

JUSTIN DAVID STRONG

MF vitenskapelig høyskole
Gydaskvei 4, 0363 Oslo, Norway
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **University of Notre Dame**
2014–2019 Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity
- Fulbright **Humboldt University of Berlin**
2013–2014 Project: “German Specters in American Research on Ancient Christianity and Judaism”
- M.T.S. **Harvard University, The Divinity School**
2010–2012 New Testament and Early Christianity
- B.A. **Azusa Pacific University**
2005–2008 Majors: Biblical Studies; Youth Ministries

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society**
2025–Present Professor of New Testament
2023–2025 Associate Professor of New Testament
- University of Pretoria**
2023–Present Research Associate
The New Testament and Related Literature, Faculty of Theology
- Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz**
2020–2025 Principal Investigator of the German Research Foundation (DFG) Project:
“The Ancient Fable Tradition and Early Christian Literature”
- Durham University**
2019–2020 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion
- University of Notre Dame**
2019–2020 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow

TEACHING

Course Offerings

1. The Taboo Bible: Confronting Controversies and Troubling Texts in the New Testament / Den tabubelagte Bibelen: Om kontroverser og problematiske tekster i Det nye testamentet (NT513/TEOL5223). Graduate seminar. 2025, 2026.
2. The Synoptic Gospels: History, Tradition and Narrative / Det nye testamente: De synoptiske evangeliene: Historie, tradisjon og fortelling (TEOL5210). Undergraduate lecture. 2025, 2026.
3. Theology, Method, and Research Design / Teologi, metode og forskningsdesign (MET5030). Graduate lecture and tutorial. 2026.
4. Theology, Rhetoric and Social History: First Corinthians and the Book of Revelation / Teologi, retorikk og sosial-historie: 1. Korinterbrev og Åpenbaringsboken (TEOL5215/5217). Graduate and undergraduate lecture. 2025, 2026.
5. The Beginning of Christian Theology: Paul and the Gospel of John / Kristen teologi blir til Paulus og Johannesevangeliet (TEOL2210). Undergraduate lecture. 2025, 2026.
6. Animal, Human, and God: Animal Studies and the World of Early Jews and Christians. Graduate and undergraduate seminar. 2021.

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7. Parables of Jesus – Fables of Aesop – Meshalim of the Rabbis: Genre, Function, and Ethics of Parabolic Miniature Narratives in Comparison. Graduate and undergraduate lecture. 2020–2021.
8. The Bible and Theology in a Secular Age. Undergraduate seminar, honors course. 2019, 2020.
9. Foundations of Theology: Biblical/Historical. Undergraduate lecture. 2015, 2018.
10. Introduction to the New Testament. Graduate lecture. 2016.
11. Introduction to Biblical Literature: Exodus – Deuteronomy. Undergraduate lecture. 2013 (2 sections).
12. Introduction to the New Testament: Luke-Acts. Undergraduate lecture. 2013 (3 sections).

Current Ph.D. Supervision

Thomas Christensen 2025–Present

Hans Johan Sagrusten 2025–Present

PUBLICATIONS

Books Authored

1. *The Fables of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke: A New Foundation for the Study of Parables*. Studies in Cultural Contexts of the Bible 5. Paderborn: Brill, 2021. 629 + xxii pages. 16 chapters. DOI:[10.30965/9783657760657](https://doi.org/10.30965/9783657760657).

2024 Panel review at the British New Testament Society General Meeting (University of Glasgow, UK). Panelists: Richard Burrige, James Crossley, Séamus O’Connell

2022 Winner of the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award (University of Heidelberg, DE)

Scholarly reviews:
Aaron T. Lockhart (Denver University, US), *Bryn Mawr Classics Review* (2024) ([link](#)). Sean A. Adams (University of Glasgow, UK), *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 45.5 (2023): 32–33 ([link](#)). Dieter T. Roth (Boston College, US), *Biblica* 104.2 (2023): 304–307 ([link](#)). Daniel Lanzinger (Theological Faculty of Paderborn, DE), *Theologische Revue* 119 (2023) ([link](#)). Eric Fields (Stellenbosch University, ZA), *Neotestamentica* 56.2 (2022): 378–381 ([link](#)). Margaret Froelich (Claremont School of Theology, US), *Religious Studies Review* 48.4 (2022): 571–72 ([link](#)). Peter J. Tomson (University of Leuven, BE), *Review of Biblical Literature* (2022) ([link](#)).
2. *Jesus, The Gospels, and Fable Traditions of the Ancient Mediterranean*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, under contract. 70,000 words.

