

**Olivia Stewart Lester**  
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**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

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Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity (with tenure), Loyola University Chicago  
(2024–present)

Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, Loyola University Chicago (2017–2024)

-*Reading Religion* (October 30, 2019)  
-*Bulletin for Biblical Research* 30.2 (2020): 329–31

***Edited Volumes***

“*Listen to the Sibyl*”: *The History, Poetics, and Reception of Sibylline Oracles*. Co-edited with Max Leventhal, Hindy Najman, Joshua Scott, and Elizabeth Stell (submitted to Brill for consideration in JSJ Supplements).

***Special Journal Issues***

“The Future of Gender Studies and Revelation.” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* (Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting panel proceedings in preparation for publication in 2025; with an agreement secured from the editors)

***Journal Articles***

“Views of the World to Come in the Jewish-Christian Sibylline Oracles.” Pages 261–82 in *Dreams, Visions, Imaginations: Jewish, Christian, and Gnostic Views of the World to Come*. Edited by Tobias Nicklas, Jens Schröter, and Armand Puig i Tàrrach. BZNW 247. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021.

“The Four Kingdoms Motif and Sibylline Temporality in Sibylline Oracles 4.” Pages 121–41 in *The Four Kingdoms Motif before and beyond the Book of Daniel*. Edited by Andrew Perrin and Loren Stuckenbruck. Themes in Biblical Narrative 28. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

“Jezebel: A Study in Prophecy, Divine Violence, and Gender.” Pages 509–22 in *New Perspectives on the Book of Revelation*. Edited by Adela Yarbro Collins. BETL 291. Leuven: Peeters, 2017.

“‘I Will Speak . . . With My Whole Person in Ecstasy’: Instrumentality and Independence in the Sibylline Oracles.” Pages 1232–46 in *Sibyls, Scriptures, and Scrolls: John Collins at Seventy*. Edited by Joel S. Baden, Hindy Najman, and Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar. JSJ Supplements. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2017.

“The Question of Prophetic ‘Authenticity’: A Response to ‘Why Jeremiah? The Invention of a Prophetic Figure’.” Pages 222–24 in *Jeremiah’s Scriptures: Production, Reception, Interaction, and Transformation*. Edited by Hindy Najman and Konrad Schmid. JSJSup 173. Leiden: Brill, 2017.

### ***Encyclopedia Entries***

“Nanea.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception Online*. Edited by Constance M. Furey et al. Volume 20. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022.

“Sibylline Oracles 4–5.” *T & T Clark Encyclopedia of Second Temple Judaism*. Edited by Daniel M. Gurtner and Loren T. Stuckenbruck. New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2019.

### ***Book Reviews***

Review of Gregg E. Gardner, *Wealth, Poverty, and Charity in Jewish Antiquity*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2022. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 54.1 (2023): 118–19.

Review of Sarah Emanuel, *Humor, Resistance, and Jewish Cultural Persistence in the Book of Revelation: Roasting Rome*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. *Bible and Critical Theory* 17.1 (2021): 110–13.

Review of *Figures Who Shape Scriptures, Scriptures That Shape Figures*. Edited by Géza G. Xeravits and Greg Schmidt Goering. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018. *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. *Review of Biblical Literature* (April 3, 2020).

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

### ***Other Contributions***

“Revelation 12–14” for the “Two Testaments Podcast.” March 12, 2024.  
<https://youtu.be/pkGh4XicIww?si=zkBZUk6g5fwhBeEZ>.

“Pseudepigraphy.” *Bible Odyssey*. Published July 2023. <https://www.bibleodyssey.org/passages/related-articles/pseudepigraphy/>.

Bibliography for “Sibylline Oracles.” *e-Clavis: Christian Apocrypha*. Produced January 2020.

