

LAURA S. NASRALLAH

Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity
Harvard Divinity School
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Cambridge, MA 02138

EDUCATION

2002 Th.D. New Testament/Early Christianity. Harvard Divinity School.
1995 M.Div. Harvard Divinity School.
1991 A.B. English Literature, Certificate in Near Eastern Studies. Princeton University.

EMPLOYMENT

2008- Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity. Harvard Divinity School. Cambridge, MA.
2003-2008 Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity. Harvard Divinity School. Cambridge, MA.
2000-2003 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies. Occidental College. Los Angeles, CA.
1996-1999 Teaching Fellow. Harvard Divinity School. Cambridge, MA.
1995, 1996 Teaching Fellow. Core Program. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA.

PUBLICATIONS

“An Ecstasy of Folly”: *Prophecy and Authority in Early Christianity*. Harvard Theological Studies no. 52. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003.

Articles and Chapters:

“The Earthen Human, the Breathing Statue: The Sculptor God, Greco-Roman Statuary, and Clement of Alexandria,” in Konrad Schmid and Christoph Riedweg, eds., *Beyond Eden: The Biblical Story of Paradise [Genesis 2-3] and Its Reception History* (Forschungen zum Alten Testament II; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008) 110-40.

“The Acts of the Apostles, Greek Cities, and Hadrian’s Panhellenion.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 127.3 (2008) 533-65.

“The Rhetoric of Conversion and the Construction of Experience: The Case of Justin Martyr.” In *Studia Patristica: Papers presented at the Fourteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies held in Oxford 2003*, edited by F. Young, M. Edwards, and P. Parvis. Leuven and Dudley, MA: Peeters, 2006.

“Prophecy, the Periodization of History, and Early Christian Identity: A Case from the So-Called Montanist Controversy.” In *Religious Identity in Late Antiquity*, edited by Elizabeth Digeser and Robert Frakes. Toronto: Edgar Kent, Inc., 2006. 13-35.

“Empire and Apocalypse in Thessaloniki: Interpreting the Early Christian Rotunda.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 13.4 (2005) 465–508.

“Mapping the World: Justin, Tatian, Lucian, and the Second Sophistic.” *Harvard Theological Review* 98.3 (2005) 283-314.

“‘Now I Know in Part’: Historiography and Epistemology in Early Christian Debates about Prophecy.” In *Walk in the Ways of Wisdom: Essays in Honor of Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza*. Eds. Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Cynthia Kittredge, and Shelly Matthews. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 2003. pp. 244-65.

“‘She became what the words signified’: The Greek Acts of Andrew’s Construction of the Reader-Disciple.” In *The Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles*, edited by François Bovon et al. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press CSWR, 1999. pp. 233-58.

Reviews:

Rex D. Butler. *The New Prophecy and “New Visions”: Evidence of Montanism in The Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2006). Forthcoming in the *Journal of Religion*.

Jaś Elsner and Ian Rutherford, eds., *Pilgrimage in Graeco-Roman and Early Christian Antiquity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*. February 2007. <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/2007/2007-02-19.html>.

Carolyn Osiek and Margaret Y. MacDonald with Janet H. Tulloch. *A Woman’s Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006. *Journal of Biblical Literature* 125.3 (2006) 617-622 and online *Review of Biblical Literature* http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/4984_5600.pdf.

Cornelia Cyss Crocker. *Reading 1 Corinthians in the Twenty-First Century*. New York/London: T&T International, 2004. *Religious Studies Review* 32.1 (January 2006).

AT PRESS

Christian Responses to Roman Art and Architecture: The Second-Century Church Amid the Spaces of Empire. New York: Cambridge University Press, projected 2010. (630 pages in manuscript, 32 figures)

Prejudice and Christian Beginnings: Investigating Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Early Christian Studies. Laura Nasrallah and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, eds. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, projected 2009.

“The Knidian Aphrodite in the Roman Empire and Hiram Powers’s *Greek Slave*: On Ethnicity, Gender, and Desire.” In *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings*. Laura Nasrallah and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, eds. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, projected 2009.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1 Corinthians: A Commentary. Hermeneia Series. Under contract with Fortress Press.

From Roman to Early Christian Thessalonikē: Studies in Religion and Archaeology. Charalambos Bakirtzis, Steven Friesen, and Laura Nasrallah, eds. Harvard Theological Studies; Cambridge, MA: distributed through Harvard University Press, projected 2010.