Books Edited

3. *Animals in the New Testament: Perspectives from Animal Studies and Ancient Contexts*. Co-edited with Ruben Zimmermann. Library of New Testament Studies 701. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2025. 277 + xvi pages. Introduction + 18 chapters. DOI:[10.5040/9780567715869](https://doi.org/10.5040/9780567715869).
4. *T&T Clark Handbook of Animals in the Bible and the Biblical World*. Co-edited with Rebecca Watson. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, under contract. 1.1 million words. 130 chapters.

Articles and Chapters

1. “The Gospel of Luke.” In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Edited by Sidnie Crawford, Lawrence Schiffman, and James VanderKam. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.

2. “The Fable Poet from Ahiqar and Aesop to Jesus and the Rabbis.” In *Fables between East and West*. Edited by Jeremy Lefkowitz and Caterina Mordeglia. Florence, IT: SISMEL Edizioni del Galluzzo, forthcoming 2026.
3. “The Mind of Jesus: Reception and Generation of ‘Parables’ through Artificial Intelligence.” Pages 271–302 in *The Parables and Their Reception: Towards a New Paradigm for Interpreting the Parables*. Edited by Marianne Bjelland Kartzow, Anders Martinsen, and Ellen Aasland Reinertsen. *Studies of the Bible and Its Reception* 27. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2026. DOI:[10.1515/9783111429434-013](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111429434-013).
4. “The Animal Turn and the New Testament Crossroads.” Pages 3–17 in *Animals in the New Testament: Perspectives from Animal Studies and Ancient Contexts*. Library of New Testament Studies 701. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2025. DOI:[10.5040/9780567715869.0006](https://doi.org/10.5040/9780567715869.0006).
5. “Reacclimating to the Environment: Where the New Testament Animals Are Hiding.” Pages 18–33 in idem. DOI:[10.5040/9780567715869.ch-001](https://doi.org/10.5040/9780567715869.ch-001).
6. “‘And Jesus Told Them a Fable:’ On Methods and Motivations for Embedding Fables in the Gospels.” Pages 389–414 in *Ancient Fables and Literary Genres: Texts, Contexts, Interactions*. Edited by Ursula Gaertner and Lukas Spielhofer. Trends in Classics Supplementary Volumes 198. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2025. Open Access DOI:[10.1515/9783111181936-019](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111181936-019).
7. “The Rabbinic Mashal and the Ancient Fable: Prospects for a Changing Perspective.” Pages 131–154 in *The Power of Parables: Essays on the Comparative Study of Jewish and Christian Parables*. Edited by Eric Ottenheim, Marcel Poorthuis, and Annette Merz. *Jewish and Christian Perspectives* 39. Leiden: Brill, 2024. Open Access DOI:[10.1163/9789004680043_008](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004680043_008).
8. “Aesop.” *The Literary Encyclopedia*. 2023. [Link](#).
9. “The Rape of Men in the Hebrew Bible, the Syrian Civil War, and the ‘Me Too’ Movement.” Pages 66–84 in *Doing Biblical Masculinity Studies as Feminist Biblical Studies? Critical Interrogations*. Edited by Suzanne Scholz. Hebrew Bible Monographs 107. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2023. [Link](#).
10. “The Markan ‘Parables’ and Ancient Rhetorical Theories of Fable and Comparison.” Pages 37–61 in *Genres of Mark: Reading Mark’s Gospel from Micro and Macro Perspectives*. Edited by Jacob P. B. Mortensen. *Studia Aarhusiana Neotestamentica* 9. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2022. [Link](#).
11. “How to Interpret Parables in Light of the Fable: Lessons from the Promythium and Epimythium.” Pages 327–352 in *Overcoming Dichotomies: Parables, Fables, and Similes in the Graeco-Roman World*. Edited by Jonathan Pater, Martijn Stoutjesdijk, and Albertina Oegema. *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament I*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022. Open Access DOI:[10.1628/978-3-16-161158-2](https://doi.org/10.1628/978-3-16-161158-2).
12. “From Pets to Physicians: Dogs in the Biblical World.” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 45.2 (2019): 46–50. [Open Access link](#).
13. “Lazarus and the Dogs: The Diagnosis and Treatment.” *New Testament Studies* 64.2 (2018): 178–193. DOI:[10.1017/S0028688517000364](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0028688517000364).
14. “Aristotle and Hippocrates in the Book of Jubilees.” *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period* 48.3 (2017): 309–330. DOI:[10.1163/15700631-12340147](https://doi.org/10.1163/15700631-12340147).
15. “Candida: An Ante-Nicene Martyr in Persia.” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 23.3 (2015): 389–412. DOI:[10.1353/earl.2015.0041](https://doi.org/10.1353/earl.2015.0041).
16. “Copper Scroll,” “Hammurapi,” “Proverb.” In *Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Edited by John D. Berry and Lazarus Wentz. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2013.

