

John M. Vonder Bruegge, Ph.D.  
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## EDUCATION

### **Yale University**, New Haven, CT

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D., Religious Studies, May 2011

Advisors: Wayne Meeks, Harold Attridge

Comprehensive Examination Areas:

- Modern Critical Study of the New Testament, Prof. Wayne Meeks
- Greco-Roman Environment of the New Testament, Prof. Dale Martin
- Christianity in the Second Century, Prof. Bentley Layton
- Ancient Judaisms, Prof. Stephen Fraade
- Scholarship of Q and Theories of the Q Community, Prof. Harold Attridge, Prof. Dale Martin, Prof. Adela Yarbro Collins
- Archaeology and Method in Galilee, Prof. Harold Attridge, Prof. Dale Martin, Prof. Adela Yarbro Collins
- Textuality and Reading in Hermeneutical Theory, Prof. Harold Attridge, Prof. Dale Martin, Prof. Adela Yarbro Collins

### **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA

Harvard Divinity School

Th.M., New Testament, May 1998

Advisor: Helmut Koester

Master's Theses: *The Divided Cella of the Artemis Temple at Sardis*

*"Drive out the Wicked One from Among You": A study of 1 Cor 5*

### **Covenant Theological Seminary**, St. Louis, MO

M.Div., May 1994, *magna cum laude*

### **University of Missouri**, Columbia, MO

B.S. Secondary Education, Spanish, May 1991, *summa cum laude*

Student Teaching: Parkway North High School, St. Louis, MO

Additional Coursework:

**Missouri State University**, Dept. of Religious Studies, Spring 1996

**Washington University** (St. Louis), Religious Studies Program, Fall 1995

**St. Louis University in Madrid** (Spain), Spanish Language & Lit., Spring 1990

Languages:

Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Coptic, German, French, Spanish

DISSERTATION *Mapping Galilee: Josephus, Luke, and John in Light of Critical Geography*  
Advisor: Harold W. Attridge  
A study of first century C.E. Galilee which draws upon critical spatial theory to analyze key ancient texts, such as gospels, Josephus, Greco-Roman historiography.

TEACHING  
INTERESTS  
Early Christian History and Literature  
Introduction to Hebrew Bible and Christian Scriptures  
Synoptic Gospels and Q  
Johannine Literature  
Paul and the Greco-Roman Background to the New Testament  
New Testament and Archaeology  
New Testament Geography and Spatial Theory  
Josephus  
Ancient Judaism  
Ancient Greek

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE  
*Associate Professor of New Testament*, Northwestern College, Orange City, IA  
August 2004-present (tenured 2011; promoted 2011, 2017)  
Average IDEA Student Evaluation Form results, 2015-2017  
Excellent Teacher: 4.8/5 (Raw); 4.8/5 (Adjusted)  
Excellent Course: 4.6/5 (Raw); 4.7/5 (Adjusted)  
“Introduction to Biblical Studies”  
“Elementary Biblical Greek and Culture”  
“Intermediate Biblical Greek and Culture”  
“Galilee in the First Century”  
“The Johannine Epistles”  
“The Corinthian Correspondence”  
“The Holy Spirit in the New Testament”  
“Galatians in Perspective”  
“Gnosticism”  
“Biblical Interpretation”  
“The Greek Legacy”/ Honors Program Summer Study Abroad in Greece  
  
*Acting Lecturer in New Testament Greek*, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT  
May 2002-May 2003  
“Elementary New Testament Greek,” Sept 2002-May 2003  
“Intensive Elementary New Testament Greek,” May-June, 2002 (6 weeks)  
  
*Teaching Fellow*, Yale College, New Haven, CT  
Sept 2001-May 2002  
“History of Christianity in the Ancient World” Prof. Bentley Layton. Fall 2001.  
“Introduction to the New Testament,” Prof. Dale Martin. Spring 2002.  
  
