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

1 – 3 Ottobre, 2026

University Residential Centre of Bertinoro

October 1 – 3, 2026

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.

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Incontro annuale 2026 | 2026 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
c/o Centro Residenziale Universitario di Bertinoro
Via Frangipane, 6 – 47032 Bertinoro (FC), Italia
http://cissr.net

CISSR Annual Meeting on Christian Origins

Bertinoro, October 1 – 3, 2026

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

09:00 – 09:15 | Joint Session (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
OPENING OF THE MEETING
Presiding: Mara Rescio, Emiliano R. Urciuoli

09:15 – 11:15 | Joint Session AM 1 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
CONTEXTS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY
Presiding: John S. Kloppenborg

MARIANNE BJELLAND KARTZOW (University of Oslo, Norway)
Neighborhoods of Marginals, Non-Humans, and More-Than-Humans: New Testament Entanglements and Intersections

TONY KEDDIE (University of Texas, Austin, USA)
"The Way" as a Neighborhood Association in Acts of the Apostles and Roman Ephesos

HARRY O. MAIER (Vancouver School of Theology, Canada)
Christ Religion as Neighborhood Cultural Invention

EMILIANO R. URCIUOLI (University of Bologna, Italy)
You Shall Ignore Your Neighbor: Christ Religion and the Challenge of Everyday Social Exchange

Break 11:15 – 11:45

11:45 – 13:15 | Parallel Session AM 2.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
BOOK DISCUSSION (1)
Presiding: Luca Arcari

C. Johnson Hodge, *The God of This House: Christian Domestic Cult before Constantine*, The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2025

Discussants: Maria Dell'Isola (Max Weber College, University of Erfurt, Germany), Nicola Denzey Lewis (Claremont Graduate University, California, USA)

Respondent: Caroline Johnson Hodge (College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA)
General Discussion

11:45 – 13:15 | Parallel Session AM 2.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)
GOSPEL OF THOMAS, NAG HAMMADI, AND GNOSTICISM
Presiding: Andrea Annese, Francesco Berno

WILLIAM ARNAL (University of Regina, Canada)
Beyond Diversity: Nag Hammadi as Lens for Reconceiving Christian Origins

EDUARD IRICINSCHI (University of Erfurt, Germany)
Reading the Gospel of Thomas with the Manichaeans

MARIA LUCIA ABAURRE GNERRE (Federal University of Paraíba, Brazil)
The Concept of "Indian Gnosticism" in the Works of Raniero Gnoli

Lunch Break 13:15 – 15:15 (CEUB)

15:15 – 17:15 | Parallel Session PM 1.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
RABBINIC JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY (1)
Gender, Ritual Authority, and Boundary-Making
Presiding: Matthias Morgenstern

GAL SELA (University of Regensburg, Germany)
The Talmudic Jesus and the Origins of Christianity: Gender, Law, and Magic

JESSE MIROTZNIK (University of Vienna, Austria)
Whence Paganism? A Shared Jewish-Christian Etiology

LÁSZLÓ ODROBINA (University of Szeged, Hungary)
Competing Constructions of Sacred Time: Calendrical Authority and Jewish-Christian Boundary-Making in Late Antiquity

DORU DOROFTEI (Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany)
Between Halakhah and Sacrament: Competing Constructions of Holiness in Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity

15:15 – 17:15 | Parallel Session PM 1.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)
PAPYROLOGY AND EARLY CHRIST GROUPS
Presiding: Marco Stroppa

MARCO STROPPA (Papyrological Institute G. Vitelli, University of Florence, Italy)
An Anonymous Patristic Passage with a Quotation from Psalm 55(54) and the Iliad in an Unedited PSI Papyrus

PETER ARZT-GRABNER (University of Salzburg, Austria)
Covenants and Wills in Paul's Letters and in Documentary Papyri: Some Remarks on διαθήκη

Book Discussion
C. Mayer & P. Arzt-Grabner (eds), *Galatians* (PKNT – vol. 5), Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2026

Discussants: Dorota M. Hartman (University of Naples L'Orientale, Italy), Fabrizio Marcello (Catholic University of Paris)

Respondent: Peter Arzt-Grabner (University of Salzburg, Austria)
General Discussion

Break 17:15 – 17:45

17:45 – 19:15 | Parallel Session PM 2.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
RE-DATING EARLY CHRISTIAN TEXTS
Thematic Book Discussion
Presiding: Claudio Gianotto