MAJOR GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2025	Open Access Publication Grant (x2), University of Mainz
2022–2025	German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) Project: “The Ancient Fable Tradition and Early Christian Literature”
2022	Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise
2020–2021	Inneruniversitäre Forschungsförderung für DFG Projekt Vorbereitung, University of Mainz
2019–2020	Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Notre Dame
2014–2019	University Presidential Fellowship, Notre Dame
2019	Transnational European Studies Scholarship, Berlin, Notre Dame
2018	Jewish Studies Research Grant, Notre Dame
2018	Notebaert Professional Development Award, Notre Dame
2017	Notebaert Professional Development Award, Notre Dame
2016	Theology Department Summer Research Grant, Notre Dame
2013–2014	Fulbright Research Fellowship, Humboldt University of Berlin
2012	Student Conference Scholarship, Harvard
2012	Paper Competition Winner for the Krister Stendahl Conference, “Conversations across Religious Boundaries,” Harvard
2011–2012	Emma Gildersleeve Lane Full Tuition Scholarship, Harvard
2011	Center for Jewish Studies Research Scholarship, Harvard
2010–2012	Reverend Betsy Parker Fellowship, Harvard
2007–2008	Pew College Society (Alpha Chi Scholars Association)
2006–2008	Berdina Ruth Scholarship, Azusa Pacific

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES AND INVITED LECTURES

Conferences Organized

- 2024 “Form, Function, and Fables: Genre in Early Christian, Jewish, and Graeco-Roman Traditions.” Conference funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Held at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. June 6–7, 2024.
- 2023 “The Animal in the New Testament and Graeco-Roman World.” Conference funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Held at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. June 15–17, 2023.
- 2016 “Five Years of War: Syrian Refugees Come to Share Their Stories.” Conference sponsored by the University of Notre Dame, The Multi-faith Alliance for Syrian Refugees, and The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley. Held at Notre Dame. April 19, 2016.
- 2015 “Syria Speaks: Refugee Perspectives on the Civil War.” Conference sponsored by the University of Notre Dame, The Multi-faith Alliance for Syrian Refugees, and The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley. Held at the University of Notre Dame. October 29, 2015.

Conference Papers, Panels, and Invited Lectures

2026

1. “The Death of Judas: To Fall or to Hang, Are the Terms Just the Same?” Synoptic Gospels section. **Society of Biblical Literature**. Denver, US. Nov.
2. Panel respondent to J. C. Calaway. *The Wild Word: Animals in the Gospels*. Montreal, 2025. The Bible and Animal Studies section. **Society of Biblical Literature**. Denver, US. Nov.
3. “Can You Baptize a Fish? Part II.” **Center for the Advanced Study of Religion (CASR)**. Oslo, NO. Mar.

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4. “Overlooked Animals in the New Testament and Why They Matter ... Or Can You Baptize a Fish?” **Collegium Biblicum**. University of Copenhagen. Copenhagen, DK. Jan.

2025

5. “Foolish Farmers, Sleepy Maidens, and Prodigal Sons: Stock Plots and Characters of First-Century Fables and Their Implications for the Parable Tradition.” **Norsk Nytestamentlig Fagforum (NNTFF)**. University of Oslo. Oslo, NO. Nov.
6. “‘One Swallow Does Not Make a Spring:’ A Fabulous Intertext for the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32).” *Allusions in the Gospels and Acts section*. **International Society of Biblical Literature**. Uppsala, SE. June.
7. Respondent to C. M. Carlstein. “Luke’s Gospel and Its Narrative Ethics.” PhD diss. Linköping University. **Norwegian-Swedish New Testament PhD Workshop**. Enskilda Högskolan. Stockholm, SE. April.

