

The 2016 Corcoran Chair Conference



Marginality and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean World

**April 3-4, 2016
Boston College Chestnut Hill Campus**

This conference examines the idea of “hybrid identities” and its component terms—hybridity and identity—by considering a selection of individuals and groups whose activities, allegiances, and/or ideas straddle the boundaries constructed by ancient Jewish, Christian and pagan leaders.

Among the questions to be considered:

- What were people doing when they engaged in the practices that we, and/or perhaps some of their contemporaries, would have considered as belong to the “other”?
- Does the concept of boundaries—whether closed, open, porous, or shifting—remain useful in our attempts to understand something about the ancient Mediterranean world? Do boundaries exist, or are they figments of the scholarly imagination?

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

MURRAY FUNCTION ROOM, YAWKEY CENTER

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa and Boston College)
Hybrid Identities in the Ancient Mediterranean World

Jonathan Klawans (Boston University), Respondent

2:00-2:30 p.m. Coffee break

2:30-4:00 p.m.

Yonder Gillihan (Boston College)
King Areios of Sparta Recalls the Discovery of Written Evidence for Spartan-Judean Kinship (1 Makkabees 12:19-23)

Tessa Rajak (Oxford University)
How to Praise a Jewish Mother of Martyrs in a Greek City: The Panegyric in 4 Maccabees 15-16

4:00-4:30 p.m. Coffee break

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Karin Schlapbach (University of Ottawa)
Christian Dance and Ancient Mysteries (*Acts of John*)

Andrew Jacobs (Scripps College)
“Alone Among His *Gens*”: Jews, Christians, and the Hermeneutics of Conversion in a Late Antique Inscription

6:00-6:30 p.m. Reception – all are invited

6:30-8:00 p.m. Dinner for presenters and invited guests

MONDAY, APRIL 4 HEIGHTS ROOM, CORCORAN COMMONS

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Paula Fredriksen (Hebrew University)

Christ and Cosmos: God's Kingdom as Conquest (1 Corinthians 15)

Maia Kotrosits (Denison University)

Subjects in Translation: Crises of Sovereignty and Language Between Life and Death
(the uses of Aramaic in the Gospel of Mark)

10:30-11:00 a.m. Coffee break

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Joshua Burns (Marquette University)

Passing and Failing: The Jewish Dilemma in Ancient Rome (Persius, *Satires* 5.176-184)

Steven Fine (Yeshiva University)

Between Titus, the Temple and Redemption: The Apostasy of Yosef Meshita (Genesis
Rabba 65, 26)

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30-3:00 p.m.

David Frankfurter (Boston University)

Between Christian and Hellene/Heathen/Local (Shenoute & Pseudo-Athanasius plus
terracotta images from 5th century Egypt)

Adele Reinhartz, Final Reflections