

Brigidda Bell

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION

Moravian Theological Seminary
1200 Main Street
Bethlehem
PA 18018

EDUCATION

- PhD** University of Toronto
Department for the Study of Religion
The Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies
Dissertation: Signs of the Spirit(s): Trust, Credibility and the Discernment of Truth
in early Christian prophets and Graeco-Roman ritual experts
Advisors: Drs John Kloppenborg and Colleen Shantz
- MA** University of Toronto
Department for the Study of Religion, 2011
MRP: A Brief History of the Spirit in the Institutionalization of the Early Christian
Church: Tracking the Charismatic Model through the History of Scholarship
Advisor: Dr. John Kloppenborg
- BA (Hons)** University of Toronto
Department for the Study of Religion
Department of Philosophy, 2009

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Moravian Theological Seminary, Assistant Professor of New Testament (current)

Paul and the Spread of the Gospel Fall 2021
Religion in the City Fall 2021

St. Stephens College, University of Alberta, Associate Faculty

Fortune Telling and the Predictive Arts Winter 2021 (*online*)

Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary, Sessional Instructor

Studies in the Hebrew Bible / Old Testament Winter 2021 (*online*)
The Bible as Literature Summer 2020 (*online*)

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, Course Instructor

Paul of Tarsus Fall 2016
Early Christian Writings Fall 2015–Spring 2016; co-taught with Ryan Olfert

Religion and the City Spring 2015; co-taught with Jairan Gahan

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, Teaching Assistant

Early Christian Writings (Intro to New Testament)	Fall 2020 (<i>online</i>); Fall 2013 – Spring 2014; Fall 2012 – Spring 2013; Spring 2010
Religion and the City: Migration and Movement	Fall 2020 (<i>online</i>)
Online Instructional Support (Online pedagogy)	Summer – Fall 2020
Religion on the Couch (Freud and Jung on religion)	Spring 2018
Lead Writing TA for the Writing Instruction for TAs Project	Summer – Fall 2016
Jewish Religious Tradition (Intro to Judaism)	Fall 2016
Method & Theory in the History of Religions	Spring 2015
Study of Religion (Method and Theory)	Fall 2015
World Religions	Summer 2013
Christianity & Popular Culture	Spring 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications

“The Cost of Baptism? The Case for Paul’s Ritual Compensation.” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 42, no. 4 (June 2020): 431–52.

Zapata, Brigidda. “The Spirit Told Me So! The Role of Prophecy in Corinth’s Realized Eschatology.” In *Saeculum* 4, no. 2 (2009): 54-64.

Contributions in Edited Collections

“Discerning the false prophets: an embodied approach to prophetic testing in Matthew and the Didache.” John Kloppenborg and Joseph Verheyden, eds. *The Gospels and Their Stories in Anthropological Perspective*; 69-86. WUNT 409. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2018.

Book Reviews

Signs, Wonders, and Gifts: Divination in the Letters of Paul, by Jennifer Eyl (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019) in *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses* 49, no. 1 (2020): 10-12.

At the Temple Gates: The Religion of Freelance Religious Experts in the Roman Empire, by Heidi Wendt (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016) in *Ancient Jew Review* (July, 2018).

Manuscripts and Contributions in Preparation

“The Letter Project” (invited contribution to “The Effective Assignment Project: An Online Assignment Resource and Community of Practice” in the *Assignments Across the Disciplines Database*) (under review)

“Patrons and Audiences.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the New Testament in the Roman Empire*, edited by Harry O. Maier, Emiliano R. Urciuoli, and Heidi Wendt. Oxford Handbooks. Oxford: Oxford University Press (under contract)

“A Book from Hades: Apollonius of Tyana and the authentication of Pythagorean *doxai*” (co-authored article with Dr. Gregory Fewster)

“The Expertise of the Chaldaeans: from ethnic priests to astrologers in the Graeco-Roman imagination” (in process)