Book (1): M. Vinzent, *Die älteste Sammlung paulinischer Briefe und die Entstehung der kanonischen Paulusbriefsammlung, Teile I-III* (in collab. with M. Bilby, J. Bull, K. Lance Lotharp), Narr Francke, 2025
Book (2): M. Vinzent, *Von Paulus zu Saulus. Zwei Paulusbriefsammlungen im 2. Jahrhundert*, Herder, 2025

Discussants: Harry O. Maier (Vancouver School of Theology, Canada), Jan Heilmann (Dresden University of Technology, Germany)

Respondent: Markus Vinzent (Max Weber College, University of Erfurt, Germany)
General Discussion

17:45 – 19:15 | Parallel Session PM 2.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)
RABBINIC JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY (2)
Oral & Written Sources
Presiding: Gal Sela

PAUL RODRIGUE (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)
Jerome and the Jewish Sage: Rejection and Adoption of Rabbinic Material in the Church Father's Writings

MICHAEL MODINI (Independent Researcher, Australia)
The Markan Alphabet Theory

GIUSEPPE VELTRI (University of Hamburg, Germany)
An Apology for Xanthippe: Women/Wives and Their Counterparts in the Hellenistic and Rabbinic World

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

09:00 – 11:00 | Parallel Session AM 1.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
GENDER ISSUES IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY
Presiding: Maria Dell'Isola, Mario Resta

TAYLOR PETREY (Kalamazoo College, Michigan, USA)
Castration Curiosity in the Second Century

ALIYAH EL MANSY (University of Münster, Germany)
Early Christian Attitudes Towards Female Work and Labor

KLAZINA STAAT (Free University Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Felicity's Servile Agency: Who Wrote the Passion of Perpetua and Felicity?

MARTA MICILLO (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)
Women on the Threshold: Sacred Space and Gendered Ecclesiastical Order in the Synod of Laodicea

09:00 – 11:00 | Parallel Session AM 1.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)
JEWISH HISTORY, HELLENISTIC JUDAISM, AND SEPTUAGINT STUDIES
Presiding: Anna Mambelli, Marco Vitelli

SARIT COFMAN-SIMHON (Emunah College of Fine Arts and Design, Jerusalem, Israel)
The First Mystery Play: Jewish Hellenistic Exagoge

CAMILLA RECALCATI (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)
Magic and Incantation in Symmachus' Psalter: Notes from Ps 57(58):6b

EBERHARD BONS (University of Strasbourg, France) with **ANNA MAMBELLI** (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy) & **DANIELA SCIALABBA** (Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, Italy)
Historical and Theological Lexicon of the Septuagint, Volume 2 – Major Results

ANTONELLA BELLANTUONO (UCLouvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium)
Religious Coexistence and the Construction of Identity: Judaism in Hellenistic Egypt between Isis, Serapis, and the Septuagint

Break 11:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00 | Joint Session AM 2 (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
BOOK DISCUSSION (2)
Presiding: Luca Arcari

A. Destro & M. Pesce, *Gli Atti degli apostoli*, Marsilio, 2026

Discussants: Luca Arcari (University of Naples Federico II), Marida Nicolaci (Theological Faculty of Sicily – San Giovanni Evangelista, Palermo, Italy), Daniele Tripaldi (University of Bologna)

Respondents: Adriana Destro & Mauro Pesce (University of Bologna)
General Discussion

Lunch Break 13:00 – 15:00 (CEUB)

15:00 – 17:00 | Parallel Session PM 1.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
ISSUES OF METHOD: NEW 'SECULAR' APPROACHES TO EARLY CHRISTIAN RESEARCH
Presiding: Emiliano R. Urciuoli

Laura Feldt (University of Bergen, Norway / RADHEART)
Radical Habits of the Heart and Asceticism – Testing the Theoretical Framework of RADHEART on Historia monachorum in Aegypto

Silvia Gómez Jiménez (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain / RADHEART)
Senses, Sacred Architecture and Religious Commitment in Late Antique Poetry

Roberto Alciati (University of Florence, Italy)
How Radical was Late Antique Religion? Testing Total Devotion in the Writings of Clement of Alexandria

Anders Klostergaard Petersen (Aarhus University, Denmark)
A Plea for Theoretical and Methodological Consilience in the Study of Formative Christ Religion