“Early Christian Interpretation in Image and Word: Canon, Sacred Text, and the Mosaics of Moni Latomou.” In *From Roman to Early Christian Thessalonikē: Studies in Religion and Archaeology*. Charalambos Bakirtzis, Steven Friesen, and Laura Nasrallah, eds. Harvard Theological Studies; Cambridge, MA: distributed through Harvard University Press, 2010.

“The Embarrassment of Blood: Sacrifice and Rational Worship (I-II CE).” For a volume edited by Jennifer Wright Knust and Zsuzsanna Várhelyi.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

2007 “Symposium on Race and Ethnicity in New Testament and Early Christian Studies.” Co-directed with Professor Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza.

2007 “From Roman to Early Christian Thessalonikē: A Conference on Religion and Archaeology.” Co-organized with Dr. Charalambos Bakirtzis, Ephor of Byzantine Antiquities, Thessaloniki, Greece and Prof. Dr. Steven Friesen, University of Texas (Austin).

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

2009 “St. Paul Among Others: How Scholars and Paul’s Communities Have Viewed Him.” St. Paul Jubilee Year Lecture Series. St. Joseph’s College. Hartford, CT. 31 March 2009.
“Paul the Christian, Paul the Jew: Making Sense of Paul for the Church Today.” Keynote Address, Year of St. Paul. St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry and the Diocese of Rochester, NY. 13 March 2009.

- 2008 “The Embarrassment of Blood: Sacrifice and Rational Worship (I-II CE).”
What the Gods Demand: Blood Sacrifice in Mediterranean Antiquity.
Boston University. 19-21 November 2008.
- 2007 “The Earthen Human, the Breathing Statue: Genesis 2’s Sculptor God and
Greco-Roman Statuary.” *Al di là dell’Eden: la narrazione biblica del
Paradiso (Genesi 2-3) et la storia della sua ricenzone (Beyond Eden:
The Biblical Story of Paradise [Genesis 2-3] and Its Reception
History)*. Organized by the University of Zürich in collaboration with
the Istituto Svizzero Roma, the Waldensian Faculty, and the Pontifical
Biblical Institute. Rome. 19-20 October 2007.
- “A Crisis of Representation: Justin, Roman Violence, and the Semiotics of
Empire.” *Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions:
Discourse, Ritual, Community*. University of Minnesota. 6-8 October
2007.
- “Revelation in the Early Second Sophistic: Early Christians and Others on
Seeing and Knowing God.” *Conference on Revelation, Literature, and
Community*. Princeton University Department of Religion. 14-17
January 2007.
- 2006 “The Pedagogical Image: The Gendered Body, Greco-Roman Statuary,
and the Early Christian Imagination.” Harvard Divinity School.
Women’s Studies Program in Religion and Women, Gender, Religion
Forum. 23 October 2006.
- “To Have the Body of a God/dess: Early Christians and Greco-Roman
Statuary.” Williams College, MA. 28 September 2006.
- “‘Those Who Have Stirred Up the World’? The Geography of Acts.”
Furman University, South Carolina. 4 April 2006.
- “Crises of Justice, Crises of Representation: Early Christian Apologetics
and Metropolitan Centers.” Keynote Address. Graduate Student
Conference. Pappas Patristic Institute. 23 March 2006.

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2008 “The Aphrodite of Knidos: Early Christians and Others on Images and
Desire.” *Art and Religions of Antiquity Section*. Society of Biblical
Literature. Boston, MA. November 2008.
- “The Earthen Human, the Breathing Statue: The Sculptor God, Greco-
Roman Statuary, and Clement of Alexandria.” Boston Area Patristics
Society. January 2008.
- 2007 “Thessalonikē’s Revelation: Towards a New Understanding of
Iconography and Canon.” *From Roman to Early Christian
Thessalonikē: A Conference on Religion and Archaeology*. Harvard
Divinity School. 10-14 May 2007.

