

Dr. Clarissa Breu

Assistant Professor of New Testament
Princeton Theological Seminary
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Education

- 2014–2019 **University of Vienna, Dr. of Protestant Theology (equals PhD)**
Title of thesis: Absent Presence. Reading New Testament Authorship with Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault; defense: October 2019
- 2006–2013 **University of Vienna, Mag. of Comparative Literature (equals MA)**
Erasmus at Sorbonne Nouvelle /Université Paris III
- 2004–2012 **University of Vienna, Mag. of Protestant Theology (equals MA)**
Studies at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg in 2007–2008 and 2010–2011

Academic Positions

- Since 2026 **Princeton Theological Seminary**
Assistant Professor of New Testament
- 2023–2026 **University of Vienna**
Post-doc researcher in the FWF-project “Mockery and Torture in the Passion Narratives and Their Ancient Contexts” (habilitation project)
- 2022–2023 **Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**
Post-doc
- 2020–2022 **University of Vienna**
Post-doc research fellow, Marie Jahoda Fellowship
- 2014–2019 **University of Vienna**
Prae-doc
- 2011 **University of Vienna**
Student assistant, Institute for Hebrew Bible Studies

Teaching Experience

Course title	Course type	Level	Semester	University
Human Dignity at the Beginning of Life (Mentor)	Interdisciplinary school project	Connecting University and schools	2007	Heidelberg

Introduction to Theology	Tutorial	BA	2008	Heidelberg
French for Literary Scholars	Tutorial	BA	2011	Vienna
Workshop for the <i>Proseminar</i>	Tutorial	BA	Summer 2015	Vienna
Revelation	Exegetical Course	BA, MA	Winter 2016	Vienna
<i>Proseminar</i>	BA-Seminar	BA	Summer 2017	Vienna
Revelation	Exegetical Course	BA, MA	Winter 2018	Vienna
<i>Proseminar</i>	BA-Seminar	BA	Summer 2018	Vienna
New Testament Christology Revisited	Exegetical Course	BA, MA	Summer 2022	Göttingen
Judith Butler in Theology (team teaching)	Interdisciplinary Course (Theological Ethics/New Testament)	BA, MA	Winter 2022	Göttingen
Organization and moderation of three Role Model Meetings	Promotion of women in the field	BA, MA	2022-2023	Göttingen
Erasmus Teaching Mobility	Seminar Supervision	MA PhD	2023	Oslo
The Passion Narratives	Exegetical Course	BA, MA	Winter 2024	Vienna
Erasmus Teaching Mobility	Seminar Lecture Supervision	BA, MA, PhD	Feb 2025	Aarhus
Biblical Women in Current Gender-Discourses (research-oriented) with public reading and project presentations (team teaching)	Interdisciplinary Seminar (Hebrew Bible/New Testament)	BA, MA	Summer 2025	Vienna

Didactic Training

2007-09-27–28	Didactic Training for Tutors (Heidelberg)
2012-09–2013-06	Teaching Internship (at two federal secondary schools with accompanying seminar and mentoring, Innsbruck)
2014-11-26–27	Starting into academic teaching – Basic Qualification (Vienna)

2023-09-04

Certificate Academic Teaching (140 work units, Göttingen)

Third Party Funding

2016-12	Conference “Exegesis without authorial intention? Approaches to textual meaning”, City of Vienna (1.500 €)
2023-10–2024-05	Scoping Workshop “Historical Research and Present Relevance. The Future of New Testament Studies”, Volkswagen Foundation (30.500 €)
2025-05	Conference Bodies in Action: Gesture and the Interruption of Violence, Platform Religion and Transformation (6.000 €), City of Vienna (3.500 €), Kunstuniversität Linz (2.000 €), Arbeitskreis Kulturanalyse (500 €)

Awards and Peer Recognition

2022	Bernadette J. Brooten Award for Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and Embodiment
2025	Univie Teaching Award (Vienna)
2026	Editorial Board of the <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> , <i>Early Christianity</i> and <i>Communio Viatorum</i>

