



BOSTON COLLEGE
CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN-JEWISH LEARNING

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Now that my two years as holder of the Corcoran Visiting Chair at the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College are coming to an end, I look back with profound gratitude on four semesters of research and teaching, and I would like to take this opportunity to mention some of the highlights:

I have given two courses at Boston College: In the spring semester of 2021 the course was called “Reading the New Testament without Presupposing Supersessionism.” Together with the students I explored new perspectives on Jesus of Nazareth and Paul of Tarsus within the matrix of then contemporary Judaism. This spring the topic for my course was “From Foes to Friends: Jewish-Christian Relations.” One of the books the students read this semester was James Carroll’s *Constantine’s Sword: The Church and the Jews*, and it was a fitting conclusion to the course that the author himself visited Boston College, and was interviewed by two students. Together they looked back on the twenty years that have passed since the book was originally published, and they discussed what has been achieved since then – and what remains to be done.

For the last two years, the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning has also hosted two Corcoran conferences. Thanks to Zoom, both scholars and friends of the Center from all over the world could attend these conferences. The topic for the 2021 conference was “To Arrive Where We Started and Know the Place for the First Time: Exploring Pre-Supersessionist Readings of the New Testament.” Eight scholars presented their research and Prof. Daniel Boyarin responded to all eight papers, which guaranteed a rich and lively discussion. The 2022 conference addressed the topic “Treasures New and Old.” Reflecting on Christianity’s Jewish roots has always been and continues to be a fundamental task for all Christians. The conference explored what hidden treasures the Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, and Calvinist traditions offer that may help Christians better discern, recognize, and celebrate the Jewish tradition.

This semester I have also offered a series of lunch talks on issues that I have been studying: Jesus of Nazareth and *kashrut* (the Jewish food laws), the apostle Paul and revelation, and ways to read Hebrews without presupposing supersessionism. Once again, thanks to Zoom, the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning has been able to reach out to an audience far beyond the pale of the college campus.

My colleague Prof. Ruth Langer and I gladly accepted an invitation from the International Council of Christians and Jews to host a session on “The Other in the Jewish and Christian Traditions.” She and I have also produced a video on the figure of Judas in the New Testament and in the Christian tradition. In addition, I have also accepted invitations to lecture at the National Library in Israel, Yad Vashem, Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, and Uppsala University in my native Sweden.

As I am currently finishing my book manuscript on readings of the New Testament that take the Jewish-Christian reality into consideration, I am constantly reminded of how destructive and influential anti-Jewish hermeneutics has been in history – and also how important it is that Christians seek to find ways to read Scripture that honor God’s covenantal faithfulness.

I am tremendously grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Corcoran Visiting Professor at Boston College for the last two years, I would like to thank Prof. Ruth Langer and Dr. Camille Markey for stimulating and wonderful collaboration at the Center, and I wish Prof. Daniel Joslyn-Siemiakoski all the best as the new director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning.

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Center for Christian-Jewish Learning