

CELENE LILLIE

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EDUCATION

- Ph. D. 2016 Union Theological Seminary, New Testament Studies
Dissertation Title: "The Rulers' Rape of Eve: Sexual Violence and Subjugation, Transformation and Resistance in Roman History, Myth and Three Retellings of Genesis 1-6"
- M. Phil. 2012 Union Theological Seminary, New Testament Studies
- M. Div. 2007 Union Theological Seminary, New Testament Studies
Thesis: "The Matter of Mary: Parable and Paradox in the Gospel of Mary"
- B.A. 2002 Naropa University, Major: Psychology; Minor: Ecopsychology

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018-Present Lecturer, University of Colorado, Boulder

Courses:	Women and Religion	(Spring & Fall 2019, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)
	From Paganism to Christianity	(Fall 2020, 21, 22, 23, 24)
	Introduction to New Testament	(Spring 2018, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)
	Introduction to Jewish Culture	(Spring 2023)
	Topics in Religious Studies: Lost Texts of Antiquity: Gnosticism	(Spring 2024)
	Topics in Religious Studies: Dreams: Divination, Healing and Prophecy	(Spring 2025)
	Women, Gender, & Sexuality in Jewish Texts and Traditions	(Fall 2024)

2019-Present Adjunct Professor, The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology

Courses:	Biblical Survey	(Spring and Fall Trimester 2022, 23, 24, 25)
	New Testament Survey	(Winter Trimester, 2020, 21, 22, 23)
	Feminist Hermeneutics	(Fall 2022)
	Critical Reading Lab	(Fall 2022)
	Reading Practices: Engaging the Biblical Text	(Fall Trimester, 2020, 21)
	Textual Synthesis: Greek	(Winter Trimester, 2020, 21, 22)
	Introduction to Biblical Languages: Greek	(Fall Trimester, 2019, 20, 21, 22)

2020-2023 Adjunct Professor, University of Oklahoma, Norman

Courses: Women in the Bible and Qur'an (Fall 2020, 21, 23)

2010-14 Adjunct Professor, Union Theological Seminary

Courses: Continuing Greek: Revelation (Fall 2013)

Introduction to Biblical Languages (Jan 2013, 2014)

Lexical Greek (Fall 2010)

Continuing Greek (Fall 2010)

2007-2011 Teaching Fellow, Union Theological Seminary

Courses: Revelation: Earth, Economy and Empire (Fall 2009, 13)

Paul and Buddha: Modeling Interreligious Dialogue (Spring 2013)

Advanced Greek Readings (Fall 2012)

Introduction to the New Testament (Spring 2008, 09, 10, 11)

Elementary Biblical Greek II (Spring 2010, 11)

Gospel(s) of John (Fall 2010)

Elementary Biblical Greek I (Fall 2009, Summer 2010)

Romans (Fall 2009)

Loosening Canon: The Gospel of Thomas; (Fall 2008)

The Gospel of John; The Gospel of Mary;

The Thunder: Perfect Mind; and The

Gospel of Q

Jesus' Death and Early Christian Quests for Meaning (Fall 2007)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-2025	Dean, Westar Academy, Westar Institute
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2016-2020 Director of Adult Education and Spiritual Formation, First United Methodist Church of Boulder, Boulder, CO

2016-2017	Executive Director, Tanho Center, Boulder Colorado
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2016, March Theologian in Residence, First United Methodist Church of Boulder

2014-2015	Administrative Assistant for Area Advisors to the United States for the United Nations General Assembly at the United States Mission to the United Nations
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2011-2012 Director of Translations, *A New New Testament*, Hal Taussig, Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt, 2013

2011 Copy Editor, *Dining with John*, Esther Kobel, Brill, 2011.

Volume Coordinator, *Meals in the Early Christian World*, eds. Dennis Smith and Hal Taussig, Palgrave Press, 2012.

2009 Copy Editor, *Galatians Reimagined*, Brigitte Kahl, Fortress Press, 2010.

2007-2008	Coordinator, New Testament and Roman Empire Consultation, Union Theological Seminary
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2007 Research Assistant, *In the Beginning Was the Meal*, Hal Taussig, Fortress Press, 2009.

