

## Newsletter "Beyond Canon" – July 2020

Dear Fellows and Friends,

While we are longing for 'real' social interaction, seminars, conferences, and workshops (and at the same time fearing that all the postponed events and visits will overwhelm us next year in case we should be able to get back to meeting each other), Zoom meetings have at least one big advantage:

The presentations in our Fellows' Lunches have been attended by a growing auditory over the last few weeks – with a peak of almost 60 participants in Alin Suciú's paper on "Pilgrims in an Imaginary Jerusalem: Representations of the Holy Land in Coptic Literature" on June 17.

As it is not clear how university life will look like in winter semester, we decided to keep up the Zoom meetings at least partially – and have an online lecture at least once a month. The programme will be announced in the next newsletter issue; if you would like to read a paper, please write an e-mail to [Stephanie.hallinger@ur.de](mailto:Stephanie.hallinger@ur.de) – we are open (and grateful) for any suggestion!

For regular updates and announcements, [follow us on Facebook](#) and join our group for discussions and exchange between scholars and friends!

### 1. Publications list online

During the last weeks, our assistants Charlotte and Marko have been busy collecting and formatting all the titles of your work related to our "Beyond Canon\_" project. The full publications list is [available on our website now](#) as PDF and in plain text.

In case you should have any titles to add, please let us know and write an e-mail to [marko.jovanovic@ur.de](mailto:marko.jovanovic@ur.de)

### 2. Review: Zoom lectures in June

With eight papers in one month, June was quite a busy time for our project. Our Mini-Symposium "Mediaeval Jerusalem between East and West" attracted more than 130 viewers in total – and led to very lively discussions.

It's great to see so many friends on Zoom, who would otherwise not be able to join us in our Fellows' Brunches now (although we would of course prefer to have you here in person).

Here are some impressions:

Foto: ... and Canons Beitr...

### Mediaeval Jerusalem between East and West

June 17, 2020 | 12-4.30 p.m. e.s.t. | Mini-Symposium | Jerusalem Talks  
Zoom Video Conference | Meeting-ID 936 3584 4980 | Password 569022

12.00 p.m.  
**Valentina Covaci | Sharing the Altars: Latin-Greek Liturgical Encounters in Late Medieval Jerusalem**

1.30 p.m.  
**Catalin Stefan Popa | Jerusalem's and Palestine's Portrayals in Syriac Chronicles and Hymnologies on Second Islamic Conquest and the Subsequent Period**

3 p.m.  
**Alin Suci | Pilgrims in an Imaginary Jerusalem: Representations of the Holy Land in Coptic Literature**

**BEYOND CANON**

**Beyond Canon**  
Gepostet von Simon Heimerl | 18. Juni um 18:00

Yesterday, June 17, Alin Suci presented his paper on "Pilgrims in an Imaginary Jerusalem: Representations of the Holy land in Coptic Literature". Here are some screenshots!

**Beyond Canon**  
Gepostet von Simon Heimerl | 19. Juni um 18:00

On June 17, Catalin-Stefan Popa spoke about "Jerusalem's and Palestine's portrayals in Syriac Chronicles and Hymnologies on Second Islamic Conquest and the subsequent period" at our mini symposium. Here are some pictures!

**Beyond Canon**  
Gepostet von Simon Heimerl | 20. Juni um 18:00

Screenshots of Valentina Covaci's presentation of her paper on "Sharing the altars: Latin-Greek liturgical encounters in late medieval Jerusalem".

### 3. Preview: Zoom lectures (July, 2020)

Before our semester ends, there are five more Zoom lectures waiting for you. If you would like to join us, just send an e-mail to [stephanie.hallinger@ur.de](mailto:stephanie.hallinger@ur.de) and we will put your name on the list of invitations! Here is our schedule so far (all times CET):

07/15/20, 10:00	Michal Bar-Asher Siegal: "Interaction networks: a new model formapping textual connections between Christian sources and the Babylonian Talmud"
07/15/20, 12:00	Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal: "Between Syriac and Jewish Babylonian Aramaic: The Ways that Never Perish"
07/08/20, 10:00	Lena Seehausen: "Fís Adomnáin / The Vision of Adomanán"
07/22/20, 13:00	Gert Steyn: „Moses calls the word of God a book“ (Philo, All. 1,19) - Septuagint as Scripture
07/29/2020, 14:00	Daniel Galadza: tba

Due to the vast changes in our project's schedule, the slots from September 2020 onwards are filling quickly already – so **if you would like to read a paper next autumn/winter, please let us know soon!**

### 4. Philipp Schwartz Initiative

Do you know the Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation? They offer fellowships for threatened researchers from any academic field and any country for up to 24 months.