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2018	Chancellor Henry N.R. Jackman Graduate Fellow in the Humanities (\$26,772) Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto
2018	Doctoral Completion Award (\$3,000) Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto
2016	Shiff Family Graduate Award in Jewish Studies (\$1,000) Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto
2015	Naim Mahlab Award in Jewish–Muslim, Jewish–Christian Relations (\$1,000) Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto
2014	Teaching Excellence Award (\$200) Teaching Assistants’ Training Program, University of Toronto
2013	Lieba Sharon Wilensky Lesk Graduate Scholarship in Jewish Studies (\$2,000) Anne Tannenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto
2012	Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Awards (\$4,800) Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Toronto
2012	Israel and Golda Koschitzky Fellowship in Jewish Studies (\$3,000) Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto
2011	Shiff Family Graduate Student Endowment Fund (\$2,000) Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto
2011	Conference Grant (\$380) School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto
2011-2014	Joseph Armand-Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGSD) (\$105,000) Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Ottawa
2010	Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Awards Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Toronto
2010	Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGSM) (\$17,500) Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Ottawa

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

Invited papers marked with an asterisk*

- 2021 “Corinthian ignorance: knowledge-language and the cultivation of anxious affects in First Corinthians” Society for Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Antonio [2020 acceptance deferred to 2021 due to COVID-19]
- 2020 “Putting your money where your mouth is: Priscilla, Maximilla, and the compensation of women’s ritual expertise” Canadian Society of Biblical Studies, Annual Meeting, Western University, London (May 30–June 1) [cancelled due to 2021 due to COVID-19]
- 2020 “The divinatory expertise of the ethnic other: Chaldaean astrologers, Jewish writings, and the appeal of Christ cults” Pacific Northwest Region AAR/SBL, St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton (May 15-17) [cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2019 “Out of Hades: Biographies of Apollonius of Tyana’s lost *Vita Pythagorae*” Society for Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Diego (November 23–26) (co-authored with Gregory Fewster)
- 2019 “‘No prophet is accepted in his homeland’: the problem of origins in the construction of prophetic credibility and the exoticizing solution” Canadian Society of Biblical Studies, Annual Meeting, University of British Columbia, Vancouver (June 1–3)
- 2018 “The Diviner’s Gift Comes at a Cost: On Prophetic Compensation and Paul’s Finances.” Society for Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Denver (November 17–20)*
- 2018 “Signs for Spirits: displays of credibility in early Christian prophets and other Graeco-Roman ritual experts.” Department for the Study of Religion Colloquium Series, University of Toronto (October 25)*
- 2016 “Signs for unbelievers: signalling theory and the discernment of prophets in early Christ-groups.” Society for Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Antonio (November 19–22)
- 2016 “Prophet for Hire: Remuneration in Early Christian Perceptions of Prophetic Legitimacy.” Centro Italiano di Studi Superiori sulle Religioni (CISSR), Annual Meeting, Bertinoro, Centro Residenziale Universitario di Bertinoro (September 29–October 1)
- 2016 “The Fortune Tellers of Corinth: A Mantic Context for Paul’s Corinthian Christ-Group.” The Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, Schwartz-Reisman Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies, University of Toronto (April 18)*
- 2015 “Prophetic Speech and Its Authorization in Christian and Greco-Roman Sources.” Leuven Centre for the Study of the Gospels, Fifth International Conference: The Gospels and Their Stories in Anthropological Perspective, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium (December 9–11)*

- 2015 “Affect and embodiment in the body of the Pythia.” Society for Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Atlanta (November 21–24)
- 2014 “Moved by the Spirit: discernment and signalling theory in ancient Mediterranean contexts of spirit possession.” Canadian Society of Biblical Studies, Annual Meeting, Brock University, St. Catharines (May 24–26)
- 2013 “Dreaming dreams: affect and the authority of dreams in the ancient Mediterranean.” Society for Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Baltimore (November 23–26)
- 2013 “It’s affecting my sleep: affect and the authority of dreams in antiquity.” American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Meeting, University of Toronto (May 9–11)
- 2012 “‘Displaced Pseudepigraphy’ in the Sibylline Oracles: Christian and Jewish Appropriation of a Pagan Mouthpiece.” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Chicago (November 17–20)
- 2011 “Political Prophecy: Provincial Mimicry in the Revelation of John.” Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, San Francisco (November 19–22)