Memberships

- Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS)
- Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)
- Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie (WGTh)
- European Society of Women in Theological Research (ESWTR)
- Research platform “Religion and Transformation” (RAT)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft neutestamentlicher Assistenten und Assistentinnen an theologischen Fakultäten (AG ASS)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Assistentinnen und Assistenten an bibelwissenschaftlichen Instituten in Österreich (ArgeAss)
- Arbeitskreis Kulturanalyse (AKA)

Presentations at International Conferences (Selection)

2025	SNTS General Meeting, Regensburg	Vicarious Mockery. A Tool of Indirect Political Communication in Philo’s <i>In Flaccum</i> 36–39
2025	European Academy of Religion, Vienna	Universality in a Particular Place. Dialogue as the Active Formation of a Neighborhood
2025	SBL International Meeting, Uppsala	Babylon Among the Whores. The Whore of Babylon and Ancient Fertility Goddesses
2025	SBL International Meeting, Uppsala	He Who Laughs Last Laughs Best. Jesus as Mockers in Apocryphal Texts

2024	SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego	Embracing the Whore. On Gender and Revelation (Invited Panelist)
2024	SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego	The Effects of Violent Speech. Mockery in the Passion Narratives and Their Ancient Contexts
2024	Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie, Heidelberg	Abwesende Anwesenheit. Autorschaft als Zeugenschaft in der Johannesoffenbarung
2023	SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio	Respondent (Apocalypse Session)
2023	SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio	Female Seed as a Metaphor (Brooten Award Panel)
2022	SBL Annual Meeting, Denver	The Blank Space of Gesture in John 20:17
2022	SBL Annual Meeting, Denver	Double Turning and Other Duplicities. A Performative Reading of John 20:11-18
2021	SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio/virtual	Female Gestures. Gender Performance in Luke 7:36-50 and 8:43-48
2021	SBL Annual Meeting, San Antonio/virtual	John and Ezekiel. Everything Starts with a Quote
2018	SBL International Meeting, Helsinki	Representing Representation. A Postmodern Reading of the Apocalypse of John
2017	SBL Annual Meeting, Boston	Good Bad Greek? Language and Intention in Revelation
2017	SBL International Meeting, Berlin	Authority and the Reception of Rev 22:18-19
2015	EABS Annual Meeting, Córdoba	The “Woman Jezebel” (Rev 2:20) and her Part in the Construction of a Prophetic Text

Conferences Organized

February 2026	Patterns of Violence in the Passion Narratives and Their Ancient Contexts	Vienna
September 2025	Gesture in the Bible and Beyond	Aarhus (Circle U. network)
May 2025	Gesture and the Interruption of Violence	Vienna (in collaboration with Sophie Schweiger, Yale, and Silke Felber, Linz)
January 2023	Scoping Workshop “The Future of New Testament Studies”	Hanover (Volkswagen Foundation)
December 2016	Exegesis without authorial intention? Approaches to textual meaning	Vienna

Publications

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

Attention to the Body. Embodiment and Corporeality through the Lens of Gesture, *Religions* 17/4 (2026): 464.

Gender in the Apocalypse. A Story of Containers, *JSNT* 48/2 (2025): 405–421.

Reading Gesture in John 20.16–17 and Its Afterlives, *NTS* 71/2 (2025): 171–185.

Touching the Divine. Intra-action in the Gospel of Luke, *Genealogy + Critique* 11/1 (2025): 1–17.

Time-Travelling Gestures. A Response to the Nightmare of Anachronism, *Bible & Critical Theory* 20/1 (2024), 4.

The Mother as Receptacle. Paul's Maternal Metaphors and Platonic Concepts of Motherhood, *EC* 15/2 (2024): 186–206, doi: 10.1628/ec-2024-0013.