15:00 – 17:00 | Parallel Session PM 1.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)
FROM THE HISTORY OF EXEGESIS TO RECEPTION HISTORY AND BEYOND
Presiding: Laura Carnevale

Clark R. Bates (Forge Theological Seminary, Summerville, South Carolina, USA)
Χωρίς or Χάρις? How a Textual Variant in Heb 2:9 Became an Orthodox Shibboleth in the Late-Antique Church

J. Andrew Doole (University of Innsbruck, Austria)
Barabbas in Modern Fiction

Daniele Passeggi (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)
"This Golgotha of the Contemporary World": John Paul II and the Pilgrimage to Auschwitz-Birkenau (2–10 June 1979)

Jef Tripp (Rock Valley College, Rockford, Illinois, USA // online)
The Reception of Jesus's Death as a Suicide

Break 17:00 – 17:30

17:30 – 18:45 | Keynote Lecture (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
Presiding: Mara Rescio, Luigi Walt

Laura Nasrallah (Yale University, New Haven, USA)
Making Canon, Practicing Allegory: Case Studies in Stone, Bone, and Papyrus
General Discussion

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

09:00 – 11:00 | Parallel Session AM 1.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
DISCOURSES AND PRACTICES AROUND JESUS IN THE EARLY MODERN AND MODERN PERIOD
Presiding: Miriam Benfatto, Cristiana Facchini

ANDRÁS KISS (University of Jewish Studies, Budapest, Hungary)
Reclaiming Jesus, Judaizing Christ: Modern Jewish Appropriations of Jesus and the Polemics of Identity

DARIUSZ PNIEWSKI (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland)
The Rhetorical Figure of Jesus and the Industrial Revolution

NORBERT NAGY (University of Oxford, UK)
Constructing the Historical Jesus on the Religious Margins: Radical Scholarship and Modern Biblical Culture

JILL HICKS-KEETON (University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA)
Elizabeth Cady Stanton's The Woman's Bible and Contests over Canon in the Modern U.S.

09:00 – 11:00 | Parallel Session AM 1.B (Garrison Room – Rivellino)
EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITINGS AND ROMAN LAW
Presiding: Martina Carandino, Paolo Costa

GIACOMO AIAZZI (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)
Jesus' Illegal Imagination and the parable of the unjust steward (Lk 16:1-9)

GIOVANNI RIBUOLI (Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, Rome, Italy)
Land, Talents and the Pearl: Whose Were They? And Why Should One Buy the Field?

ANDREA DI LENARDO (Ca' Foscari University of Venice / University of Udine / University of Trieste, Italy)
Paul's Politics and the Experience of Roman Legal Authority

SILVIA VIARO (University of Padua, Italy)
Pliny's Doubts, Trajan's Rescript, and Tertullian's Critique: Reflections on the Early Anti-Christian Persecutions

Break 11:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00 | Parallel Session AM 2.A (Jacopo da Bertinoro Room – Rivellino)
EXPLORATIONS OF PEOPLEHOOD IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN
Thematic Book Discussion
Presiding: Tony Keddie

Book (1): M. den Dulk, *Ethnic Stereotypes and the Letters of Paul*, Cambridge University Press, 2026
Book (2): P. Harland, *Ethnic Relations in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Chicago University Press, 2026

Discussants: Laura Carnevale (University of Bari Aldo Moro), Cavan Concannon (University of Southern California, Dornsife, Los Angeles, USA), Christy Cobb (University of Denver, USA)

Respondents: Matthijs den Dulk (Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands), Philip Harland (York University, Toronto, Canada)
General Discussion

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

LUKE & ACTS IN THEIR HISTORICAL, ANTHROPOLOGICAL, AND LITERARY CONTEXT

Presiding: Dorota M. Hartman, Fabrizio Marcello

GIOVANNI IBBA (Research Institute for the Study of Religions, Florence, Italy)
Poverty, Wealth, and Receptivity to Revelation in Luke–Acts

GIULIO MARIOTTI (Institute for Religious Studies R. Guardini, Trento, Italy // online)
Luke 23:28 and 4 Ezra 10:11 in the Context of First-Century Jewish Debate

FRANCESCA MINONNE (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy)
Working on Luke and His Language: Is Grammar the Key?

13:00 – Closing of the Meeting / Lunch (CEUB)