- “Ambivalent Appropriation: Apollo in Jewish Texts and Material Culture.” Public lecture, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, University of North Carolina. April 13, 2022.
- “The Sibylline Oracles: A Case Study in Ancient and Modern Anti-Judaism.” Graduate seminar, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, University of North Carolina. April 13, 2022.
- “‘I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand’: Pseudepigraphy as Commentary in 2 Thessalonians, and the Task of the New Testament Commentator.” Presented at the Ethical Reading Seminar. University of Oxford (virtual). February 23, 2022.
- 2021 “Death, Demise, and the Decline of Prophecy.” Presented in the Greco-Roman Religions Session at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX. November 20–23–2021.
- “Jewish and Christian Sibylline Discourse: Dynamic Pseudepigraphy in the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at the Biblical Studies Seminar. University of Aberdeen (virtual). October 13, 2021.
- “Can a Fictional Prophet Be an Author? Attribution and the Production of the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at “Authorial Fictions and Attributions in the Ancient Mediterranean” Colloquium, Bible and Religions of the Ancient Near East Collective and North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature (virtual). October 5, 2021.
- Panelist, “Contemporary Developments in the Study of Apocalypticism.” Presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Enoch Seminar/LMU Munich Congress on Apocalypticism in Antiquity. Munich (virtual). May 23, 2021.
- “‘For there are all sorts of seasons...’: Periodization, Eschatology, and Apocalyptic Uncertainty in the Sibylline Oracles.” Presented at “Apocalyptic Thinking Workshop.” Centre for the Study of the Bible, Oriel College, University of Oxford (virtual). February 14–15, 2021.
- 2020 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.
- 2019 “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. 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.
- 2018
- “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. University of Oxford. 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.
- 2017
- “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—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. April 21, 2017.
- “Prophecy, Violence, Delphic Ambivalence: Readings in Lucan’s Civil War and John’s Apocalypse.” Presented at Greco-Roman Lunch. Yale University. February 27, 2017.
- 2016
- “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. Yale University. January 21, 2016.
- 2015
- “Jezebel: A Study in Prophecy, Divine Violence, and Gender.” Presented at the Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense. KU Leuven. July 24, 2015.
- “Rethinking Prophecy: Consolidating Authority in Acts, *Sibylline Oracles* 4, Revelation, and *Sibylline Oracles* 5.” Presented at the Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar

- 2014 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.
- 2013 "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 23, 2013.
- 2012 "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 17, 2012.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

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### ***Graduate***

Pauline and Pseudepigraphic Pauline Literature (Spring 2025)  
Health, Suffering, Disability, and the Bible (Fall 2023)  
Hellenistic Judaism (Fall 2022)  
Tutorial in Biblical Studies: Greek and the Septuagint (Spring 2022)  
Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion, Loyola University Chicago (Spring 2021)  
Directed Readings in Performance Criticism, Loyola University Chicago (Spring 2021)  
Acts of the Apostles, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2019)  
Tutorial in Biblical Studies: New Testament Greek, Loyola University Chicago (2019–20; Spring 2022)  
Elementary New Testament Greek, Yale Divinity School (2016–2017)

### ***Undergraduate***

Health, Suffering, Disability, and the Bible (Fall 2023)  
Introduction to Religious Studies (Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Fall 2024)  
Religion and Gender: Prophecy and Gender in Ancient Judaism and Ancient Christianity, Loyola  
University Chicago (Spring 2020; J-Term 2022; J-Term 2023)  
Introduction to New Testament, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2018–present)  
Introduction to Christian Theology, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2018)

## **OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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Guest Instructor, The Bible and Ethics, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (March 30, 2023)  
Guest Instructor, The New Testament, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX (November 5, 2020)  
Convener, Greek Hour, Loyola University Chicago (Spring 2019–Fall 2019, Spring 2022)  
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)

## **PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING**

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

All Things Ignatian: Catholic Intellectual Life and the Common Good, Faculty Seminar, Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago (Fall 2018)

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

## **ACADEMIC HONORS**

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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)

## **WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

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“The Pleasures of Pseudepigraphy: Authorship and Imagination in Ancient Epistolary L08)h(pi)6jry7 (E)-1.6 (Do2-4.6 (.6



MA Comprehensive Exams Committee Member, Loyola University Chicago.

Katherine Simion, Julia Rotondi, Andrew Milewski.

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

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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### ***Society of Biblical Literature Service***

Steering Committee Co-Chair, John's Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern Section, Society of Biblical Literature. 2019–25. Steering Committee Member, 2018–19.

Steering Committee Member, Greco-Roman Religions Section, Society of Biblical Literature. 2020–present.