*Teaching Fellow*, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT  
Sept 2000-May 2001  
“New Testament Interpretation,” Prof. Harold Attridge

INSTITUTIONAL  
SERVICE

Northwestern College, Orange City, IA, 2004-present

- Honors Program Co-Director (2009-present)
  - Administration of program including admission, curriculum, independent research, and special events
  - Proposal and implementation of major curriculum overhaul
  - Organized, instructed, and led new Honors Program Summer Study Abroad sequence including a semester-long, research-intensive, interdisciplinary coursework and culminating in a 3-week study abroad experience in central and southern Greece (2014, 2016, 2019)
  
- Committee Assignments
  - Academic Innovation Lab (2018-19; Chair)
  - Global Education Task Force (2017-18)
  - Strategic Planning Committee (2015-18)
  - Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Work Group (2014-15, 2019-20)
  - Academic Program Assessment Committee (2009-12; Chair, 2010-11)
  - Student Disciplinary Appeals Committee (2006-08; Chair, 2007-08)
  - Campus Life Committee (2005-08; Chair, 2006-07)
  - Student Government Association Faculty Advisor (2005-07)
  
- Speaking Engagements and Presentations
  - Northwestern College Commencement Address (2010)
  - RED101 Keynote Address (for prospective students; 2010-13)
  - Chapel speaker (periodic)
  - Faculty Workshop presenter (2012, 2015; 2019)
  - Campus Discussion Panel participant (2006, 2007, 2017)
  - All-Campus Retreat featured speaker (2006)
  
- Faculty Advisor, Spring Service Partnerships
  - Kansas City, MO (2020)
  - Bluefields, Nicaragua (2017)
  - Jacksonville, FL (2012)
  
- Student Advising

RELATED  
WORK  
EXPERIENCE

*Consultant*, Graduate Teaching Center, Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
August 2003-May 2004

- Planned and conducted workshops and consultations as a resource to graduate students engaged in teaching.

*Research Assistant*, Sardis Archaeological Expedition, Harvard University  
Sept 1998-June 1999

- Assisted in the editing of and created a searchable object database for publications covering Sardis' Lydian and Christian periods.

*Director of College Ministries*, Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO  
Sept 1992-Sept 1995

- Served and advised students at Washington Univ. and St. Louis Univ. Taught studies of Bible, contemporary culture, world religions.

RELATED  
RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE

“Ancient Greece in the Modern College Classroom: The Verbal Art of Plato”  
(jointly sponsored by the Center for Hellenic Studies and the Council of Independent Colleges), Washington D.C., Summer 2017

- A week-long seminar aimed at the perpetuation of the study of the classical period, with a particular focus on the deliberate staging and casting of Plato’s dialogues.

Tiberias Archaeological Excavations, Israel, Spring 2002

- Excavated part of a late 1st Century CE monumental wall and a small terrace wall from the time of Herod Antipas.

American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Summer Session 2001

- An intensive 6-week overview of the archaeology of Greece, from the prehistoric to the Roman period, consisting primarily of site/museum visits and on-site lectures.

Jerusalem University College, Israel, Summer Session 2000

- A 2 ½-week program of study, focusing on the archaeology of Israel pertaining to the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Included site/museum visits and on-site lectures.

Sardis Archaeological Expedition Field Staff, Salihli, Turkey

*Assistant Excavator/Recorder*, Summer 1998

- Excavated part of a late-Roman villa, recorded field artifacts for publication, and oversaw preservation project for a 5th Century BCE Lydian gold refinery.

Archaeology of the New Testament Seminar (Harvard Divinity School), Prof. Helmut Koester & Prof. David Mitten, Spring 1997

- A limited enrollment seminar addressing the archaeological background of the New Testament period, culminating in 5 weeks of site visits in Greece and Turkey.

PUBLICATIONS

*Mapping Galilee in Josephus, Luke, and John: Critical Geography and the Construction of an Ancient Space*. Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity 93; Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2016.

“Josephus’ Galilee and Spatial Theory,” BibleInterp.com (September 2018)

<https://bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/josephus-galilee-and-spatial-theory>

Review of *Jesus and His World: The Archaeological Evidence* by Craig A. Evans. *Journal of Near Eastern Archaeology* 78:1 (March 2015), pp. 56-57.