2004-2007	Intern and Organizer, The Poverty Initiative at Union Theological Seminary
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PUBLICATIONS

Books

Monograph

2017 *The Rape of Eve: The Transformation of Roman Ideology in Three Early Christian Retellings of Genesis*, Fortress Press

Other projects

2013 Director of Translations, *A New New Testament*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Translator, *A New New Testament*

“The Acts of Paul and Thecla”

“Colossians”

“The Gospel of Mary”

“The Gospel of Truth”

“The Letter of Peter to Philip”

“The Prayer of the Ambassador Paul”

“Prayer of Thanksgiving”

2010 Co-Author, *The Thunder Perfect Mind: A New Translation and Introduction*, Hal Taussig, Jaeda Calaway, Maia Kotrosits, Celene Lillie and Justin Lasser, Palgrave Press.

Articles in Edited Volumes

Forthcoming “Creation, Violence, Connection, and Community” in *Adventures in an Itinerant Imagination: Essays Celebrating John Dominic Crossan on his 90th Birthday*, ed. Bernard Brandon Scott

2024 “The Rape of Eve” in *The Routledge Companion to Eve*, eds. Caroline Blyth and Emily Colgan, Routledge.

2013 “Visions and Violence: Seeing God in the Nag Hammadi Codices” in *Seeing the God: Ways of Envisioning the Divine in Ancient Mediterranean Religion*, eds. John McGuckin and Jeffery Pettis, Gorgias Press.

Articles

2020 “Thinking Through Gender in Second Century Jesus Movements,” *Forum*, Fall

2020 Preface, Gender as a Lens to Interrogate Second-Century Jesus Movements, *Forum*, Fall

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2006-Present Society of Biblical Literature

2015-Present Scholar, Westar Institute

ACADEMIC PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, and VISITING LECTURES

2025 Paper, “Deployments of Eve: Uses of Eve in the First Centuries of Christianity,” Westar Institute, Spring Meeting, Online

Response, David Freidenreich, *Jewish Muslims: How Christians Imagined Islam as the Enemy*, University of Colorado Boulder

2020 Guest Lecturer, “Women, Sexuality, and Religion” course, University of Redlands

- 2018 Paper, "Thinking Through Gender in Second Century Jesus Movements," Westar Institute, Fall Meeting, AAR/SBL, Denver, CO
Guest Lecturer, "Speech, Text, and Sacred Tradition" course, Princeton University
- 2017 AAR/SBL Women's Caucus Publishing Panel, The Rape of Eve, Boston, MA
Guest Lecturer, "Unbinding the Book" course, Denison University, Granville, OH
Paper/Lecture, "The Rape of Eve," Columbia New Testament Seminar, Columbia University, New York, NY
Undergraduate Lecture, "The Rape of Eve," Fordham University, New York, NY
Lecturer/Facilitator, Graduate Seminar, "The Future of Gnosticism," Theology Colloquia, Fordham University, New York, NY
- 2014 Paper/Lecture, "The Gospel of Truth and Paul's Letter to the Corinthians: A Study in 'Gnosticizing' Translation," Seminar on Biblical Translation, Harvard Divinity School Center for the Study of World Religions, Cambridge, MA
- 2013 Chair, A New New Testament Panel, Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore, MD
- 2009 Paper, "The Rape of Eve: Exploring the Social-Historical Context of the 'Gnostic' Myth," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
Paper, "The Continuing Impact of Christianity Without Canon: A Response to King's Proposal," Christianity Without Canon: A Conversation with Karen King, Union Theological Seminary
- 2008 Paper, "The Thunder Perfect Mind: Degnosticizing Thunder," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
Paper, "The Canon and The Jar: Interpretation, Canon, and Empire in Canonical and Non-Canonical Texts," New Testament and Roman Empire Consultation, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY