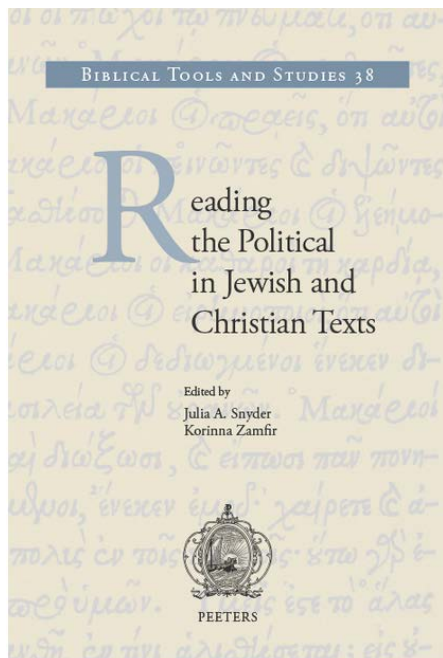
Applications for the 8th call of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative can be submitted until 11 September 2020. The results of the selection process will be published in early December 2020. Approximately 25 fellowships are expected to be granted.

Read more about the application and selection procedure here:

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/philipp-schwartz-initiative-en.html>

## 5. Publications related to our “Beyond Canon\_” project

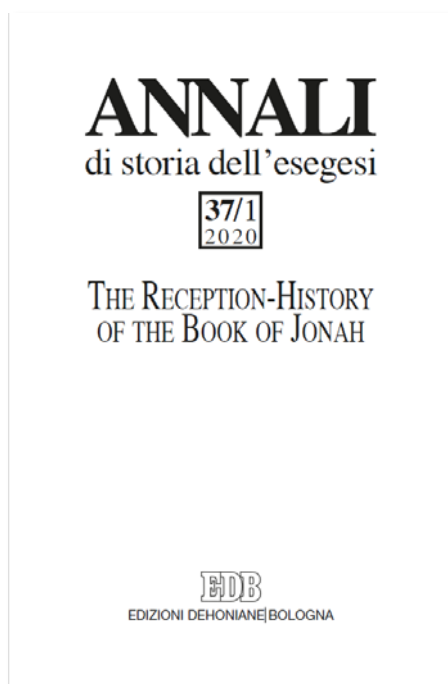
JULIA A. SNYDER/KORINNA ZAMFIR (ED.): Reading the Political in Jewish and Christian Texts (Biblical Tools and Studies 38), Leuven: Peeters 2020.



“Anti-imperial” readings of ancient texts are popular, but are they right? What does it mean to engage in “political” interpretation of ancient texts? What can Biblical scholars learn from Classicists about the emperor cult? These are a few of the questions addressed in this volume. Highlighting the work of scholars in Eastern and Western Europe, it offers fresh perspectives on “political” aspects of early Jewish and Christian texts. Contributions include exegetical studies with literary and historical interests, as well as critical hermeneutical reflection. Essays analyze texts from the Hebrew Bible, Septuagint, and New Testament, plus Josephus and extra-canonical Christian literature.

[Publisher's website](#)

ANNALI di storia dell'esegesi 37/1 (2020): The Reception-History of the Book of Jonah



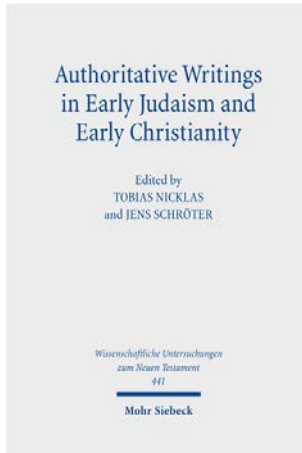
The contributions in this volume have been presented at a conference of the Biblical Institute

at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology, University of Belgrade which took place in Belgrade from 31 May to 3 June 2018. The contributions can be divided into two groups.

1. A first focus of the conference was the reception of the book of Jonah in Christian literature from the New Testament on. There was a special emphasis on interpretations of late antiquity, but also on forms of reception in the liturgy until today.
2. Other contributions deal more generally with the meaning of reception history for exegesis. About the work on individual examples, the question is particularly exciting to what extent previously underestimated aspects of material culture including iconography, liturgy, but also the use of biblical motifs in narrative literature (e.g. hagiography) are showing new ways for the work on reception history.

Find the full pdf with all contributions attached to this newsletter.

TOBIAS NICKLAS/JENS SCHRÖTER (ED.): *Authoritative Writings in Early Judaism and Early Christianity. Their Origin, Collection, and Meaning (Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 441)*, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2020.