“Romans 9:1-5: Exegetical Perspective”

“Romans 10:5-15: Exegetical Perspective”

“Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32: Exegetical Perspective”

in Barbara Brown Taylor and David Bartlett, eds., *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Vol. 3* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).

“Romans 4:13-25: Exegetical Perspective”

“1 Corinthians 1:18-25: Exegetical Perspective”

“Ephesians 2:1-10: Exegetical Perspective”

in Barbara Brown Taylor and David Bartlett, eds., *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B, Vol. 2* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008).

#### CONFERENCE PAPERS

“An ‘Undisciplined’ Honors Curriculum,” National Collegiate Honors Council National Conference 2018 (Boston, MA)

“Transforming ‘Home’: How Josephus and the Gospel of John shape and reshape their defining spaces,” Wendt Character Initiative Interdisciplinary Conference 2018 (University of Dubuque).

“The Quest for the Geographical Luke: How Luke’s narrative construction of Palestine makes him a better geographer than you might think,” SBL Annual Meeting 2015 (Atlanta, GA), Gospel of Luke Section.

“From Infancy Inured to War?: Josephus’ geographical excursus on Galilee (War 3.35-44) in light of Soja’s ‘Thirdspace’,” SBL Annual Meeting 2015 (Atlanta, GA), Space, Place, and Lived Experience in Antiquity Section.

“Luke Never Consulted the Map in the Back of Your Bible, Part II: Implications of Edward Said’s ‘imaginative geography’ for the portrayal of 1<sup>st</sup> c. Palestine in the book of Acts,” SBL Central States Regional Meeting 2013 (St. Louis, MO), New Testament Narrative Literature Section.

Response to Ellen B. Aitken, “The Body of Jesus Outside the Eternal City: Mapping and Ritual Space in the Epistle to the Hebrews,” SBL Annual Meeting 2012 (Chicago, IL), Hebrews Section.

“Luke Never Consulted the Map in the Back of Your Bible: Conzelmann, Said, and an Outsider’s View of Galilee,” SBL Central States Regional Meeting 2012 (St. Louis, MO), New Testament Narrative Literature Section.

“Josephus’ Apologetic Geography: Galilee in the *War* and in the *Life*,” SBL Upper Midwest Regional Meeting 2012 (St. Paul, MN), Early Judaism and Judaic Studies: Early Jewish Literature Section.

“Luke’s ‘Imaginative Geography’: Revisiting Edward Said’s *Orientalism* and its implications for Luke’s Galilee,” SBL Annual Meeting 2008 (San Diego, CA), Reading, Theory, and Bible Unit.

“Mapping’ Galilee: reconciling spatial theory with a historical discipline,” SBL Upper Midwest Regional Meeting 2005 (St. Paul, MN), Jesus in Galilee Section.

“Geography Bending in the Fourth Gospel,” SBL New England Regional Meeting 2004 (Cambridge, MA), New Testament, Early Christians, and Gnostics Section.

“Galilee in Josephus,” Conference on Religion, Ethnicity, and Identity in Ancient Galilee, 2003 (Wuppertal, Germany).

“Re-grounding John’s Galilee,” SBL International Meeting 2003 (Cambridge, UK), Archaeology Program Unit.

“The ‘God-Fearer’ Inscriptions of Aphrodisias: New Light on Theories Come of Age,” SBL Annual Meeting 2000 (Nashville, TN), Papyrology and Early Christian Backgrounds Consultation.

SELECTED  
HONORS AND  
AWARDS

Portz Grant for Curriculum Development, National Collegiate Honors Council, 2018  
Global Education Exploratory Travel Grant, Northwestern College, 2013  
Teaching Excellence Award, Northwestern College, 2009  
Yale University Dissertation Fellowship, 2003-04  
Yale University Fellowship, 1998-2002  
John Perry Miller Fund Award, Yale University, 2001  
Robert G. Rayburn Homiletics Award, Covenant Theological Seminary, 1994

PROFESSIONAL  
MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Biblical Literature  
American Academy of Religion  
AAR/SBL Constructions of Ancient Space Seminar