2024

8. Respondent to panel review of *The Fables of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke: A New Foundation for the Study of Parables*. *Studies in Cultural Contexts of the Bible* 5. Paderborn: Brill, 2021. **British New Testament Society**. University of Glasgow. Glasgow, UK. Aug.
9. “The Story of Christians and Jews Comparing Comparisons.” Presented at the conference, “**Form, Function, and Fables: Genre in Early Christian, Jewish, and Graeco-Roman Traditions.**” Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. Mainz, DE. June.

2023

10. “On Good Hedgehogs and Samaritans: Ostranenie and the Turns of Animal and Affect.” *Synoptic Gospels section*. **Society of Biblical Literature**. San Antonio, TX, US. Nov.
11. Panel respondent to Saul Olyan, *The Hebrew Bible and Animal Rights* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023). *Animals in the Bible section*. **Society of Biblical Literature**. San Antonio, TX, US. Nov.
12. “On Puffed up Toads and Corinthians: Insights into a Pauline Metaphor from the Animal World (Babrius, *Fab.* 28, Phaedrus, *Fab.* 1.24).” (with Ruben Zimmermann). **Societas Novi Testamenti Studiorum** General Meeting. Vienna, AT. July.
13. “On Good Samaritans and Hedgehogs: Characterization, Plot, and Affect after the Animal Turn.” *Animals and the Bible section*. **European Association of Biblical Studies**. Syracuse, IT. July.
14. “AIs Thinking about the ‘Parables’ of Jesus: What It Tells Us about the Process of Reception in the Past, the Present, and the Future.” *The Bible and Its Influence section*. **International Society of Biblical Literature**. Pretoria, ZA. July.
15. “Why Animal Studies and the New Testament? A Giraffe Allergy and the *Status Quaestionis*.” Presented at the conference, “**The Animal in the New Testament and Graeco-Roman World.**” Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. Mainz, DE. June.
16. “Animals, Humans, and Gods in Early Christian Imagination.” **University of Heidelberg**. Heidelberg, DE. April.
17. “*Parabolē* without Parables? Making a Comparison in Ancient Rhetoric.” Presented at the conference, “**Parables as Persuasive Narratives.**” University of Eastern Finland. Joensuu, FI. Mar.

2022

18. “From East to West and Back Again: From Ahiqar and Aesop to the Bible and the Rabbis.” Presented at the conference, “**La favola tra Oriente e Occidente/The Fable between East and West.**” University of Trento. Trento, IT. Oct.

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19. "The Past, Present, and Future of 'Parables' in the Fable Context." Presented at the conference, "**The Parables and Their Reception.**" University of Oslo and Oslo Metropolitan University. Oslo, NO. Sept.
20. Panel respondent to *Overcoming Dichotomies: Parables, Fables, and Similes in the Graeco-Roman World*. Ed. A. Oegema, J. Pater, and M. Stoutjesdijk. Tübingen, 2022. **Protestantse Theologische Universiteit**. Amsterdam, NL. Sept.
21. Panel respondent to B. Loader. *Christology, Soteriology, and Ethics in John and Hebrews. Collected Essays*. Tübingen, 2022. **Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz**. Mainz, DE. July.
22. "Situating the Fables of Jesus between the Prophet Nathan, Aristotle, and Josephus." **University of Groningen**. Groningen, NL. July.
23. "Embedding Fables into the Gospels: Composition Techniques and Rhetorical Functions." Presented at the conference, "**Et in cothurnis prodit Aesopus nouis. On the Interaction between Ancient Fable and Literary Genres.**" University of Graz. Graz, AT. June.
24. "How to Read the Gospel from Below with a High View of Scripture." **Southern Nazarene University**. Bethany, OK, US. Feb.