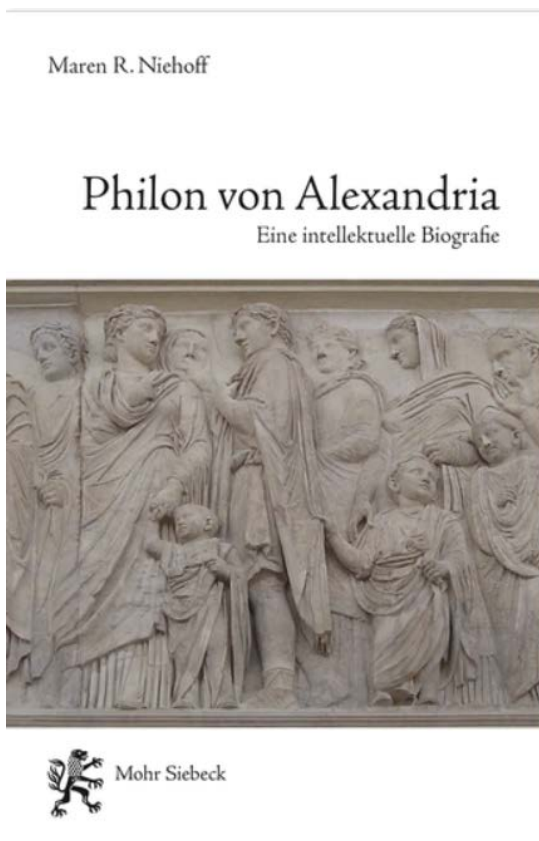


Veröffentlicht auf Englisch.

Die christliche Bibel entstand nicht unabhängig von der jüdischen Bibel; beide Entstehungsprozesse beeinflussten sich wechselseitig. Was heißt dies für unser Verständnis der Kanonbildung? Die vorliegenden Beiträge spannen einen Bogen von der Autorisierung der Schriften der Hebräischen Bibel bis hin zur Autorität und Funktion spätantiker Apokryphen.

[Publisher's website](#)

MAREN R. NIEHOFF: *Philon von Alexandria. Eine intellektuelle Biographie*. Übersetzt von Claus-Jürgen Thornton und Eva Tyrell. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2020.



Entwicklung ein Rätsel geblieben, weil er kaum etwas über sich selbst preisgibt. Maren R. Niehoff analysiert sein Œuvre im Hinblick auf das einzig fassbare Ereignis in seinem Leben, seine Leitung der jüdischen Gesandtschaft zu Gaius Caligula. Diese römischen Jahre (38–41 n.Chr.) markieren einen biographischen und geistigen Wendepunkt.

In Alexandria war Philon eng an die jüdische Gemeinde angebunden und nahm an regen Debatten über die genaue Bedeutung des biblischen Textes teil, indem er Methoden der Homerexegese anwandte und textliche Probleme durch platonische Allegorien löste. Im Rahmen seines Aufenthaltes in Rom dagegen adressierte er ein breiteres römisches Publikum und öffnete sich der Stoa, die hier blühte und eine eigenständige, aktuelle Form angenommen hatte. Stoische Ethik und römische Historiographie gaben Philon Impulse, die jüdische Tradition völlig neu zu interpretieren. Die biblischen Erzväter und -mütter werden zu Helden seiner Biographien und nehmen Plutarchs Werk vorweg. Das jüdische Gesetz wird zu einem zentralen Anliegen und als Naturgesetz vorgestellt, was wiederum Implikationen für neutestamentliche Diskussionen zum Thema hat.

Die englische Originalausgabe von Maren R. Niehoffs Buch wurde 2019 mit dem Polonsky-Preis für Originalität und Kreativität in den geisteswissenschaftlichen Disziplinen der Hebräischen Universität in Jerusalem und als Finalist für den Jordan Schnitzer Prize of the Association of Jewish Studies ausgezeichnet.

[Publisher's website](#)

Philon von Alexandria hat eines der umfangreichsten und vielseitigsten Werke der Antike hinterlassen, welches das hellenistische Judentum, das frühe Christentum und die Zweite Sophistik beleuchtet. Dennoch sind seine Persönlichkeit und intellektuelle

## 6. News section

Our Friend and Fellow Garrick Allen (Dublin City University) is working with one particular illuminated Gospel manuscript (CBL W 139) in the collection of the Chester Beatty to construct an initial taxonomy of the ways that paratexts contribute to our understanding. Here's a wonderful video to illustrate his work – enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlykXTuZ5nE>

Please take care and stay healthy! Best wishes,  
your “Beyond Canon\_” team

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