Discussant

- 2018 “Thinking about Feeling: A Response to the ‘Affect and Emotion in the Ancient World’ panel.” Canadian Society of Biblical Studies, Annual Meeting, University of Regina (May 26–28)*
- 2018 “Response to Marsha Hewitt’s ‘Heavenly Republics and Democratic Spiritualities: Grief, Trauma and Social Reform in Nineteenth Century American Spiritualism.’” Department for the Study of Religion, Colloquium on Democracy and Early Christ Assemblies, University of Toronto (May 2)*
- 2015 “Roundtable and Discussion: Reading Together.” The Schwartz-Reisman Graduate Student Conference. Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto (April 26–27)*
- 2014 TATP Teaching Excellence Award Winners Panel. TA Day, University of Toronto (August 27)*

Conference Organization

- 2014 Schwartz-Reisman Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies. Co-organizer. Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto (April 30–May 1)
- 2009-2014 *Symposium* Graduate Student Conference. Committee member. Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto (April 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014).
- 2013 Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Communications officer. University of Toronto (May 9–11)

2010 XXth International Association for the History of Religions World Congress.
Volunteer. University of Toronto (August 15–21).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND FIELDWORK

Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary

Visiting Graduate Researcher, 2019-2021

Supervisor: Dr. Lindsay Driediger-Murphy

Bethsaida Excavations Project: Archaeological Field School of the University of Omaha at Nebraska

Student Excavator, 2010, 2012

Bethsaida, Israel

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto

Research Assistant, 2009-2011

Compiled research on ancient Greek associations from the region of Asia Minor through use of major epigraphical tools (*Supplementum epigraphicum graecum*; Claros; Packard Humanities Institute Greek Inscriptions; PHI#7 search tools) that contributed to the volume: J. S. Kloppenborg and R. S. Ascough eds. *Graeco-Roman Associations: Texts, Translations, and Commentary*. Vol. 1. Attica, Central Greece, Macedonia, Thrace. BZNV 181. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2011.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Graduate Professional Development Seminar

Graduate student advisor

Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary, 2019-2020

Academic Professionalization Steering Committee

Committee Member

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2015–2016

Pedagogy Corner

Convener

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2013–2016

Faculty of Arts and Science Internal/External Review

Graduate Student Representative

Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto, 2013–2014

Women in the Academy Reading Group

Founder and co-organizer

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2013–2014

Mentorship Program

Steering committee (2016); General exams peer-mentor (2015–2016); PhD coursework peer-mentor (2012–2014); Masters Program peer-mentor (2010–2012)

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2012–2016

Department of Religion Internal/External Review

Graduate Student Representative

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2012–2013

Graduate Student Association

Community Support Officer (2015–2016), President (2012–2014), Secretary (2011), MA Representative (2010), Curriculum Review Committee (2010)

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2010–2014, 2015–2017

Symposia: The Journal of Religion

Peer reviewer (2009–Present), General editor (2012–2014), Copyeditor (2009–2012)

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2009–Present

Curriculum Review Committee

Graduate student representative

Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2010

The Rabanus Project (the Christianity and Culture Student Group at St. Michael's College)

Alumni Member (2009–2011), Member (2008)

University of Toronto, 2008–2011

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bridgeland Historic Walking Tour: Cryptic Edition (grassroots outdoor scavenger hunt app with donations benefitting The Calgary Food Bank)

Volunteer Lead Archival Researcher (2020–Present)

Riddle 'N Roam, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Romans Revealed: Carpe diem, quid pro quo

Volunteer Facilitator for Teen Education Programming (Winter 2020; Winter 2021)

Calgary Public Library, City of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

LANGUAGES

First languages: English; Spanish

Languages of scholarship: French; German

Primary source languages: Classical and *Koine* Greek; Latin

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Canadian Society for Biblical Studies

Society for Biblical Literature