adela Yarbro Collins (Leuven: Peeters, 2017).

“‘I Will Speak . . . With My Whole Person in Ecstasy’: Instrumentality and Independence in the Sibylline Oracles,” *Sibyls, Scriptures, and Scrolls: John Collins at Seventy*, ed. Joel Baden, Hindy Najman, and Eibert Tigchelaar, JSJ Supplements (Leiden: Brill, 2017).

“The Question of Prophetic ‘Authenticity’: A Response to ‘Why Jeremiah? The Invention of a Prophetic Figure’,” *Jeremiah’s Scriptures: Production, Reception, Interaction, and Transformation*, ed. Hindy Najman and Konrad Schmid (Leiden: Brill, 2017).

Book Reviews

Review of *Figures Who Shape Scriptures, Scriptures That Shape Figures*, ed. Géza G. Xeravits and Greg Schmidt Goering (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018), in *Dead Sea Discoveries* 27 (2020): 315–16.

Review of Susan Docherty, *The Jewish Pseudepigrapha: An Introduction to the Literature of the Second Temple Period* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015), in *Review of Biblical Literature* (April 3, 2020).

Review of Paula Fredriksen, *Paul: The Pagans’ Apostle* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017), in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (June 29, 2018).

Other Contributions

Bibliography for “Sibylline Oracles.” *e-Clavis: Christian Apocrypha*. Produced January 2020.
<https://www.nasscal.com/e-clavis-christian-apocrypha/sibylline-oracles/>.

Academic Presentations

Review of Olegs Andrejevs, *Apocalypticism in the Synoptic Sayings Source: A Reassessment of Q's Stratigraphy*, WUNT II 499 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019). Presented at the Apocalyptic Session at the Midwest Region Society of Biblical Literature, South Bend, IN, February 8, 2020.

“Prophetic Agency in Relation to Interpretation, Gender, and Economics.” Presented at the Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literatures Session at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 26, 2019.

Response to Zachary Eberhart, Kathy Maxwell, and Kelly Iverson. Presented at “Word Became Flesh: The Question of Performance as Method in Biblical Studies,” Loyola University Chicago, October 4, 2019.

“Second Temple Jewish Pseudepigraphy.” Presented at The Phenomenon of Pseudepigraphy Seminar at the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas Meeting, Marburg, July 31, 2019.

“Judaism and Anti-Judaism in the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at “Protestant Bible Scholarship: Antisemitism, Philosemitism, and Anti-Judaism,” University of Oxford, May 26–27, 2019.

“Both Jewish and Christian: The Production and Reception of the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at “At What Point is a ‘Jewish’ (Apocryphal) Text Considered as ‘Christian’?” Roundtable discussion, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, May 17–18, 2019.

“The Future—or the Lack Thereof—in the Jewish-Christian Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at “Figuring the Future,” Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 27–28, 2019.

“Murderous Deities: Revelation 2 within a Discourse of Divine Violence.” Presented at the Apocalyptic Session at the Midwest Region Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Notre Dame, IN, February 9, 2019.

“Prophecy, Pseudepigraphy, and Collection: The Making of the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at the Book History and Biblical Literatures Session at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 19, 2018.

“Apollo in Hellenistic Judaism and Early Christianity.” Presented at the Greco-Roman Religions Session at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 17, 2018.

“The Bible, the Humanities, and the History of the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at “The Bible and the Humanities,” University of Oxford, October 16–18, 2018.

Response to Mark Edwards, “Early Christians and Proverbial Literature.” Presented at “Wisdom and Ethics,” University of Oxford, June 4, 2018.

Response to Helen van Noorden, “Apocalyptic Literature Between Greece and Rome: The Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at the Early Biblical Interpretation Seminar, University of Oxford, April 26, 2018.

“Prophecy and History in the Jewish Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at the Lunchtime Seminar in Jewish Studies at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, March 8, 2018.

“The Sibyl as Inspired Interpreter: Prophecy, Pseudepigraphy, and Reworked Traditions in the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at the Early Biblical Interpretation Seminar, University of Oxford, March 1, 2018.

“Revelation’s Combat Myth and Delphic Ambivalence.” Presented at the Bible, Myth, and Myth Theory Session at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 20, 2017.

“Revealed History as Prophetic Rivalry: John’s Apocalypse and Apollo’s Shrine at Delphi.” Presented at “The Sense(s) of History. Apocalyptic Literature and Their Temporalities,” Harvard Divinity School—1st Enoch Colloquium, Cambridge, MA, November 16–18, 2017.

“Instrumentality Overshadows Independence: Gender in Sibylline Oracles 4–5.” Presented at “Between Heaven and Earth: Divination, Prophecy, and Oracles in the Ancient World,” Yale University, CT, April 21, 2017.

“Prophecy, Violence, Delphic Ambivalence: Readings in Lucan’s Civil War and John’s Apocalypse.” Presented at Greco-Roman Lunch, Yale University, CT, February 27, 2017.

“Divine Violence in Sibylline Oracles 4 and 5.” Presented at the Pseudepigrapha Session at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2016.

“Writing Jewish Prophecy in Egypt: The Production of Sibylline Oracles 5.” Presented at the Yale Interdisciplinary Working Group for the Study of Antiquity, New Haven, CT, January 21, 2016.