2021

25. "The Marginal Gospel: Classical Literature for Rustics, Slaves, Women, and Children." **Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University**. Berkeley, CA, US. Dec.
26. "'Gospel,' the Synoptic Outline, and *The Life of Aesop*." Synoptic Gospels section. **Society of Biblical Literature**. Online. Nov.
27. "„Zieh von unten raus:‘ Methode und Ziel in der Gleichnis- und Evangelienforschung." **Rhenish Friedrich Wilhelm University of Bonn**. Bonn, DE. April.
28. "Die antike Fabel als Begriffsumfeld der christlichen und jüdischen Parabeln." **Petronian Society – Munich Section**. Munich, DE. [cancelled due to Covid].
29. "Jesus the Fable Teller: A New Paradigm for the Study of Jesus and His Parables." **Durham University New Testament Seminar**. Durham, UK. Jan.

2020

30. "Puzzling the Fables: Neue Lösungen und neue Rätsel in der Parabelforschung." **Neutestamentliche Sozietät der Universität Mainz**. Mainz, DE. Dec.
31. "The Form and Ethics of the Fable in the Lukan Parables." Gospel of Luke section. **Society of Biblical Literature**. Online. Dec.
32. "Sacred Scripture and the Open Text." **University of Groningen**. Groningen, NL. July.
33. "The Graeco-Roman Fable Tradition and Aesopica in the Gospel of Luke." **University of Cambridge New Testament Seminar**. Cambridge, UK. Feb.
34. "Muthos in Mark." Paper presented at the conference, "**The Gospel of Mark and Genre: Micro and Macro.**" University of Aarhus. Sønderborg, DK. Jan.

2019

35. "Babrius: A Lost and Re-Lost First-Century Jewish Poet?" Hellenistic Judaism section. **Society of Biblical Literature**. San Diego, US. Nov.
36. "Parable Interpretation in Light of the Lessons from the Fable." **Humboldt University of Berlin New Testament Colloquium**. Berlin, DE. June.
37. "Jewish and Christian Parables in Light of Recent Scholarship on the Ancient Fable." Presented at the conference, "**The Power of Parables: Narrating Religion in Late Antiquity.**" Tilburg School of Catholic Theology, Tilburg University. Utrecht, NL. June.

2018

38. "Parables in Q or Parables in L?" Q section. **Society of Biblical Literature**. Denver, US. Nov.

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39. "Aesop, Bar Kappara, and Jesus: The Literary Persona of the Historical Fable Teller." Presented in the session, "**Parables in Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity: Towards a New Comparative Approach.**" European Association of Biblical Studies. Helsinki, FI. Aug.
40. "Parables and Paratexts: Promythium and Epimythium as a Guide and a Crutch to Interpretation." Synoptic Gospels section. **International Society of Biblical Literature.** Helsinki, FI. Aug.
41. "Learning a Lesson from Laughter: The Didactic Value of Humor in Ancient Education." Presented at the conference, "**What's So Funny? Discovering and Interpreting Humor in the Ancient World.**" The Ohio State University. Columbus, OH, US. April.

2017

42. "Did You Hear the One about the Widow Who Hits a Judge?" The Parable in Luke 18:2–5." Gospel of Luke section. **Society of Biblical Literature.** Boston, MA, US. Nov.
43. "The Rape of Men in the Bible and the Syrian Civil War: Limitations of a Feminist Hermeneutic." Presented in the session, "**Doing Biblical Masculinity Studies as Feminist Biblical Studies? Critical Interrogations.**" European Association of Biblical Studies. Berlin, DE. Aug.
44. "Personified Cities between Aelius Aristides and John the Apocalypticist." Apocalyptic Section. **Society of Biblical Literature Midwest Region.** Notre Dame, IN, US. Feb.

2016

45. "Lazarus and the Dogs: The Diagnosis and Treatment." Gospel of Luke section. **Society of Biblical Literature.** San Antonio, TX, US. Nov.
46. "The Denigration and Rehabilitation of Saul the Prophet." **Graduate Student Theological Seminar.** The Wesleyan Church World Headquarters. Fishers, IN, US. Sept.
47. "Jubilees and Hellenistic Physiognomy." **Groningen-Leuven Encounters on the Dead Sea Scrolls.** University of Groningen. Groningen, NL. April.

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Ancient

Greek
Hebrew (biblical, Rabbinic)
Aramaic (biblical, Targumic, Syriac)
Latin

Modern

Norwegian (A2 CEFR)
German (C1 CEFR)
French (graduate reading exam)
Hebrew (Level Bet certification)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS)
Society of Biblical Literature
Ancient Fable Society
British New Testament Society
European Association of Biblical Studies