Double Turning and Other Duplicities. A Performative Reading of John 20:11–18, *JRAT* 10 (2024): 522–541, doi: doi.org/10.30965/23642807-bja10097.

The Exposure of Violence. A Performative Reading of Sacrifice in Genesis 22 with Judith Butler and Giorgio Agamben, *JRAT* 8/2 (2022): 275–289; doi: <https://doi.org/10.30965/23642807-bja10045>.

Female Seed as a Metaphor. Queer Kinship in Revelation 12, Ancient Medical and Literary Texts and the Septuagint, *JSNT* 45/1 (2022): 81–108; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0142064X221110685> journals.sagepub.com/home/jnt.

Autorität. Der Autor der Johannesoffenbarung als Zeuge, in: Uta Heil/Antje Klein/Annette Schellenberg (eds.), *Autor und Autorität. Historische, systematische und praktische Perspektiven*, *Wiener Jahrbuch für Theologie* 12, Wien 2019, 37–55.

Zugehörigkeit als Fremdheit. Perspektiven zu einer neutestamentlichen Theologie der Migration, in: *Protokolle zur Bibel* 28/1 (2019): 41–63; <https://www.protokollezurbibel.at/index.php/pzb/article/view/276>.

„Geht hinaus aus ihr!“ (Offb 18,4) Vier Frauenfiguren und ihre Bedeutung für die Organisation des Raumes in der Johannesoffenbarung, *Protokolle zur Bibel* 27/1 (2018): 24–41; <https://www.protokollezurbibel.at/index.php/pzb/article/view/2714/2328>.

Books and edited special issues

The Future of New Testament Studies, *NTS* (forthcoming 2026).

Gesture in the New Testament, *BI* (with Kasper Bro Larsen; forthcoming 2026).

New Testament Studies – Current Trends and Criticisms, *Religions* 2026 (with Susanne Luther and Birke Siggelkow-Berner).

The Future of New Testament Studies. Historical Context and Contemporary Relevance, LNTS, Bloomsbury: London 2025.

Autorschaft in der Johannesoffenbarung. Eine postmoderne Lektüre, WUNT 2/541, Mohr Siebeck: Tübingen 2020.

Biblical Exegesis without Authorial Intention? Interdisciplinary Approaches to Authorship and Meaning, BINS 172, Brill: Leiden/Boston 2019.

Book Chapters

Queere Bibellektüren, in: Marianne Heimbach-Steins/Judith Könemann (eds.), *Handbuch Theologische Genderforschung*, forthcoming.

Symbolic Interpretation, in: Laurentiu Moț (ed.), *The Enchantment of 666 and the Restless Pursuit for Its Meaning*, BINS, forthcoming 2026.

Zukunft in der Johannesoffenbarung. Geöffnete Gegenwart im Horizont des kommenden Gottes, in: Jan C. Gertz/Konrad Schmid (eds.), *Theologie der Zukunft. XVIII. Europäischer Kongress für Theologie*, Veröffentlichungen der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft für Theologie 81, EVA: Leipzig 2026.

How to Deal with Mockery. Impulses from Ancient Texts and Speech Act Theory, in: Susanne Luther/Clarissa Breu (eds.), *The Ethics of Speech in Ancient and Modern Discourses*, WUNT I, Mohr Siebeck: Tübingen, forthcoming 2026.

Universality in a Particular Place. Dialogue as the Active Formation of a Neighbourhood, in: Douglas Pratt (ed.), *IKZ*, forthcoming 2026.

Dissemination against the Grain: New Testament Studies as a Cultivated Wild Garden, in: Clarissa Breu (ed.), *The Future of New Testament Studies. Historical Context and Contemporary Relevance*, LNTS, Bloomsbury: London 2025.

Apocalypse Now? Zeit und Ethik in der Johannesoffenbarung, in: Alexander Košenina/Raphaella J. Meyer zu Hörste-Bührer/Johannes Müller-Salo/Nils Neumann (eds.), *Apocalypse Now (Again)! Spielarten der Apokalypse in ethischen Kontexten*, Werhahn: Hannover 2023, 57–72.