- 2006 “The Pauline Correspondence: Struggling Subjectivities under Empire.” Paul and Politics Section. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 2006. Co-written and delivered with Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre.
- “‘A Mad Passion for Idols’: Early Christianity and Cities of Statues.” Christian Late Antiquity and Its Reception Section. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 2006.
- “Statuary Anxieties: Debates over Representation, Power, and True Religion in the Second Century.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 2006.
- 2005 “Justin and Athenagoras Talk to the Empire: Rethinking the Category of Apologetic.” Boston Area Patristics Society. December 2005.
- “Greek Cities under Rome: Hadrian’s Panhellenion and Paul’s Travels.” Archaeology of Religion in the Roman World Section. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 2005.
- “Who Apologizes? Questioning the Category of Apologetic.” Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 2005.
- 2004 “Empire and Apocalypse in Thessaloniki: Interpreting the Early Christian Rotunda (Church of St. George).” Boston Area Patristics Society. December 2004.
- “Reconstructing Sites, Constructing Religion.” Archaeological Excavations and Discoveries: Illuminating the Biblical World Section. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX. November 2004.
- “Violent Rhetoric, Roman Violence: Justin Martyr and Tatian.” Violence and Representations of Violence among Jews and Christians Consultation. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX. November 2004.
- “The Rhetoric of Conversion in Early Christianity: The Case of the Rotunda in Thessaloniki.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 2004.
- “New Testament and Early Christianity: Disciplinary Boundaries, or, Is There a Discipline at All?” Panel: From New Testament to Church History: Early Christian Studies and Disciplinary Boundaries. American Society of Church History. January 2004.
- 2003 “The Rhetoric of Conversion and the Construction of Experience: The Case of Justin Martyr.” Oxford Patristic Conference. Oxford, England. August 2003.

- 2002 “‘An Ecstasy of Folly’: Early Christian Struggles over Prophecy in Tertullian and Epiphanius’ *Panarion* 48.1.4-13.8.” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. May 2002.
- 2000 “Early Christian Constructions of Identity through Debates over Prophecy and Ecstasy.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion. Nashville, TN. November 2000.
- 1998 “Eusebius and the Construction of Constantine’s Empire.” Regional conference of the Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion. Newton, MA. April 1998.

AWARDS AND GRANTS: RESEARCH

- 2006-2007 Lilly Faculty Fellowship
- 2004 American Association of University Women American Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- summer 2004 Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Summer Research Grant.
- 1999-2000 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.
- 1998-1999 Harvard Divinity School Dissertation Fellowship.
- Sept. 1998 scholarship and stipend to attend School of Modern Greek. Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 1997-1998 Clarence G. Campbell Scholarship. Harvard Divinity School.
- 1995-1997 Harvard Divinity School Tuition Grant and Stipend.

AWARDS AND GRANTS: TEACHING AND CONFERENCES

- 2009-2010 “Archaeology of the New Testament World.” Provost’s Instructional Technology Content Fund. Harvard University. \$10,000.
- 2006-2007 “Symposium on Race and Ethnicity in New Testament and Early Christian Studies.” Co-directed with Professor Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School. \$15,000.
- 2006-2007 “From Roman to Early Christian Thessalonikē: A Conference on Religion and Archaeology.” Center for the Study of World Religions. Harvard Divinity School. \$15,000. Co-organized with Dr. Charalambos Bakirtzis,

Ephor of Byzantine Antiquities, Thessaloniki, Greece and Prof. Dr. Steven Friesen, University of Texas (Austin).

- spring 2005 “Uses of the Bible in Present-Day Popular and Political Culture.” Harvard University Provost’s Instructional Technology Content Fund. \$8,200.
- 2003-2004 Selected participant. Wabash Center Workshop on Teaching and Learning for Undergraduate Religion Faculty.
- 1995 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching.

COURSES

Harvard Divinity School

- HDS 1202/FAS Rel 1400. Introduction to the New Testament: History and Interpretation. Spring 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2009.
- HDS 1518/FAS Rel 1404. Early Christianity in the Roman Empire. Fall 2008.
- HDS 1544/FAS Rel 1413. Paul’s Letters and Their Interpreters: Ethnicity, Empire, the Body, and the End of the World. Fall 2007.
- HDS 1546. Prophecy, Ecstasy, and Dreams in Early Christian History. Fall 2003.
- HDS 1870/FAS Rel 2348ab. Archaeology of the New Testament World. The course includes four to five weeks of travel in Greece and Turkey. Spring 2009, Spring 2005 (co-taught with Professor David Mitten, Loeb Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology).
- HDS 1880. Seminar: Paul and his Afterlife. Spring 2006.
- HDS 1887/FAS Rel 1409. The New Testament, Biblical Studies, and Empire: Seminar. Fall 2003, Fall 2007.
- HDS 1980/FAS Rel 3420f. Seminar for Advanced New Testament Students. Topic: Apologetics in Antiquity. 2005-2006.
- HDS 4511. Introduction to the Histories, Theologies, and Practices of Christianity. Co-taught with Professor Kevin Madigan. Fall 2005.

Dissertations and theses (masters, undergraduate) supervised and in progress: list available upon request.

