

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
25 – 27 Settembre, 2025

University Residential Centre of Bertinoro
September 25 – 27, 2025



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 2025 | 2025 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

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<http://cissr.net>

CISSR Annual Meeting on Christian Origins

Bertinoro, September 25 – 27, 2025

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:15 – 9:30 | Opening of the Meeting (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

Presiding: Mara Rescio, Emiliano R. Urciuoli

9:30 – 11:00 | Joint Session AM 1 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)

PAPYROLOGY AND EARLY CHRIST GROUPS

Presiding: Marco Stroppa

ELENI CHRONOPOULOU (Papyrological Institute “Girolamo Vitelli”, University of Florence – University of Patras, Greece)

Early Christian Curative Amulets: Rhetorical Devices and the Legacy of Pagan Curses

MARCO STROPPA (Istituto Papirologico “Girolamo Vitelli”, University of Florence)

A New Fragment from a Roll of Amos (PSI XV 1575)?

PETER ARZT-GRABNER (University of Salzburg, Austria)

Were Paul’s Letters Really Large? A New Interpretation of Gal 6:11

Break 11:00 – 11:30

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

BOOK DISCUSSION

Presiding: Luca Arcari

SANDRA HUEBENTHAL, *Memory Theory in New Testament Studies: Exploring New Perspectives* (Studies in Cultural Contexts of the Bible, vol. 10), Brill - Schöningh, Leiden 2023.

Discussants: DOROTA M. HARTMAN (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), DANIELE TRIPALDI (University of Bologna)

Respondent: SANDRA HUEBENTHAL (University of Passau, Germany // online)

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

DISCOURSES AND PRACTICES AROUND JESUS IN THE EARLY MODERN AND MODERN PERIOD

Presiding: Miriam Benfatto, Cristiana Facchini

ANTONIO GERACE (University of Bologna)

Contaminated Presence: Transconfessional Debates in Jerónimo Xavier’s *Historia Christi Persice Conscripta*

NIKOS KOUREMENOS (Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece)

Christological Rhetoric and Orthodox Identity in Early Modern Greek Theological Polemics

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00

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

JEWISH HISTORY, HELLENISTIC JUDAISM, AND SEPTUAGINT STUDIES

Presiding: Anna Mambelli, Marco Vitelli

ANDREA DI LENARDO (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

The Fourth Philosophy and the Sicarii in Early Christian Literature

FRANCESCA LORENZINI (Roma Tre University)

It's Time to Fight against Rome: The Theocratic 'Manifesto' of the First Jewish Revolt

LAURA BIGONI (University of Bologna) AND ISABELLA PIGNOCCO (University of Catania)

Scriptural Continuities in the Alexandrian Tradition: A Computational Approach to the Septuagint in Philo and Clement

ANTONELLA BELLANTUONO (Catholic University of Lille, France)

Semantic Reconfiguration of *θυμός* in the Septuagint: From Classical Psychology to Religious Lexicon

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

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS FORMS AND PRACTICES

The Gift in Religious Studies I: Offering and Receiving

Presiding: Adriana Destro, Francesca Sbardella

LIA GIANCRISTOFARO (D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara)

Devotional Gifts: A Baby and His "Holy Body" in a Catholic Sanctuary

MARTA SCIALDONE (University of Perugia)

The Bahá'ís during the Ayyám-i-Há: The Gift of Love, Brotherhood and Unity

FRANCESCA BENNA (Sapienza University of Rome)

Dāna and the Dissolution of the Self: Reflections on the Ethics of Giving in Buddhism

FEDERICA MANTELLO (University of Florence)

A Christianized Magical Gem? Epigraphic Observations on the So-Called "Pereire Gem"

Break 17:00 – 17:30

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

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

Presiding: Roberto Alciati

CHIARA CREMONESI (University of Padua) AND LUIGI WALT (University of Naples "L'Orientale")

Mr. Smith's Cabinet of Wonder: On Data, Examples, and Scale in the Scholarly Imagination of Religion

EDUARD IRICINSCHI (University of Erfurt, Germany)

On the Joys of Chaos in the Study of Religions: Jonathan Z. Smith and Mircea Eliade in the 1970s Chicago

ANDERS KLOSTERGAARD PETERSEN (Aarhus University, Denmark)

Evolutionary and Cognitive Approaches to the Study of Religion: Discrepancies, Continuities, and Overlaps