PUBLIC PAPERS and PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Presentation, "Women in the Early Church," Trinity Academy, Trinity United Methodist Church, Denver, CO
- 2024 Lecture Series, "Jesus in Context," Buffalo, NY
Presentation, "The Gnostic Gospels," Trinity Academy, Trinity United Methodist Church, Denver, CO
Paper, "The Bible and Violence: Celebrating the Work of John Dominic Crossan" Webinar, Westar Institute
- 2023 Co-leader, Study Tour, Israel and Palestine, Pilgrims of Ibillin
Presentation, "Jesus in Myth and History," Dean's Forum, St. John's Cathedral, Denver, CO
Presentation, "Jesus in Context: Roman Judea and Galilee," Trinity Academy, Trinity United Methodist Church, Denver, CO
- 2021 Presentation, "Women in the Gap," Dean's Forum, St. John's Cathedral, Denver, CO
Lecture, "Forming New Identities through Gender," *After Jesus Before Christianity*, Westar Institute
- 2020 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, Online, "The Political Jesus"
Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Historical Jesus and World Religions," Grand Forks, ND
- 2019 Guest Facilitator, United Methodist Women's Retreat, The Gospel of Mark
Keynote Speaker, Apostolic Johannite Conclave, "The Thunder: Perfect Mind," Montreal,

Canada

- Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Ancient Texts Inspiring New Spiritual Practices," Sarasota, FL
- 2018 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Alternative Truths in Christianity," Auburn, CA
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Ancient Texts and the Spiritual Life," Ft. Wayne, IN
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "The Political Jesus," Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "The Political Jesus," Wichita, KS
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "The Political Jesus," Normal, IL
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "The Political Jesus," East Lansing, MI
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Remembering the Death and Resurrection of Jesus," Billings, MT
- 2017 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "The Political Jesus," Beaverton, OR
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Ancient Texts Inspiring New Spiritual Practices," Irvine, CA
 Leader, Organizer, and Lecturer, Intergenerational Travel Seminar to Greece with the Tanho Center and Denison University
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Alternative Christianities," Columbus, OH
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Gender Perspectives Among Early Christians," Washington, D.C.
 Public Lecture, "The Rape of Eve," Spring National Meeting, Westar Institute, Santa Rosa, CA
 Lecture, "Re-encountering Eve," Burke Library, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Gender and Violence in Early Christianity," Miami, FL
- 2016 Lecture, "The Rape of Eve," Enlivening Scripture Conference, Tanho Center, Boulder, CO
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "Ancient Texts and Spiritual Life," Cedar Rapids, IA
 Lecture, Jesus Seminar on the Road, "The Secular Gospel of Jesus," Redlands, CA
- 2015, Lecture, "The Rape of Eve," Next Steps for A *New New Testament* Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 Presentation, "Teaching Biblical Traditions for a New Generation," Union Days, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY
 Facilitator, "The New Testament Inside-(and)-Out," study series, First Presbyterian Church, New York, NY
 Presentation, "Churches that Think" Panel at the "Renewing, Reproaching, and Re-Thinking America's Churches" Conference, Chestnut Hill United Church, Chestnut Hill, PA
 Guest Facilitator, Parent Forum, Trinity Wall Street, New York, NY
 Guest Facilitator, Book Discussion: *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, Union Congregational Church, Montclair, NJ
 Guest Facilitator, Book Discussion: *Zealot* by Reza Aslan, Union Congregational Church, Montclair, NJ
- 2013 Guest Facilitator, A New New Testament Series, Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, PA
- 2012-2013 Guest Facilitator, Beyond the Canon, Trinity Wall Street, New York, NY
- 2012 Facilitator, "Mary Magdalene Inside-(and)-Out," Summer Bible Study, Metro Baptist Church, New York, NY

- 2010 Guest Facilitator, "What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality," Riverside Church, New York, NY
Presentation, "Jesus Beyond the Canon," Redeeming Jesus Conference, Sunshine Cathedral, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 2008 Presentation, "Silence and Authority: Mary Magdalene and the Gospel of Mary," Riverside Church, New York, NY
Presentation, "The Magdalene Inside-Out: Mary Magdalene Inside and Outside the Canon," Riverside Church, New York, NY
Presentation, "Did He Really Speak with a Woman? Mary's Authority in the Gospel of Mary," Riverside Church, New York, NY
Facilitator, Women's Retreat, "Mary Magdalene, Women's Authority Past and Present," First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, South Portland, ME
- 2007 Guest Facilitator, "The Gospel of Mary," Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women, Bedford Hills, NY