Prosopopöie im Jakobusbrief aus dekonstruktiver Perspektive, in: Eve-Marie Becker/Sigurvin Lárus Jónsson/Susanne Luther (eds.), *Who was 'James'? Essays on the Letter's Authorship and Provenance*, WUNT 1/485, Mohr Siebeck: Tübingen 2022, 99–120.

Dämonen – Allein – Wahrheit. Die Sprache der Liebe als dämonische Textur, in: Peter Clar/Julia Prager (eds.), *Was bleibt von Fragmenten einer Sprache der Liebe?* Turia + Kant: Wien 2021, 163–178.

Frederike van Oorschot/Friedrich-Emmanuel Focken (eds.) unter Mitarbeit von Clarissa Breu, Walter Bührer, Elisabeth Maikranz, Raphaella J. Meyer zu Hörste-Bührer, Torben Stamer, Kinga Zeller und Carolin Ziethe, *Schriftbindung evangelischer Theologie. Theorieelemente aus interdisziplinären Gesprächen*, ThLZ.F, EVA: Leipzig 2020.

#John. Author-Names in Revelation and Other New Testament Texts, in: Clarissa Breu (ed.), *Biblical Exegesis without Authorial Intention? Interdisciplinary Approaches to Textual Meaning*, BINS 172, Brill: Leiden/Boston 2019, 126–148.

Reviews

Pieter G. R. de Villiers/Annette Merz (eds.), *Power in the New Testament*, Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology 107, Peeters: Leuven 2021, in: *RBL* 5 (2024), <https://www.sblcentral.org/home>.

Ute E. Eisen/Heidrun E. Mader (eds.), *Talking God in Society*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht: Göttingen 2021, in: *bbs* 2 (2022); https://www.bibelwerk.de/fileadmin/verein/buecherschau/2022/Eisen_Talking-God.pdf.

Michael Schneider/Michael Rydryck, *Bibelauslegung. Grundlagen – Textanalysen – Praxisfelder*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht: Göttingen 2022, in: *Forum Exegese und Hochschuldidaktik. Verstehen von Anfang an* 7/2 (2022): 95–97.

Malte Cramer/Alena Höfer (eds.), *Interkulturelle und kontextuelle Bibelhermeneutiken*, Kohlhammer: Stuttgart 2022, in: *ThRv* 120 (2024).

Stefan Alkier/Thomas Hieke/Tobias Nicklas (eds.), *Poetik und Intertextualität der Johannesapokalypse*, WUNT 346, Mohr Siebeck: Tübingen 2015, in: *SNTU* 41 (2016): 191–194.

Media/Press

Concept for Children's University class *Unicorn meets God*

Podcast "Feministisch gelesen. Kann man die Bibel gendern?"/Diesseits von Eden, 2025-07; <https://diesseits.theopodcast.at/feministisch-gelesen-kann-man-die-bibel-gendern>.

Radio broadcast "Weihnachten in a nutshell"/Im Fokus, Ö1, 2024-12.

Radio broadcast "Langes Hoffen, großes Sehnen – Erlösung und Auferstehung in der Lyrik", Ö1, 2021-04-04.

Article "Die Frau ohne Eigenschaften", An.schläge. Das feministische Magazin 11/2021.

Article "Zeug*innenschaft. Ein neutestamentlicher Beitrag zu einer feministischen Amtstheologie", Amt und Gemeinde 1/2021 (Member of the editorial board).

Guest commentary "Der ungesunde Menschenverstand", Furche 34/2020.

Radio broadcast "Wie antijüdisch ist die Frohe Botschaft?" Logos, Ö1, 2020-10-10.

Languages

Hebrew

Ancient Greek

Latin

German native speaker

English C2

French C1

Spanish B1

Danish A2

Russian A1