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

RABBINIC JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Paul and Rabbinic Judaism

Presiding: Matthias Morgenstern

MATTHIAS MORGENSTERN (University of Tübingen, Germany)

Romans 7 and Rabbinic Marriage Law

DORU DOROFTEI (FAU – Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany)

The Forms and the Meanings of the Ritual of the First Bread Offering in Pauline and Rabbinic Religious Systems

LUKE NEUBERT (LMU – Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany)

Paul between Philosophical Ethics and Pharisaical Halacha

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

ANTHROPOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE: MATERIALS, APPROCHES, AND PERSPECTIVES

The Gift in Religious Studies II: Language, Signs, and Bodies

Presiding: Adriana Destro, Francesca Sbardella

ANDERS KLOSTERGAARD PETERSEN (Aarhus University, Denmark)

In the Beginning Was the Gift: Continuity, Change, and Caesuras in Hominid Gift-Giving

LEONARDO ROSSI (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Brescia)

Divine Signa: Perceiving Corporeal Signs as Contested Mystical Gifts

ANDREA PEZZINI (University of Bern, Switzerland)

“God Rewarded Him with Supernatural Gifts”: Post-Mortem Bodily Phenomena between Holiness and Sanctity, between 19th and 20th Century

GIUSEPPINA VISCARDI (University of Bologna)

Coping with the Language: εὐαγγέλιον/εὐαγγέλια between Acts of Communication and Gifts of Words

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

EARLY CHRISTIAN TEXTS AND ROMAN LAW

Presiding: Martina Carandino, Paolo Costa

FEDERICA ARGIOLOS (Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome)

Toward an Understanding of Paul’s Speech ἐν μέσῳ τοῦ Ἀρείου Πάγου: Between History, Law and Narrative

FRANCESCO FILANNINO (Pontifical Lateran University – Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome)
Collegia of Brothers? The Semantics of Brotherhood in Greco-Roman Associations and the New Testament

LÁSZLÓ ODRÓBINA (Saint Athanasius Greek Catholic Theological College – Nyíregyháza; University of Szeged; University of Public Service – Budapest, Hungary)
The *Constitutio Antoniniana* of 212 and the Concept of Marriage in Ancient Christianity

GIOVANNI VACCARO (Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome)
Paul and Jesus before the Herods: Criminal Procedure and Literary Devices in Luke-Acts Trial

Break 11:00 – 11:30

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

CONTEXTS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Presiding: John Kloppenborg

HARRY O. MAIER (Vancouver School of Theology, Canada)
The Right to the City: Urban Aspiration in Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, and Clement of Alexandria

WILLIAM M. FOLEY (National Distance Education University, Spain)
And the Lord Added to Their number: An Empirical Network Analysis of the Spread of Christianity, Mithraism, the Cult of Isis, and the Cult of Cybele

ANDRÁS HANDL (KU Leuven, Belgium)
Impact of Persecution: Networks and Mobility in the Letters of Cyprian of Carthage

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

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

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

FABRIZIO MARCELLO (Catholic University of Paris, France)
Christianizing Shamelessness: A Cynic Motif in the Parable of the Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-13)

DOROTA M. HARTMAN (University of Naples “L’Orientale”)
The Parable of the Watchful Servants (Luke 12:35-40): Where Does it Come from?

MARIE-THÉRÈSE GERSTNER (University of Graz, Austria)
Lament as Last Appeal: Luke 23:26-32 in Literary and Cultural Context

11.30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM2.C (Captain Room – Rivellino)

FROM THE HISTORY OF EXEGESIS TO RECEPTION HISTORY AND BEYOND

Presiding: Laura Carnevale, Edmondo Lupieri

PAOLA STORNAIUOLO (University of Bari “Aldo Moro”)
Mary Magdalene as Hermeneutical Palimpsest: From Gospel to Goddess in Reception History

GIOVANNI RAGNO (University of Bari “Aldo Moro”)
Lexicon of Corporeality in the Biblical Exegesis of Hildegard of Bingen

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00

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

GOSPEL OF THOMAS, NAG HAMMADI, AND GNOSTICISM

Presiding: Andrea Annese, Francesco Berno

PHILIPPE THERRIEN (Laval University, Canada)

References and Allusions to the Jewish Scriptures and the New Testament in the Long Version of the *Secret Book of John* (NH II,1; IV,1)