“Jezebel: A Study in Prophecy, Divine Violence, and Gender.” Presented at the Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense, Leuven, Belgium, July 24, 2015.

“Rethinking Prophecy: Consolidating Authority in Acts, *Sibylline Oracles* 4, Revelation, and *Sibylline Oracles* 5.” Presented at the Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar, Columbia University, NY, March 15, 2015.

Response to Reinhardt Kratz’s “Why Jeremiah? The Invention of a Prophetic Figure.” Presented at “Jeremiah’s Scriptures: Production, Reception, Interaction, Transformation,” Ascona, Switzerland, June 24, 2014.

“I will speak...with my whole person in ecstasy”: Controlling Divine Inspiration in the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at the Speech and Talk: Discourses and Social Practices in the Ancient Mediterranean World Consultation at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“Listen to the Sibyl...as she pours forth true speech”: Speech and Hearing in Sibylline Oracles 4.” Presented at the Speech and Talk: Discourses and Social Practices in the Ancient Mediterranean World Consultation at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2012.

Courses Taught

Graduate

Acts of the Apostles, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2019)

Tutorial in Biblical Studies: New Testament Greek, Loyola University Chicago (2019–20)

Elementary New Testament Greek, Yale Divinity School (2016–2017)

Undergraduate

Religion and Gender: Prophecy and Gender in Ancient Judaism and Ancient Christianity (Spring 2020)

Introduction to New Testament, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2018–present)

Introduction to Christian Theology, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2018)

Other Teaching Experience

Greek Hour, Loyola University Chicago (Spring 2019–Fall 2019)

MSt and MPhil Marker, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford (Spring/Trinity 2018)

Teaching Fellow, Sex in the Bible, Yale University (Spring 2015, for Dale B. Martin)

Teaching Fellow, New Testament Interpretation, Yale Divinity School (Fall 2013–Fall 2014, for Harold Attridge and Michal Beth Dinkler)

Guest Instructor, Feminist Theology, Yale Divinity School (April 22, 2014)

Academic Honors

Centro Stefano Franscini Award, “Jeremiah’s Scriptures” Conference; Ascona, Switzerland (2014)

Summer Language Institute Fellowship, Yale University (2012)

Two Brothers Fellowship, Yale Divinity School (2011)

Abraham Malherbe Scholarship, Yale Divinity School (2011)

Harry Baker Adams Scholarship, Yale Divinity School (2008–2010)

Frank A. and Ruth C. Mullen Scholarship, Yale Divinity School (2007–2008)

President’s Award, Southeastern University (2007)

Religion Department Award, Southeastern University (2007)

President’s Academic Scholarship, Southeastern University (2003–2007)

Pedagogical Training

Online Teaching Course: Design, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2019)

Certificate of College Teaching Preparation, Yale Center for Teaching and Learning (2017)

Academic Service

Conference Co-Organizer, “‘Listen to the Sibyl in all things’: Reconsidering the Jewish-Christian Sibylline Oracles,” Enoch Nangeroni Meeting, Naples, Italy (June 7–10, 2021)

Reading Group Organizer, Theories of Language, Loyola University Chicago (Spring 2020)

Member, Theology Department Advisory Committee, Loyola University Chicago (2019–20)

Member, Theology Department Development Identity Mission Committee, Loyola University Chicago (2019–20)

Member, Edward J. Surtz, S.J. Memorial Lecture in the Humanities Committee, Loyola University Chicago (2019–)

Co-Chair, John's Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern Section, Society of Biblical Literature (2019–21); Steering Committee Member (2018–21)

Convener, New Testament Colloquium, Loyola University Chicago (2018–present)

Convener, Annual SBL/AAR Mock Session, Graduate Professionalization Session, Loyola University Chicago (2018–)

Convener, Applying for an Academic Job, Graduate Professionalization Session, Loyola University Chicago (August 23, 2019)

Member, Theology Department Undergraduate Programming Committee, Loyola University Chicago (2018–19)

Conference Co-Organizer, “The Bible and the Humanities,” University of Oxford (October 16–18, 2018)

Co-Convener, “How to Write Conference Abstracts,” Postgraduate Professionalization Session, University of Oxford (February 8, 2018)

Co-Convener, Writers' Workshop, University of Oxford (Spring 2018)

Session Chair, Speech and Talk in the Ancient Mediterranean World Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (November 19, 2017)

Co-Convener, “Presenting at SBL/AAR,” Postgraduate Professionalization Session, University of Oxford (November 6, 2017)

Conference Co-Organizer, “Between Heaven and Earth: Divination, Prophecy, and Oracles in the Ancient World,” Yale University (April 20–21, 2017)

Graduate Student Co-Coordinator, Greco-Roman Lunch, Yale University (Spring 2015–Spring 2016)

Graduate Student Conference Organizer, “Philo's Readers: Affinities, Reception, Transmission and Influence,” Yale University (March 30–April 1, 2014)

Editorial and Review Activity

Manuscript Review for *Library of New Testament Studies*, T & T Clark; *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*

Editorial Assistant, *Marginality, Canonicity, Passion* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)

Editorial Assistant, *Sibyls, Scriptures, and Scrolls: John Collins at Seventy* (JSJ Supplements; Leiden: Brill, 2017)

Society Membership

Society of Biblical Literature