Session Chair. John's Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. November 22, 2021.

Session Chair. John's Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 25, 2019.

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

### ***Midwest Regional Meeting for Biblical Studies Service***

Section Co-Chair, Second Temple Judaism Section, Midwest Regional Meeting for Biblical Studies (formerly Midwest Region Society of Biblical Literature). 2022–present.

Judge, Midwest Regional Meeting Graduate Student Paper Award. 2023.

Judge, Student Religious Studies Conference Undergraduate Student Paper Award. 2023.

### ***University Service, Loyola University Chicago***

Academic Council. Curriculum Committee. 2024–present.

Member, Ad-hoc Committee on Recruitment of Majors and Minors. 2022–23.

Co-founder and Organizer, Premodern Working Group. 2021–23.

Member, Assistant Professor of New Testament Search Committee. 2021–22.

Member, Society for Textual Scholarship Conference Committee. 2021–22.

Member, Undergraduate Learning Committee. Spring 2022.

Member, Crown Fellowships Committee. Spring 2021.

Co-coordinator, Theology Department Newsletter. Spring 2021.

Reading Group Organizer, Theories of Language. Spring 2020.

Member, Theology Department Advisory Committee. 2019–20; 2022–23.

Member, Theology Department Development Identity Mission Committee. 2019–2020.

Member, Edward J. Surtz, S.J. Memorial Lecture in the Humanities Committee. 2019–20.

Convener, Applying for an Academic Job. Graduate Professionalization Session, Theology Department. August 23, 2019.

Founder and Organizer, New Testament Colloquium. New Testament/Early Christianity Section, Theology Department. 2018–present.

Convener, Annual SBL/AAR Mock Session. Graduate Professionalization Session, Theology Department. 2018–present.

Member, Theology Department Undergraduate Programming Committee. 202 (m)-4.6 (i)6.BDC -37.me

Postdoctoral Fellow Co-Convener. “How to Write Conference Abstracts.” Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Postgraduate Professionalization Session. University of Oxford. February 8, 2018.  
Postdoctoral Fellow Co-Convener. Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Postgraduate Writers’ Workshop. University of Oxford. Spring 2018.  
Postdoctoral Fellow Co-Convener. “Presenting at SBL/AAR.” Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Postgraduate Professionalization Session. University of Oxford. November 6, 2017.

#### **OTHER PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

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Panelist, “Sacred Scriptures and LGBTQ+ Persons.” *Wonderfully Made — LGBTQ+R(eligion)*, film screening and panel presentations. Loyola University Chicago. October 16, 2023.  
“Parables at the Annex.” Adult education sessions, All Saints Episcopal Church. Chicago, IL. September–October 2023.  
“Women and Spirit-Inspired Speech in Luke’s Infancy Narrative.” Invited lecture (delivered as a Bible study), All Saints Episcopal Church. Chicago, IL. December 19, 2019.  
“Introduction to Parables”; “Jesus Through Her Eyes”; “Romans”; “Philippians and Philemon”; “Eating Together: Community, Hospitality, Communion.” Adult Education sessions, Covenant Presbyterian Church. Chicago, IL. Fall 2019–Spring 2023.  
“The Work of the Graduate Student.” Loyola-Marquette Graduate Theology Colloquium. February 23, 2019.  
Homilies. St. John’s Episcopal Church. New Haven, CT. September 2012; July 2013; August and October 2016; July 2017.

#### **EDITORIAL AND REVIEW ACTIVITY**

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Editorial Board Member, *Revue de Qumrân*. 2023–28.

Associate Editor, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. 2023–26.

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Biblical Literature*. 2022–24.

Manuscript Review for *Library of New Testament Studies*, T & T Clark; *Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha*, Brill.

Article Review for *Hermathena*; *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*; *Journal of Theological Studies*; *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

Editorial Assistant

*Marginality, Canonicity, Passion*. Edited by Marco Formisano and Christina Shuttleworth Kraus. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

*Sibyls, Scriptures, and Scrolls: John Collins at Seventy*. Edited by Joel S. Baden, Hindy Najman, and Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar. JSJSup 175. Leiden: Brill, 2017.

#### **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

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Catholic Biblical Association  
Chicago Society of Biblical Research  
Society of Biblical Literature