LAVINIA CERIONI (Sapienza University of Rome)

Gendered Divinity: Female Imagery in Gnostic Christologies

DAVIDE MOCELLIN (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

Nag Hammadi Codex I in the Context of the Origenist Controversy

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

ORAL AND WRITTEN SOURCES OF EARLY CHRISTIAN TEXTS

Presiding: Enrico Norelli, Claudio Zamagni

CECILIA ANTONELLI (University of Geneva – University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

The *Acta et martyrium Bartholomaei* in Greek and Armenian (BHG 226z) and Bartholomew's Death: The Mystery, the Cross, and the Door

SINCERO MANTELLI (Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Rome)

Qoheleth: Epicurean and Nihilist? Marginalizing the Letter

ENRICO NORELLI (University of Geneva, Switzerland)

Καλάμῳ ἔνυσσον αὐτόν: Which Sources for Gospel of Peter 9?

PAUL ROBERTSON (University of New Hampshire, Durham, USA)

Computational Approaches to Paul's Letters: Surveys on Method and Future Directions

Break 17:00 – 17:30

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

LECTIO MAGISTRALIS

Presiding: Mara Rescio

GIOVANNI B. BAZZANA (Harvard University, USA)

Apocalyptic Time between Presentism and the Anthropocene

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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

GENDER ISSUES IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Presiding: Maria Dell'Isola, Mario Resta

LUCA ARCARI (University of Naples "Federico II")

Re-inventing Traditions in Sexualized Spaces: Urbanity and Stigmatization of Non-normative Sexuality in Philo and Paul

LUANA L. ASCONE (University of Padua)

"And I Was Made a Woman": (Self-)Portrait of the Exegete as a Young Woman

MARIO RESTA (University of Bari "Aldo Moro")

Eunuchs in Late Antiquity: Gender Perspectives Starting from the First Council of Nicaea

KATE WILKINSON (Towson University, USA)

Marriage as Bondage but Not Slavery: The Case of an Absent Metaphor in Early Christian Feminine Pro-Chastity Rhetoric

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

THE BIBLE AND CONFLICT

Presiding: Sarah Rollens

SARAH ROLLENS (Rhodes College, Memphis, USA // recorded talk)

An Unknown Stranger: Misrecognition in the Gospel of Mark and W.E.B. Du Bois's "Jesus Christ in Texas"

GIOVANNI RIBUOLI (Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Rome)

The Perverted Quote: Carl Schmitt's "Freund-Feind" Theory as a Hermeneutical Conflict

EXPLORATIONS OF PEOPLEHOOD IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

Presiding: Emiliano R. Urciuoli

GUY EDELSZTEIN AND ELLA KAREV (Tel Aviv University, Israel)

Conceptions of Captivity: The Christian and Non-Christian Captives of Šapūr I

ARTURO MASSA (University of Bari "Aldo Moro")

Populi, Gentes, and Nationes: The Perception of "Barbarians" in the Sermons of Chromatius of Aquileia (388/389–407/408)

Break 11:00 – 11:30

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

HISTORICAL JESUS: NEW PATHS AND HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ISSUES

Presiding: Miriam Benfatto, Cristiana Facchini

CRISTIANA FACCHINI (University of Bologna)

The 'Historical Jesus' and the Holy Land: The Impact of New Media and Technology in Historical Writing

DARIUSZ PNIEWSKI (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torún, Poland)

'New Jesus': The Rhetorical Figure of Jesus in the Rhetoric of Utopian Socio-Political Movements of the First Half of the 19th Century

JONATHAN ELUKIN (Trinity College, Hartford, USA // online)

Jesus on the Eve of the Enlightenment: Jacques Basnage's History of the Jews and Rabbinic Judaism

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

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

Presiding: Luigi Walt

GIULIO MARIOTTI (John XXIII Foundation for Religious Sciences, Bologna // online)

Narrating Destruction: The Reception of Ezekiel and Jeremiah in 4 Ezra and Revelation

PHILIPPA TOWNSEND (University of Edinburgh, Scotland)

The Cologne Mani Codex as Apocalypse

MARTA MICILLO (University of Naples "Federico II")

The Integration of Imperial Bureaucratic Elites into Christian Groups (6th Century) through the Case Study of the *Acta Pilati*

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00 (Closing of the Meeting)