Occidental College

- The World of the New Testament. Spring 2001, 2002.
- The History of Early Christianity. Fall 2001, 2002.
- The Suffering Self: Ascetics, Martyrs, and ‘Hypochondriacs’ in the Ancient Greco-Roman World. Spring 2001, 2002.
- Dreams, Visions, and Prophecy in Judaism, Pagan Religions, and Early Christianity. Fall 2000.
- The Bible and Colonialism. Fall 2002.
- The Politics of Prophecy in the Ancient Mediterranean World. Fall 2000, 2001.
- Tale of Three Cities (team-taught, interdisciplinary course). Spring 2003.

Independent studies and theses supervised: “Early Christian Entertainment: The Masculinization of Roman Spectacle”; “Women in the New Testament”; “Feminist/Womanist Perspectives”; “Theories of the Bible and Empire.”

OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- “Christianity, Images, and the Second Sophistic.” Presentation in the Classics Department Colloquium, “Edifices of History.” Harvard University. March 2007.
- Introduction to Luke. Presentation in Morning Forum, University Lutheran Church, Cambridge, MA. January 2006.
- “Walking the Ancient City.” In Philip Sellew and James D. Smith, III., eds. *The Fabric of Early Christianity: Reflections in Honor of Helmut Koester by Fifty Years of Harvard Students*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006. 126-30.
- Invited Participant. “Workshop: How to Give a Better Presentation at the Meeting.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 2006.
- “The Politics of Memory.” *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* 33.2 (Fall 2005).
- “(Who Counts as a) Woman in the New Testament World?” Lecture to Staff at Harvard Divinity School. March 2005.
- Sermon on Matthew 5. Harvard Divinity School Episcopalian Chapel Service. February 2005.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

- American Editorial Board. *The Journal Henoah: Studies on Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity*. 2007-.
- Research Associate. Institute for Signifying Scriptures. Claremont University, Claremont, CA. 2006-.
- Editorial Board. *Religion Compass*. Blackwell Publishing. 2006-.
- Project Associate. Library Digital Initiative Grant for Archaeological Resources for New Testament Studies, Harvard Divinity School. (Approximately \$120,000 to digitize slides of archaeological sites in the Mediterranean.) 2004-2006.
- Co-director. Archaeological Resources for New Testament Studies. Harvard Divinity School. 2003-.
- Invited discussant. Inaugural Conference of the Pappas Patristic Institute, Holy Cross School of Theology. Brookline, MA. April 2004.
- Invited participant. “Teaching the Bible: An Interactive Consultation for Educators and Practitioners.” Sponsored by the Massachusetts Bible Society. Spring 2000.
- Graduate Writing Fellow. Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University. Spring 1998.
- Archaeology Intern. June 1995. Participated in review of an excavation of a basilika and episkopeion in Abdera in Thrake, Greece, under Professor Dr. Charalambos Bakirtzis.
- Judge. Biblical Archaeological Society New Testament book award. Spring 2009.

Reviews for Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, *Harvard Theological Review*, the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

SERVICE (SELECTED)

Standing Committee for the Study of Women and Gender in Religion. Fall 2005-.
Standing Committee on Archaeology, Harvard University (FAS). Fall 2007-.
Calendar Review Committee. Harvard Divinity School. Fall 2008-.
New Testament Search Committee. Harvard Divinity School. Spring-Fall 2008.
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Search Committee. Harvard Divinity School. Fall 2007.
M.T.S. Review Committee. Harvard Divinity School. Fall 2007.
Faculty Council (elected position). Harvard Divinity School. 2005-2006.
M.T.S. Review Committee, Harvard Divinity School. 2005-2006.
Standing Committee on the Study of Religion. Harvard University. 2004-2006.
Doctoral Admissions Subcommittee of the Committee on the Study of Religion. Harvard University. 2004-2006.
M. Div. Implementation Committee. Harvard Divinity School. Spring 2005.
Administrative Board. Harvard Divinity School. Fall 2003.
Faculty Council (elected position). Occidental College. 2002-2003.
Faculty Lunch Discussions on Pedagogy. Co-organizer. Occidental College. 2002-2003.
Ad hoc Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching. Occidental College. 2001-2003.
Watson Fellowship Committee. Occidental College. 2001-2003.
Huntington Library and Botanical Garden Internship Committee. Occidental College. Spring 2002.
Doctoral Student Member. Search Committee. Harvard Divinity School. 1995-1997.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion. 1994-.
Society of Biblical Literature. 1994-.
Co-Chair. "Violence and Representations of Violence Among Jews and Christians Consultation." Society of Biblical Literature. 2005-. Member of steering committee since 2003.
North American Patristics Society. 2001-.
Models of Piety in Late Antiquity Group. 2002-.
American Society of Church History. 2003-.